CASE STUDY AND REVIEW: GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION – A GLOBAL STANDARD? PRIVACY FUTURE, DIGITAL ACTIVISM, AND SURVEILLANCE CULTURES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Introduction:

Dr. Arora's article titled *Surveillance and Society: A Global Standard* discusses the standing of current data surveillance regulations and their impact on communities outside of the Western world where most laws and regulations originate. Exposing his belief that these laws and regulations are not only created for safety of consumers, but also deeply rooted in political interest. Aurora's analysis suggests current policies do not reflect the goal of protecting all individuals regardless of regional and socio-economic standing. Dr. Aurora introduces a multifaceted technique to "decolonize privacy and surveillance" that focuses primarily on laws and regulations as they interact and effect marginalized communities in the Global South (Aurora, 2019).

Data:

The data discussed within this article is not technologically specific, however focuses more on example-based view of conditions and actions that can lead to data being misused and misrepresented. Aurora includes examples of social media use in the favelas of Brazil and streets of Saudi Arabia, biometric data access in India, and targeted demographic data surveillance in China and Saudi Arabia. Aurora aims to depict the source as common practices seen within communities that can be taken advantage of by those who mean to gain access to consumer data. He outlines historically relevant technological advancements such as fingerprints, and CCTV presented as "use against self in the name of social order" to now being used to justify a sub judicate normalized system of tracking citizens (Arora, 2019).

Relevance to Data Governance:

The primary goal of data governance is to ensure there is "quality, integrity, security, and usability" of data throughout the life cycle up until the point of archival or demolition (Eryurek et al., 2021). Aurora's analysis of this data use focuses on the integrity and use of consumer data in marginalized communities. Aurora advocates for greater disclosure and regulation during the process of data retrieval and use. According to Aurora this is to be done at the legal and governmental level through mandatory regulations and requirements. Aurora compares the existing regulations in the West to those existing or cease to exist

within communities in the Global South calling out the historical precedent of failing practices in data security and stewardship. His thoughts and opinions are bred out of the ethical issue of privacy and transparency especially as most of the mentioned data collection means "pervade the everyday lives of vast marginalized groups" (Aurora 2019).

Relevant Legislation:

Arora includes many examples and suggestions for improvement of data governance legislation to better serve and protect communities. Dispelling the myth that governance requires" citizen compliance of sharing their data in exchange for a functional system", Aurora cites India's Sedition Law Act of 1870 to display the surveillance practices disguised as measures of care that have transitioned with time to include more modern presentations such as social media (Arora, 2019). At inception of legislation, intention and impact must be clear, especially as it relates to marginalized communities that are more likely to fall victim to deceptive practices. Additionally, Aurora discusses the efficacy and importance of a region focused, community-based approach to legislation and policy creation related to digital privacy as those used in the west such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the EU would not suffice.

Data Governance Solution:

Aurora's five pillar technique to address these disparities addresses data governance at the legal level through recognition of past practices, directing efforts for change to local governance, focusing on a collective rights approach, motivating publicity over privacy, and expanding activism beyond large movements to include "everyday creative insurgencies" (Aurora 2019). The analysis and recommendation includes grassroot work to ensure the results are reflective of the communities they will have greatest impact on. These recommendations prove to be best practice in mitigating the existing discrepancies in data privacy and efforts to combat surveillance. Properly reflecting the needs and understanding the practices of those communities within data governance frameworks has the potential to protect individual rights and freedoms.

References

Arora, Payal. 2019. "General Data Protection Regulation—a Global Standard? Privacy Futures, Digital Activism, and Surveillance Cultures in the Global South." *Surveillance & Society* 17 (5): 717–25. https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v17i5.13307.

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