

Artificial Intelligence and Governance: Navigating future of Policy and Regulation.

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Essay

There was a time when human beings depended on one another for all kinds of services such as education, health care and governance. Now a days, things have changed drastically with the rise of technology such as artificial intelligence. People now rely on human-like machines more than they rely on actual human beings for getting things done more effectively and efficiently. Scope of AI, in governance particularly, is being explored all around the world. In Pakistan, there

a lot of potential of AI in improving governance by improving public service delivery, reducing corruption and red-tapism, reducing financial burden of over-employed government departments, and analysing data for effective policy making. However, there are a number of obstacles in the way of adopting AI in governance in Pakistan at the present time such as lack of technical skills and education, lack of technological advancement, lack of political will and a natural opposition to change. Nevertheless, these obstacles can be removed by providing technical education and training, promoting research and development, and making people familiar with AI technology through seminars and media. By adopting these measures and incorporating AI in governance in Pakistan, significant betterment in policy and regulation will be observed.

First comes role of artificial intelligence in improving public service delivery. In the traditional way of delivery various services using the manpower, public often faces problems like discrimination, unreasonable delays, and a lot of hassle. Introducing AI will reduce all these problems and help ensure a quick and hassle-free experience for the general public. At the same time, use of AI will also help the government workers by reducing their burden. For example, the use of motion sensing cameras and automatic traffic lights have improved the traffic monitoring system of the country while facilitating both, the government workers and the general public.

Second comes the use of AI for ending corruption and red-tapism in different government departments. These are one of the biggest complaints of every citizen of Pakistan who has ever been to a government

department or office. may it be a government educational institution, bank, police station or courts, the officer on duty is either not available or on a break. Furthermore, the block sheeps of such institutions demand bribe for performing their duty. They often make a poor citizen come to their office multiple times to add insult to the injury. Also, there is a long hierarchy and unwillingness among some government workers to deliver quick service leading to infamous red-tapism. Using an artificially intelligent machine will ~~resid~~ rid the general public of these difficulties as robots don't take breaks, they do not get absent, do not demand bribes and perform the tasks assigned quickly and efficiently.

Third comes how artificial intelligence can reduce human workforce and hence reduce burden of the national budget. As mentioned earlier, there is a long hierarchical

structure specially in bureaucracy which hinders effective performance of the institution. Using artificially intelligent machines such as robot assistants would be definitely beneficial in two ways. First, use of robots assistants will help improve speed and efficiency of the institution. Secondly, computerized workforce would help reduce burden from national budget as machines don't require the perks and privellages which are enjoyed by and, in some way, demanded by the human workforce in government sector.

Lastly, AI technology can help the policy makers in making effective policies. Machines which are artificially intelligent can be used to record data and then these machines can analyze the stored data and propose effective solutions and policies for the problem at hand. One thing that high lacks in Pakistan's policy making is the effective policy making. The first and foremost

cause of this is insufficient and inefficient data collection and analysis. Policymakers of the country focus more on short-term, easy solutions probably because it requires less hard work. With the help of machines, this daunting task of data collection and analysis can be done comparatively easily which will be helpful in effective policy making.

So far, potential of AI in governance in Pakistan has been discussed. But now the question that needs to be answered is that despite such potential, what is the reason behind the absence of AI-technology in governance in Pakistan and why is it not being adopted?

First obstacle to adopting AI is the natural opposition to change. Even though change is an essential and meritable part of life. Yet, humans often reject change and often feel uncomfor-

table because of it. The reason is that they become habitual of a certain situation in life and consider it 'normal'. When a change takes place, it is considered 'out of normal' which is why a common first response to change is resistance. Similarly, in Pakistan, the government has been relying on ^{human} manual work force and the idea of working with robots ^{and machines} is something they are not comfortable with.

Second reason is the lack of technical advancement in Pakistan. Pakistan is a developing country. It has been facing a number of challenges since inception such as political instability, economic crisis ~~and~~, uncontrollably increasing population and security issues. With all these problems, advancement in technology, research and development is the least priority of the policy-makers and decision-makers of the country. Unlike the developed nations who are far ahead of us in the field of

technology in particular, and in every field of life, in general, Pakistan is still trapped in the basic issues of survival. Then how can it focus on advanced problems of such as lack of technological advancements?

Third reason for not adopting AI in governance at the moment is lack of technical training, skills, and education. The decades old education system of Pakistan promotes rote learning only, with zero focus on any kind of skill development, may it be soft skills, basic life and survival skills or technical skills. Therefore, adopting AI is even harder as there are hardly any trained individuals in this field. In case, AI is incorporated in the government sector, a lot of experience workers would have to be replaced with comparatively tech-savvy individual or they will have to go through proper training programs to stay in the race.

Last and the biggest hurdle is incorporating artificial intelligence in governance in Pakistan is the lack of political will. All three government institutions i.e. legislature, executive and judiciary have some black sheeps who are happy with the current system of manual as they can benefit from it more than they could if AI becomes part of governance. Due to their self-interests, these black sheeps oppose the use of machines, as with machines, they might lose their power over common citizens and would not be able to blackmail or manipulate them.

For all the above mentioned reason, incorporating AI, despite all its benefits, is hard at the moment in Pakistan's governance. However, there are a number of steps which can be taken to promote the use of AI

in governance in the coming years

First and foremost, there is a need to redesign the education system of Pakistan.

The curriculum needs to be up-to-date and it should include technical training at higher education level to prepare students for the modern world. As in developed countries, the last year of all technical degrees should be fully practice and project based, so that students have practice experience before getting their degrees. Furthermore, training programs and workshops should be organized for those who are already in government offices to prepare them to use AI technology to perform their duties.

Secondly, government should promote research and development in the field of artificial intelligence.

Granted that in current economic crisis, it might be hard for government

to support research and development, but it is essential for the future of the country. Government can engage in Public-private partnership to prepare the future generations to excel in the field of technology especially AI. Only then, the country and its people will be able to take advantage from the use of AI in all fields of life including governance.

Lastly, citizens of Pakistan need to familiar with the developing AI technology. Only then will be able to adopt it without hesitation. Getting familiar with technology have become a necessity in this modern technological age. For example, if a man goes to a government office and has to interact with a machine, he should be familiar and comfortable with the idea of using machines to ensure a positive public service experience. So, for the purpose of spreading awareness among masses, the government and

educated community of Pakistan should arrange seminars, especially in the following areas. Media can also play a constructive role in this regard.

In a nutshell, using of artificial intelligence in the field of governance can significantly improve policy and regulation. This is because using artificial intelligence in governance can improve delivery of services, reduce evils like corruption and red-tapism, replace extra workforce and help in data collection, storage and analysis for better policy making. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, there a number of hurdles in the way making governance artificially intelligent. These hurdles include notional opposition to change, lack of technical advancement, outdated education lacking technical training and lack of political will. However, the future of AI in governance can become brighter if the country focuses on providing

Technical training and education to its people, promoting research and development in the field of AI and familiarizing general masses with AI. By adopting these measures, the way of using AI in governance for improved policy and regulation can be paved.