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# AI-Powered Platforms for Protecting Women's Rights and Transforming Widowhood Practices in Southern Nigeria

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***Abstract****: Recently, there is an increasing attention of the media and other organisations on Women Rights violation and several myriad social challenges faced by vulnerable women in the Southern Nigeria. Thus, the study seeks to review these challenges and how the adoption of AI platforms can help to accelerate the protection of women Rights and the practice of widowhood in Southern Nigeria. Findings shows that there must be identification of the fundamental Rights and the women which are vulnerable in this area especially the widows. However, it was established that adoption of AI-platforms to help these women could also have impact on their Rights and protection. Hence, impact assessment is necessary to understand the level of risk associated with the usage of the tool. But most importantly, AI-powered solutions will help in enhancing their lifestyles and sustainable living if adequately deployed and monitored.*

***Keywords:*** *Artificial Intelligence, Women Rights, Protection, Widowhood, Impact*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligent (AI) systems or platforms have found applications in various fields, ranging from the social, economic and political fields [1]. AI is a proficient tool that has been adopted for adequate productive improvement, both for processes, machines and the human environment. AI systems have been deployed in studying the refugee settlement as well as the effects of their fundamental human rights [2-4]. Resettlement is defined as a process whereby refugees are selected and transferred to a country which agrees to accommodate them permanently. AI has the capacity to handle this as it can improve on the processes involving settlement. This process involves the matching of refugees with appropriate countries, location. It however has the capacity to present the risks and violence associated with human rights [5-7]. Findings from research established that using AI to assess refugee inclusion and exclusion for the case of settlement and also the matching them with different resettlement places could affect the fundamental human rights. Hence concern around data protection, risk associated with bias and discrimination, adequate remedies transparency, accountability and explain ability could be raised [8]. A study by Parveen et al. [9] reported that AI can be used to improve the health of women during pregnancy. This is possible via the prediction of stillbirth, preterm delivery, fetal growth, hypertension, health of childhood, motility and mobility and gestational diabetes. Thus, using AI, risks and adverse pregnancy effects can be prevented. All these depends promptness to the intervention database as well as the health condition. However, the phases include; the identification, screening and eligibility phase [10-12]. It was established in the study that perinatal research involves clinical data availability according to the behavior of the patient, clinical research prediction based on the

presentation and health care as well as the decision-making process based on the methods and AI process model deployed. Thus, AI provides the means of modelling the prediction, diagnose the disease, detect the disease early and monitoring of the perinatal health [13]. Thus, it is important to say that this real-time process has been successful in electronic health recording and modelling predictions for pregnant women. Especially in low income regions. However, it is necessary that adequate study should begin before conception, longitudinal evaluation of pregnancy, before, after the pregnancy. Thereby, effective and improving women's health in pregnancy. The integration of AI platforms such as intelligent learning models in the healthcare sector has changed the landscape through the deliveries of good services like exact diagnostics, monitoring of human health remotely, personal treatment, recovery of drugs and managing chronic diseases. Thus, the changes have provided a strong support for eliminating and managing several diseases which range from minor ailments to life-threatening condition which can affect trivial organs of the body [14]. It was established that the impact of these technologies can be traced to tree levels which include patients where patients can process personal data so that health can be promoted for greater benefits, clinicians are able to provide quick and accurate image presentation while healthcare system's capacity is enhanced as well as increasing potentials for workflow improvement and reduction of human mistakes [15-17]. It was reported that intelligent machine is integrated with advanced computational system which uses intelligent algorithms like machine learning and Deep Learning algorithm to process large amount of data. The models have the capacity to detect complex pattern and relationship in the data which may not be visible via the traditional method of analysis. Thus, medical imaging, genetic information, physiological signals as well as clinical records and signs are learnt from wide range of data, thereby providing accuracy and personalized predictions as well as diagnoses. Performances are continuously improved via updating of algorithm with new data and improving effectiveness over time for detection of various health conditions [18]. Still in the impact of artificial intelligence, Carter et al. [19] examined the impact of artificial intelligence on Breast Cancer screening by exploring the views of women on the use of AI. The study tried to evaluate the importance of information and communication exposure as well as discussion by allowing women to complete questionnaires on their personalized knowledge and attitudes towards artificial intelligence in Australia. The study reported that several communities were engaged on the recent technology to ascertain whether the new technology has effect in health maintenance, trustworthiness of the system and supporting the decision makers to respond to public opinion and priorities. It was observed that Breast Cancer screening has a great influence on the social and cultural values especially on women who feels that they are hardly seen on the other side of the health system. Hence, participants for screening will have a kind of positive sentiments towards screening. Also, changes to screening of breast as services have the ability to disrupt the link between services and participants, hence making necessary for the services to understand the women opinion. Breast screening happened to a case earlier used in the detection of diseases because of large availability of data that can be processed via a vision technique. Thus, deploying artificial intelligence in the screening of such disease is important in several jurisdictions. Figure shows the level of responses on women awareness of artificial intelligences. From the Figure 1 below, it was deduced that women personalized knowledge increased steadily indicating that small amount of knowledge can increase women's confidence according to their understanding as well as the potential to improve in meaningful discussion.

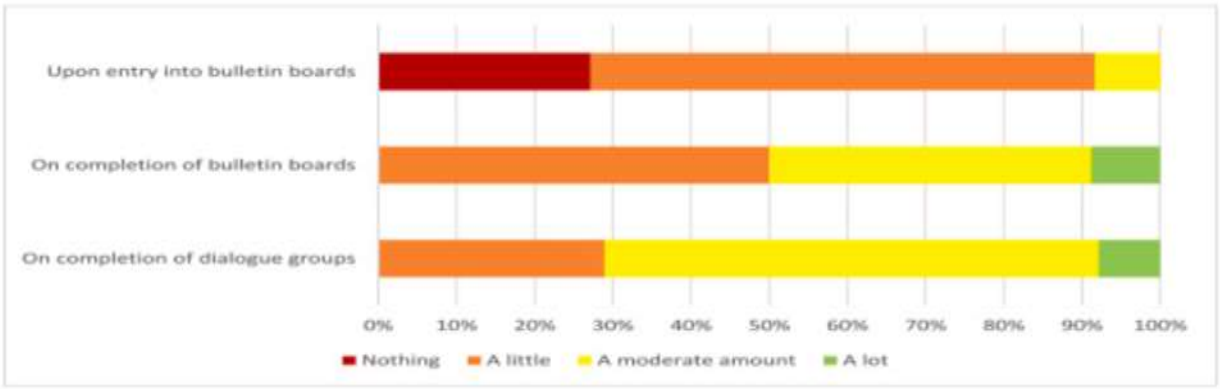


Figure 1: Questionnaire response: Awareness of artificial intelligence [19]

## 2. WOMEN'S FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF AI

The European Union Act for artificial intelligence requests that users of AI systems or platforms adequately perform the fundamental rights and assess the impact on areas with high risk. Based on this [20] developed a framework for the assessment of the impact of artificial intelligence systems based on the fundamentals. The study examined two stages of the assessment where a questionnaire was deployed to obtain the technical information so as to adequately identify threats to fundamental rights and a quantitative approach in the form of a matrix whereby the right guaranteed by the European Charter of Fundamental Rights was considered. The impact was measured with traceable and adequate procedures.

Despite the increase in the use of the tool, it was observed that a structured and quantitative procedure for assessing the impact of the tool on individuals was lacking. This could have provided a solution for discovering the right violation, especially in another field of endeavours like in widowhood practices. Thus, the developed framework has the capacity to determine the accountability and transparency in the assessment of the risks when implementing the AI system for women rights protection and widowhood practices. Secondly, it will help to gain insight in the understanding of any right being threatened or a group of people being vulnerable. Also, it provides a means of providing remedy as a strategy before the establishment of the AI systems for the women. This can be achieved by demonstrating mitigative actions, hence complying with the regulations as well as reducing the reputational damage. The study of [21] reported that AI deployment in several applications have risen what is known as discriminatory bias. Based on this, the Federal Republic of Brazil develop a conscious effort to see that these discriminations are avoided so that different companies can use and operate the tool free and fair. This was achieved by first measuring and analysing the perceptions of people well as the potentials of AI tools being discriminatory. Based on this, a qualitative research involving exploration was used by using an inhabitant in the Southern part of Brazil. The findings shows that AI is not neutral and its possible adoption could incorporate discrimination within the community. However, the integration of such biases has to do with issues with the quality and diversity of the deployed data, inaccuracy in the developed algorithm as well as the biases on both the developers and the users. Thus, such gap could be reduced as well as breaking the barriers of inadequate public discussion so as to contribute an open discussion with the society if we must have an effective protection of women rights via AI platforms [22-24].

According to [25], advances in technology and artificial intelligence have changed the society with the capacity to accelerate the prosperity of human beings as well as improve the welfare of the society. However, people neglect their negative effect, thus, in planning to deploy AI platforms for women Rights protection, there is a need to establish a framework for the regulation of the AI practices as well as the internet of things that will enable the protection of human rights and widowhood practices. In this case, a policy-governing model must be put in place. A systematic method that will evaluate the positive and negative impacts must be proposed as well regulation and non-regulatory options. This will form strong instruments for the regulatory management and provide a potential for making decision and the adoption of laws and regulations based on facts [26-30].

Furthermore, [31] established that there is no doubt that AI has a widespread in several applications which indicate that there is a need to check the ethical and responsible use of these technologies. different national and international regulations, policies and guidelines including framework exists on the use of AI. However, there is a need to understand these principles and they can be made operational, executed, cleared and monitored as well as evaluate its performance and impact. Literature is inadequate and lack some cohesion as well as clarity and depth in this area. There is a need to develop and synthesize a framework for the monitoring and governing of AI using structural and relational procedures [32-33].

More so, an important aspect of AI legislative problems is the creation of new regulators or bodies with the aim of provision of oversight of the AI tool. The ethical and human rights issues and strategies for mitigating it must be put in place before its adoption. Since there are several stakeholders involved and interactions as well, there is a need to develop a multi-step approach and a need to develop terms of reference based on the characteristics of the agency [34-37]. This will make it possible to have meaningful engagement for the discussion of future ethical and human rights issues which might arise from the development, deployment and application of AI. Also, the final document of an AI regulation will be subject to political negotiation and this case, precision is impossible to predict. This is because success criteria are an aspect that worth anticipation in terms of reflection. To tell if the body achieve the purpose of the regulation, it then depends s on the mission as well as the objectives. Although, the progress and the fundamentals human rights can be measured via consistent interaction between the technical and regulatory professionals [38-40].

## 4. ADOPTION OF AI-PLATFORMS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF WIDOWS IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA

The rising demography coupled with inadequate personnel, competitive environment and demand by customers have resulted in global governance to revaluate the practice of governance so as to realise efficiencies as a government. Thus, artificial intelligence has become a promising technology gaining increasing need from both professional and the academic realm. The recent advancement in technology specifically machine learning as well as data availability grounds for AI to look into the economic and the challenges of women in the society especially the more vulnerable which is the widows. While the information domain may not have clearly define AI, however, within the scope of this review, AI is a software that can to achieve complex goals through data acquisition, analysis, interpretation and suggestion of actionable steps so as to achieve a defined objective [41-43].

According to a study by [44] adopting AI systems in managing resources among women especially widows requires adequate focus on important outcomes like accuracy, automation, power of computation, capacity, real-time experience, time-saving as well as cost savings. For instance, the study identified the benefits of AI adoption by gathering data from information technology employees in China using a developed questionnaire and processing it with SPSS and proposing a novel framework for the analysis. The results show that parameters like accuracy, computational power, capacity and personalization has great influence on cost reduction and time savings while automation and experience in real time did not. In the same vein, for effective use of AI by for women right protection and widowhood practices, the same method could be adopted to achieve an effective monitoring of women that is vulnerable in the society. Figure 2 show the conceptual framework as deployed in the study.

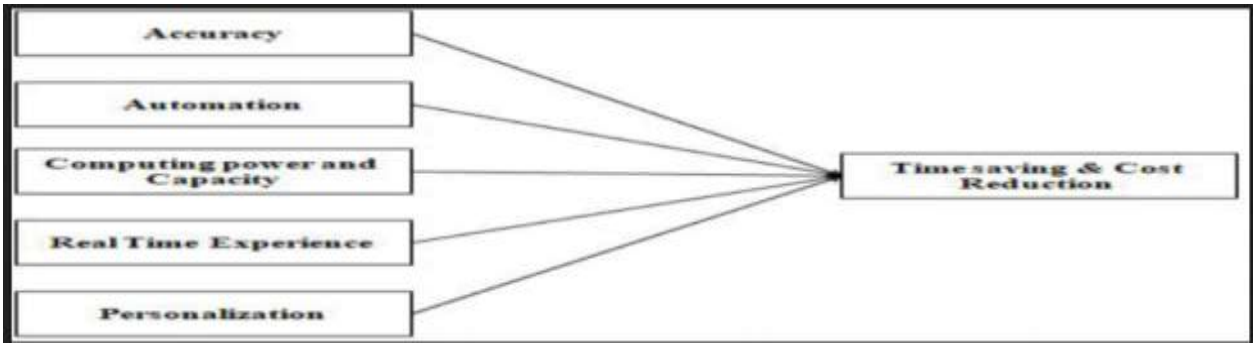


Figure 2: Framework of methodology [44]

It was reported by [45] that the adoption of artificial intelligence in managing the public sector is becoming very fast. However, despite the various research which are available on government policies regarding AI especially on algorithms, AI-platform implementation, ethics, it is as if the administrators are unaware or do not understand as little data are made available about the rate of perception, adaptation, problems as well as the resistance. For effective adoption of AI in government administration, the government must understand the necessary skills needed. In the same vein, adopting AI-platforms for protecting women and widowhood practices, the competencies must be analysed in the following phase; digital management and the execution procedure, digital planning and design phase and data usage as well as governance across levels.

Thus, for effective adoption of an AI system, the government must harness the power of AI to deliver an optimum, inclusive, and transparent governance among vulnerable citizens. Also, they need to understand the problems associated with AI as well as implementing the right solutions so as to prevent potential failures. This understanding is also very important in the regulation of AI operations. More so, the technological organization as well as the framework of the environment will help to understand how the AI-platform could be adopted effectively [46].

## 5. IMPROVING WIDOWHOOD PRACTICES IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA USING AI-PLATFORMS

The degrading conditions of widows generally had necessitated the attention of researchers as well policy makers. This due to the fact that their vulnerability has led to dehumanization of cultural practices and poverty levels keep increasing in most societies at large. In Nigeria alone, about one million widows have been displaced from their marital homes and their properties collected. This is worse in areas where cultural practices and barriers as well as poverty stopped different options for survival. More so, the prevailing economic crisis in Nigeria has contributed immensely for the suffering of widows, especially in Southern Nigeria [47].

In addition to this, it has increased the demand for external organizations to provide support for the vulnerable categories of people in the study. Despite these poor conditions of widows, little or no efforts have been made to solve this menace. In Nigeria, widows are the least to be discussed. Even in literature, it was observed that widows were only defined as helpless people with evidence shown via statistics and strategies developed for alleviating their poverty. However, there seem to be little or no attention paid by the government to provide initiatives that could reduce their level of poverty. In most cases, developed policies are not checkmated to ensure efficient delivery as well as feedback mechanism for continuation of any policy developed to helped the widows in the Southern part of Nigeria [48-49]. A study by [50] on widows' perceptions of their vulnerability and the solution they adopt to address their problems within the Southern communities in Nigeria shows that indeed, the widows made good choices which are transformative as well as highlighting their agencies. Findings also showed the role of aid organization providing the institutional voids within the community. From this study, collective effort of individuals and agency was observed to be the power behind the existence of widows in this region. Thus, empowering these widows using the artificial intelligence platforms will help in alleviating these problems. In fact, it is crucial to say that widows and their children are usually hidden from the data used for decision making generally in Africa. In most cases, data provided for widows in Mali showed that the widows have poor standard of living compared to people in urban areas. In addition to this, the welfare level varies. Critical examination of well-being of individuals revealed that it usually goes worse when the widow remarries passing the detrimental effect to children which becomes intergenerational. Adoption of AI systems or platforms could help in improving such lives and conditions of the widows.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The use of artificial intelligence platforms for the protection of fundamental human Rights and widowhood practices have been with emphasis on vulnerable widows in the Southern Nigeria has been explored. There is no doubt that the use of AI in the protection of women as well as widows has become an important issue and need urgent attention by the government and other stakeholders. Based on the study, deploying the AI-platform will require that identification of the widows and their fundamental rights, selecting the individuals that have been identified with adequate eligibility test, matching the widow with certain group of people within the community to improve integration and facilitating and enhancement of the widow via information.

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