Prologue to the Democracy in the era of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the most impactful innovations that the world has ever seen[1]. It has emerged as the paramount technological advancement of the twenty-first century. This technology, which was developed in an effort to enable machines to think and learn, is now on the verge of transforming democratic governance[2]. Democracy is an idealized form of governance; however, its tangible implementation in contemporary society is partially dependent on technology[3]. The integration of AI into democratic governance is one of the revolutionary development of the digital era[4]. The connection between democracy and AI is complex, which gives insights on the ways in which the technical process and the proliferation of AI in our society may have a beneficial influence on democratic governance[5]. The link between

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democracy and AI has undergone a substantial transformation in recent decades. The primary focus of early discussions on AI, extending back to the mid-twentieth century, mostly concentrated on technological capabilities, with little consideration given to the political implications. The impact of AI on democratic processes became more apparent, particularly with the emergence of machine learning and big data in the twenty-first century[6].

Artificial Intelligence and Opportunities

AI has emerged as revolutionary technology with the potential of redefining several facets of contemporary civilization in the recent years[7]. The materiality of democracy, or the social infrastructure that sustains democratic processes in the society, is inherently affected by AI. AI encourages the freedom to avoid harmful or hostile circumstances by facilitating cooperation among governments, individuals, and enterprises through the implementation of structural reforms. A positive element of AI is its potential to increase human capacities, promote digital liberalism, increase citizen engagement in politics, and ultimately broaden the scope of human freedom[8]. AI may help to foster a secure political environment in which citizens feel comfortable to express their opinions and participate in the democratic process. People are more inclined to take part in political discussions when they feel their rights and the integrity of their democratic institutions are secure[9]. AI augments human potential, thereby

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[6] Naryana, Dr., S. 2023. "The Implications of Artificial Intelligence on Democratic Decision Making: Opportunities and Threats." *IJFANS International Journal of Food and Nutritional Sciences*, 12(1): 8131-8137. https://ijfans.org/index.php/Journal/article/view/2630/1604

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broadening the scope of human freedom to act without limitations[10].

The advancement of AI has led to the emergence of data science and algorithms in every aspect of policy formulation and governance. These advancements have altered human-centered political actions and decision-making procedures, resulting in the creation of an environment in which AI may participate and contribute to policy and governance[11]. Its influence on democratic decision-making has the potential to revitalize citizen participation, improve the quality of public policy, and boost the responsiveness of institutions[12]. AI-powered feedback analysis tools have the potential to greatly improve citizen engagement, fostering a more in-depth and reflective type of involvement that, in turn, may result in better informed and more participative policy-making[13]. AI has the potential to improve public engagement and inclusivity in ways that were previously considered impossible[14].

AI can operate as a catalyst for collective contributions, facilitating more active and participatory policy making by removing barriers to access and providing individuals with the opportunity to interact with complicated policy discussions in an organized way[15]. AI asserts to promote equality in society, and when it plays a key part in decision-making, it renders equitable choices by gathering more impartial data and

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