



Islamic Ethical Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Surveillance: Principles, Challenges, and Policy Recommendations

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Abstract

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital surveillance technologies has revolutionized multiple sectors, from law enforcement to healthcare, but has also raised critical ethical concerns regarding privacy, fairness, and accountability. This paper explores the ethical implications of AI and digital surveillance from an Islamic perspective, arguing that Islamic ethics offers a comprehensive framework for evaluating and guiding the development of these technologies. Drawing on Qur'anic teachings, Hadith, and classical Islamic jurisprudence, the paper highlights key ethical principles such as justice ('adl), human dignity (karāmah), accountability (mas'ūliyyah), and privacy (ḥurmāt al-ḥayāt al-khāṣṣah) to assess the ethical use of AI and surveillance systems. It critically examines issues such as algorithmic bias, invasion of privacy, and transparency in AI systems, arguing that these technologies must adhere to Islamic values that protect individual dignity and ensure fairness. The paper provides actionable policy recommendations for Muslim-majority countries, including the establishment of Islamic ethical committees on AI, the promotion of ethical AI education, and the development of legal frameworks grounded in Islamic principles. These recommendations aim to ensure that AI and surveillance systems serve the public good (maṣlaḥah) while upholding the moral values of Islam. By integrating Islamic ethics into the governance of AI technologies, the paper advocates for a balance between technological



innovation and the preservation of human dignity and justice, ensuring a future where AI serves humanity ethically and responsibly.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Digital Surveillance, Islamic Ethics, Privacy, Justice, Accountability, Algorithmic Bias