

Technological Advances in Anti Trafficking Efforts: The role of AI in Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses

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Abstract

Human Trafficking has become one of the most severe and topical concerns in everyday people's lives worldwide. New technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been influential in tackling this. This paper discusses the use of AI in combating human trafficking with special reference to the identification of victims by the Thorn organization focusing on child sexual exploitation. This study used qualitative case study research method, and this is evident mainly in the literature review. Several key success factors were identified and brought out: the combination of AI with other approaches, the efficiency of AI-related methodologies, and the integration of a number of methodologies. Several issues were also identified such as quality and availability of data, ethical issues of AI, questions of how algorithms are performed or are prejudiced, and questions of how far AI can go. The best practices highlighted therefore involve catering to the feedback from the users, keen ethical practices surrounding AI, and most importantly being open to the best practices with the flexibility to adapt those practices and even encourage people's collaboration in the use of those measures. Moreover, general recommendations to the entire AI spectrum in handling human trafficking were discussed while providing specific recommendations to Sri Lanka under five main themes of enhancing data collection, ethical AI practice, fostering collaboration, improving adaptability, and scaling AI solutions derived through Thorn case study. Finally, it was concluded that the Thorn case study was a success story where AI was able to combat human trafficking by having more opportunities to develop customized platforms around the world.

Keywords: *human trafficking, artificial intelligence (AI), technology, child sexual exploitation*