Perception of AI's Role in Crime Perception, Public Fear, Community Safety, and Mental Health among Adolescents

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Abstract
Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Community security programs and crime prevention are leveraged more frequently that includes facial recognition, predictive policing, and surveillance. Their psychological and social effect is quite controversial, although these technologies are often offered as the answers to the higher security of people. The researchers express concern about the role played by AI in image-making or perception of the crime, the sense of terror, ensuring safety and mental health of the overall population in this paper. The study relies on the survey conducted among 400 respondents (mixed method), focus groups and interviews during which teenagers identified AI as a source of anxiety, as well as the preventative mechanism. The outcomes of the research indicates that crime may appear more visible with the help of AI, which contributes to expansion of awareness, and riskiness. It was also dependent on gender and the community environment because female adolescents were more likely to view AI monitoring more favorably, whereas male adolescents discussed it as intrusive. Teenage representatives of disadvantaged groups reported higher levels of distrust because they explained how AI **is** a system to reinforce inequality and over-policing. This ambivalence could be observed in terms of mental health, as respondents explained that they felt safer and less scared but others were victims of surveillance fatigue and higher standardized scores. These results appear to be contradictory of AI, where on the one hand it adds to a sense of greater security, and on the other, exacerbates psychological stress.

On the basis of the outcome of this study, it is concluded that the participation in the relation to AI among adolescents is found to be highly situational projected with the opposition of social place, institutional trust, and the exposure to digital realities. Moreover, adolescent voices are allowing policymakers and actors to create AI systems that enable youth rather than incapacitate them in a society that is increasingly becoming computerized. For better understanding of the study, brief points of good governance, literature of artificial intelligence, gender sensitivity and integration of mental health support are shown as a suggestion.

Keywords: *Artificial Intelligence (AI); Adolescents; Crime Perception; Public Fear; Community Safety Mental Health*

1. Introduction
Artificial Intelligence (AI) has hitherto remained to be one of the most provocative technologies of the twenty-first century whenever it may be used in a security, governance, healthcare, as well as education. Robots are entering the sphere of predictive policing algorithms, facial voting, crime maps, and intelligent surveillance systems remarkably more frequently with the purpose of crime prevention and assistance of police work using AI (Brantingham, 2021). These inventions have been promoted in an effort of enhancing efficiency, reducing the time they can respond and making safer societies. However, along with the promise of safety and efficiency, the artificial intelligence generates new insecurities as well as insights into crime, surveillance and privacy. The next socio-technologically changeable group is that of the youth, thus adolescents have a higher disposition to such socio-technological alteration (Livingstone, and Third, 2017). The AI discussion throughout the entire globe emphasizes on the duality of AI. On one hand, the use of AI can help decrease crime rates, enable the implementation of proactive interventions, expand the chances of investigation, and create a feeling of safety in societies (Joh, 2020). On the other hand, its adverse effects could be the heightened panic because of the spread of the image of crime everywhere, and people gaining the feeling that they are under constant control, ethical concerns of bias and the risk of exploitation (Ferguson, 2017). The concepts of safety and harm introduced by artificially intelligent algorithms are disproportionately disclosed to adolescents who watch excessive online content and other sources of information provided by social media platforms (Uhls et al., 2021). Such exposure does not only alter their perceptions of the given crime, but also suggests some effects on their mental health, as well as their social trust, and experience of everyday safety.The problems with juvenile mental state and how these phenomena are manipulated cannot be facilitated by the literature on the fear of crime or even the crossroads between AI and crime perception that the world is currently engaging with. The Crime Apprehension fear differs with personal experience with crime but generally through mediated images, texts and arrangement of technological relationships, that lead to risk (Farrall et al., 2009). Systems that integrate visual development artificial intelligence (AI) such as predictive policing map and alerting systems may unwittingly support this belief of being at risk among young people. In adolescents, who cannot find themselves, gain independence, and become integrated into the socially acceptable environment, the growth of fear turns into a state of nervousness, distrust in the social order, and, at the worst, a poor quality of life due to stress and depression (Patton et al., 2018).

Besides, the definition of AI in community safety is ethically significant and spills into the confidence of the adolescents towards the institutions. On the one hand, communities regard AI as a means of preventing the increase of urban criminal activity, on the other hand, it is a tool of over-police (especially in under-served cities) (Lum and Isaac, 2016). Growing up within such settings, teenagers might think of AI not as a means of protecting but as a means of inequality, control and surveillance. These perceptions may influence their future views of law enforcement, institutions of the state, and digital technologies.

The paper aims to investigate the perception that adolescents have about AI and why it changes their views regarding crime, their sense of security, and mental outcomes. The study is focused on three key questions:
(1) How do AI and risk perceptions in adolescents work?
(2) Will AI reduce or increase the fear and trust people have towards the community safety?
(3) How does a collection of AI-driven surveillance and crime narratives affect the physical and mental health of adolescents?
By providing answers to the above questions, the paper enhances the discussion of the ethical application of AI to law and order, the psychological aspect of the ability to resonate with the creation of AI-related policies, and the necessity to incorporate the voice of adolescents into efforts to develop policies related to AI.

2. Literature Review

Artificial intelligence (AI) in law enforcement, community safety has sparked an eclectic intellectual discussion in the area of criminology, psychology, sociology and technology studies. The literature is a two-fold account of AI teaming up with the stories of AI as a transformative power that can lead to improved safety of society and AI as a force that can lead to a psychological-induced fear, prejudice, and psychological deterioration. In the case of adolescents, the identity and worldview are yet to be formed, thus, such stories can have a significant impact on their vision of crime, its safety and outcome on mental health.

AI and Crime Perception

One of the lines of research is the effect of AI in transforming the human values of crime. As Brantingham (2021) states, forecasts of crime hot spots, also known as predictive policing algorithms are not inanimate objects, but a force that actively determines social discourses in which crime is allegedly occurring. In the case of aiming at the less fortunate communities, such mechanisms can exploit the stereotypes that are in place and shape the understandings that underage communities may hold against some groups of communities and make reinforcement seem dangerous. Ferguson (2017) also takes notes of the change in the patterns of policing and the local adjustment of the crime prevalence using big data policing. Those young users who constantly come across news and social media posts enhanced by algorithms may accumulate more exposure to the risk of crime, regardless of whether crime is trending or not.

Visions of Public Fears and Safety

To understand the impact of AI on emergence of anxieties, it is possible to examine this phenomenon in the framework of the literature on fear of crime. It is Farrall, Jackson and Gray (2009) that argue that the social construction of fear of crime is what produces it yet does not rest on individual experience. Artificial intelligence-driven algorithms, such as automatic notifications about criminal activity or live photography will assist in creating a sense of danger by signaling the user about it at all times. Research by Lum and Isaac (2016) illustrates predictive policing has the unintended effect because it develops a feedback loop; where there is a strong presence of police, people come to peruse that it is a hot spot and, therefore, it needs more police, which, subsequently, leads to more perceptions of a hot spot. This fear may trickle to the adolescents who will be more easily susceptible to the mediated narratives and agree with the thought regarding AI-enabled surveillance as a concept that provides not protection but instills insecurity.

Community Safety and Trust

Scholars have also investigated an association between AI and community trust. Joh (2020), confirms that in spite of the advantages in efficiency, AI might result in some distrust in the citizens in the case when they feel secretive, biased, or overly intrusive. The problem of community safety is also significant (and, to be more exact, it is important directly among adolescents due to the fact that their sense of belonging and protection are directly related to their social and cultural life). Kearns and Muir (2019) study concerning smart cities points out that AI-driven surveillance can affect the experiences of security within a group and produce a sense of alienation within another group. In most disadvantaged teens, the AI systems may seem like an over-policing tool, which can lower their confidence in institutions and their overall sense of security.

Mental Health Implications

The mental consequences of AI-surveillance and policing are increasingly valued. According to Livingston and Third (2017), teenagers already possess some concerns on the Internet already through an effect of algorithmic curation. Always being shown AI-inspired crime cases cannot but exacerbate the anxiety/depression/hyper-vigilance. Patton, Eschmann, and Butler (2018) have written about the concerns of so-called *internet banging*, where algorithms in social media are prioritizing violent content and is strengthening violent relationships among younger users. These correlations mean that nothing in the physical space of the adolescents is sure to only influence the mental state, and neither is the digital image of the violence and security.

Moreover, Uhls, Ellison, and Subrahmanyam (2021) have highlighted the dual-impact of social media algorithms, which can provide social support to the community and share anti-social content simultaneously. With teenagers, consciousness and paranoia would be at the same level: where AI-aids may reassure of some safety, embedding one to an incessant and ever-present danger. The constant worry of being followed, scanned, or observed with cameras or with a predictive system or via online algorithms may lead to what researchers describe as survey exhaustion as teenagers feel scared and powerless (Andrejevic, 2019).

Theoretical Frameworks

There are various theoretical aspects where such findings are placed into perspective. The changes, which occur within the contemporary society, in reference to the article by Beck (1992) named the *Risk Society*, are related to the growing concern on the basis of the risk management, which overtakes as a leading trend through the help of the technological procedures and often results in new fears previously unknown. When applied to the adolescents, the theory carries the message that regardless of the notion of risk minimization, the experience of vulnerability may be compelled to grow larger due to the involvement of AI. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) can also aid in clarifying the way in which the adolescents peruse AI in terms of perceived usefulness and trustworthiness (Davis, 1989). Finally, though not the last, *Social Learning Theory* highlights the significance of first-hand experience in influencing how adolescents relate to crime, with or without mediation of the mediated representations as well as peer influence which is currently being algorithmically fixed by advanced algorithms.

3. Methodology

Research Design

This study is a mixed-method study methods by integrating both the quantitative survey methods and the qualitative interviews and focus groups. Such decision logic can be justified by toughness of the problem: not only will there be measured attitudes of adolescents towards AI and crime and fear and safety, but also a happier psychological and cultural conversation. Thus, the mixed methodology allows not only to provide a broad cursory picture in statistical terms but also to obtain in-depth thematic insight (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2017). The quantitative section will seek to establish the patterns of relationship between AI related technology exposure and criminal and mental health perceptions. The qualitative dimension they ratify encompasses the real-life experiences, concerns and strategies of teens that can hardly be quantified.

Population and Sampling

This research will target the population of adolescents between 13 and 19 years of age that are urban and suburban based. The reason behind the selection of adolescents as the focal group is the extent to which they are exposed to the digital technologies, their development stage psychosocial and their sensitization to the narratives of community safety (Livingstone and Third, 2017). Sampling to be used in the study will be stratified random sampling as it will represent all the three factors; gender, socio-economic status, and geographical location. The proposed survey (n=400 respondents) would give the statistical power to conduct meaningful analysis, and 6-8 focus groups (with 8-10 participants) would give the qualitative data.

Data Collection Tools

1. Survey Questionnaire

A questionnaire will be conducted, which will be structured, and it is going to include Likert and multiple choice questions. The survey will be divided into four large parts:

i. **AI Awareness and Usage**: Awareness of predictive policing, facial recognition, social media cameras, and AI-based social media content guiding them.

ii. **Perception of Crime**: Teenagers attitudes regarding how much crime occurs, can be seen and how serious it is in their area.

iii. **Fear and Safety**: Self-perceived fear of being victimized, perceptions of safety in community areas, and their trust toward law enforcement.

iv. **Mental Health Indicators**: An adapted scale of anxiety, stress, and surveillance fatigue (using both GAD-7 and PSS framework).

2. Focus Groups

Adolescents will address their attitudes to AI use in the crime control through the focus group discussions on their emotional and social response. Introductions will feature the perception of safety, AI-powered policing trust, and the impression regarding surveillance. Focus groups will enable some person to share fears and experiences that cannot be well articulated through surveys (Morgan, 2019).

3. Interviews

Individual perspectives will be sought more through semi-structured interviews among a selected panel of adolescence**. It** will be particularly useful among the respondents belonging to the marginalized or highly watched populations, where the attitudes toward AI can be informed by unfair policing practices (Lum and Isaac, 2016).

Data Collection Procedure

Research will be done in schools, community facilities, and youth clubs, which will be accessible and ethically involved. Secure platforms will also be used to give online surveys to capture more digitally involved adolescents. Participation will be voluntary and informed consent will be taken with the adolescents (and guardians where necessary). An institutional review board (IRB) will be used to get ethical approval to adhere to the privacy and child protection norms (Britten et al., 2017).

Data Analysis

In the study, both the quantitative and theories of analysis will be used:

i. Quantitative Analysis: Descriptive statistics will provide a summary of the patterns of AI awareness, perception of crime, and mental health results. Correlations and regressions will be used to evaluate the correlation between the exposure to AI-based crime stories and the variables of fear, safety perception, and anxiety. A cross-tabulation will be used to determine any difference in subgroup based on gender, socio-economic status, and urbanism versus sub-urbanism**.**

ii. Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding is going to be used on transcripts of thematic meetings and interviews. Themes like AI-as-safety-enhancer and AI-as-an-instrument-of-surveillance and AI-as-the-source-of-anxiety will be derived. NVivo can be applied in terms of data coding and clustering. The results of surveys and qualitative narratives will be triangulated using qualitative narratives to increase the validity.

Reliability and Validity

The survey instrument will also be pilot tested with a sample of 30 adolescents before its full implementation to assure reliability, and amendments to this survey will be made according to the feedback. As a measurement of mental health, existing scales are going to be redesigned like GAD-7 (Spitzer et al., 2006) as well as PSS (Cohen et al., 1994), in order to create construct validity. In the qualitative data, inter-coder reliability will be achieved by having the help of multiple researchers through the independent coding.

Ethical Considerations

Teenagers are a challenging population, and all the ethical rules should be followed to the letter. Anonymized data storage will support confidentiality and also allow the participants to withdraw at any point. Delicate communication of fear and anxiety in a conducive setting will be administered and counseling services are referred in case of distress.

4. Results

4.1 Perception of Crime among Adolescents

Survey data showed that 62 % of adolescents thought the AI technology like camera surveillance and predictive policing made crime more apparent, and 28 % thought artificial intelligence revoked crime within society. Interestingly only 1 in 10 stated that they did not feel any significant effect. The focus groups indicated that adolescents tended to interpret more reporting on AI as a better indicator of increasing criminal activity by this that more crime is broadcast, and crime is therefore on the rise.

Figure 4.1: *Perception of AI's Impact on Crime Visibility*
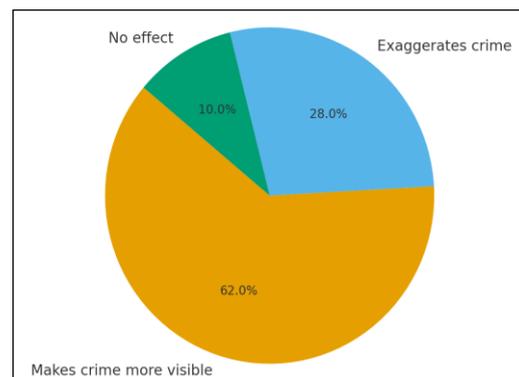
4.2 Fear and Safety Narratives

The evidence displayed a subtle connection between AI and fear of crime.

Although 45 % of teenagers said they felt less unsafe in neighborhoods they had AI-enabled patrols, 38 % said they experienced more anxiety because of the omnipresent reminders of the threat of crime, and 17 % said nothing changed. The effect of gender was also substantial since female respondents were more predisposed to identify AI surveillance with a feeling of safety, and male respondents tended to label it as invasive.

Table 4.1: *Reported Feelings of Safety by Gender*

Gender	Safer (%)	More Anxious (%)	No Change (%)
Male	41	44	15
Female	49	33	18
Other/Non-binary	46	36	18

4.3 Community Safety and Trust

It was revealed that strong influence on the substitution of trust in AI systems in adolescents was weighed heavily on the environment of their community. In urban residents, AI-driven policing had moderate-high levels of trust (53%), while in the suburbs, the trust was including lower levels (39%). The focus group data showed how the adolescents in disadvantaged neighborhoods view AI as an instrument of over-policing instead of protection.

Figure 4.2: *Trust in AI-Enabled Policing (Urban vs. Suburban Adolescents)*
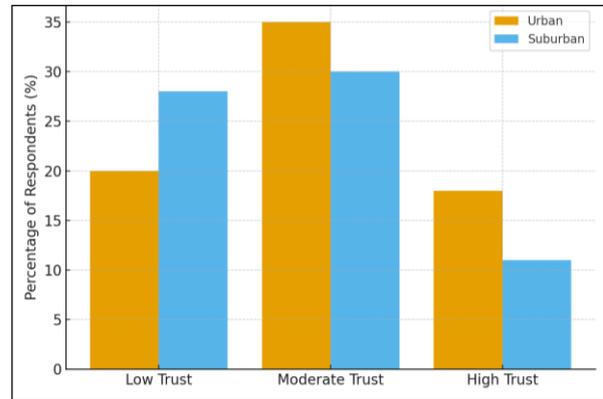
4.4 Mental Health Impacts

The results of mental health were impressive. The %age of respondents who were more anxious as a result of receiving AI-funded crime alerts (36 %) matched the %age of those who were reassured (29 %) and those who were not (35 %). Teenagers who received AI-generated alerts 5 times or more per week achieved outcomes on the GAD-7 anxiety scale that were significantly higher than teenagers exposed less than 5 times a week. During the focus group discussions, some teenagers mentioned experiencing what some called "constantly being watched, others enjoyed feeling surveyed, and others called it surveillance fatigue, but some mentioned that AI surveillance becomes soothing when they got home late in the night.

**Table 4.2:** *AI Exposure Frequency and Mean GAD-7 Anxiety Scores*

AI Exposure Frequency	Mean GAD-7 Score (0–21)
Low (0–2 times/week)	7.8
Moderate (3–5 times/week)	10.4
High (>5 times/week)	13.2

4.5 Qualitative Themes

The content analysis of content of the focused group discussions revealed that four major patterns existed:

i. AI as a Safety Enhancer- AI was also positively perceived in transportation and schooling regions where teens appreciated AI monitoring.

ii. AI as a Fears Generator - It was mentioned that AI notifications were manifested in the form of living in a fearful world by a lot of people.

iii. Robust Mistrust of the Institutions - The mistrust of AI was prevalent among teens who reside in marginalized locations that are perceived to reinforce the process of inequalities.

iv. Mental Health Trade-offs - This has been linked with the assurance feelings, where both the safety feeling and the fear are involved in a paradox.

Figure 4.3: *Thematic Map of Adolescent Perceptions of AI in Crime and Safety*
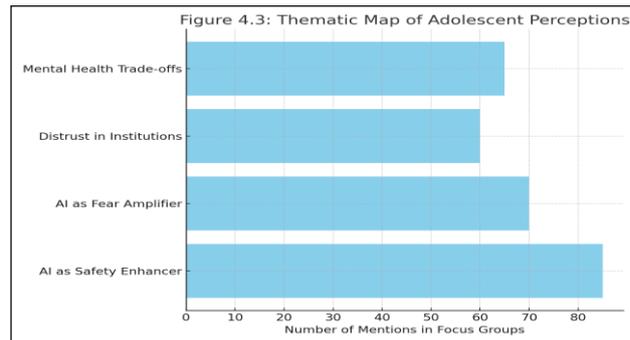
4.6 Summary of Findings

The theorized results suggest that the attitude of the adolescents to AI concerning crime, safety, and mental health is both averageness and contingency based. On one hand, AI enhances safety perception in others, but on the other hand, it boosts fear and anxiety perceptions in others. It is clear that there is no consistent community feeling about AI and that the outcome of AI in mental health among adolescents appears to be directly linked with being exposed to AI-powered crime narratives. These results justify the notion that the balanced policies ought to be designed that can enable the dual nature of the outcomes of AI to be tackled about addressing the well-being of adolescents.

5. Discussion

The findings of the current study reveal a paradoxical role of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) among adolescents and their attitude to crime and fear, safety, and mental health. On the one hand, AI is viewed as a fortification mechanism that will enhance the visibility of the crime and give the young generation a feeling of such a safe society. On the other, it is a panicking agent and breast-works up the apprehension of the threat and source of mental strain. This section places these results in a context regarding current literature, finds out inconsistencies and reflect on extensive theoretical and practical implications.

5.1 Artificial and AI Crime Enhancement

The majority of adolescents in the survey (62 %) believed that AI technologies created more awareness of crime. It fits perfectly well with the observation of Brantingham (2021), as he says that predictive policing and surveillance regimes contributes to building a crime prevalence narrative with its deflection of specific spaces and populations. As much as the increased visibility has the advantage of turning the communities more powerful due to building the awareness; there is also the risk of exaggerating the crimes. How large amounts of the algorithmically suggested content gets teenagers to process it serves to help them perceive where there is non-existent threat before. This is accompanied by the theory of Farrall, Jackson, and Gray (2009) that fear of crime is a socially constructed process, and this is not normally associated with actual crime levels. In technical terms, AI might serve as a source of information, as well as scare-inducing resource.

5.2 Sciences Safety, Fears and the Gendered Experience

The results have also indicated that there exists veneer gender gap on the sense of safety. The female adolescents would have a positive correlation with AI-enabled surveillance and protection but the male adolescents would have a negative correlation with AI-enabled surveillance and being intrusive. What appears assumed is such dichotomy which is reciprocal to the world studies of gendered experience of safety. According to Joh (2020), women tend to feel protective when technologies related to surveillance are employed somewhere in the street (particularly harassment). Quite the contrary, the maladaptation or misunderstanding of young men towards the same technologies

is a challenge in the form of control. Such gendered difference, in the case of adolescents, concerns not only with the exposure to risks being dissimilar but with the different expectations that the institutions hold about the safety they are supposed to provide. The obtained results suggest that the perceptions held by adolescents regarding AI are subject to the mediation of lived scenarios of vulnerability to cater to the requirement of making AI-empowered safety systems gender sensible in nature of design

5.3 Community Safety Systems Trust

The questions of trust proved to be one of the most significant mediating variables of the perception of AI between adolescents. Urban adults were also more predisposed to report moderate-high levels of trust in AI enabled policing compared with suburban citizens, which potentially reflects the fact that technological acceptance is conditioned by community settings. The Kearns and Muir (2019) paper of smart cities supports this point, stating that the perception of AI, on a community scale, differs based on the prior experience of engagement with institutional and other opportunity-providing structures. The teenagers who had resided in less fortunate communities were displaying a feeling of mistrust since they believed that AI was fueling inequality and over-policing. This agrees with the objections of Lum and Isaac (2016), to the effect that predictive policing leads to an information imbalance in the sense that the more bias predictions there are in the technology, the more **crime**- prevalent the region is. Conceptually, it enhances the concept of the *Rick society* postulated by Beck (1992) where technological interventions in the name of controlling risk, on the contrary, deepens social schisms.

5.4 Mental Health Trade-Offs

One of the most interesting things that **is** revealed in relation to the mental health impacts of using AI-based crime stories might be the most compelling. The level of anxiety that is widely observed among adolescents, who had high exposure to AI-generated alerts, was measured using Hopoper GAD-7 scale. This is consistent with the familiarity of Patton, Eschmann, and Butler (2018) about the amplification of violent news under algorithms, as the means of effectively raising psychological distress. The principle of exhaustion due to continuous being tracked as proposed by Andrejevic (2019) is underlined with the concentration group discourse of the scenario of surveillance exhaustion. Ironically, however, others explained that AI surveillance made them feel safer, particularly when they are walking to night by their own. These two sides of this duality are explained by the fact that, as Uhls, Ellison, and Subrahmanyam (2021) state, algorithmic systems are both reassuring and detrimental in different social and mental circumstances of a user. With adolescents, it has a thin veneer: AI can be both a source of comfort and of stress.

5.5 Theoretical Implications

The results show that it is essential to adopt conceptualizations in various theories. The principle of the *Risk Society* explains the perceptions of AI as a risk holding system among adolescents and the genesis of emerging anxieties. The reason behind the differences in trust towards AI could be explained by applying the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and focusing on their considerations of utility and their perception of fairness among adolescents. Finally, the *Social Learning Theory* provides a hint towards the perception of crime among adolescents that is rather framed not only by personal experience but also by mediation and algorithmically enhanced accounts. The combination of these frameworks underlines the significance of the fact that the interest and application of AI in adolescents goes in both directions and are negotiated at a more cultural and non-institutional scale.

5.6 Policy / Practice implications

These ambiguous findings bear important consequences on the policy makers, teachers and mental health professionals. The policymakers must understand that adolescents do not have a homogenous attitude to AI as protective. Other experience relief and others train more anxiety and fear. In order to build trust, it should be clear that AI systems are transparent as postulated by Joh (2020). The AI literacy program can help not only make teenagers more critical of AI motivated accounts of crime, but also stop useless hype in relation to exaggerated fear in teachers and parents. Mental health practitioners should be sensitive of the so-called surveillance fatigue and also should incorporate counternarcotic of the impact of technological stressors during adolescent counseling and therapy. These steps would ensure that the application of AI in the safety field positively affects adolescents/youth health rather than negatively

5.7 Contradictions and Paradoxes

The results are also contradictory. At the same time teenagers are not only in need of security but also are threatened by security laws which should keep them safe. They trust in AI at its supposed protectionist stage, and not in AI at its supposed control stage. And these contradictions were incurable, but they point to the requirement to engage adolescents in formulating policies related to AI and crime prevention. This wayside must be escaped, and this exclusion will subject alienation to further reinforcement, as well as raise the psychological cost of technological government.

5.8 Summary

All in all, the findings demonstrate that the influence of AI as far as the perception of crime and safety among adolescents and their mental health is concerned is contextual, biased, and gendered immensely. The AI cannot be perceived as a technological solution that is created in a vacuum but needs to exist within the socio-psychological and institutional frameworks. The adolescents look on AI as a goal of hope and fear an aspiration-defensive object, and at the same time harassing. The solution to eliminate such duality should be given through balances of the polices, moral utilization, the disposal to the community of youth in the debate about AI and safety, and to the decision between these two factors of AI. The study will be integrated into more advanced viewing the problem of the emerging technologies dealing with fear, trust, mental health in a digital age through their concern with the life of the teenager.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations.

6.1 Conclusion

This research was undertaken to obtain the way teens view Artificial intelligence (AI) concerning crime, fear, comfort in the community, and mental wellbeing. The results are indicative of the dissonant sentiment of AI with regard to the style through which young people are shaping their perception towards this world. On the one hand, AI was linked to a higher level of crime transparent line, tranquility in a part of a society, a sense of greater safety. Adolescents on the other hand, said that they had more anxieties, they felt as though they were under constant scrutiny, they had less faith in institutions and those whose parents belonged to the marginalized communities.

A major outcome can be considered that the neutrality and use of AI as a technological tool was not neutral among adolescents. Instead they translate it into their social realities, their past experiences and in terms of their digital exposure. Even though predictive policing, surveillance cameras, and AI-produced alerts may enhance safety, it is necessary to keep in mind that it tends to foster the effects of risky attitudes indirectly by cultivating a feeling of danger. It seems a cauldron of apparent comfort and worry to others in that very processes aimed to keep oneself safe merely put people more at risk.Other differences were also found so that there were gendered differences and situational differences. Adolescent females were more likely to equate AI-assisted surveillance with sexual harassment prevention, whereas, and mostly those that were male, advised against it as an intrusion. Young people in urban areas were also more likely to trust AI-guided policing than the youngsters residing in suburbs, though the credibility started to decline appreciably in underprivileged areas

where AI was considered as a reason contributing to the gap. These facts confirm the idea that the relationship of adolescents with AI is held by social location in which they are vulnerable and trust in the institution.

There is no doubt that there are psychological effects among the Adolescents. Exposure to AI-centric crimes also resulted in an increased result in anxiety testing in teenagers, which is also referred to as *surveillance fatigue*. Nonetheless, other individuals, in its turn, described AI as psychologically reassuring. The twin effect is a vivid example of how AI can ease and cause mental health problems in individuals depending on the context and presence or absence of the experience itself. To sum up, the research draws a conclusion about the constructive and contradictory role of AI in the lives of adolescents as a conflicting one as well as divisive and, above all, social. Hence, it can be said that AI, not in the sense of techno-solution to crime, is a socio-technological regime, which must be governable, and the utilization thereof should be ethically regulated, and with youth recidivism playing an essential role in the system.

6.2 Recommendations

1. Policy Recommendations

The law-enforcement agencies and governments should focus on transparency and responsibility of the AI-based policing hardware use. In such instances adolescents tended to **show** a lack of trust between systems where there was an indication of opaqueness or perceived bias. The availability of clear data concerning how AI technologies are operated, what they process, and how decisions are made would assist in increasing the credibility, as well as reducing the level of fear. In addition to these, the policies here should be accompanied by efficient **observational** measures to foster fairness and absence of targeting the less favored populations disproportionately.

2. AI Literacy and Education

AI graphics in schools and local communities should include the promotion of AI literacy to make teenagers critically evaluate the stories of AI-driven crime-fighting and prevent falling prey to it. Learning about how algorithms are created, how predictive policing can be mediated by risk perception, and how surveillance technologies can be leveraged to protect and simultaneously manage adolescents can serve to make them more resilient in terms of online behaviour. Such programs also should highlight the psychological impact of mediation crime narratives to ensure healthy living online.

3. Mental Health Interventions

The reason is that both adolescents and mental health practitioners need to take into account technological stressors when they are hired. The issues of surveillance fatigue, the establishment of fear of crime through AI, and ways to overcome it should be talked about within the context of counseling service. Training on stress-management in schools and in the healthcare sector, specifically, the psychological trade-offs of the AI-driven safety options, would also be provided. It is important to note that teenagers who believe that AI monitoring is a threat should be made to find support and encouragement.

4. Community-Based Engagement

Teenagers are expected to be invited **to participate** in community conversations with AI and safety that will include law enforcement and policymakers. Participatory processes- youth advisory councils or school based outreach can be employed to ensure that the adolescents are heard in the decision-making about the technology deployment. Bringing in the youth perceptions would assist in decreasing mistrust and bring about some common share of responsibility and somewhat nearer associations between the institutions and communities.

5. Gender-Sensitive Approaches

Given the disparities in the perception of safety, depending on gender, the design of AI-based assistance in crime prevention should take the gender factor into consideration. To use an example, the possibility that surveillance in the school areas and the transport system may indeed create the feeling that the female adolescents are safer, must be subsidized by the policymakers with possible actions taken against the likelihood of abuse and excessive usage. The programs should also address male perceptions of such technologies as usurping of power to ensure that policies embraced in the programs do not foster stereotypes and alienation.

6. Future Research Directions

The futuristic navigation pertaining to research leaves many avenues open to different type of studies**.** The *longitudinal* studies could be used to determine the evolution of the attitudes towards AI throughout the time, examining the perceptions of the adolescents they have as they mature. The *cross cultural comparisons* would help in analyzing how cultures, systems of governance, and technological structures affect the perception of the youths in various locations differently. Also, the possibility exists that the assessment of mental health implications of AI-based surveillance based on physiological measures like and *self-report questionnaires* will yield less imprecise outcomes.

6.3 Closing Remarks

It can be concluded that AI appears to be hopeful and seemingly dangerous when it comes to perception of crime, safety and mental illness among adolescence. The paper emphasizes the fact that the influence of Artificial intelligence cannot be independently assessed outside of the *social* and *psychological* context of the most problematic people. Being digital natives, adolescents are the main users of AI-generated content and the most disadvantaged demographic with regard to unintended effects. This duality is crucial to recognize in order to design and implement policies and interventions that would contribute to the increase in protection without enhancing the feeling of fear. In this regard, societies can try to ensure that AI would be more of an empowerment instrument and ceases to be an anxiety-inducing experience in future by focusing on the voices of teenagers, using ethical, transparent and engaged strategies.

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