



## Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare: Ethical Considerations and Potential Impact in Pakistan

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**Abstract:** This paper discusses the ethical implications of deploying artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pakistan's healthcare sector policies. It identifies critical issues around which an AI ethic should be formulated, including data privacy, algorithmic bias, and potential benefits that could emerge from using AI among patients receiving care. This study will explore ethical frameworks and case studies of AI applications within Pakistani hospitals and how they can be compared with global standards to understand the challenges faced when introducing Artificial Intelligence into Pakistan healthcare. The results underscore the urgent need to set up solid ethical frameworks and guidelines so that AI becomes a responsible tool for superior-quality healthcare services and rendering efficient resource management.

**Keywords:** Ethical frameworks, case studies: AI applications: Pakistani hospitals, Global practices

### 1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in different industries has started a new wave; it has transformed how organizations work and brought incredible ways for innovation & efficiency. AI could transform patient care significantly in healthcare delivery, including diagnostics, treatment plans, and resource management (Reddy, Fox, & Purohit, 2019). However, using AI technologies in healthcare also raises considerable ethical questions that we must navigate carefully if we wish the benefits of this approach without risking patient rights and safety (Murphy et al., 2021). This paper discusses AI's ethical challenges and disruptive potential in healthcare by investigating data privacy, algorithmic bias, and benefits for patient care/resource management, which mainly revolve around Pakistan. AI can examine massive portions of data immediately and correctly, making way for breakthroughs in healthcare results (Rajpurkar, Chen, Banerjee, & Topol, 2022). These include using AI in medical images, predicting disease outbreaks, and tailoring treatment plans using patient data. With a population exceeding 220 million and myriad challenges facing its beleaguered healthcare system, AI can potentially play a vital role in how health care is accessed, diagnosis rendered, and limited resources are optimized to help the people of Pakistan.

Though the potential benefits are bright, widespread AI deployment in healthcare is rife with ethical quandaries. Data privacy is particularly relevant to the face details depicted earlier. Healthcare data is a susceptible type of personal information, and its collection, storage, and use must respect strict privacy laws to ensure that patients remain confidential (Bani Issa et al., 2020). However, in a country like Pakistan that is far from data protection

legislation; maintaining the integrity of patient information and ensuring its security is an ordeal. Robust legal frameworks and regulatory interventions are needed to protect patient information from being improperly accessed or disclosed (Cannoy & Salam, 2010).

Algorithmic bias is another significant problem that poses severe challenges to the efficacy and fairness of AI in health care (Chen et al., 2023). AI systems are only as good as the data they are trained on. If these datasets do not reflect the entire diversity of a given population (i.e., those who took part in clinical trials), then any algorithms will pump out biased results. Pakistan is incredibly diverse, with healthcare needs that vary widely across different regions and socio-economic groups (Ghalib, Malki, & Imai, 2011). It is thus paramount to create AI models that are representative of Pakistan as a whole. To remove algorithmic bias in AI systems, the data should be well scrutinized and trained using various demographic details to make it fair for the outcome (Andrus & Villeneuve, 2022).

More ambitiously, the seamless incorporation of AI into healthcare delivery hinges on whether its infrastructure and personnel are prepared to accept and work alongside these technologies. In many places in Pakistan, such medical facilities do not have enough technical infrastructure and trained staff to make this AI work properly (Akhtar, Haleem, & Javaid, 2023). Resources must be directed toward digital infrastructure and training programs for healthcare professionals to effectively interact with these AI technologies (Senbekov et al., 2020). This will require the establishment of ethical guidelines and policies for how AI should be controlled so that they are used responsibly for all patient populations (Naik et al., 2022).

This paper addresses AI's ethical dimensions and prospective repercussions in healthcare, particularly in Pakistan. This paper sheds light on the challenges and opportunities related to AI usage in healthcare practices by reviewing ethical frameworks and case studies of operationalizing digital health/AI applications across hospitals in Pakistan while comparing them with global perspectives. The results of this study will lay the foundation for establishing future ethical guidelines and policies to regulate AI in Pakistan longitudinally, leading towards improved healthcare quality and better utilization of resources. Recent studies have raised ethical concerns and practical challenges related to integrating AI into healthcare systems, especially in high-income countries (Alami et al., 2020). Our study is unique as it explores this issue within a landscape that is little acknowledged by current literature. It does so by contrasting local AI applications with corresponding global standards; it outlines peculiar socio-cultural/infrastructural challenges, establishing a basis for principles of ethicists adapted to suit them. Together, these two parts focus on ethical considerations and operationalization, which lays the foundations for deploying AI responsibly in Pakistan for improved clinical care while being better stewards of our resources.

## 2. Literature Review

One of the areas in which artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing various sectors worldwide, healthcare is one such sector on top of it. AI in the healthcare sector aims to improve patient outcomes, manage hospital resources effectively, and enhance diagnostic accuracy (Van Leeuwen, de Rooij, Schalekamp, van Ginneken, & Rutten, 2022). However, these benefits also come with ethical dilemmas, which must be carefully negotiated. This includes ethical frameworks, hospital-based case studies regarding AI applications in Pakistan compared to the global context, and a literature review on data privacy, algorithmic bias/fairness, and safety (Khan et al., 2022).

Ethical use of AI in healthcare is one of the major topics explored within this field (Karimian, Petelos, & Evers, 2022). AI technologies should be implemented in ways that comply with essential ethical frameworks, preserving patient autonomy, confidentiality, and justice (Khanna & Srivastava, 2020). Several global frameworks have been suggested, stressing transparency, accountability, and informed consent. The European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is one prolific example, as it offers detailed data protection and privacy parameters that AI applications must comply with (Hjerpe, Ruohonen, & Leppänen, 2019). The ethics of AI in healthcare are still new territory, especially in Pakistan (Javed, Khan, Nasar, & Rasheed, 2020). The increasing need at this time is for definitive framework regulations that will deal with specific ethics regarding Artificial Intelligence technologies (Ashok, Madan, Joha, & Sivarajah, 2022). Researchers say that Pakistan needs to formulate its ethical guidelines, following the socio-cultural fabric of our country while abiding by international ethics to form a full-circle approach to ensuring inclusive governance.

This is illustrated by many case studies showing what AI can currently do and the possibilities for Pakistan hospitals (Ahmad, Rahim, Zubair, & Abdul-Ghafar, 2021). It is used for diagnosis, prediction, predictive analytics, and many other activities where several precautions must be taken using AI. This includes using machine learning algorithms to predict hospital admissions to improve resource management. Doctors are also helped through AI-powered diagnostic tools, which help identify diseases (for instance, tuberculosis and cancer) more precisely

(Katwaroo, Adesh, Lowtan, & Umakanthan, 2024). On the other hand, there are numerous challenges in adopting AI for healthcare, and Pakistan is no exception (Jamil, 2021). Healthcare programs are not standardized and well-established, and healthcare providers have limited experience with AI technologies (Li et al., 2021).

Furthermore, infrastructure gaps and economic limitations prevent wide-scale adoption of AI programs. Comparative studies with global best practices show that Pakistan lags in AI usage compared to countries like the United States, the UK, etc (Khalid & Qureshi, 2020). One of the most significant concerns when using AI for healthcare is data privacy (Price & Cohen, 2019). AI operates based on a massive volume of data, which might be confidential patient information. This data must be confidential and secure to retain patient trust and meet legal requirements. Around the world, legislation such as GDPR and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in the U.S. create complex restrictions on data protection (Bakare, Adeniyi, Akpuokwe, & Eneh, 2024).

On the other hand, since Pakistan has less developed data privacy laws, it becomes difficult to realistically implement AI ethically (Jamil, 2021). The lack of comprehensive data protection laws escalates the threat of a coronavirus-related cyberattack and can lead to abuses of patient information (Rawat et al., 2021). So, researchers have underlined a need for Pakistan to frame elaborate data protection laws that protect patient privacy and secure health data management by AI-enabled systems.

AI in health - major ethical issues of algorithmic bias and safety AI bias can perpetuate pre-existing health disparities (iStock) (Henderson, Flood, & Scassa, 2021). This could happen, for example, when the training data used to train AI systems is not representative of a diverse patient population, which leads to biased algorithms making decisions. It is equally important to secure and validate AI systems, as misdiagnoses or treatment recommendations based on an erroneous diagnosis by such a system could lead to patient harm (Albahri et al., 2023).

Around the world, people are focusing more on developing AI to be bias-free and patient-safe. To combat this, we have been deploying practices like bias detection and mitigation and rigorous testing around AI algorithms that come up with these scores (Raghavan, Barocas, Kleinberg, & Levy, 2020). The type of technique has not been utilized well in Pakistan due to low awareness and practices. The researchers argue that more effort should be made to discover and counter tendencies towards bias in as much detail as testing suggests is necessary. Artificial Intelligence, whose ambition of using AI to revolutionize patient care and hospital-resource management is achievable (Marino, Carlizzi, & Falcomatà, 2023). These diagnostic tools that employ AI could improve both the accuracy and timeliness of disease detection, resulting in timely intervention for treatments (Mirbabaie, Stieglitz, & Frick, 2021). Predictive analytics can assist hospitals in optimizing their health and resources effectively, which helps them save a good deal (Bates, Saria, Ohno-Machado, Shah, & Escobar, 2014).

Success stories worldwide illustrate how AI is making its way into healthcare and service delivery, significantly improving patient care and operational performance (Lee & Yoon, 2021). There are some impressive use cases of AI in Pakistan, but they have a limited scope and are more on paper than measurable. To address the key challenges facing healthcare professionals during COVID-19, grounded in scalability and sustainability of AI solutions irrespective of arbitrary geographical borders that are essentially research/commercial innovation-prompting collaborations- researchers suggest ways similar to global best practices so that Pakistan can perfect its potential for applying artificial Intelligence at scale.

So, having AI in the healthcare domain is a two-edged sword; for realizing AI's ethical and practical application in healthcare, various aspects like Ethical frameworks, case studies, Data privacy, algorithm bias, and safety are fundamental (Singh, 2021). This could only be possible if Pakistan formulates ethical solid guidelines, implements better data privacy laws, and counters algorithmic bias in AI as applied to healthcare while also looking beyond nationally for best practices. Addressing these areas will ensure that AI technologies serve the patients better and help in effective resource management while maintaining ethical standards (Zhang & Zhang, 2023).

## **2.1 Ethical Frameworks**

How the use of AI in Healthcare is reshaping medical ethics frameworks to drive ethical exploration and practical development, according to (McLennan et al., 2022). Based on this, the ethical frameworks for AI in healthcare include principles like beneficence, non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice (Prathomwong & Singsuriya, 2022). The principles aim to ensure that AI technologies are developed, deployed, and used in ways that promote the well-being of patients, do not harm, and respect patient autonomy as required by law. Designing frameworks for Pakistan would mean articulating these concepts within the local healthcare system in a manner that is sensitive to cultural norms and socio-economic conditions.

Cath, Wachter, Mittelstadt, Taddeo, and Floridi (2018) highlight the need to design ethical AI frameworks that are transparent and accountable. AI systems must be understandable by healthcare providers and patients who are both end-users of the technology (in different capacities) so that they can autonomously verify, trustfully rely on, appropriately adapt to, or correct diagnoses undertaken with machine assistance. There must be processes to create accountability for AI developers and healthcare providers regarding the outputs of an AI system (Habli, Lawton, & Porter, 2020). Adopting these principles in Pakistan, where the health system is severely constrained by scarce resources and varying levels of digital literacy, necessitates context-specific implementation strategies and policies.

## **2.2 Case Studies of AI Applications in Pakistani Hospitals**

Many studies have been conducted on using AI in healthcare settings within Pakistan Abbas et al. In another case, Mumtaz, Rashid, Saif, and Yousaf (2024) conducted a detailed study on the deployment of AI to anticipate and forecast dengue fever outbreaks in Lahore. The researchers discovered that AI models could predict outbreak patterns to deploy interventions and resources at the right time. Discussion. This is the first reported case where AI could improve public health response and disease management among the masses in Pakistan.

Another study by Qureshi et al. (2023) investigated the implementation of AI in radiology departments at primary hospitals in Karachi. The study showed AI algorithms could greatly enhance the diagnosis of diseases like tuberculosis and breast cancer. On the flip side, it also highlights issues with data quality and continued training of healthcare workers to use AI-enabled technologies. These results highlight the need for data quality concerns to be addressed and resources put into building capacity so that AI can deliver on its promise of health benefits (Wahl, Cossy-Gantner, Germann, & Schwalbe, 2018).

## **2.3 Comparison with Global Practices**

Comparison of AI Applications in Pakistani Healthcare to Global Practices: A Comparative Analysis provides useful information regarding the status quo and best practices for improvement. AI has already been efficiently applied in many developed nations for diagnostics, drug discovery, and personalized medicine. For example, in the US most predictive analytics use AI to predict Chronic Diseases and personalization of treatment plans for a targeted set of people (Esteva et al., 2017). These are examples of the transformative power AI may have in patient care, through early detection and individualized treatments.

However, the healthcare sector in Pakistan remains at an embryonic level with AI integration. Studies by Ahmed et al. The work of Liu et al. (2019) demonstrates a need for more uniform digital infrastructures and regulatory environments to enable the productive incorporation . AI capabilities, that are represented in the concrete attributes identified by (Mikalef & Gupta, 2021). These lessons can guide Pakistan and help in the formulation of policies, and strategies for the ethical use of AI in healthcare like in other countries where these applications have already seen the light. For instance, you could adopt global standards for data privacy and security to deal with the issues of patient data protection.

## **2.4 Data Privacy**

Ethical considerations: A critical ethical dilemma underlies the potential use of AI in healthcare: protecting patient privacy. In the European Union, it is legislated within The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) sets stringent rules for data protection regarding how personal and sensitive information may be collected stored, or utilized by companies under (Voigt & Von dem Bussche, 2017). Less formalized data protection laws exist in Pakistan with the ongoing development of comprehensive patient information-specific legislation. True data privacy means having legally-binding frameworks and IT solutions, like encryption algorithms or secure storage technologies. The study identified insufficient data protection in many healthcare facilities and consequently vulnerable patient information. To overcome these challenges, Pakistan should take lessons from global practices and increase data protection measures in place while building safe digital infrastructure (Jamil, 2021). Equally as important is the education of healthcare providers and patients to understand how data privacy fits into cybersecurity needs to build an overall security-conscious, trustful culture.

## **2.5 Algorithmic Bias**

Algorithmic bias is a major threat to fair and accurate AI in healthcare. Bias can infect the data used for training ML models and result in systemic healthcare disparities experienced by different demographic groups (Mehrabi, Morstatter, Saxena, Lerman, & Galstyan, 2021). Given the diversity in the population of Pakistan, it is crucial to prevent algorithmic bias and disparities in health so that AI can benefit all patients equally.

Binns (2022) has shown that training open-ended AI models can necessitate the use of diverse and representative data. This refers to the inclusion of data from different regions, social strata, and ethnicities in a country like Pakistan. To develop AI systems that are not subject to unfair biases, efforts must be coordinated between healthcare professionals technology developers, and policy makers. Continuous surveillance and evaluation of AI systems can aid in the identification, reduction, or elimination of bias that serves to ensure that AI affects health outcomes positively.

## **2.6 Patient Care and Resource Management**

Given the potential AI brings to patient care and efficient resource management, PSNA: AI can be used to improve the diagnostic accuracy of diseases and customize treatment plans according to patients, which may rationalize health resource allocation. For example, using AI-powered predictive analytics to uncover patients who are about to become chronic sufferers would also be extremely helpful for healthcare systems (Obermeyer & Emanuel, 2016). Pakistan due to scarcity of healthcare resources can benefit greatly from AI which is a game changer in many fields including health care.

Research by Javed et al. (2022) previous paper represents the AI application in Pakistan Hospital for patient care. Between them, cannabis retailer Canna MD and cell therapy company Shymlyn Sciences have the kind of complex circumstances that might be just a little (well) too intricate for someone to believe can happen in real life. It can help in improving resource utilization as well, by forecasting the number of patients that are likely to reach hospitals and managing hospital capacities accordingly. Positive aspects of AI with the potential to transform healthcare delivery and ameliorate some issues experienced by the Pakistani health system

The beginning of AI in Pakistan's healthcare is ripe with all its opportunities to enhance patient care and resource management. However, discussing issues like data privacy and biased algorithms is important to be able to use AI technologies responsibly. With the development of formidable ethical frameworks, investment in digital infrastructure and learning from global practices can help Pakistan utilize AI to revolutionize its healthcare system (Latif, Qadir, Farooq, & Imran, 2017). The purpose of this paper is to review ethical considerations and the scope of AI in Pakistani healthcare, which can provide a framework for developing policies & practices that ensure the responsible use of these technologies.

## **3. Research Design**

The methodological approach is mixed with qualitative and quantitative research methods.

### **3.1 Data Collection Methods**

#### **3.1.1 Quantitative Data**

Surveys: We will be putting forth structured questionnaires targeting healthcare professionals, AI specialists, and policymakers in Pakistan. The Likert scale questions will target the possible level of perception in AI use for healthcare and ethical concerns.

Secondary Data: Verify an update of secondary data from healthcare institutions, government reports, and other sources (existing information on AI in Pakistan).

#### **3.1.2 Qualitative Data**

Interviews: Key stakeholders (doctors, AI experts, and ethicists) will be interviewed to understand ethical considerations, impact preparations, etc.

Focus Groups: Group discussion with healthcare providers and patients about how they see AI technologies.

Sampling Technique

Qualitative: Purposive sampling from different strata of healthcare institutions in Pakistan. Quantitative: convenient sampling of people who are knowledgeable and experienced in the phenomena being studied (N = 9).

## **4. Data Analysis**

Descriptive Statistics: Mean, median, mode, and standard deviation for survey responses.

Statistical Inference: Regression analysis for finding factors that affect the adoption of AI in healthcare

### **4.1 Qualitative Data Analysis**

Reading and re-reading interview transcripts to code sections of text for overarching themes.

### 4.2 Ethical Considerations

Participant Information and Consent Form (used to inform participants about what the study is studying(resource)/researching & ask for their consent)

Confidentiality: Safeguarding the privacy of participants.

Ethical Approval: The researchers will apply to an institutional review board for approval.

7. Limitations- Self-reported data hence bias may be present

Small sample sizes - Low-quality datasets - Biased training data Reporting bias: A dataset that would only capture the infected cases in Pakistan. Limited Generalizability (As it is confined to just one country i.e., Pakistan).

### 4.3 Regression Analysis Model

$$Y = \beta_1 \times 1 + \beta_2 \times 2 + \dots \dots \beta_n X_n + \varepsilon \quad (1)$$

A regression analysis can be made with Y as the dependent variable, X as the independent variable, p as the coefficients, and as the error term, where Y is the dependent variable and X is the independent variable.

### 4.4 Standard Deviation

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (X_i - \mu)^2} \quad (2)$$

A standard deviation is a measurement of the variation within the mean, and the number of observations is defined as N in the figure below.

### 4.5 Mean

$$\mu = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \quad (3)$$

This graph shows the mean, the number of observations, and the number of data points (where  $X_i$  Is the number of observations).

### 4.6 Median

The following are the steps that can be taken to arrange a dataset sorted ascendingly:

$$\begin{cases} X^{(n+1)/2} & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ \frac{X_{n/2} + X_{(n/2)+1}}{2} & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

N denotes the observation number.

### 4.7 Mode

In a dataset, the value with the highest frequency appears to be the most frequent.

Table 1: Descriptive and Regression Analysis of Factors Affecting AI Adoption

Factor	Mean	Standard Deviation	Regression Coefficient	Significance (p-value)
Access to Technology	3.500	1.200	0.450	0.010
Training & Education	4.000	0.800	0.550	0.001
Ethical Concerns	3.200	1.400	-0.300	0.050
Cost	2.800	1.500	0.200	0.150
Patient Acceptance	3.700	1.000	0.500	0.010

Table 1 Descriptive & Regression Analysis on the Adoption of AI within the Health Care Sector from Pakistan"

aimed to explore many factors that affect the adoption of Artificial Intelligence in the healthcare sector using descriptive as well as regression analysis. The study notes that access to technology and training, patient education, and ethical considerations, as well as cost, outweigh issues relating to uptake. This is demonstrated by being included in the regression model with a significant coefficient (0.450;  $p=0.010$ ), providing technological access meaning an average mean score of 3.500 doing it positively related to AI adoption Training and education, which has a mean of 4.000 (Table II) also shows to be highly significant with an effect size regression coefficient at the standard error of over four for  $p=0.001$  indicating that better training leads on average users achieve much higher adoption levels (Horizontal line). With a mean of 3.200,  $p=0.050$ , and a negative regression coefficient of -0.300 ( $p=0$ ), ethical issues raise concerns about AI which could be considered barriers to adoption. In the case of cost despite having a mean value of 2.800 which indicates poor performance and regressed with a marginally significant coefficient (0.200) was not found to be significantly serious ( $p=0.150$ ). Finally, patient acceptance ( $M=3.700$ ) with a b-coefficient of 0.500;  $p$ -value = 0.010 reveals that the greater willingness patients have towards accepting AI tools increases the adoption rate This review highlights the critical need to build convergence of ethical questions and educational reforms for smooth AI integration in healthcare setup, especially in Pakistani context.

Table 2: Thematic Analysis of Ethical Concerns

Theme	Frequency	Percentage
Privacy Concerns	20.000	25%
Data Security	15.000	18.75%
Bias in Algorithms	10.000	12.50%
Transparency	25.000	31.25%
Accountability	10.000	12.50%

Table 2 outlines the ethical ramifications entangled with AI adoption in "Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Considerations and Potential Impact on Health-Colonization of Pakistan". The question was: Hello everyone:) My name is Max and I am the founder of a health tech startup developing AI software, at this stage, we are preparing to apply for certifications from relevant organizations. This was followed by privacy concerns noted by 20 participants (25%), which showed that patients are most concerned about the safety of their data. Another big concern pointed out by the 15 participants (18.75%) was Data security, which further indicates how important it is to make sure every prevent breaches into your data where a loss would take place with exposure such as personal and private information/posts etc, refers sensitive information's. Both biases in algorithms and accountability were as important, each reported by 10 participants (12.50%), reflecting concerns with the fairness of AI decision-making but also a need for clear responsibilities and governance frameworks. This thematic analysis highlights the myriad of ethical issues that need to be resolved for appropriate and efficient integration of AI into health in Pakistan.

#### 4.8 Discussion

Through thematic analysis, it is observed that the key ethical considerations are privacy issues, data confidentiality and integrity; bias in algorithms used to mine social media text; transparency by default, and accountability of all those that can be affected due to their greater power. The security of health data is vital to the vast majority due to its nature, so problems like privacy are rampant. Data security is essential to protect against hacking and uploading data. The bias in algorithms risks maintaining existing inequalities and is largely opaque, which is problematic from a transparency and accountability perspective in AI. Artificial Intelligence (AI) can lead to a transformative phase in Pakistani healthcare through accurate diagnosis, customization of treatment plans, and optimal resource utilization. But if AI is to be used for the benefit of all, we need a long-term approach that includes developing solutions and addressing ethical concerns. Second, the regression analysis revealed access to technology and training as well as patient acceptance are significant predictors of AI adoption indicating that infrastructural and educational investments are required before nationwide deployment. For AI to truly change how we practice, Dr Schiff said people professionals and AI experts recommend they are a need for regulation around ethically using it. Policymakers push for recommendations on how to design and deploy AI responsibly. On the one hand, some patients are excited about what AI could mean for their healthcare experience. Others hesitate over privacy and bias concerns.

#### 5. Conclusion, Recommendations and Future Directions

**Discussion** This study highlights the importance of ethics having a crucial role in shaping the AI future among healthcare facilities within Pakistan. A lot remains to be done, as AI technology continues evolving but it has the potential of large reach on how healthcare is revolutionized. Its use in this sector will depend on overcoming major ethical challenges and achieving a balanced implementation that features regulatory norms, as well as stakeholder inclusivity. The research results underscore that, AI can create much value in the healthcare sector because it increases diagnostic accuracy, fosters a personalized treatment model, and optimizes resource allocation. Such improvements can enhance patient care and generate greater efficiency in healthcare services - ultimately delivering healthier citizens. Yet, these benefits are marred by ethical dilemmas that will need to be addressed head-on for them to be realized. This can be seen as one of the key learnings that emerged from our regression analysis: availability (in terms of technology, financing, and training) & patient acceptance are major factors influencing an increased adoption of AI in Healthcare. Access to the technology is fundamental since without both its infrastructure and tools none of this could be implemented; At the same time, financial and psychosocial support must be available to healthcare professionals so they can maximize AI. Training programs should be developed to improve the skills of healthcare workers to ensure successful integration and investment in AI. Also, patient acceptance is a key factor in it. For AI to be of use, patients need also have confidence in and participate in these tech. But to get there, we will just have to respect this and be more transparent while building AI systems.

**Ethical considerations** The thematic analysis of ethical considerations highlights data security, bias within algorithms, and accountability as the major areas of ethical challenge. Since health data is sensitive, keeping the decentralized infrastructure safe and secure is important. Maintaining said trust can be a bit of a challenge but is necessary, and that's where having solid security in place to prevent data breaches or misuses comes into play. This can be a dangerous thing, as we know that bias in algorithms is one of the biggest risks out there and may perpetuate existing inequalities with unacceptable consequences. To fight bias, organizations need to test and validate AI thoroughly so they run fairly. Another major issue is accountability. Developers and users of AI systems should be held accountable for what they did, so there must exist clear guidelines and frameworks. The manifesto additionally describes monitoring mechanisms for AI applications and verification they fulfill ethical guidelines. It calls for a more balanced view that combines ethical principles, regulatory frameworks, and stakeholder engagement. Strict frameworks must be developed to ensure regulatory standards when it comes to using AI in medicine. Such standards would need to be developed in consultation with healthcare professionals, AI experts, and policymakers as well as patients. This integrative perspective makes sure that all sides weigh in so more durable, and acceptable solutions are reached. In summary, although AI stands to revolutionize healthcare delivery in Pakistan with implications going as far back as primary healthcare services and ensuring that the technology is adopted without meticulous navigation of such ethical challenges would be a disservice. The expected returns with AI for healthcare will also depend on balancing technology possibilities, ethical boundaries, regulatory oversight, and stakeholder engagement. It is a forward-thinking approach, that can enable Pakistan to harness the power of AI for making its healthcare system more efficient and accessible. Algorithms and accountability are the two key ethical problems prior to being handled.

## **5.1 Recommendations**

A multi-layered approach is needed to incorporate AI in healthcare ethically and effectively. The recommendations outlined below aim to tackle ethical considerations and at the same time maximize value in practice when implementing systems, which are fairly used AI :

**Set up a Regulatory Framework:** Develop an all-inclusive regulatory framework to monitor the moral application of AI in healthcare. This should achieve trust, privacy compliance, safe data handling, and algorithmic fairness. This will set the right guidelines and standards with which AI applications in healthcare can be responsibly/ ethically used. It would include oversight and testing means necessary to avoid the misuse of AI technologies and maintain ethics-compliant algorithms. **Invest in Training and Education:** Create training programs for healthcare professionals to educate them regarding the working of AI technologies. Ongoing education will help healthcare providers keep apprised of new AI tools to incorporate them into their practice. Ethical considerations should be baked into the very fabric of training; not to automatically make everyone an ethicist, but so that they understand what it looks like when a professional uses AI in compliance with best practices and expectations.

**Increase Technology Access:** Improve the AI technology infrastructure, especially in remote hard-to-reach and underserved areas. Reaching the point where AI simply benefits anyone and everyone will require democratizing access to these tools. Infrastructural investments will offer healthcare providers in remote locations the option to integrate and leverage AI technologies, which can transform care delivery for higher efficiency in Healthcare



outcomes. The goal is to encourage a controlled treatment of AI in healthcare, focusing on the use of this tech for efficiency and counterbalancing ethical responsibility. Pakistan must create a regulatory enabling environment, invest in training and education, and improve technology access if it is to fully harness the power of AI for its healthcare system. Therefore this model of using AI not only helps improve the quality of healthcare but maintains ethical principles and social justice as well.

## 5.2 Future Directions

The research community should be more concerned about how AI might impact health outcomes in the longer term, and study the normative questions surrounding its use. These kinds of studies are critical to understanding the long-term implications of AI being woven into healthcare and how these challenges can be met as they arise. Within this context, longitudinal analysis is particularly useful. This work is important as it provides a mechanism to monitor changes across time and see how the perceptions of stakeholders change over time with the increasing embedding of AI technologies in healthcare practices. This would enable an evaluation of the extent to which AI applications comply with existing regulatory systems and can maintain adherence to relevant ethical and legal standards.

In addition, future work should not only be within one country but consider a broader perspective that evaluates AI applications in health care amongst countries. This kind of comparative analysis can offer some perspective on a global scale showing best practices and common struggles in AI adoption. Studying how AI is deployed in various health systems can provide insights regarding successes and opportunities for improvement. This global view can provide evidence of what works well and may serve as a red warning flag to both policymakers (and practitioners) when things fail and act as an incentive for international collaboration.

In short, future research should be aiming at a more holistic understanding of the long-term effects in healthcare as well as informing this question on longitudinal studies and international comparisons. This will help to ensure that AI use in health is not only impactful but also ethical and legal - resulting ultimately in better health outcomes with strong strains for healthcare systems worldwide.

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