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The Role Of Artificial Intelligence Technologies In Public Oversight And Expertise: Uzbekistan's Experience And International Practices

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Abstract: This article provides a systematic analysis of the role and capabilities of artificial intelligence technologies in public oversight and expertise processes. The research examines the experiences of developed countries such as Estonia, Singapore, and Germany in the field of digital public oversight. The activities of the «Regulation.gov.uz» and «Meningfikrim.uz» platforms implemented in Uzbekistan and ways to improve them are considered. The author substantiates the advantages of artificial intelligence in improving the quality of normative legal documents, ensuring transparency in decision-making processes, and expanding public participation. The article provides specific proposals for introducing amendments to the Law «On Normative Legal Documents».

Introduction: Artificial intelligence, public oversight, expertise, digital technologies, normative creativity, public participation, e-government, transparency, digital transformation, legislative quality, citizens' rights, digital literacy.

Introduction

Digital technologies are creating opportunities to elevate government-society cooperation to a new level and to organize public oversight and expertise more effectively. In this process, citizens' participation in state governance, particularly through incorporating public opinion in legislative activities, creates possibilities for enhancing the quality and legitimacy of legislation.

It should be noted that the application of artificial intelligence technologies in this field offers several significant advantages.

First, artificial intelligence systems ensure efficiency in the public expertise process. While traditional methods require experts to spend considerable time and effort analyzing normative legal documents, artificial

intelligence performs this task within seconds. This allows citizens and experts to dedicate their time to discussing fundamental issues. Consequently, the decision-making process is significantly accelerated, time loss is reduced, and effectiveness is enhanced.

Second, artificial intelligence systems ensure objectivity in the expertise process. Individuals and state bodies may be influenced by subjective factors, institutional interests, personal interests, or external influences regarding normative legal documents they have developed. Artificial intelligence, however, operates solely based on data and algorithms, which significantly reduces human factor influence and ensures objective assessment. The objectivity of expertise results enhances the legitimacy of adopted decisions.

Third, the utilization of artificial intelligence systems increases economic efficiency. When public expertise is conducted through traditional methods, expenses arise from engaging numerous specialists, compensating their work, reproducing and distributing documents. Artificial intelligence systems significantly reduce these costs, enabling savings in time and resources. The preserved resources can then be directed toward other important areas of public activity.

Today, leading countries worldwide extensively utilize artificial intelligence technologies in public oversight and expertise processes. For instance, Estonia has implemented an automated analysis system for normative legal documents under its «e-Estonia» program, which enables the identification of contradictions and gaps in legislation, as well as rapid processing of citizens' opinions to prepare conclusions. In Singapore, through the «eCitizen Portal» platform, citizens can express their views on government decisions, with artificial intelligence systems analyzing these opinions to prepare generalized conclusions.

In Germany, the «Liquid Democracy» digital platform enables citizens to discuss draft laws and submit proposals. On this platform, artificial intelligence algorithms are employed to classify and generalize proposals submitted by citizens and to verify their compliance with existing legislation.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has also implemented a series of reforms to ensure public participation and expand citizens' involvement in state governance. These include the adoption of laws «On Public Control» and «On Normative Legal Documents, » as well as the launch of electronic platforms such as «Regulation.gov.uz» and «Meningfikrim.uz. » However, the issue of fully implementing digital technologies, particularly artificial intelligence capabilities, in public oversight and expertise processes remains relevant.

Globally, citizens' governance and activity in state and social affairs, as well as state bodies' attitudes toward such participation, are continuously studied by reputable international organizations and regularly reflected in various rankings. For example, the World Bank's periodically published «Voice and Accountability» ranking places special emphasis on criteria such as citizens' participation in government activities and free access to information. According to results announced in 2022, the Republic of Uzbekistan ranked 168th among 192 countries in this ranking. These ranking indicators demonstrate that citizens' participation in various spheres of state and social life, particularly in legislative activities, is of significant importance.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5980 dated April 16, 2020, «On the Establishment of the Public Chamber under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, » introduced a new concept: «Society as the Initiator of Reforms, » which envisages active participation of society members in reforms. To encourage and effectively implement such activity, the need for extensive use of digital technologies, particularly artificial intelligence capabilities, is increasingly growing.

The implementation of artificial intelligence technologies in public oversight and expertise in Uzbekistan can lead to several effective results.

First and foremost, artificial intelligence systems can significantly improve the quality of legislation. Modern algorithms are capable of automatically identifying contradictions, gaps, and ambiguities in normative legal documents, and can even rapidly detect cases of incompatibility between different laws. Through the linguistic analysis capabilities of artificial intelligence systems, the language of laws and decisions is also simplified, leading to better understanding by citizens. As a result, the quality of adopted laws and other normative legal documents, as well as the effectiveness of their practical application, is enhanced.

Second, artificial intelligence systems enable increased transparency in decision-making processes. Through digital platforms, every citizen gains the ability to monitor the decision-making process, express their opinions, and receive information about how their opinions were taken into account. The practical application of the transparency principle also enables more effective anti-corruption efforts in state body activities. Artificial intelligence systems provide the capability to verify the validity and legality of adopted decisions, which further enhances openness in state

body operations.

Third, the utilization of artificial intelligence technologies serves to expand societal participation. Through electronic platforms and mobile applications, citizens gain the ability to discuss laws and decisions, submit proposals, and vote. Artificial intelligence systems analyze, generalize, and systematize citizens' proposals and present them to decision-making bodies. This enables the involvement of more citizens in the decision-making process, including youth, residents of remote areas, and persons with disabilities. As a result, the legitimacy and level of societal support for adopted decisions increases.

Transforming public oversight and expertise processes through the implementation of digital technologies and artificial intelligence capabilities is considered a global trend today. Taking this trend into account, issues of implementing artificial intelligence technologies in this sphere, improving digital platforms, and encouraging citizen participation are of urgent importance in Uzbekistan as well.

Several scholars have put forward ideas and perspectives on the application of artificial intelligence to communication between state bodies and civil society institutions, as well as to public oversight and expertise. Analyzing these perspectives is of significant importance.

Ensuring transparency of state bodies, increasing citizens' digital literacy, and expanding opportunities for free access to information serve to reveal the true potential of digital technologies in strengthening public oversight.

Research conducted by Matti Minkkinen and his colleagues substantiates the importance of public oversight mechanisms in implementing artificial intelligence systems. According to their conclusion, «public oversight mechanisms enable the early identification and elimination of negative impacts of technological systems».

«Neural networks and deep learning algorithms enable the automation of data systematization and analysis processes in public oversight, which reduces human factor influence and increases the objectivity of expertise. The implementation of these technologies allows for increased transparency in state decision-making processes».

According to S. Zuboff, «Artificial intelligence systems create algorithmic monitoring capabilities in public oversight, which opens up a completely new level of ensuring transparency in government procurement, budget expenditures, and decision-making processes. However, during the implementation of such systems, it is necessary to ensure algorithmic justice principles and the objectivity of data-based conclusions; otherwise, technology may exacerbate existing inequalities».

Zuboff's concept of «surveillance capitalism» reveals important aspects of artificial intelligence application in public oversight, but this approach has been developed primarily from the perspective of Western societies. For Central Asian countries, including Uzbekistan, it is necessary to adapt this concept to local conditions and societal values.

«The effectiveness of artificial intelligence in public oversight is ensured not only through technological improvement but also through creating new institutional foundations for managing and controlling these systems. AI-based oversight systems themselves must also be subjects of public oversight. This implies the need to create a system of mutual balancing and equilibrium».

The idea proposed by Etzioni that «AI-based oversight systems themselves should also be subjects of public oversight» is, in my opinion, very appropriate. However, to implement this idea in practice, it is necessary to train specialists with sufficient technical knowledge in artificial intelligence technologies in our society. For instance, in Uzbekistan, there arises a need to create an institute of specialized public experts for auditing artificial intelligence algorithms.

Overall, while the ideas of foreign scholars on artificial intelligence and public oversight create an important theoretical foundation, their application in Uzbekistan's context requires scientific-practical approaches adapted to local conditions. In this regard, it is important to consider legal, social, and cultural factors alongside technical aspects.

It should be noted that the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5980 dated April 16, 2020, «On the Establishment of the Public Chamber under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» envisages the establishment of the Public Chamber for the practical implementation of the new idea «Society as the Initiator of Reforms».

The Chamber has been granted the authority to systematically study public opinion, discuss urgent issues that concern the population, civil society institutions, and the public in localities and sectors, as well as to submit proposals for the development of relevant normative legal documents to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, chambers of the Oliy Majlis, and the Government regarding their resolution.

The following conclusions and recommendations can be put forward regarding mechanisms for implementing

public oversight and expertise through the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence capabilities:

1. For the effective use of artificial intelligence technologies in implementing public oversight and expertise, it is necessary to pay great attention not only to technical capabilities but also to legal foundations, institutional infrastructure, and society's digital literacy. For the implementation of public oversight and expertise through digital technologies, issues such as citizens' digital knowledge level, openness and transparency of state bodies, and the legal status of artificial intelligence technologies must be systematically resolved.

2. Public oversight systems operating on the basis of artificial intelligence should themselves also be subjects of oversight. By creating oversight mechanisms over the decisions, algorithms, and databases of these technologies, it is possible to prevent violations of citizens' rights and legitimate interests, as well as to ensure data security and personal data protection. This creates a need for specialists who can conduct audits of artificial intelligence technologies.

3. Implementing public oversight based on artificial intelligence and digital technologies may exacerbate digital inequality and differences in the level of technological capability utilization among various social groups. Therefore, when implementing such technologies, special attention should be paid to mechanisms ensuring full participation of all segments of the population in these processes, including residents of remote areas, elderly citizens, and persons with disabilities.

4. It is proposed to introduce the following additions to Article 24 of the Law «On Normative Legal Documents»:

«Artificial intelligence technologies and digital platforms may be used in organizing and conducting public discussion of draft normative legal documents.

Through the use of artificial intelligence technologies in the public discussion process:

automatic analysis and systematization of citizens' opinions and considerations;

statistical analysis and generalization of public discussion results;

assessment of the compliance of the draft normative legal document under discussion with existing legislation;

preparation of proposals for improving the draft normative legal document taking into account public opinion;

opportunities for involving broad social groups in the public discussion process are ensured.

In the process of analyzing public discussion results with the help of artificial intelligence technologies, personal data protection must be ensured and their use only for purposes specified by law is mandatory».

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