

## **National and Sub-National Governance: A Dual Approach to Building a Robust and Ethical AI Framework for Public Health**

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to transform public health by enabling disease prediction, optimizing resources, and personalizing care. However, its rapid adoption has outpaced the development of governance frameworks, raising ethical concerns such as algorithmic bias, data privacy, and inequitable access. This paper proposes a dual governance model that combines national and sub-national efforts to ensure AI technologies in public health are ethical, equitable, and aligned with local needs.

Global principles like transparency, accountability, and justice, outlined in standards by organizations such as IEEE, OECD, and UNESCO, provide a strong foundation for ethical AI governance. However, adapting these frameworks to local contexts is essential, especially in diverse healthcare systems like India's. India's pluralistic society, with its disparities in healthcare access, demands solutions that address data privacy, cultural sensitivity, and equity. National policies such as the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and AI ethics guidelines from NITI Aayog offer a starting point but must be complemented by localized governance.

The paper emphasizes the need for sub-national governance to address regional disparities and promote community engagement. State-level ethics boards and local councils can ensure that AI solutions are adapted to the unique needs of different populations. Pilot programs across urban and rural settings can provide insights for scalable, inclusive implementation. National oversight bodies, meanwhile, can ensure alignment with global standards, enabling India to position itself as a leader in ethical AI for healthcare.

By embedding these principles into policies, capacity-building efforts, and risk management systems, the dual governance model fosters trust and accountability. It ensures that AI can bridge gaps in healthcare access, promote universal health coverage, and safeguard human rights, setting a global example for ethical and equitable AI deployment in public health.