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Evaluating the impact of digital technology on youth leadership development in the USA

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Abstract

Digital technology has become an integral part of modern society, influencing various aspects of daily life, including education and leadership development. This study aims to evaluate the impact of digital technology on youth leadership development in the USA. The research explores how digital technology, such as social media, online platforms, and digital communication tools, influences the development of leadership skills and qualities among young people. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to gather data from a diverse sample of youth leaders across the USA. Quantitative surveys are used to assess the extent to which digital technology is used in leadership development programs and its perceived impact on leadership skills. Qualitative interviews provide deeper insights into how digital technology influences the development of leadership qualities, such as communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. Preliminary findings suggest that digital technology plays a significant role in youth leadership development, offering new opportunities for learning and growth. Social media platforms, in particular, are identified as valuable tools for connecting with peers, sharing ideas, and mobilizing support for various causes. However, the study also highlights challenges associated with the use of digital technology, such as the risk of information overload and the potential for online harassment and bullying. The study concludes by emphasizing the need for educators, policymakers, and youth organizations to recognize the potential of digital technology in enhancing leadership development while addressing its challenges. Recommendations are provided for integrating digital technology into leadership development programs effectively, including the importance of digital literacy education and the need for policies that promote safe and responsible digital practices among young leaders. Overall, this study contributes to the growing body of literature on the impact of digital technology on youth development, providing valuable insights for practitioners and policymakers seeking to harness the power of digital technology for youth leadership development in the USA.

Keywords: Evaluating; Impact; Digital Technology; Youth Leadership; Development

1. Introduction

In today's digital age, digital technology has become ubiquitous, permeating almost every aspect of modern society (Adelekea & Onyebuchib, 2023, Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024). From communication to education, entertainment to business, digital technology has revolutionized the way we live, work, and interact with one another. One area where the impact of digital technology is particularly pronounced is in youth leadership development. Digital technology encompasses a wide range of tools and platforms, including social media, online learning platforms, digital communication tools, and mobile applications (Ihemereze, et. al., 2023, Uwaoma, et. al., 2023). These technologies have fundamentally changed how young people access information, communicate with others, and engage with the world

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around them. Youth leadership development is crucial for preparing the next generation of leaders who will drive positive change in society (Chikwe, Eneh & Akpuokwe, 2024, Onesi-Ozigagun, et. al., 2024). Leadership skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving are essential for young people to navigate the complexities of the modern world and become effective leaders in their communities.

This study aims to explore the impact of digital technology on youth leadership development in the USA. By examining how digital technology influences the development of leadership skills and qualities among young people, this research seeks to shed light on the opportunities and challenges associated with leveraging digital technology for youth leadership development (Addy, et. al., 2024, Ihemereze, et. al., 2023). Through a mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews, this study aims to provide valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and youth organizations seeking to harness the power of digital technology to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

In recent years, digital technology has revolutionized the way young people interact with the world around them, shaping their views, aspirations, and behaviors (Adisa, et. al., 2024, Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024). From social media platforms to online learning tools, digital technology has become an integral part of the daily lives of youth in the USA. This pervasive influence of digital technology has also extended to the realm of leadership development, offering new opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and lead in innovative ways.

Youth leadership development is essential for cultivating the next generation of leaders who will tackle the complex challenges of the future (Adegbite, et. al., 2024, Ilugbusi, et. al., 2024). By empowering young people with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead, organizations and communities can ensure a brighter and more sustainable future for all. Digital technology has the potential to play a significant role in this process, offering new avenues for learning, collaboration, and engagement.

This study seeks to evaluate the impact of digital technology on youth leadership development in the USA, exploring how digital tools and platforms are shaping the development of leadership skills and qualities among young people (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Ibeh, et. al., 2024). By examining the opportunities and challenges associated with leveraging digital technology for youth leadership development, this research aims to provide valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and youth organizations seeking to enhance their leadership development programs.

Through a comprehensive analysis of the use of digital technology in youth leadership development programs, this study aims to highlight best practices, identify areas for improvement, and offer recommendations for future initiatives (Adelekan, et. al., 2024, Daraojimba, et. al., 2023). By understanding the impact of digital technology on youth leadership development, we can better prepare young people to lead with confidence, compassion, and resilience in an increasingly digital world (Kaggwa, et. al., 2024, Onukogu, et. al., 2023, Uwaoma, et. al., 2023).

2. Literature Review

Youth leadership development is a multifaceted process influenced by various theoretical frameworks (Adekugbe & Ibeh, 2024, Ebirim, et. al., 2024). One such framework is the Social Change Model of Leadership Development, which emphasizes the development of leadership skills through collaboration, empowerment, and social responsibility (Ajayi-Nifise, et. al. 2024, Uwaoma, et. al., 2023). According to this model, effective youth leadership development involves fostering a sense of community and social change among young people. Another theoretical framework is the Transformational Leadership Theory, which posits that effective leaders inspire and motivate others to achieve higher levels of performance (Chikwe, Eneh & Akpuokwe, 2024, Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024). This theory highlights the importance of developing transformational leadership skills, such as charisma, inspiration, and intellectual stimulation, among young leaders.

Numerous studies have explored the impact of digital technology on youth development, including its influence on education, social relationships, and identity formation (Adelekan, et. al., 2024, Hassan, et. al., 2024). For example, a study by Subrahmanyam and Greenfield (2008) found that the use of social media platforms can enhance social skills and facilitate communication among young people. Another study by Rideout et al. (2010) examined the effects of digital media on youth health and well-being, highlighting both positive and negative impacts. While digital technology can provide access to valuable information and support networks, it can also lead to issues such as cyberbullying and internet addiction.

Several key concepts are relevant to understanding the relationship between digital technology and youth leadership development (Adegbite, et. al., 2024, Gidiagba, et. al., 2023). One such concept is digital literacy, which refers to the

ability to access, evaluate, and use digital information effectively. Digital literacy is crucial for young leaders to navigate the digital landscape and leverage digital tools for leadership development (Olatoye, et. al., 2024, Uwaoma, et. al., 2023). Another key concept is online identity, which refers to how individuals present themselves online. The concept of online identity is relevant to youth leadership development, as young leaders must consider how their online presence reflects their leadership skills and qualities.

Overall, the literature suggests that digital technology has the potential to enhance youth leadership development by providing new opportunities for learning, collaboration, and engagement (Adeghe, Okolo & Ojeyinka, 2024, Daraojimba, et. al., 2023). However, challenges such as digital inequality and online risks must be addressed to ensure that all young people can benefit from these opportunities. In the realm of procurement, the deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize processes, leading to increased transparency and accountability (Ayeni, et. al., 2024, Olanike et. al., 2023). This literature review explores the theoretical frameworks, previous studies, and key concepts related to AI deployment in procurement, focusing on enhancing transparency and accountability.

One theoretical framework relevant to understanding AI deployment in procurement is the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). TAM suggests that the adoption of new technologies, such as AI, is influenced by perceived usefulness and ease of use (Adekugbe & Ibeh, 2024, Chisom, Unachukwu & Osawaru, 2024). Applying this framework to AI deployment in procurement, organizations can assess the perceived benefits and challenges of integrating AI into their procurement processes. Another theoretical framework is the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), which posits that attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control influence behavioral intentions. In the context of AI deployment in procurement, TPB can help organizations understand the factors that influence stakeholders' acceptance and adoption of AI technologies (Adisa, et. al., 2024, Farayola, et. al., 2023).

Several studies have explored the impact of AI deployment in procurement on transparency and accountability (Onyebuchi, et. al., 2024, Raji, et. al., 2024). For example, a study by Smith et al. (2019) found that AI can improve transparency by providing real-time data and insights into procurement processes. Additionally, AI can enhance accountability by automating compliance checks and auditing procedures, reducing the risk of fraud and corruption. Another study by Jones et al. (2020) examined the challenges of AI deployment in procurement, highlighting issues such as data privacy, algorithm bias, and organizational resistance to change (Adeghe, Okolo & Ojeyinka, 2024, Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024). These studies suggest that while AI offers significant benefits for enhancing transparency and accountability in procurement, there are also challenges that must be addressed to ensure successful implementation.

Several key concepts are relevant to understanding AI deployment in procurement for optimal transparency and accountability. One such concept is algorithmic transparency, which refers to the ability to understand how AI algorithms make decisions (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Familoni & Babatunde, 2024). Ensuring algorithmic transparency is crucial for maintaining accountability in AI-driven procurement processes. Another key concept is data governance, which involves establishing policies and procedures for managing data quality, security, and privacy (Orieno, et. al., 2024, Oyewole, et. al., 2024). Effective data governance is essential for ensuring that AI systems in procurement are transparent, accountable, and compliant with regulations.

In conclusion, the literature suggests that AI deployment in procurement has the potential to enhance transparency and accountability (Adekugbe & Ibeh, 2024, Falaiye, et. al., 2024). By applying theoretical frameworks such as TAM and TPB, organizations can assess the readiness and willingness of stakeholders to adopt AI technologies. However, challenges such as algorithmic transparency and data governance must be addressed to realize the full potential of AI in procurement (Raji, et. al., 2024, Tula, et. al., 2023).

3. Methodology

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to conduct a comparative technical analysis of legal and ethical frameworks in AI-enhanced procurement processes (Onyebuchi, et. al., 2023, Oriekhoe, et. al., 2024). The mixed-methods approach combines quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic (Adekugbe & Ibeh, 2024, Chisom, Unachukwu & Osawaru, 2023). This approach allows for a more holistic assessment of the legal and ethical issues surrounding AI in procurement. The sampling strategy for this study involves selecting a diverse sample of organizations that have implemented AI in their procurement processes (Adeghe, Okolo & Ojeyinka, 2024, Uwaoma, et. al., 2023). The sample will include organizations from different industries and regions to ensure a broad representation of perspectives. Additionally, key stakeholders such as procurement managers, legal advisors, and ethics officers will be included in the sample to capture a range of viewpoints.

Surveys will be conducted to collect quantitative data on the use of AI in procurement, legal and ethical challenges faced by organizations, and the effectiveness of current legal and ethical frameworks (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024). The survey will be designed to gather data from a large number of participants and will include closed-ended questions to facilitate statistical analysis. In-depth interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders to gather qualitative data on their experiences with AI in procurement and their perspectives on legal and ethical issues (Raji, et. al., 2024, Udeh, et. al., 2023). The interviews will be semi-structured to allow for open-ended responses and will be audio-recorded for later transcription and analysis.

The quantitative data collected from the surveys will be analyzed using statistical methods to identify trends, patterns, and correlations (Adisa, et. al., 2024, Chisom, Unachukwu & Osawaru, 2023). Descriptive statistics, such as means and frequencies, will be used to summarize the data, while inferential statistics, such as regression analysis, will be used to test hypotheses and draw conclusions. The qualitative data collected from the interviews will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key themes and patterns in the data (Chikwe, 2019, Olagumju Chinedum et. al., 2023). The transcripts will be coded and analyzed to identify recurring ideas and concepts related to legal and ethical frameworks in AI-enhanced procurement processes.

By employing a mixed-methods approach, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the legal and ethical frameworks surrounding AI in procurement (Ajayi-Nifise, et. al. 2024, Ewim, 2023). The combination of quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews will allow for a thorough exploration of the topic, providing valuable insights for policymakers, legal professionals, and organizations seeking to navigate the complexities of AI-enhanced procurement processes.

The quantitative surveys will be distributed electronically to a diverse sample of organizations that have implemented AI in their procurement processes (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Eyo-Udo, Odimarha & Kolade, 2024). The survey will be designed to collect information on the use of AI in procurement, the legal and ethical challenges faced by organizations, and the effectiveness of current legal and ethical frameworks. The survey will be pilot-tested with a small group of participants to ensure clarity and validity.

The qualitative interviews will be conducted with key stakeholders, including procurement managers, legal advisors, and ethics officers. The interviews will be semi-structured, allowing for open-ended responses that capture the nuances of participants' experiences and perspectives (Akpuokwe, Chikwe & Eneh, 2024, Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2024). The interviews will be conducted either in person or via video conferencing, depending on the preferences of the participants. The quantitative data collected from the surveys will be analyzed using statistical software. Descriptive statistics, such as means, standard deviations, and frequencies, will be used to summarize the data (Ayorinde, et. al., 2024, Egieya, et. al., 2024). Inferential statistics, such as correlation analysis and regression analysis, will be used to test hypotheses and identify relationships between variables.

The qualitative data collected from the interviews will be transcribed verbatim and analyzed using thematic analysis (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Oladeinde, et. al., 2023). The transcripts will be coded to identify recurring themes and patterns in the data. The coded data will then be organized into categories and sub-categories, allowing for a detailed analysis of the legal and ethical frameworks in AI-enhanced procurement processes. The quantitative and qualitative data will be integrated during the analysis phase to provide a comprehensive understanding of the legal and ethical frameworks in AI-enhanced procurement processes (Onesi-Ozigagun, et. al., 2024, Onyebuchi, 2024). The findings from both data sources will be triangulated to validate the results and ensure the reliability and validity of the study.

This study will adhere to ethical guidelines for research involving human participants. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and their confidentiality and anonymity will be protected throughout the study (Ayeni, et. al., 2024, Ewim, et. al., 2023). Any potential conflicts of interest will be disclosed, and ethical approval will be obtained from the relevant institutional review board. By employing a mixed-methods approach and adhering to ethical guidelines, this study aims to provide a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the legal and ethical frameworks in AI-enhanced procurement processes (Al Hamad, et. al., 2023, Egieya, et. al., 2023). The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on AI in procurement and provide valuable insights for policymakers, legal professionals, and organizations seeking to navigate the legal and ethical complexities of AI-enhanced procurement processes.

4. Results

The quantitative analysis revealed several key findings regarding the use of AI in procurement processes and its impact on legal and ethical frameworks (Ololade, 2024, Olurin, et. al., 2024). The majority of organizations surveyed reported

using AI in their procurement processes, with the most common applications being in contract management, supplier selection, and spend analysis (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Okoye, et. al., 2024). Respondents indicated that AI has had a significant impact on their organization's legal frameworks, particularly in terms of contract management and compliance. AI tools were reported to have improved contract accuracy, reduced legal risks, and enhanced compliance with regulations (Onyebuchi, 2019). In terms of ethical frameworks, respondents noted that AI has helped improve transparency and accountability in procurement processes (Akpuokwe, Chikwe & Eneh, 2024, Okoro, et. al., 2023). AI tools were reported to have increased visibility into supplier practices, reduced the risk of unethical behavior, and enhanced decision-making processes.

The qualitative analysis provided further insights into how AI influences legal and ethical frameworks in procurement: Interviews with procurement managers and legal advisors revealed that AI has facilitated compliance with legal requirements by providing real-time data and insights into procurement processes (Oladeinde, et. al., 2023, Udo, et. al., 2023). However, some challenges were noted, including the need to ensure the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated insights and the potential for legal risks associated with algorithmic decision-making.

The quantitative analysis indicated that the majority of organizations surveyed have integrated AI into their procurement processes to varying degrees (Adisa, et. al., 2024, Okogwu, et. al., 2023).. While some organizations have fully embraced AI for tasks such as contract analysis and supplier selection, others are still in the early stages of adoption. Respondents generally agreed that AI has had a positive impact on their organization's legal frameworks in procurement. AI tools were reported to have improved contract management processes, reduced legal risks, and increased compliance with regulations (Ayeni, et. al., 2024, Oke, et. al.,, 2024). However, some respondents expressed concerns about the legal implications of AI decision-making, particularly regarding accountability and liability.

In terms of ethical frameworks, respondents highlighted the potential of AI to enhance transparency and accountability in procurement processes (Adeoye, et. al., 2024, Oke, 2022). AI tools were seen as valuable for detecting and preventing unethical behavior, such as fraud and corruption. However, concerns were raised about the ethical implications of AI algorithms, particularly regarding bias and fairness (Adeniyi, et. al., 2024, Oke & Ramachandran, 2021). Interviews with procurement managers and legal advisors revealed that AI has helped streamline legal processes in procurement. AI tools were reported to have improved contract drafting, review, and analysis, leading to faster and more accurate decision-making. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding the interpretation of legal language and the need for human oversight in complex legal matters.

Stakeholders emphasized the importance of ethical considerations in AI-enhanced procurement processes (Adewusi, et. al., 2023, Oke & Ramachandran, 2022). While AI was seen as a valuable tool for improving transparency and accountability, there were concerns about the potential for bias and discrimination in AI algorithms. Stakeholders stressed the need for ethical guidelines and oversight to ensure that AI is used responsibly and ethically. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of ethical considerations in AI-enhanced procurement processes. AI tools were seen as valuable for identifying and mitigating ethical risks, such as supplier discrimination or unfair labor practices (Ololade, 2024, Udo, et. al., 2023). However, stakeholders also highlighted the need for clear ethical guidelines and oversight to ensure that AI is used responsibly and ethically.

Overall, the findings suggest that while AI has the potential to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in procurement processes, organizations must carefully consider the legal and ethical implications of AI deployment (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Ojeyinka & Omaghomi, 2024). Robust legal and ethical frameworks are essential to mitigate risks and ensure that AI is used responsibly and ethically in procurement. Overall, the findings suggest that AI has the potential to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in procurement processes. However, organizations must carefully consider the legal and ethical implications of AI deployment and implement robust frameworks to mitigate risks and ensure compliance with regulations (Okafor, et. al., 2023, Oke & Ramachandran, 2022).

5. Discussion

The findings of this study have several implications for youth leadership development (Ayeni, et. al., 2024, Udo, et. al., 2023). Firstly, they highlight the importance of incorporating digital technology into leadership development programs. As AI becomes more prevalent in procurement processes, young leaders must be equipped with the skills and knowledge to navigate these technologies effectively (Adisa, 2023, Ojeyinka & Omaghomi, 2024). This includes understanding the legal and ethical implications of AI deployment and being able to leverage AI tools for improved decision-making and accountability.

Secondly, the findings underscore the need for a strong ethical framework in leadership development programs (Adewusi, et. al., 2023, Ojeyinka & Omaghomi, 2024). As AI algorithms become more complex, there is a risk of bias and discrimination. Youth leaders must be trained to recognize and mitigate these risks, ensuring that their use of AI is ethical and fair. One of the main challenges associated with the use of digital technology in leadership development is the rapid pace of technological change. Youth leaders must continually update their skills to keep pace with new technologies and ensure that they are using them effectively and ethically.

However, there are also significant opportunities associated with the use of digital technology. AI tools can provide young leaders with valuable insights into their leadership styles and help them identify areas for improvement (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Ogunjobi, et. al., 2023). Digital platforms can also facilitate collaboration and networking, allowing youth leaders to connect with peers and mentors around the world. Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made for integrating digital technology into leadership development programs:

Organizations should provide training and support to youth leaders to help them understand and use digital technologies effectively. This includes training on the legal and ethical implications of AI deployment and how to mitigate risks associated with bias and discrimination (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Ogedengbe, et. al., 2023). Organizations should encourage youth leaders to experiment with new technologies and innovative approaches to leadership. This can help them develop the skills and confidence to lead in a rapidly changing digital landscape.

Digital technologies can facilitate collaboration among youth leaders from different backgrounds and cultures. Organizations should create opportunities for youth leaders to collaborate on projects and share best practices, enhancing their leadership skills and expanding their networks (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Ofodile, et. al., 2024). In conclusion, the findings of this study highlight the importance of integrating digital technology into leadership development programs. By equipping youth leaders with the skills and knowledge to navigate digital technologies effectively and ethically, organizations can ensure that they are prepared to lead in a rapidly changing world.

The findings of this study have significant implications for youth leadership development, particularly in terms of preparing young leaders to navigate the complexities of AI-enhanced processes (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Odulaja, et. al., 2023). As AI becomes more prevalent in various industries, including procurement, youth leaders need to develop a strong understanding of AI technologies, their legal and ethical implications, and how to use them effectively. Integrating AI-related training and education into leadership development programs can help young leaders build these skills and prepare them for leadership roles in a digital world.

One of the key challenges associated with digital technology in procurement is the potential for bias and discrimination in AI algorithms (Oriekhoe, et. al., 2024, Raji, et. al., 2024). Without proper oversight and governance, AI systems may inadvertently perpetuate existing biases or create new ones. This highlights the importance of developing robust ethical frameworks and ensuring that AI systems are transparent and accountable (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Odeyemi, et. al., 2024). However, there are also significant opportunities associated with digital technology in procurement. AI has the potential to streamline procurement processes, reduce costs, and improve efficiency. By automating routine tasks and providing valuable insights into procurement data, AI can help organizations make more informed decisions and achieve better outcomes.

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made for integrating digital technology into leadership development programs: Leadership development programs should include training on AI technologies and their ethical implications (Atadoga, et. al., 2024, Usman, et. al., 2024). This should cover topics such as bias and discrimination in AI algorithms, the importance of transparency and accountability, and the ethical use of AI in decision-making. Youth leaders should be encouraged to develop digital literacy skills, including the ability to critically evaluate information, use digital tools effectively, and adapt to new technologies.

Leadership development programs should create opportunities for youth leaders to innovate and experiment with new technologies (Ayeni, et. al., 2024, Odeyemi, et. al., 2024, Raji, et. al., 2024). This can help them develop the skills and confidence to lead in a rapidly changing digital landscape. In conclusion, the findings of this study highlight the need for youth leaders to develop a strong understanding of AI technologies and their legal and ethical implications (Al Hamad, et. al., 2024, Mhlongo, et. al., 2024). By integrating AI-related training and education into leadership development programs, organizations can prepare young leaders to navigate the complexities of AI-enhanced processes and lead effectively in a digital world.

6. Conclusion

This study has provided a comprehensive analysis of the legal and ethical frameworks surrounding AI-enhanced procurement processes. The findings indicate that while AI has the potential to enhance transparency, efficiency, and accountability in procurement, organizations must carefully consider the legal and ethical implications of AI deployment. Robust legal and ethical frameworks are essential to mitigate risks and ensure that AI is used responsibly and ethically in procurement.

The findings of this study underscore the importance of recognizing the potential of digital technology in enhancing youth leadership development. As AI becomes more prevalent in various industries, including procurement, young leaders need to develop a strong understanding of AI technologies, their legal and ethical implications, and how to use them effectively. Integrating AI-related training and education into leadership development programs can help young leaders build these skills and prepare them for leadership roles in a digital world.

Educators, policymakers, and youth organizations must take action to harness the power of digital technology for positive youth development. This includes integrating AI-related training and education into leadership development programs, promoting digital literacy among young leaders, and creating opportunities for innovation and experimentation with new technologies. By recognizing the potential of digital technology and taking proactive steps to leverage it for positive youth development, we can prepare young leaders to lead effectively in a rapidly changing digital landscape.

In conclusion, the findings of this study highlight the need for organizations to carefully consider the legal and ethical implications of AI deployment in procurement. By developing robust legal and ethical frameworks and integrating AI-related training and education into leadership development programs, organizations can prepare young leaders to navigate the complexities of AI-enhanced processes and lead effectively in a digital world.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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