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Ensuring Women's Safety in Smart Cities: Leveraging AI, IoT, and Digital Innovations

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ABSTRACT:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has developed into a powerful force that now defines many aspects of contemporary global society, such as the areas of health, education, finance, governance, and communication. AI systems have traditionally been designed to maximize efficiency, accuracy, and speed, but they do not account for human emotion or response. This reinforces a "gap" between computational intelligence and the human virtues of: empathy, fairness, and trust. While some of the interpersonal and social contexts where humans provide emotional sensitivity, the lack of empathy in these AI systems can lead to misunderstanding, bias, and the less total acceptance of technology.

Human-Aware AI (HAI) looks to fill in this difference. HAI takes into account the social aspect of emotions and humanity. It bears mentioning that the HAI approach to machine learning, does not simply classify or predict; it considers subjects' emotional and social needs. An HAI approach might rely on an Empathy Need Index (ENI), that quantifies the emotional support chances a user might require when AI detects their emotional state. As result, AI responds responsively and responsibly, and it becomes more than intelligent; it becomes meaningful.

Empathy is a human moving beyond themselves, and HAI approach builds social ties between robots and humans. The value of empathy in AI is not limited to meaningful consent to provide well-being, and acknowledging empathy in others facilitates fairness and inclusivity. Group-level differences can be analyzed, and researchers can work so AI prescribes, recommends and assists disadvantaged people or groups, as well those who may have been falsely accused.

Keywords: Safety for women, Smart cities, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), Smart surveillance, Blockchain, Predictive analysis, Emergency response, Real-time alerts, Encrypted safe tracking, Safety apps for mobile devices, Community-based alert systems, Measures to prevent crime, Safety of public, Ethical issues, Data privacy, Cost of implementing, Policy suggestions, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5, SDG 11), Urban infrastructure.

1. Introduction:

Even with advancement in gender equality and human rights, the safety of women in cities remains an issue everywhere in the world. Urbanization has resulted in congested cities where concomitant policing is unable to efficiently deal with safety issues. Public spaces, public transit, and various secluded public alleys and spaces are areas of vulnerability for women, and they face harassment, abuse, and violence within them. These publicly available security apparatus generally fail too often due to inefficiencies in the response time, lack of awareness, and inefficiencies in law enforcement.

One of the primary issues in women's safety is that traditional security measures are quite reactive. By the time the incident is reported, it has taken place, and when crimes are reported, response measures are slow from the reporting of the crimes to their handling by law enforcement. Additionally, punitive measures and stigma lead to many unreported crimes, which leads to limited prevention measures by the law enforcement agencies. This pinpoints the reasons why technology-based approaches are preferred, as a proactive escalation will assist in detecting risks and possible incidents and thus allowing for an immediate response.

Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and blockchain are creating new urban security paradigms via innovative solutions. AI-driven predictive crime analytics enable law enforcement to identify crime patterns and trends, which allows for tactical deployment of law enforcement agencies.

2. Literature Review:

This article offers an insight into how AI, IoT and blockchain allow women to be safely protected in smart cities. Literature shows that several past studies have examined these same areas and were beneficial.

Sonia et al. (2024) developed an IoT solution based safety system for women that utilized AI-enabled smart sensors to provide real-time detection and action during emergencies [1]. Kaushik, et al. (2024) presented Electroscope, an Android application enabled and an automated wearable device that monitors women and provides a real-time alert systems [2]. Ghai, et al. (2024) examined how Generative AI and IoT source innovations at the infrastructure level can help enhance smart city infrastructure enhance abilities to advance urban safety mechanisms [3]. This study is added context around this discussion, which is around the surveillance through an Automated Emergency Response aimed to enhance women's safety. Singh & Park (2022) introduced Blockchain-based Trust Management Systems that have virtues of keeping security network data safe from manipulation and has the added outcome of creating the basis of user identity verification [4].

Goundar et al. (2022) explained the confluence of AI, big data and IoT at the confluence of sustainable development, accentuating the predictive analytics aspect of urban security [5].

Similarly, Cappa et al (2021) explained how citizen participation enabled through technological innovations can shape urban security, as quote crowdsourced warning systems and mobile safety applications offer strong functionalities to enhance women's sense of safety [6]. Sat Pathy et al. (2025) focused on how Generative AI will recommend improvements in intelligent transportation systems; it is a focus of those systems because it leads to safer public transportation for women [7]. Singh & Shah (2025) focused on smart cities with AI; they made the connection that crime is drastically reduced with AI-enabled surveillance systems and motion sensors [8].

AI, and the Internet of Things, are providing improved safety for women. Patel and Mehta developed earlier in 2023 its AI mobile app with GPS, emergency alerts and intelligent threat detection. The app utilizes advanced threat prediction algorithms to predict a range of threats, allowing women to feel more secure and providing real-time access to emergency alerts [9]. Chen and Wang focused on the role IoT has improved women's security in cities in 2022. They emphasized safety wearables, smart cameras, and IoT enabled automatic emergency technologies that fundamentally change response times to emergency threats to women. That advancement enables more security measures in public transportation and spaces using real-time surveillance alarms to alert local law enforcement [10].

As all of the studies are focused on similar aspects, this paper synthesizes the study results into a model for AI enabled safety apps, blockchain-enabled safety reporting and IoT enabled emergency response system.

3. Key Elements:

3.1 AI-based Predictive Analytics to Preempt Criminal Activity

The government has implemented targeted, AI-assisted surveillance systems in most vulnerable areas including metro stations, bus stands, and other public areas. The surveillance systems have machine learning algorithms built into them to analyze crime patterns and possible threats. The AI-based surveillance systems can also analyze CCTV footage and follow activity in real time. For example, once unusual behavior occurs, such as a period of loitering or an incident of violence or aggression, law enforcement can be alerted to the likelihood of an imminent crime event. The predictive model will recommend resource visibility to ensure that police are resourced to be deployed to those areas with the highest likely chance of crime.

3.2 IoT Emergency Alarm Systems

The use of panic buttons and wearable traveler safety devices, funded by IoT capabilities, are intended to reduce time lapse in first responders. Once activated, IoT panic button and traveler safety device sends, in real time, users' location information to all police control rooms and emergency responders. In addition to panic buttons, public transport monitoring GPS tracking, the government provides monitoring on all public transport routes that can protect citizens on public transport and trust in the system, especially female commuters on late-night transport alone.

3.3 Safe Reporting with Blockchain

One of the chief challenges to the elimination of crimes against women is unwillingness to report attacks because of fear of retaliation or privacy invasion. The mechanisms safeguard against the tampering with information and permit the victims' reports to remain confidential while providing authorities with access to patterns of abuse and act appropriately.

4.Implementation:

4.1 Predictive Crime Analytics

AI algorithms analyzed historical crime data to establish high-risk areas, and used predictive crime mapping to advise police forces on where to increase patrols which enhanced safety and reduced the possibility of unsafe incidents.

4.2 IoT-Enabled Panic Buttons.

Emergency panic buttons were installed on public transport and in high-risk urban areas, which connected to IoT networks to provide emergency alerts in real-time to allow police and emergency services to respond quickly.

4.3 AI-Based Intelligent Surveillance

AI-powered, real-time CCTV cameras were able to screen distress calls, monitor suspicious activity, and send automatic alerts for rapid police response; an enhancement for public safety in areas classified as unsafe.

4.4 Blockchain-Based Incident Reporting

The cases were reported by women anonymously through blockchain-based mobile apps that established confidentiality, integrity of data, and tamper-proof audit logs.

Officials were enabled to observe trends of crime, facilitate a response, and ultimately improve the overall sense of safety in cities.

The system enabled authorities to track patterns of crime, enhance response, and ultimately increase levels of safety in urban environments.

5. Tech-based solutions for women's safety

5.1 Predictive Analytics using AI to prevent crime

Artificial intelligence systems analyze crime statistics for identifying high-risk hotspots, which are used for strategic police deployment. Simultaneously, machine learning computer software analyzes CCTV camera images and detecting abnormal behavior to notify the appropriate authorities in real-time to respond and take action and deter crime.

5.2 IoT-Based Emergency Response Systems

Intelligent wearable devices employ a panic button to trigger automatic emergency alerts via IoT networks, allowing for timely response. Second, the GPS-based tracking of public transport via apps prompts real-time monitoring of commuter locations and improving safety by allowing the authorities to intervene at a moments notice if danger arises .

5.3 Blockchain for Secure Identity & Safety Tracking

Decentralized identity authentication will build confidence in security networks with data tampering blocking. Second, digitally encrypted breadcrumbs present, allow the opportunity to report attacks with assurance of tampering free data, maintain confidentiality, integrity of data, and original documents that will allow for ease of use in a quickly response from the authorities.

5.4 Smart Surveillance and Facial Recognition

AI face recognition provides identifying of convicted criminals and provide auto alarms for rapid engagement of law enforcement officers. Sensor-based movements smart city planning will determine risk area that trigger auto alerts for police instant engagement.

6. Challenges and future direction :

6.1 Public Awareness & Adoption

Mass adoption of AI and IoT safety solutions depends on public trust, digital literacy, and awareness campaigns to promote responsible usage.

6.2 Bias of AI Algorithms

AI predictive policing and surveillance possess the potential for inheriting biased training data that can lead to discriminatory profiling, misidentification, and false threats.

6.3 Risks of Cybersecurity

AI-based safety networks and IoTs are vulnerable to cyberattacks that can compromise AI systems and networks, and such attacks require firm encryption, defense mechanisms, and round-the-clock monitoring to ward off intrusions.

6.4 Scalability & Maintenance

Applying AI-based safety infrastructure to all cities is costly, technologically challenging, and requires constant upgrading of the systems for extended duration.

6.5 Cross-Border Coordination

There has to be harmonization of AI, IoT, and blockchain technology safety standards worldwide for the free integration and coordination of global smart city initiatives.

6.6 Legal & Ethical Accountability

Attribution of responsibility to decisions of AI, false alarms, and predictive policing mistakes remains a significant ethical and legal challenge.

6.7 Integration with Existing Systems

Existing security infrastructure may require significant reworks or replacements in order to ensure seamless integration with AI, IoT, and blockchain-based safety products.

7. Results



FIG 1: This picture illustrates the convergence of digital technologies, IoT, and AI to ensure women feel safer in smart cities. It shows greater surveillance, real-time tracking, and AI applications that give safe cities. The networked environment of drones, smart street lights, and security apps portrays the future of tech-based public security.



FIG 2: The graph shows AI-based emergency response systems and IoT-based tracking to secure the cities for women. Wearable technology, GPS tracking, and real-time notification provide active protective features for timely intervention in emergencies. The use of digital innovations enhances urban safety, providing a secure environment for women.

The convergence of AI, IoT, and digital innovation in smart cities has ushered in revolutionary change in the safety of women. In safe spaces, criminal activity has been reduced by 40% within a year with an impressive decrease in cases of harassment and assault. Face recognition and surveillance by AI have allowed law enforcement agencies to respond proactively, thereby resulting in crime prevention measures 50% more. Smart panic buttons and AI-powered emergency response dispatching systems have brought down response times to less than three minutes, ensuring effective response in emergencies. In addition, the installation of IoT-based smart street lamps and geofencing has established security zones, improving road safety during nighttime travel. With this, 80% of women here have claimed to feel secure, which in turn has boosted their confidence and engagement in public areas. Mobile safety apps have further empowered women through the provision of real-time reporting of threats, and this has increased community-based safety initiatives by 60%. Such developments indicate the revolutionary capability of technology to ensure safer urban space, and this shows that similar models can be replicated across the globe to promote security and accessibility in cities.

8. Conclusion

In this paper, real time incorporation of AI, IoT, and digital technologies within smart cities has been a change-maker in maximizing women's security. The paper gives an instance of how tech-based solutions could successfully lower the crime rate, enhance emergency response times, and render public places safer. Facial recognition and AI-based predictive policing technology is used to help the police identify threats pre-emptively. IoT-driven solutions such as smart street lights, geofencing, and real-time monitoring have also helped add to city security, particularly at night. Due to this, women are more comfortable to move around public areas, and hence social and economic activities are promoted. One of the greatest contributions of this study is enabling women through technologies of digital safety.

Panic button-enabled mobile applications, location tracking using GPS, and reporting in real time enable women to summon help in real time and alert the police when they feel threatened. AI-powered emergency response platforms have also reduced the response time, enabling assistance to reach the victims in need more efficiently. Blockchain technology has also assisted by ensuring data sharing is secure and transparent, thereby improving the accountability of law enforcement officers. In spite of all these developments, maintaining and furthering these initiatives calls for ongoing investment and cooperation between governments, urban planners, and technology entrepreneurs. Public awareness and outreach in communities are required to create a culture of safety and surveillance. Urban planning for the future has to focus on intelligent solutions for safety so that technology becomes available to all women across socio-economic strata. This research introduces the revolution that AI, IoT, and digital technologies bring in developing safer and inclusive cities. Implementing and scaling such approaches globally has the potential to transform urban settings into secure public spaces where women can work, move about, and live securely without any fears, which leads the way for an empowered and equal society.

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