Empowering Children to Create Inclusive AI Systems through Participatory Approaches and Addressing Ethical Concerns

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1. Introduction

There is a need to empower students from underrepresented communities to effectively shape the future of the Artificial Intelligent (AI) system in order to make it inclusive. To make this a reality, students from the Global South need a platform that allows them to express their feelings about the existing systems and suggest how best to make an inclusive AI system to make such system tandem with the ethical values and ideals of their community.

2. Why I want to participate in this workshop

I want to participate in this workshop because I am interested in the ethical implications of emerging technologies for children, especially those from underrepresented communities such as the Global South. I am looking to learn about and share my experiences with participatory approaches to this research direction. Previously, through the Imagine AI project based at the University of Colorado Boulder in the USA, I collaborated with partners in Nigeria to organize a series of writing contests for local high school students to write about AI. The essence is to create a platform for students to share their opinions about the future of Artificial Intelligence from their cultural perspective. The students wrote short articles and stories about AI to compete for prizes. In a similar exercise we did in South Korea and Brazil, the students wrote in their local languages to express their opinions about AI and make recommendations based on their desires.

This workshop will provide me with valuable insights and opportunities for networking. More so, it is a platform for discussing and addressing ethical concerns that arise with the use of emerging technologies for children. I believe it will be an opportunity for me to learn from other researchers' experiences, share their ideas, and potentially identify emerging themes that require further exploration.

3. What I can contribute

I believe there are several ways I can contribute to the workshop. These include but are not limited to:

- Share my expertise: My experience in collaborating with partners outside the shores of the US in organizing the writing contest has placed me in a good position to share my idea on participatory approaches for inclusive technologies for children, I can share my knowledge and insights with other participants.
- Engage in discussions: Since the workshop will include discussions about potential uses of participatory methods and processes, issues related to specific emerging technologies, and experiences in previous and current projects, I intend to actively participate in these discussions and try to contribute my perspectives, insights, and raise suggestions to will help shape the cause of participatory approaches for inclusive technologies for children.
- Explore potential collaborations: I am interested in collaborating with other participants and leveraging the opportunity to identify potential partners to explore research collaborations within the community of researchers and stakeholders with similar interests.

4. What I want to get out of the workshop

Some of the gains I believe I can get out of the workshop is a deeper understanding of ethical issues surrounding emerging technologies for children: As someone with a keen interest in inclusive AI systems for children, I am curious to learn about the ethical implications of emerging technologies for children and the potential benefits and risks associated

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with them. In addition, I want to learn about participatory approaches to research and the best approaches to include children who are most especially from the underrepresented community in the design of inclusive AI systems that are fair and bias-free.

Finally, I hope to place close attention to the presentations and discussions and identify emerging themes related to ethical issues and participatory approaches that focus on children from the underrepresented community that I can explore in future research or collaboration.