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Regulation of Artificially Intelligent Sex Robots

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of artificially intelligent sex robots (AISR) raises significant ethical and legal concerns regarding their regulation. As these machines become more advanced and human-like, there are growing concerns about their potential impact on society, particularly in the realms of human intimacy, relationships, and sexuality. The regulation of AISR raises questions regarding their development, use, ownership, and responsibility for their actions, in addition to the potential implications for human rights and dignity. This paper provides an overview of the current state of AISR technology, investigates the ethical and legal considerations surrounding their regulation, and provides policymakers and stakeholders with recommendations for addressing these complex issues. It argues that effective regulation of artificially intelligent sex robots necessitates a multidisciplinary approach involving specialists in technology, law, health, ethics, and the social sciences. This has become necessary because of the possible side effect it may present on the social-economic well-being of humans.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Robot, Intelligence, Sex robot, ethics, Privacy, AISR, sex dolls, human partnerships, technology, humanoid

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1. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Artificially Intelligent Sex Robots refer to robots with a humanlike touch that has the ability to move and have built-in intelligence designed for sexual gratification and companionship. The regulation of AISR is a complex and evolving issue with numerous ethical, legal, and societal ramifications. It is essential to note that the regulation of artificially intelligent sex robots is still a rapidly evolving field, and there are continuing debates about the most effective legal and

moral framework that may be used to govern their creation and use notwithstanding cultural differences and other considerable elements.
There are currently few regulations regarding the production, sale, and use of sex robots. However, broader regulations, such as those concerning product safety, data privacy, and consumer protection, could be applied to them.

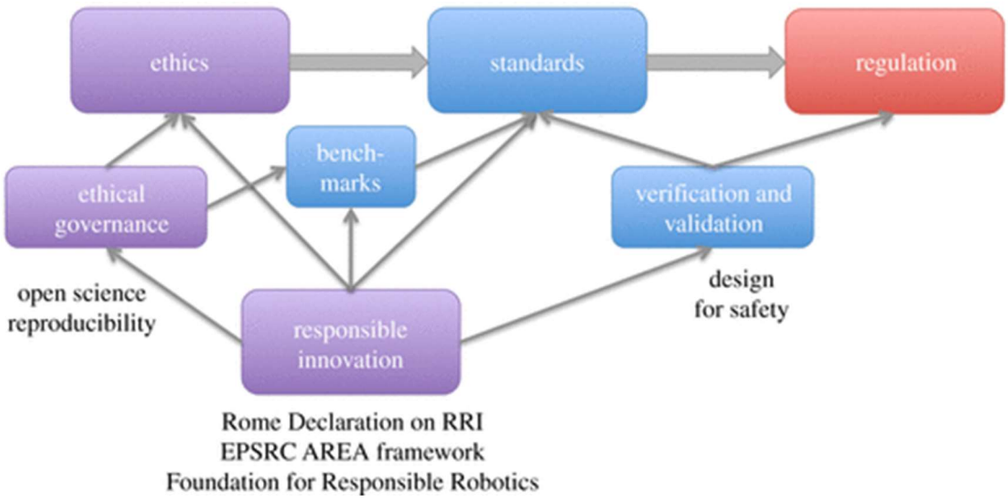

Fig 1: Framework for Responsible Robotics
Winfield & Jirotka, 2018:

The potential for injury to users or to society as a whole is a potential concern with sex robots. Concerns may include the objectification of women, the reinforcement of detrimental gender stereotypes, the possibility of addiction or social isolation, and so on. Some have proposed ethical guidelines for the development and use of sex robots, such as those developed by the Foundation for Responsible Robotics, to resolve these concerns. These principles include respect for human dignity, promotion of consent and safety, and transparency in the design and use of sex robots.

Regarding legal regulations, a number of jurisdictions have proposed or enacted laws concerning sex robots. There are laws regulating the use of data collected on children below thirteen years, and the use of the same not infringing on fundamental human rights. In 2018, New York, for instance, proposed a bill that would prohibit the sale of sex robots that resemble minors. Similar to the United States, the United Kingdom has proposed a prohibition on the sale of sex robots that promote violence or non-consensual behavior. As technology advances, it is likely that more regulations and guidelines will be created to address the complex ethical and societal implications of artificially intelligent sex robots. Providing regulations has become very critical as technology is advancing astronomically.

2. RELATED LITERATURE

Advances in artificial intelligence technologies are ongoing. Consequently, all "social" robots, including sex robots, are becoming more accessible and realistic. There have been numerous discussions regarding the hypothesized effects of sex robots on the individual and society. Given that there has been and continues to be a dearth of empirical evidence surrounding this topic, this conversation is particularly important(Smith & Twist, 2020). Moreover, regardless of current opinion regarding the morality of sex robots, thought-provoking discussions will challenge current beliefs and introduce definitions of sex and sex robots, benefits and drawbacks of sex robots, ideas around sex robot regulation, perspectives of the robots themselves, the possibility

of developing romantic relationships with robots, as well as predictions and future possibilities regarding sex robots(Earp & Grunt-Mejer, 2021).

Fig 2: AI Sex Robots
Source: https://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-sex-robot-harmony-pictures-20170925-photogallery.html

Fig 3: Life Sex Robot to go on Sale
Source: https://www.mirror.co.uk/tech/lifelike-sex-robots-walk-talk-20787524

As customized intimate companions, social robots raise additional substantial ethical concerns. Thus, it transcends established concerns. However, an important caveat must first be established. The discussion of the ethical, legal, and design implications of sentient, self-aware sex robots is, in part, a thought experiment intended to prompt us to prepare for a possible future (Critelli & Bivona, 2008). Current sex robots resemble sex figurines in robot form, and numerous technological advancements will be required to address concrete design issues such as body temperature, fine-tuned psychological and physical responsiveness, and other customisable intimacy requirements (Mackenzie, 2018). If self-awareness is to be designed in or is considered likely to emerge, this raises fundamental ethical concerns regarding the parameters of acceptable research with sentient, nonhuman research subjects (Arafat & Kar, 2021). While animal welfare laws seek to protect laboratory animals, there are presently no laws to protect robots with the capacity to experience pain and suffering. Such protection is necessary because elements in the design, production, and after-sale function of customized robots may result in undesirable and unethical pain and suffering (Earp & Grunt-Mejer, 2021).

Humans are capable of moral behaviour due to their biological history of predisposition toward moral actions. This is the consequence of evolution from prehistoric times to the present day (Danaher et al., 2017). Over time, humans gained knowledge through trial and error. Using a utilitarian perspective, they discovered that certain actions produced desirable outcomes (Persaud et al., 2021). This highlights a crucial distinction between humans and robots: humans underwent an ethical evolution and are born with the innate capacity to conduct ethical actions. Since robots are not born in the conventional sense, the issue arises as to whether they can evolve into moral beings (Gilbert & Gamache, 1984).

Clarifying the objects and subjects of regulation is essential, but it is all for vain if we do not know what we hope to accomplish through our regulatory interventions. There are two facets to consider (Dubé et al., 2022). First, we must clarify the regulatory attitude we believe to be appropriate with regard to the subjects and objects of regulation; second, we must clarify the regulatory instruments we believe are justified by these attitudes (Danaher, 2019).

3. FINDINGS

When considering the appropriate regulatory policy, one must also consider the potential monetary and non-monetary costs of that policy. We might agree that human-sex robot relationships have some undesirable characteristics, but it is possible that any proposed regulatory intervention would cause more harm than good overall. Historically, regulation of pornography has placed harsher restrictions on pornography depicting sexual minorities. (e.g., gay and lesbian porn). Regulatory intervention into sex robots may wind up targeting sexual minorities' use and design of robots. It is also possible that regulating the development and use of sex robots would necessitate substantial resources and extensive intrusions into our private lives.

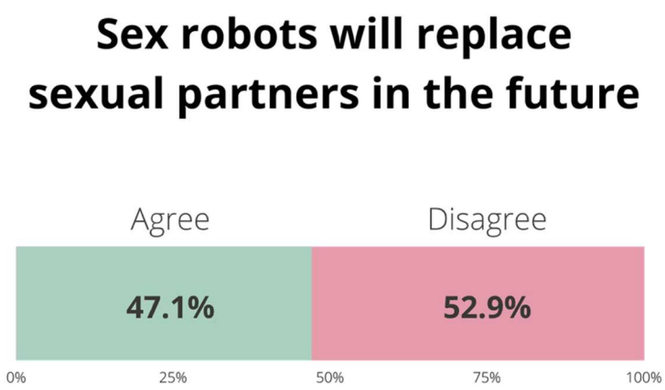

Fig 2: Sex Robot Industry: State of Market Size, Technology (AI), User sentiment, and Other Statistics
(Center, 2022)

4. CONCLUSION

AISR, like all other robots, will undoubtedly continue to be controversial. It also appears fair to conclude that sex robots will be more controversial the more humanoid their appearance and behavior. As with many other developing technologies, it is difficult to predict the future of robots designed expressly for sexual purposes, particularly if they are designed to appear and behave like humans. The development of adequate regulatory frameworks to direct the manufacture and use of AISRs, underpinned by enforceable norms, is required to ensure their responsible and safe usage. These frameworks must balance the benefits of AISRs against any potential risks they may present while recognizing the unique ethical and legal issues that arise in the context of these robots. Regulating AISR could be more achievable if targeted from the technical, legal, and ethical perspectives supported with by Isaac Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics which includes guidelines for developers and users of artificially intelligent sex robots.

5. RECOMMENDATION

AISRs should be regulated because they pose a risk of perpetuating harmful activities such as objectification and sexual assault against women and children. As demonstrated by the aforementioned arguments, however, there is also no direct evidence that disabled individuals' use of sex robots could expose women and children to any potential hazards.
Consequently, the regulation of sex robots should take various forms, rendering this regulation inapplicable in this context compared to regulations in other contexts. On a global level, governments should work together to establish global guidelines and regulations to ensure that these robots are used in a responsible and safe manner to avert any negative effects regarding Ethics, human dignity, public health, child protection, and privacy

6. FUTURE WORKS

Future research could focus on the implementation of the regulation of sex robots and the use of sex robots, potentially in the form of a law, using argumentation analysis and a normative framework. Future research could investigate whether or not robots are entitled to rights as technology advances with artificial intelligence and the development of robots. Again, future research could be concerned with corporations' moral and ethical values concerning women and children. In addition, it would be fascinating to learn how men and the male gender are exposed to the use of sex robots and how the sex robot industry affects them in future research. What are the adverse effects of sex robot use?

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