OPPORTUNITY #33

What if social policies were designed and monitored at a community level and in real time?

A POLICY'S TRUE MEASURE

Advanced machine intelligence helps policy-makers design and implement effective social programmes and policies at a community level that are adjusted in real time, taking into account people's diverse characteristics and backgrounds while protecting the privacy of all.

MEGATREND
Future Humanity

TRENDS
Community-based Solutions

SECTORS AFFECTED
Communication Technologies & Systems
Consumer Goods, Services & Retail
Cyber & Information Security
Data Science, AI & Machine Learning
Education
Financial Services & Investment
Health & Healthcare
Infrastructure & Construction
Utilities
Government Services
Professional Services

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

While measures of economic growth and stability are best managed by national governments, many elements of well-being and prosperity are rooted in communities and local areas. [592]

Some locations around the world are already measuring well-being at a community level including some cities in the United States and Canada.[593] The UK Research and Innovation funds partnerships with local agencies and communities that aim to explore novel policy approaches which can provide sustainable, inclusive growth in a way that is tailored to a local community.[594]

In 2019, Pew Research Center found that a median of 69% of people surveyed across 27 countries said that their country had become more diverse in the past two decades.[595] Yet, between potential labour gains and capital investments, racial and ethnic inequalities have cost the US economy some $51 trillion in lost productivity since 1990.[596]

The gender gap has been closed by 68.1% globally (63.4% in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)), but women will have to wait several more generations to reach gender parity, estimated to be 132 years.[597] Despite progress, the MENA region loses $575 billion each year from legal and social barriers, such as gender stereotypes, lack of flexible working policies, access to financial services, discrimination and harassment laws that prevent women from accessing jobs.[598]

The largest minority group globally is people living with a disability, who together number 1.3 billion (17% of the global population).[599] Besides the moral duty for disability inclusion, the cost of exclusion of people with disabilities represents up to 7% of GDP in some countries.[600]

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132 YEARS

to reach gender parity

THE OPPORTUNITY

The theory of intersectionality has been conceptualised and applied in research relating to mental health,[601] social work,[602] education and health.[603] Its application in machine learning could allow advanced machine intelligence to help design effective social policies at a community level as an approach to improving prosperity and well-being.[604] Taking into account diverse – both in character and cultures – communities,[605] enhances analysts' understanding of communities and offers deeper explanations for the factors that influence change and people's sense of well-being.

Through the use of monitoring in real time at a community level, advanced machine intelligence could be used to identify potential areas of improvement. This would enable local communities to compare solutions and share experiences with each other. They could also test their plans in advanced simulations that reflected the structure, size, needs and culture of their locality while ensuring that individuals were equally experiencing improvements in prosperity and well-being.

At the national level, governments set benchmarks and limits for communities and allocate budgets for planned policies. Community monitoring could allow for real-time progress reports to be generated and for inefficiencies and potential risks to be flagged so that they can be corrected or mitigated through the design of bespoke programmes and initiatives. The integration of local concerns and needs directly into the policy-making process could enhance feelings of empowerment and engagement among citizens.

BENEFITS

Avoids the problems of 'one-size-fits-all' policymaking at one end and complex individual-level policies at the other. More effective and efficient use of funds through the use of real-time monitoring and progress reports.

RISKS

Inaccuracies in aligning community and individual-level indicators. Increased tensions if a community's level of prosperity and well-being does not match that of some of its individuals, particularly in diverse communities.

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The **largest minority group** globally
is people living with a **disability**

17%