



## Exploring Artificial Intelligence-Powered Spiritually for Moral Rejuvenation in Nigeria: Challenges, Prescriptions and Prospects

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**Abstract.** Nigeria confronts a number of moral issues, including corruption at every level of society, ethnic and religious tensions that lead to bloodshed, violations of human rights, gender inequality, and widespread poverty. These concerns frequently intersect and intensify each other, posing significant challenges to the country's social fabric and growth. The article aims to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can provide individualized spiritual direction, boost community interaction, and support moral development. The paper argues that Nigeria can overcome challenges such as cultural preferences, ethical considerations, and potential opposition to technological advances in spiritual activities. The article employs critical literature review and phenomenological methods and reveals that using AI to investigate spirituality as a means of moral revitalization in Nigeria presents both obstacles and opportunities. It recommends incorporating artificial intelligence into religious education, establishing digital ethics, and encouraging inclusion. It concludes that a careful implementation of AI and ongoing conversation are necessary to successfully negotiate challenges and ensure an ethical and culturally appropriate integration of the Nigerian state.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence (AI), Spiritually, Religion, Moral Rejuvenation, Nigeria.

### 1. Introduction

Nigeria faces a multitude of moral difficulties, including corruption at every level of society, ethnic and religious conflicts that lead to violence, breaches of human rights, gender inequality, and pervasive poverty. These problems frequently overlap and increase one another, which poses enormous difficulties to the social fabric and progress of the nation. The purpose of this article is to investigate the ways in which artificial intelligence (AI) may be responsible for providing customized spiritual guidance, enhancing community engagement, and facilitating moral development. The purpose of this

study is to suggest that Nigeria is capable of overcoming obstacles such as cultural preferences, ethical issues, and the possibility of hostility to technological advancements in spiritual activities. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to examine spirituality as a way of moral rejuvenation in Nigeria poses both challenges and potential, as the essay demonstrates via critical literature evaluation and phenomenological approaches. Encouragement of inclusivity, the establishment of digital ethics, and the use of artificial intelligence in religious education are all elements that are recommended. In order to effectively navigate issues and secure an ethical and culturally acceptable integration of the Nigerian state, it is critical to put artificial intelligence into practice with caution and engage in continual dialogue.

### 2. Moral Decadence in Nigeria

Nigeria is the seventh most populous nation in the world and is widely known for its vast population, abundant natural resources, and diverse cultural characteristics. There are more than 250 different ethnic groups in Nigeria, and its oil deposits drive its economy. In spite of the fact that it has a lot of potential economically, Nigeria is struggling with issues such as poverty, political instability, and corruption.

A lifestyle, a lack of moral, including intellectual, discipline, and a luxury of self-indulgence on the part of individuals in a community are all examples of what is referred to as moral decadence. According to Nwachukwu (2017), morality is associated with the attitude or behavior of a person with responsibility. Personal, corporate, institutional, or cultural aspects of one's life are all potential areas in which one might develop an attitude. Man's deeply embedded and long-practiced perceptions, principles, opinions, life styles, cultural traditions, and religious rituals can tenaciously and readily translate into attitudes that either promote or hinder the moral evolution of society (Toner, 2019). The term "decadence" refers to a fall or deterioration

in the moral norm (Ehrlich & Ehrlich, 2013). Decadence may be seen as a chronological contrast or opposition, a body, a society, or an artist that allows themselves to deviate from something in order to achieve greater health, virtue, tradition, and other similar characteristics.

The topic of moral decay in Nigeria, like it is in many other nations, is a complicated one that is impacted by a variety of variables, including socio-economic realities, cultural standards, convictions about religion, instability in politics, and globalization (Adebisi, 2018). Corruption is ubiquitous in many parts of Nigerian society, including politics and government, business, and daily life. Corruption is a big problem in Nigeria (Oliver, 2017). In addition to eroding moral standards, this lowers faith in institutions, which in turn encourages cynicism among the general population. Leaders frequently set the tone for society's behavior. Instances of corruption as well as unethical behavior among political leaders may have a cascade effect, resulting in the normalization of such conduct among the general population.

High levels of criminal activity and insecurity, such as abduction, armed robbery, and insurgency, lead to a feeling of lawlessness and moral degradation (Sodefakan, 2016). It is a common misconception that people engage in criminal behavior because they are unable to find employment or are experiencing financial difficulties. Problems such as drug misuse, prostitution, human trafficking, and cybercrime are widespread and often serve as symptoms of more fundamental social issues such as joblessness, poverty, and an absence of social support networks (Chinedu, 2020). As a result of rapid urbanization and globalization, traditional values have decreased, leading to a weakening of community relationships and social cohesiveness. All of these factors have resulted in a decline in traditional beliefs, values, and cultural standards. In spite of the fact that Nigeria is home to a wide variety of religious traditions, the nation has seen a surge in the prevalence of extreme beliefs, which has led to an increase in violent incidents and a decline in moral standards in specific regions of the country.

A number of challenges within the educational system may hinder the transfer of moral ideals and ethical values to the younger generation. These challenges include limited money, bad facilities, and a lack of trained instructors. In order to combat moral decay in Nigeria, a multidimensional strategy is required. This method must address the underlying reasons for the problem, which include inequalities, poverty, weak institutions, and low opportunities. In addition to that,

it entails the promotion of ethical leadership, the building of institutions, the cultivation of a culture of transparency, and the investment in educational and social welfare initiatives. The empowerment of communities and the promotion of discussion among many stakeholders are two additional ways that may assist in the reconstruction of social cohesion and the promotion of shared values.

### 3. Artificial Intelligence-Powered Spiritually

Despite the fact that the notion of AI-powered spirituality raises difficult concerns regarding the nature of spirituality, awareness, and the role of technology in the human experience, artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to affect spirituality in a variety of different ways. Artificial intelligence algorithms can be used to create personalized meditation or mindfulness programs tailored to each individual's preferences and needs. The use of these apps might provide guided meditation sessions, measure progress, and provide insights based on the analysis of data (La Cruz & Mora, 2024). Artificial intelligence-driven chatbots or virtual assistants could serve as digital chaplains or counselors, offering support, guidance, and companionship to individuals seeking spiritual or emotional assistance (Cotter, DeCook, Kanthawala, & Foyle, 2022). Depending on religious or philosophical views, they could receive training to respond with empathy and provide resources. We could also program these virtual creatures to provide resources.

There are many who advocate for the development of artificial intelligence, believing that more evolved AI might result in a more profound understanding of spirituality and consciousness. AI systems have the potential to reveal insights into the nature of consciousness and its connection to spirituality. The simulation of complex brain networks and cognitive processes may provide these insights. One might use artificial intelligence to create virtual companions or spiritual mentors who engage in discussions about existential issues, provide moral guidance, or encourage spiritual activities. These companions could assist with spiritual practices. One might also customize these virtual beings to represent a variety of philosophical or religious ideas from a variety of angles (Checketts, 2021). The combination of artificial intelligence algorithms with virtual reality (VR) technology has the potential to create immersive spiritual experiences (Airoldi, 2022). These experiences would enable users to tour holy places, take part in religious ceremonies, or interact with spiritual teachings in virtual surroundings.

Tools driven by artificial intelligence that facilitate self-reflection and introspection might lend a hand to people in their exploration of their spiritual experiences, beliefs, and values. These technologies have the potential to provide insights and ideas for personal growth and development by evaluating personal data and patterns of behavior. In general, the convergence of artificial intelligence and spirituality results in significant concerns about the nature of consciousness, the identity of humans, and the search for meaning and purpose (Cheong, 2021). In spite of the fact that artificial intelligence has the ability to improve spiritual practices and make personal development easier, it is equally important to approach these advancements with mindfulness and ethical awareness.

#### **4. Exploring Artificial Intelligence-Powered Spiritually For Moral Rejuvenation**

A thought-provoking proposal that focuses on the possibility of technology to solve ethical and moral difficulties in society is the exploration of the concept of spirituality driven by artificial intelligence for the purpose of moral renewal. There are many ways that spirituality fueled by artificial intelligence might help revitalize morality. Artificial intelligence systems might assess an individual's values, beliefs, and actions in order to deliver individualized moral direction (Locker, 2023). It is possible for artificial intelligence systems to provide insights, propose ethical concepts to examine, and assist people in navigating moral difficulties that arise in their everyday lives if they are able to comprehend a person's ethical framework.

Online mentorship or ethical companions that are powered by artificial intelligence might act as guides for the creation and expansion of moral concepts. Engaging in talks about ethical concepts, providing moral support, and encouraging people to take stock of what they do and choose are all things that these digital mentors may do. People and organizations can use artificial intelligence to create tools and apps that aid them in making ethical decisions. In addition to providing suggestions that adhere to ethical principles and values, these systems might do data analyses, make predictions about the likely outcomes of various courses of action, and give recommendations.

Artificial intelligence-driven technologies, like virtual reality simulations and immersive narrative experiences, have the potential to foster empathy and compassion. AI could help people gain a better understanding of others' challenges and experiences by immersing them in virtual situations that challenge

their viewpoints and generate emotional reactions (Campbell, 2022). Immersing individuals in these scenarios could accomplish this. The development of moral qualities, including honesty, integrity, and compassion, might be the primary emphasis of spirituality that is propelled by artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence systems have the potential to motivate individuals to engage in the practice of virtues in their relationships with other people and in their day-to-day lives by providing them with tailored feedback, ramification, and interactive experiences. Artificial intelligence has the potential to make it easier to create communities and work together on achieving common moral principles and objectives. AI-powered platforms have the potential to facilitate discourse, mutual support, and collective action for the purpose of moral revitalization, hence, people with similar ethical values and interests link together to accomplish this. Spirituality that is driven by artificial intelligence needs to be merged with conventional spiritual practices and teachings when done so with careful consideration. Artificial intelligence has the potential to supplement conventional methods of moral direction and spiritual understanding by providing fresh ideas, perspectives, and instruments for moral revitalization. This would be preferable to the alternative of replacing existing traditions.

#### **5. Challenges, Prescriptions and Prospects**

As a consequence of the expansion of religiosity, which is fueled by artificial intelligence, there are ethical challenges that occur in connection with the use of technology in subjects that are connected to faith and belief. These challenges arise as a result of a combination of faith and belief. One example that comes to mind is the question of whether or not it would be acceptable to construct artificial intelligence systems that have certain religious views or spiritual teachings embedded in them. In order to guarantee that artificial intelligence keeps demonstrating respect for the variety of traditions and systems of thought that are now in existence, the issue that has to be answered is: what kinds of metrics may those measures be? Therefore, it is of the utmost significance to approach the creation and implementation of artificial intelligence-powered spirituality with a full understanding of ethical standards, cultural sensitivities, and possible hazards. A thorough understanding of these factors is necessary. Artificial intelligence powers spirituality, thereby providing a moral renewal. If people utilize the potential of artificial intelligence for moral development and ethical reform, they can work towards building a society that is more equitable, compassionate, and harmonious. This would allow individuals to work

towards the creation of such a society. Indeed, we can achieve this.

## 6. Conclusion

The paper has presented an exhaustive and perceptive study of the variables that contribute to moral degeneration in Nigeria. The moral fabric of society is significantly influenced by each of the aforementioned factors, which each have a major effect. There are a number of factors that contribute to the deterioration of moral standards and social cohesiveness. These include corruption, inadequate governance, poverty, cultural transformations, the impact of the media, and religious and ethnic disputes.

The solutions that have been presented include a broad variety of methods, highlighting the need to adopt a comprehensive strategy in order to solve the problem. Government policies, community involvement, information dissemination, and responsible leadership encouragement are all essential elements of any attempt to counteract moral decline.

A coordinated effort by a wide range of stakeholders, involving government agencies, civil society groups, faith-based organizations, and the media, will be required in order to put these proposals into effect. It is of the utmost importance to give priority to efforts that not only address the fundamental causes of moral degradation, such as poverty and social injustice, but also encourage openness, accountability, and integrity. Taking everything into consideration, it is impossible to overstate the significance of understanding the complexity of the problem and the significance of using artificial intelligence (AI) as a holistic solution to combat moral decadence in Nigeria.

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