

Embracing AI: Transforming the Tanzanian Justice System

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Executive Summary

There is a differing awareness and engagement levels regarding AI adoption in Tanzanian courts. While few are aware and engaged, many lack awareness and involvement. Furthermore, challenges related to regulatory frameworks, technological capabilities, and infrastructure are also apparent

Recommendations

- i. Revision of policies, formulation of unified ICT strategy, and promotion of e-Services adoption for AI integration in the justice sector.
- ii. Targeted awareness campaigns through seminars, webinars, newsletters, and social media to educate legal professionals about AI.
- iii. Structured AI training, hands-on workshops, and mentorship programs tailored to different legal professionals' needs.
- iv. Investment in ICT infrastructure and modernizing court facilities for broadband readiness, with a unified dashboard for monitoring AI and ICT initiatives.
- v. Establishing a regulatory body, leveraging success stories, and implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure responsible AI use and sustainable adoption.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is revolutionizing various sectors globally, including the justice system. However, its integration within legal frameworks in different regions, specifically in Tanzania, remains an area requiring comprehensive exploration and understanding in order to put forward workable policies to spur its development. The unique socio-economic, cultural, and infrastructural characteristics of Tanzania present both opportunities and challenges for the adoption of AI in its justice system. Despite AI's potential to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and fairness in judicial processes, the extent to which it has been adopted and its impact within the Tanzanian context is not extensively documented and hence limited existence of evidence based policy recommendations

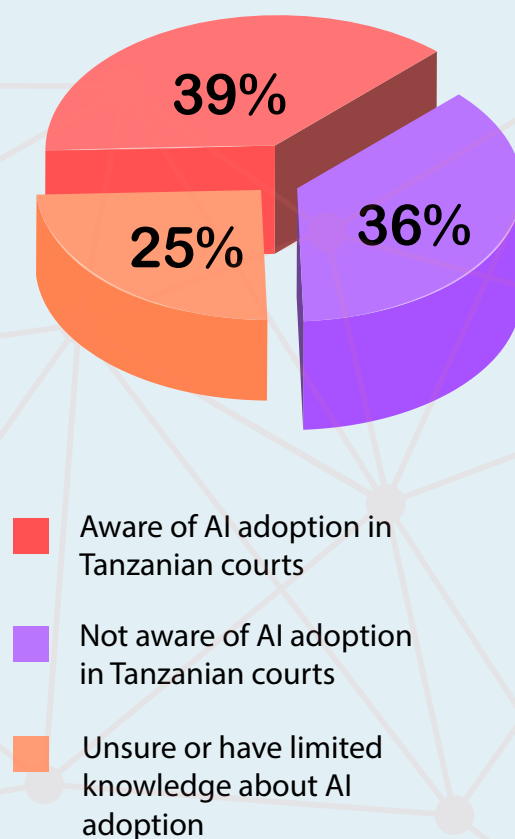
Using results from data collected from important stakeholders through questionnaires, Key Informants Interviews and review of relevant documents, exploration of fundamental questions surrounding the adoption of AI within the Tanzanian justice delivery system is done. The major focus is on three critical dimensions: awareness and adoption among legal professionals, the current status of AI utilization, and the challenges hindering its integration. Through this detailed examination, the brief seeks to provide insights and recommendations that are contextually relevant and practically implementable in enhancing the efficiency, accessibility, and fairness of the justice system in Tanzania through strategic AI adoption.

Awareness on AI Adoption in Tanzanian Courts

The analysis revealed that 39.3% of respondents were aware of AI adoption in Tanzanian courts, while 35.7% were not aware. Additionally, 25% were unsure or had limited knowledge about AI adoption.

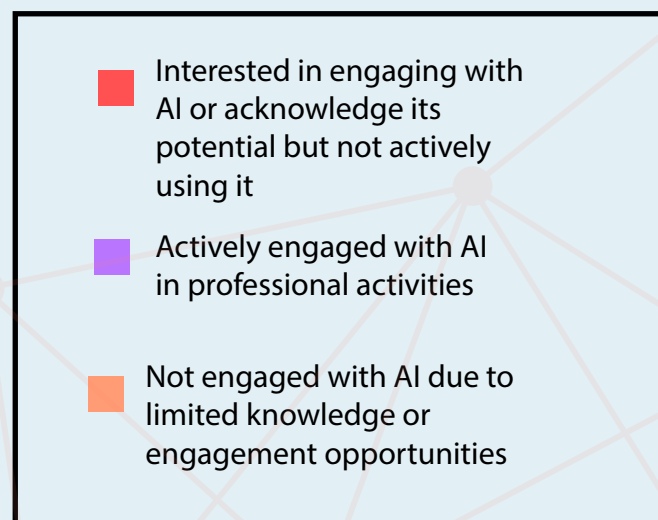
These findings highlight a diverse range of awareness levels within the participant pool, underlining the need for targeted awareness campaigns and educational initiatives to enhance understanding of AI in the Tanzanian legal domain.

Awareness on AI Adoption in Tanzania Courts



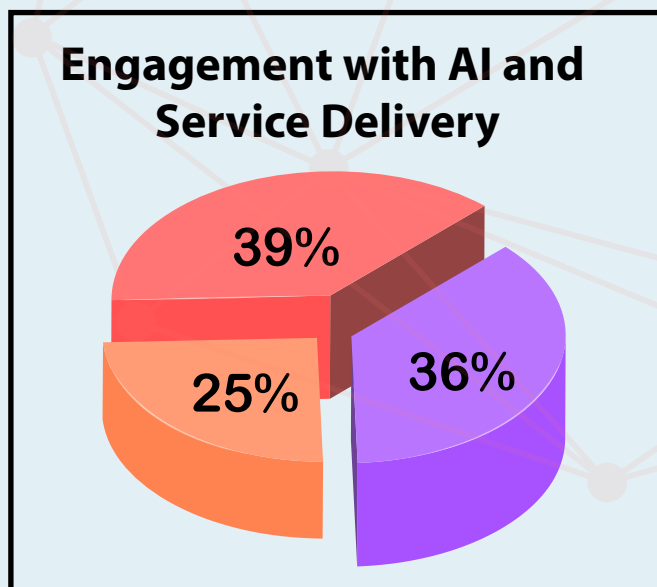
Engagement with AI and Service Delivery

There exists varied levels of engagement with AI in the context of court services. Approximately 39.29% expressed interest in engaging with AI or acknowledged its potential but had not started using it actively. About 35.71% of respondents reported active engagement with AI, utilizing it for editing, researching, or other professional activities. However, a significant portion (25%) stated that they did not engage with AI due to limited knowledge or engagement opportunities. These findings suggest a need for comprehensive AI training and structured engagement opportunities to maximize its potential in service delivery within Tanzanian courts.

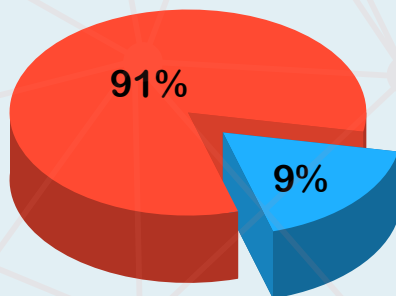


Capacity building: Attendance in AI Trainings/ Workshops/Conferences

The analysis illustrated that only 9% of respondents had received specific training in AI for service delivery in Tanzanian courts. Moreover, 91% had never attended any workshop or conference related to AI in the judicial system. These numbers further emphasize a gap in training and exposure to AI-focused educational events, indicating the necessity for well-designed training programs and increased availability of AI-related workshops and conferences in Tanzania.



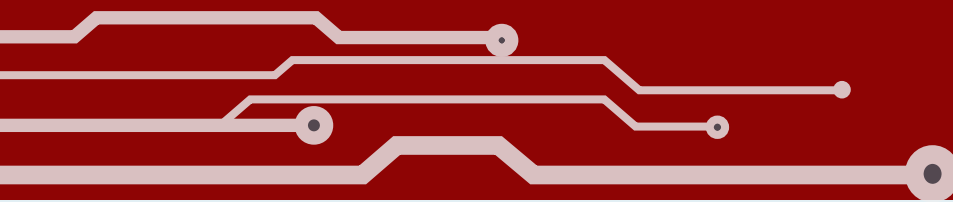
AI Training and Workshops/Conferences Attendance



- Received specific training in AI for service delivery
- Never attended any workshop/conference related to AI in the judicial system

Challenges hindering AI integration

Challenges	Causal Factors
The policy framework of most stakeholders is not supportive of e-Justice, and the necessary regulations and legislation are still absent	Paper-based documents are still widely used and accepted as court evidence
The majority of stakeholders do not provide any electronic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low level of ICT and AI skills • e-Services are not defined
There is no unified strategy for adopting ICT in the justice sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of coordination across the sector
Institutions are not broadband ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old buildings • Building regulations do not demand broadband readiness
Key stakeholders are not linked and do not collaborate well	Lack of shared or common strategies and coordination
A unified dashboard for the justice sector is currently unavailable.	ICT/AI strategies for sector monitoring, evaluation, research and development, and statistics either remain unimplemented or do not exist.
Many legal and judiciary personnel lack the necessary ICT/AI skills and capabilities.	The absence of ICT/AI training programs hinders the sustainable development of essential competencies



In a nut shell, the journey towards embracing AI in the Tanzanian justice system is both promising and challenging. The analysis underscores the importance of addressing awareness gaps, enhancing engagement with AI, and overcoming various obstacles. To fully realize the transformative potential of AI in Tanzania judiciary, the following recommendations are made

i. Firstly, there's a strong emphasis on enhancing the legal and policy frameworks by revising existing policies to support e-Justice, formulating a unified ICT strategy for the justice sector, and promoting e-Services adoption. This necessitates the establishment of a task force or committee composed of stakeholders from the government, academia, judiciary, and technology experts, tasked with outlining the vision, objectives, and roadmap for AI integration.

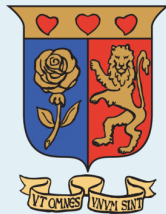
ii. Implement targeted awareness campaigns and distribute informational resources to educate legal professionals about the importance and benefits of AI in the judicial system through Utilization of various channels such as seminars, webinars, newsletters, and social media.

iii. Offer structured AI training programs, organize hands-on workshops tailored to the needs of different legal professionals, focusing on practical applications such as legal research, case management, and document editing, and establish mentorship programs to enhance engagement with AI in service delivery among legal professionals.

iv. Invest in upgrading ICT infrastructure and modernizing court facilities to ensure broadband readiness, and develop a unified dashboard for monitoring and managing AI and ICT initiatives in the justice sector.

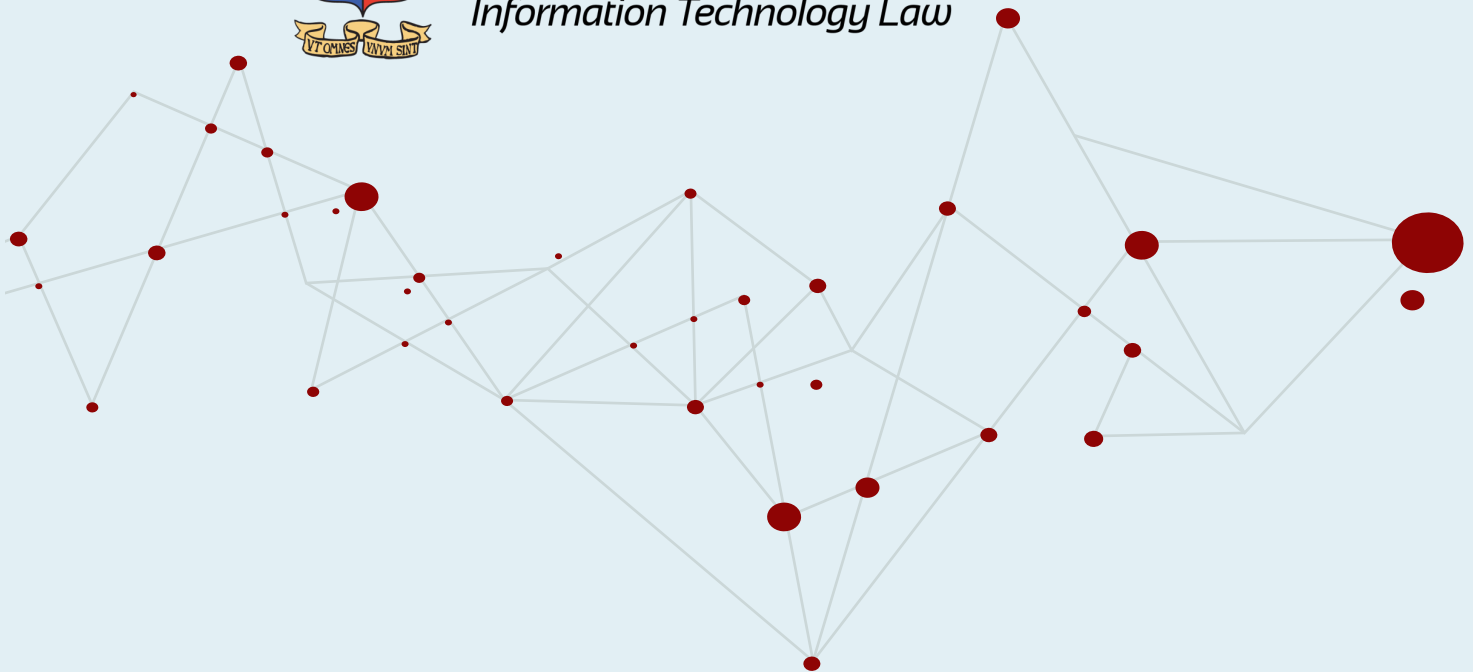
v. Furthermore, promoting a culture of innovation and collaboration within the justice sector, establishing a regulatory body to oversee responsible AI use, leveraging success stories and case studies for inspiration and education, and implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework are essential strategies to ensure sustainable AI adoption within the Tanzanian justice system. These policy recommendations collectively strive to usher in a new era of efficiency, accessibility, and effectiveness in the Tanzanian legal landscape through the thoughtful incorporation of AI technologies.

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