

Ethical and responsible use of AI in radio broadcasting

IN an era where voices can be replicated by machines and scripts generated by algorithms, a pressing question emerges: What still distinguishes radio from the sound of technology?

World Radio Day 2026, observed annually on Feb 13, carries the theme "Radio and Artificial Intelligence" with the slogan "AI is a tool, not a voice". This is a timely reminder that technological progress should never eclipse the human values at the heart of broadcasting.

Radio does more than deliver information. It builds trust, nurtures connection and fosters a sense of belonging. Amid today's screen-saturated media environment, it remains an intimate medium that connects voice to emotion.

Its strength lies in speaking to listeners personally through tone, sincerity and sensitivity to community contexts. This is where radio differs from automated systems: human voices carry empathy while technology processes data.

AI is increasingly embedded in radio operations, from automated transcription and audience pattern analysis to content recommendations and faster audio editing.

In media education and training, AI functions as a technical assistant that streamlines production workflows, allowing practitioners and students to focus more on creative thinking, content planning and communication strategy.

Yet, efficiency must never outweigh values. AI can imitate voices and generate scripts, but it does not grasp cultural nuance, emotional sensitivity or the social implications of messages.

Without clear ethical boundaries, AI-enabled content creation risks misinformation, emotional manipulation and the erosion of authenticity.

The slogan "AI is a tool, not a voice" should be embraced as a guiding principle for the future broadcasting ecosystem.

AI ought to empower radio practitioners by accelerating production, extending audience reach and enhancing technical quality without replacing human conscience.

AI literacy, media ethics and cultural sensitivity must move in tandem. As algorithms grow louder, radio should remain a quiet space where humanity is heard, where sincerity resonates, empathy pauses and responsibility breathes.

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