

Principles: Safety and security, Fairness and non-discrimination

Values: Human Rights

Stakeholders: Civil society, Private sector, Technical community

Best practices for consensual and safe sex with AI enhanced sex robots

While the sex robot industry is very much in its infancy, there is a great of concern mounting from experts on the wide-ranging implications of sex robots. On one end of the spectrum, these robots can have a positive impact on social companionship, sexual exploration, pleasure, safe sex. On other end, with a strong emphasis on male users, there is a potential for sex robots to normalize sexual exploitation of women, disregard sexual consent, and perpetuate real violence against women.

Shannon has begun a new business that rents out sex robots in which customers book an hourly fee to be in a room with the sex doll of their choosing. She has sex robots of multiple genders, races, ages which offer clientele ample selection. The sex robots have a human-like body and are equipped with sensors, actuators, and AI. Her business consists mostly of male clients and she caters to a specific clientele; men who struggle to find a viable sexual partner.

As Shannon begins her workday, scheduling appointments for her clients, she is confronted by an earnest email from a group of sex workers in her area. The email explains that they are against the rise of sex robots as the technology threatens the work and wellbeing of human sex-workers, especially pertaining to the issue of consent.

Business has been booming as of late, Shannon believes that her services are a way to protect human sex workers from potentially violent situations by providing an AI interface for clients. She also believes that robots are not necessarily here to replace human relationships, instead, her sex robots can provide companionship to a specific demographic such as disabled individuals.

While it possible for AI enhanced sex robots to provide therapeutic companionship for a specific demographic, there is an overwhelming amount of literature that denotes sex dolls/robots mainly cater to men and are manufactured to represented a hypersexualized version of females that clearly objectifies them.

- With the rise of the sex robot industry, policy makers will be venturing into rather uncharted territory. To begin with, policy makers need to address the very nature and legislation of sex work to ensure that human sex workers are able to perform their duties in safe conditions.
- Sex robots could provide therapeutic services to members of civil society similarly indicated in this scenario, but there is an overwhelming amount of literature that denotes sex dolls/robots mainly cater to men and are manufactured to represented a hypersexualized version of

females that clearly objectifies them.

- Government agencies need to protect consumers by actively engaging in gathering, analyzing data to characterize the risks for sex robots and their AI capabilities.

Fairness and non-discrimination, Respect and protection of human dignity, safety, and security.

Know more about this case:

- “Sex robots-a disturbing look inside one of the world’s fastest growing industries”, Business Leader, <https://www.businessleader.co.uk/sex-robots-a-disturbing-look-inside-one-of-the-worlds-fastest-growing-industries/53749/>
- “Design, use, and effects of sex dolls and sex robots: scoping review”, NCBI, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7426804/>
- “Sex robots-A harbinger for emerging AI risk”, Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frai.2019.00027/full>