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Power of Statistics in the Era of Evidence-Based Decision-Making: Prudent Applications to Deliberate Abuses



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Meeting ID: 867 6247 4996

Passcode: 200826



Thursday, August 20, 2026



11:00 AM (GMT+3:30) Iran Time





Power of Statistics in the Era of Evidence-Based Decision-Making: Prudent Applications to Deliberate Abuses



Abstract :

The world is experiencing a data revolution, with the volume of data growing at a phenomenal rate every moment. The scientific processing of these vast amounts of data to extract valuable hidden information requires appropriate statistical methods and analyses. The traditional perception of statistics as merely a collection of tools for gathering, compiling, and analysing data, together with the misleading adage, "lies, damned lies, and statistics," has no place in today's knowledge society, which is driven by the data revolution.

In the contemporary world, statistics forms the foundation of evidence-based decision-making through the analysis of complex and large-scale datasets. The application of statistical methods has gained unprecedented momentum across diverse disciplines owing to the advent of high-performance computing, big data, and data science/analytics. Many of today's widely used artificial intelligence techniques, including machine learning algorithms and predictive modelling, are fundamentally based on statistical principles and methods.

Because of its unique ability to uncover valuable information that would otherwise remain hidden within vast and complex datasets, statistics is increasingly being applied in both private and public decision-making, in addition to its indispensable role in research and innovation. The scope of statistics is not confined by disciplinary or geographical boundaries; rather, it permeates policymaking, scientific research, business, governance, and international affairs. Owing to its inherent power, statistical evidence has been extensively used, misused, and sometimes deliberately abused by individuals and institutions in positions of authority and influence, often giving rise to controversy and public debate.

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Emeritus Professor Dr Shahjahan Khan OAM is an internationally recognised statistician and higher education leader from Australia and Bangladesh. He is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ), Australia, and past Vice Chancellor, Asian University of Bangladesh. UniSQ offers Professor Shahjahan Khan Scholarship in his honour.

He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM), Australia's highest civilian honour, for outstanding contributions to higher education, research, multicultural leadership, and community service.

His academic career started at Dhaka University. He was awarded Commonwealth Scholarship. He completed PhD degree in Mathematical Statistics at Western University, Canada.

He has published more than 260 peer-reviewed papers, supervised 20 PhD candidates, and delivered over 150 keynote, plenary, and invited lectures worldwide. He is Founding Chief Editor of the Scopus-indexed *Journal of Applied Probability and Statistics*; Expatriate Fellow, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences; Fellow, Royal Statistical Society (UK); and Elected Member, International Statistical Institute (USA). His Springer published book on Meta-Analysis has over 45k accesses and getting ready for 2nd edition; and Statistical Methods book is translated into Greek.

As President of Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences, he organised international conferences in Malaysia, Egypt, Qatar, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Professor Khan has received numerous international awards for academic excellence, research, and community leadership and continues to contribute to higher education reform, research capacity building, and international scholarly collaboration.

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