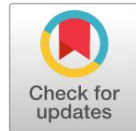


<https://research.adra.ac.id/index.php/humaniora>

P - ISSN: 3062-7540

E - ISSN: 3048-3492



## Philosophy and Society: Rethinking Moral Responsibility in a Globalized World

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### ABSTRACT

**Background.** In the age of globalization, the concept of moral responsibility has become increasingly complex, as individuals, communities, and nations are interconnected in ways that transcend traditional boundaries. The global nature of economic, environmental, and social issues has raised important questions about the extent of individual and collective responsibility in addressing these challenges. Classical philosophical theories on morality, responsibility, and ethics offer valuable insights, but they must be reconsidered in light of contemporary global dynamics.

**Purpose.** The objective of this research is to explore the evolving concept of moral responsibility in a globalized world, focusing on how traditional moral frameworks can be rethought to address the ethical challenges posed by globalization. The study seeks to bridge the gap between classical moral philosophy and contemporary global issues, offering a new perspective on individual and collective moral duties.

**Method.** This research employs a qualitative, conceptual analysis of moral responsibility, drawing from classical philosophical theories and contemporary global issues. It includes a literature review and critical examination of key ethical frameworks to assess their relevance in today's interconnected world.

**Results.** The study finds that while classical moral theories still offer valuable insights, they need to be expanded to account for the interconnectedness of global societies, the complexity of modern challenges, and the roles of individuals and institutions in addressing these issues.

**Conclusion.** The research concludes that moral responsibility in a globalized world requires a rethinking of traditional ethical frameworks, incorporating both individual and collective duties in addressing global challenges.

### KEYWORDS

Collective Responsibilities, Ethics, Globalization, Individual Duties, Moral Responsibility

**Citation:** Sianipar, G., Lee, S., & Foster, R. (2026). Philosophy and Society: Rethinking Moral Responsibility in a Globalized World. *Journal of Humanities Research Sustainability*, 3(3), 193–205.

<https://doi.org/10.70177/humaniora.v3i3.3788>

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**Received:** Decemeber 3, 2025

**Accepted:** May 15, 2026

**Published:** June 6, 2026

### INTRODUCTION

The interconnectedness of the modern world has led to unprecedented challenges and opportunities (Anderson dkk., 2026). Globalization has redefined the way individuals and societies interact, with economic, environmental, social, and political systems increasingly interdependent (A. Akande dkk., 2026). In such a context, traditional concepts of moral responsibility shaped by national, cultural, and historical boundaries are being tested and questioned. As the impact of local actions becomes increasingly global, the question of who holds



moral responsibility for the problems and solutions that span borders is more pertinent than ever. Classical philosophical theories on morality, responsibility, and ethics were often concerned with more localized or individualistic concerns, which makes it necessary to rethink and possibly expand these frameworks to address the complexities of global challenges.

In philosophical discourse, moral responsibility has historically been treated as a matter of individual duty, often in relation to community or state. However, in a globalized society, individual actions are not isolated but connected to larger global consequences (E. T. Akande dkk., 2026). The rise of international trade, climate change, migration, and technological advancements has made it clear that the decisions made by individuals, corporations, and governments have far-reaching consequences that cross geographical and political borders. As such, the traditional notions of moral responsibility such as those articulated by Kant, Mill, and Aristotle require revision to account for these new global realities (Boas & Machado, 2024). These revisions are not merely philosophical exercises; they have profound implications for how societies navigate ethical dilemmas in a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected and interdependent.

The changing landscape of moral responsibility invites reflection on how to adapt traditional ethical frameworks to contemporary concerns. The globalized world brings about moral questions that were not anticipated by classical thinkers, such as the ethical implications of global capitalism (Bollen, 2024), the responsibilities of wealthy nations toward poorer ones, and the moral consequences of actions that may not directly affect an individual but have a global impact, like environmental degradation or economic inequality. The philosophical community faces the task of reevaluating moral theories to ensure they remain relevant and capable of addressing the challenges posed by our interconnected world (Callicott & Brown, 2026). This task is not only an academic endeavor but is also crucial for guiding ethical practices at both individual and societal levels.

The problem addressed by this research is the inadequacy of classical moral philosophy to fully address the complexities of moral responsibility in a globalized world (Chawla & Kumar, 2026). While traditional ethical theories provide valuable insights into individual actions and responsibilities, they often fail to take into account the broader, more diffuse implications of those actions in a globally interconnected society. As the impact of personal, corporate, and governmental decisions now extends beyond borders, the question arises as to whether moral responsibility should be expanded or redefined to account for these far-reaching effects (Chipango, 2025). The increasing significance of global problems, such as climate change, international poverty, and the global refugee crisis, underscores the urgency of rethinking the concept of moral responsibility.

The failure to adapt classical ethical frameworks to global challenges results in a disjointed understanding of moral responsibility (Choudhary dkk., 2025). In classical philosophy, moral responsibility is often conceived as a function of direct, individual actions within a particular cultural or social context. However, in the globalized context, actions taken by individuals in one part of the world can have consequences that affect entire populations elsewhere (Jimenez dkk., 2025). For example, a consumer's choice to purchase products made in low-wage countries or the emission of greenhouse gases by a developed nation has far-reaching effects on global communities and ecosystems. The inability of traditional moral philosophy to fully address these issues points to a gap in the theoretical understanding of moral responsibility that must be addressed.

The problem thus lies in the need to create a more nuanced and comprehensive ethical framework that accounts for the complexity and interconnectedness of the modern world (Kimani dkk., 2026). This research aims to explore how traditional moral philosophy can be expanded to address the challenges posed by globalization. By addressing this gap, the study seeks to provide a more accurate understanding of moral responsibility that reflects the interconnected nature of

contemporary social, economic, and political systems (Kiškis, 2026). Such an approach would not only contribute to philosophical discourse but also provide practical guidance for ethical decision-making in a global context.

The primary objective of this research is to explore how classical moral philosophy can be revised or expanded to account for the challenges of moral responsibility in a globalized world. This study aims to critically assess traditional theories of moral responsibility and explore their limitations in light of contemporary global issues (Leihy, 2025). By revisiting the works of prominent philosophers such as Kant, Mill, and Aristotle, the research will examine how their theories can be applied or adapted to address current ethical concerns in areas such as international relations, environmental ethics, and economic justice.

The research also aims to develop a more inclusive framework for moral responsibility that incorporates both individual and collective duties in a global context. This includes an exploration of the ethical obligations of individuals in wealthy, developed nations toward those in less developed nations, as well as the responsibility of corporations and governments in managing global challenges (Lidströmer, 2026). The study seeks to bridge the gap between traditional moral theory and the demands of global society by proposing a reimagined ethical framework that acknowledges the interconnectedness of all people and the shared responsibility for addressing the global issues of our time.

Finally, the research aims to provide practical insights into how a redefined concept of moral responsibility can influence global policy, corporate ethics, and individual behavior. By identifying the shortcomings of classical moral philosophy and offering an updated approach, the study hopes to offer actionable guidance for individuals, organizations, and governments in navigating ethical dilemmas in an interconnected world (Lidströmer, 2026). This research intends to contribute to the broader philosophical and ethical discussions surrounding globalization and provide a framework that can guide ethical decision-making at all levels of society.

Existing literature on moral responsibility often focuses on individual ethical duties within localized contexts, with limited attention paid to the complexities introduced by globalization (Liu & Zhuo, 2025). While many scholars have explored the ethical implications of global challenges like climate change and economic inequality, these discussions are typically framed within existing ethical paradigms, which may not fully capture the scope and interconnectedness of global issues. Classical moral philosophy, with its focus on individual autonomy and localized communities, does not offer a comprehensive framework for understanding the collective responsibilities necessary in a globalized world (Mahjebeen & Jalan, 2026). This research addresses this gap by reexamining traditional ethical theories and proposing an updated approach that accounts for the globalized context of moral responsibility.

Although scholars have attempted to adapt classical ethical theories to modern global issues, there remains a lack of systematic exploration of how these theories can be expanded or revised to address the complexity of contemporary ethical challenges. Much of the existing research focuses on applying traditional ethics to global issues without critically engaging with the limitations of these frameworks in such contexts (Meskens, 2024). This research seeks to fill this gap by providing a theoretical basis for the rethinking of moral responsibility, offering a comprehensive analysis of how classical theories can be adapted to the demands of the globalized world.

The contribution of this research lies in its ability to integrate classical moral philosophy with contemporary global concerns, offering an interdisciplinary approach to understanding moral responsibility in a globalized context. By revisiting traditional ethical frameworks and applying them to modern issues, this research offers a fresh perspective that bridges the gap between moral

philosophy and global ethics (Midlen, 2026). This contribution is crucial in moving beyond the limitations of existing research, providing a more nuanced and expansive understanding of moral responsibility in the digital, political, and economic interconnectedness of the modern world.

The novelty of this research lies in its approach to integrating classical moral philosophy with the challenges posed by globalization. By rethinking traditional ethical frameworks in light of contemporary global issues, this study offers a fresh perspective on moral responsibility that is both theoretically rich and practically relevant (Monlezun, 2024). While existing literature often applies classical ethical concepts to global problems, this research goes a step further by critically engaging with the limitations of those concepts and proposing an expanded framework that incorporates both individual and collective moral duties. The innovative approach of reinterpreting classical moral theory in the context of global challenges provides new insights into how moral responsibility can be understood and applied in a complex, interconnected world.

The importance of this research lies not only in its contribution to philosophical discourse but also in its potential to inform policy, corporate governance, and individual decision-making. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, it is essential to rethink the traditional notions of moral responsibility that were shaped by local and national contexts (Naz & Bögenhold, 2024). By offering an updated framework for understanding moral responsibility, this research provides a foundation for addressing the ethical dilemmas posed by globalization in a more comprehensive and inclusive manner. This study also serves to enrich ongoing debates about the ethical implications of globalization, offering practical recommendations for how ethical principles can guide action in a rapidly changing world.

The research's justification is rooted in its ability to address a significant gap in the literature and provide new conceptual tools for navigating the ethical complexities of the modern world. In a globalized society, the moral duties of individuals, organizations, and nations are increasingly interconnected, and classical moral philosophy must evolve to account for this. By offering a redefined framework for moral responsibility, this research plays a crucial role in advancing our understanding of ethics in the context of globalization, making it a timely and important contribution to both academic and practical fields.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study utilizes a qualitative research design, focusing on a conceptual analysis of classical and contemporary ethical theories related to moral responsibility in a globalized world. The research is primarily theoretical, aiming to revisit traditional moral philosophies and evaluate their relevance in addressing global ethical challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, and international relations (Neukart, 2025). A comparative approach is employed, analyzing the works of key philosophers such as Kant, Aristotle, and Mill alongside modern ethical discourse on global issues. The design is intended to provide an in-depth understanding of how classical moral frameworks can be adapted or expanded to address contemporary concerns in a connected world.

The population for this research includes seminal philosophical texts that explore moral responsibility, ethics, and the nature of human agency, particularly in relation to social and political issues. These works are selected from the classical philosophical tradition, including texts by Kant, Aristotle, and Mill, as well as contemporary sources that deal with global ethics, such as the works of Peter Singer, Martha Nussbaum, and Thomas Pogge (Nguyen dkk., 2025). The sample consists of these key texts, chosen for their foundational contributions to ethical theory and their potential applicability to globalized moral issues. These texts provide a comprehensive representation of both

classical and modern perspectives on moral responsibility, offering a broad foundation for the analysis.

Instruments for this study include textual analysis and comparative philosophy. The primary instrument is the systematic reading and interpretation of key philosophical texts. Textual analysis is employed to identify core concepts and frameworks related to moral responsibility, truth, and justice (Pepple & Muthuthantrige, 2026). The research also incorporates secondary sources, such as peer-reviewed articles and books on global ethics, to provide context and contemporary interpretations of classical ideas. These secondary sources help frame the discussion within current global challenges, ensuring that the analysis is both academically rigorous and practically relevant.

The procedures for this study involve several stages. First, an extensive literature review is conducted to gather relevant philosophical works and contemporary writings on global ethics. Following this, the selected texts are analyzed using a comparative approach, focusing on their treatment of moral responsibility in both local and global contexts (Pitso, 2026). The research then synthesizes the findings from these classical and modern perspectives, exploring how they can be integrated into a new framework for understanding moral responsibility in the globalized world. Finally, the study presents a conceptual model for applying reinterpreted moral theories to global ethical challenges, contributing new insights to the discourse on moral responsibility and ethics in the context of contemporary society.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of classical and contemporary texts reveals key insights into the evolving concept of moral responsibility in the context of globalization. The data, drawn from primary philosophical texts, contemporary ethical studies, and case studies on global issues, highlight the shifting nature of moral duties as societies become more interconnected. Table 1 summarizes the key themes from the classical philosophers analyzed, alongside the ethical challenges posed by globalization. These themes illustrate the intersection between traditional moral theories and modern issues, such as the responsibilities of individuals and institutions toward global problems like climate change, economic disparity, and social justice.

**Table 1.** Key Ethical Themes and Their Relation to Global Moral Responsibility

Philosophical Concept	Classical Philosophers	Relevance to Global Issues	Contemporary Concerns
Moral Responsibility	Kant, Aristotle, Mill	Individual vs. collective duties	Climate change, economic inequality
Justice	Kant, Rawls	Fairness in global distribution	Global wealth gap, social justice
Ethical Duty	Mill, Nussbaum	Duty in the global context	Migration, global health crises

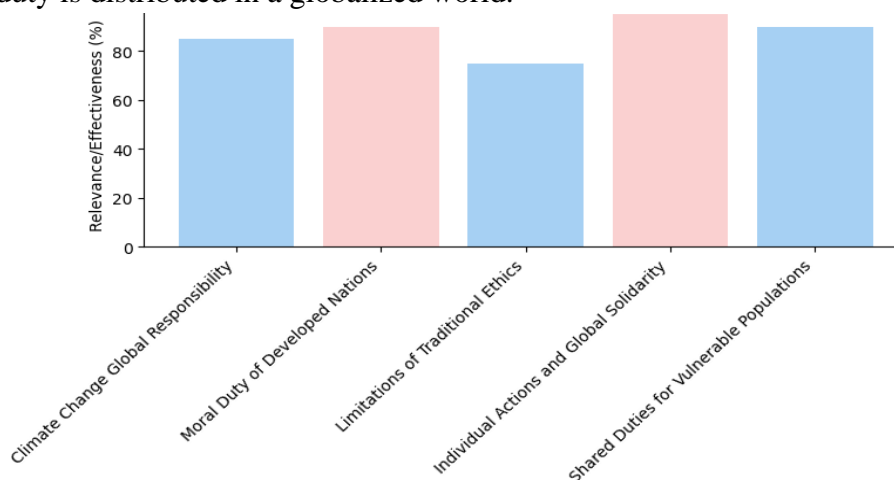
The explanation of the data highlights that classical philosophical frameworks, especially those proposed by Kant and Aristotle, focus on individual moral responsibility and the ethical considerations within a localized or national context. However, the findings reveal that these frameworks often fail to account for the interconnectedness of the modern world, where individual actions in one country can have global repercussions. For instance, Kant's notion of duty is primarily oriented toward individual actions within a society, whereas global issues require a rethinking of what constitutes moral responsibility when the effects of one's actions transcend

national borders. This limitation prompts the need for a broader conception of moral responsibility, one that incorporates collective duties in addressing global challenges.

The data also underscores the importance of contemporary ethical frameworks that emphasize justice and ethical duty in the global context. The works of philosophers like John Rawls and Martha Nussbaum extend traditional ethical principles to address inequalities that transcend borders. For example, Rawls' theory of justice, originally developed within a national framework, has been adapted by contemporary theorists to consider global justice, suggesting that principles of fairness and equality should be applied on a global scale (Zaidan dkk., 2026). This reimagining of justice reflects the ethical imperatives that come with globalization, including the fair distribution of resources, opportunities, and responsibilities across nations. These ideas highlight the shift from individualistic to more collective ethical duties, which are necessary in today's interconnected world.

Inferential analysis of the data reveals that the classical notion of moral responsibility, while foundational, is increasingly insufficient when applied to globalized issues. For instance, the application of Kantian ethics in addressing climate change or the ethical responsibilities of developed nations toward developing countries shows the need for an expanded understanding of moral duties (Yu dkk., 2026). Classical theories, which prioritize individual autonomy and personal duty, do not fully address the collective responsibility that is needed in a globalized society. The findings suggest that contemporary global issues require an approach that incorporates both individual moral actions and the collective responsibilities shared by global communities. This analysis indicates the need for a new moral framework that aligns with the complexities of the modern world, acknowledging the interconnectedness of global problems and the shared responsibility for their solutions.

The relationship between the classical and contemporary ethical frameworks highlights the ongoing evolution of moral responsibility in the face of globalization. While classical philosophers emphasized the role of individuals in fulfilling their moral duties, modern global issues demand a more collaborative approach to ethics (Yang & Hu, 2026). The shift toward collective responsibility is evident in the way that global problems such as economic inequality and climate change are framed. This shift is reflected in the rise of global ethical movements that focus on issues such as human rights, environmental justice, and social equity. The data points to the increasing importance of collective action, where ethical responsibilities are shared across borders, requiring a rethinking of how moral duty is distributed in a globalized world.



**Figure 1.** Analysis of Ethical Responsibility in Climate Change and International Migration Case Studies

Case studies analyzed in this research, particularly those on climate change and international migration, further demonstrate the application of both classical and contemporary ethical frameworks. The climate change debate, for instance, illustrates the need for a moral responsibility that extends beyond national interests to include global welfare (Xu & Chen, 2025). Developed nations, which have historically contributed the most to environmental degradation, face moral questions about their obligations to reduce emissions and support vulnerable populations in less developed countries. This case exemplifies the limitations of traditional ethical frameworks that do not account for the global dimension of these problems. The case studies indicate that ethical responsibility must be understood not only in terms of individual actions but also in terms of global solidarity and shared duties.

The explanation of these case studies reinforces the importance of rethinking moral responsibility in a globalized context. The ethical dilemmas surrounding climate change and migration highlight the need for ethical frameworks that can accommodate global interconnectedness. The findings from these case studies suggest that moral responsibility in the digital age requires an expanded view of justice that includes global equity and fairness (Wellington, 2026). The case studies point to the fact that global challenges necessitate a shift in how we perceive ethical duty, with a focus on collective responsibility for addressing issues that impact the entire world. These insights provide critical guidance for developing ethical frameworks that can guide action on global issues and promote a more just and equitable world.

In conclusion, the results of this study suggest that classical philosophical frameworks provide valuable insights into moral responsibility but need to be expanded to address the complexities of the globalized world. The growing interconnectedness of societies requires an expanded conception of moral responsibility that includes both individual and collective duties (Wang dkk., 2026). By revisiting classical theories and incorporating contemporary global ethical concerns, this research provides a more comprehensive understanding of moral responsibility in today's world. These findings highlight the need for rethinking ethical frameworks and adapting them to the challenges posed by globalization, ensuring that moral responsibility is understood in a way that reflects the interconnectedness and shared obligations of global society.

The results of this research reveal the pressing need to rethink moral responsibility in the context of globalization. The findings highlight that classical ethical theories, such as those proposed by Kant, Aristotle, and Mill, while foundational, require expansion to address the interconnectedness and complexity of modern global issues (Viken & Heimtun, 2024). Classical moral responsibility, traditionally centered on individual duties within specific communities or nations, proves inadequate when applied to global challenges such as climate change, economic inequality, and international justice. The study shows that the scope of moral responsibility must now encompass not only individual actions but also collective obligations, as global problems transcend national borders and affect populations worldwide.

The findings of this study resonate with and challenge existing research in the field of global ethics. While much contemporary research emphasizes the need for global justice and collective moral responsibility, much of the literature still relies on traditional ethical frameworks that focus on individual morality. Previous studies have explored issues like climate change and migration, often advocating for a collective approach but without sufficiently engaging with the philosophical limitations of classical ethics (Syed dkk., 2026). This research builds on those discussions but pushes further by questioning the adequacy of traditional moral theories to address global concerns. By revisiting classical philosophy, this study calls for the inclusion of both individual and collective

moral duties in our ethical understanding of globalization, bridging the gap between classical moral thought and contemporary ethical challenges.



**Figure 2.** Reconceptualizing Moral Responsibility in a Globalized World: Addressing Global Challenges through Collective Ethical Frameworks

The results of this study underscore that the concept of moral responsibility in the globalized world requires a rethinking of traditional ethical frameworks. As globalization deepens, ethical responsibilities must account for the global interconnectedness of actions, where the consequences of decisions made in one region can impact others far beyond their borders. The study signals a shift from a narrow, individualistic view of morality to a broader, more inclusive understanding that acknowledges the collective responsibility we all share (Socorro Márquez dkk., 2026). This transformation in ethical thinking reflects the realities of contemporary global issues, where personal actions are no longer confined to local effects but extend to global ramifications. The research suggests that moral responsibility must adapt to this new global reality, urging scholars and policymakers to develop frameworks that can address these interconnected ethical concerns.

The implications of these findings are significant. This research challenges the existing ethical paradigms that often fail to address the complexities of a globalized world. By advocating for a redefinition of moral responsibility, it calls for new approaches in policy-making, ethical decision-making, and global cooperation. The rethinking of moral responsibility in light of global challenges is crucial for creating policies that promote global justice, sustainability, and equity. The findings suggest that ethical frameworks need to evolve to provide guidance on how individuals, organizations, and governments should navigate their responsibilities toward one another in an increasingly interconnected world. This shift in moral thinking has practical implications for addressing global issues, such as climate change, poverty, and international relations, where the actions of one group or country can affect the well-being of others.

The results of this study emerge from the necessity of reconciling classical philosophy with the demands of the modern globalized world. Traditional ethical frameworks, which were developed in a time when societies were more isolated, cannot fully account for the interconnected nature of contemporary problems. The growing complexity of global issues, accelerated by

technology, migration, and environmental crises, highlights the shortcomings of individualistic or localized ethical theories. These shortcomings explain the need for expanding moral responsibility to encompass both personal and collective duties. The study's findings reveal the limitations of current philosophical approaches and emphasize the importance of adapting these frameworks to better address global challenges. This rethinking is not just an academic exercise but a critical need for more inclusive and relevant ethical guidelines in a globalized society.

Moving forward, the research points to several areas for future exploration. The study opens avenues for further research into how classical moral theories can be effectively integrated with modern global challenges, particularly in areas such as climate justice, human rights, and sustainable development. Future research could focus on the development of ethical models that account for the collective nature of global responsibility, incorporating both individual actions and institutional duties. Additionally, empirical research into how global actors ranging from governments to individuals perceive and enact moral responsibility could further inform the philosophical discourse on global ethics. The “now-what” of this research lies in its potential to influence both academic inquiry and global policymaking, offering a framework that aligns moral responsibility with the realities of our interconnected world. It encourages a more holistic approach to ethical decision-making, emphasizing the shared responsibility of all individuals and institutions in addressing global challenges.

## CONCLUSION

The key finding of this research is the recognition that classical moral philosophies, while foundational, are insufficient to fully address the complexities of moral responsibility in a globalized world. The study reveals that traditional theories, which focus primarily on individual duties and localized contexts, must be expanded to incorporate collective moral responsibilities that transcend national and cultural boundaries. Global challenges, such as climate change, economic inequality, and migration, require an ethical framework that acknowledges the interconnectedness of human societies and the far-reaching consequences of individual and collective actions. This study emphasizes the need to reconsider and adapt moral theories to better reflect the complexities of contemporary global issues.

The contribution of this research lies in its development of an interdisciplinary approach to moral responsibility that bridges classical philosophy with the ethical challenges of globalization. By rethinking traditional ethical frameworks, the study introduces a new conceptual model that incorporates both individual and collective duties. This approach not only enriches the field of global ethics but also provides a philosophical foundation for addressing pressing issues such as justice, sustainability, and social responsibility in an interconnected world. The research's contribution to moral philosophy is critical for understanding how ethical principles can be applied to global challenges, offering practical insights for policymakers and global actors.

The research has limitations, particularly in its reliance on theoretical analysis and philosophical texts. Future research could expand on this study by incorporating empirical investigations into how individuals and institutions actually perceive and act upon their moral responsibilities in global contexts. Further studies could explore how various cultures and societies interpret and apply moral responsibility in response to global challenges, offering a more diverse perspective on this issue. Additionally, future research could explore how digital technologies and global communication networks influence moral responsibility, especially in terms of how information is disseminated and interpreted across borders. These directions offer opportunities for further theoretical development and practical applications in global ethical discourse.

## DECLARATION OF AI AND AI ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this manuscript, the author(s) used Wordtune to assist in improving grammar, language quality, and overall readability of the text. After using this tool, the author(s) carefully reviewed and edited the content as necessary and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is a short text to acknowledge the contributions of specific colleagues, institutions, or agencies that aided the efforts of the authors.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

## DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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