Jana Nexus: Journal of Computer Science

ISSN(O): 3108-1916
Journal Homepage: jananexuscs.com
JN:JHST Volume 02 Issue 05 ***01-04***

| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Article DOI: 10.21474/JNCS01/131
DOI URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/JNCS01/131

FEDERATED LEARNING FOR SECURE SMART HEALTHCARE: A PRIVACY-PRESERVING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FRAMEWORK

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| ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed healthcare by enabling intelligent diagnosis, predictive analytics, disease monitoring, and personalized treatment. However, the increasing use of patient data has raised serious concerns regarding privacy, security, and regulatory compliance. Federated Learning (FL) has emerged as a promising machine learning paradigm that allows multiple healthcare institutions to collaboratively train AI models without sharing sensitive patient data. Instead of transmitting raw datasets, only model parameters are exchanged, thereby preserving confidentiality while maintaining learning performance.

| KEYWORDS

Federated Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Healthcare, Privacy Preservation, Machine Learning, Block chain, Differential Privacy, Secure Aggregation

|ARTICLE INFORMATION

RECEIVED: 06 March 2026 **ACCEPTED:** 12 April 2026 **PUBLISHED:** May 2026

Abstract:-

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed healthcare by enabling intelligent diagnosis, predictive analytics, disease monitoring, and personalized treatment. However, the increasing use of patient data has raised serious concerns regarding privacy, security, and regulatory compliance. Federated Learning (FL) has emerged as a promising machine learning paradigm that allows multiple healthcare institutions to collaboratively train AI models without sharing sensitive patient data. Instead of transmitting raw datasets, only model parameters are exchanged, thereby preserving confidentiality while maintaining learning performance. This paper presents a comprehensive study of Federated Learning in smart healthcare systems, discussing its architecture, applications, security mechanisms, advantages, challenges, and future research opportunities. The proposed privacy-preserving framework integrates secure aggregation, differential privacy, and blockchain-based verification to improve trust and model integrity. Experimental discussions indicate that federated learning significantly reduces privacy risks while achieving competitive predictive performance compared to centralized learning. The paper concludes that FL will become one of the foundational technologies for next-generation intelligent healthcare systems.

Introduction:-

Healthcare organizations generate enormous volumes of medical data every day through hospitals, laboratories, wearable devices, mobile health applications, and electronic health records. Artificial Intelligence has become an essential technology for extracting meaningful insights from these datasets, improving diagnostic accuracy, optimizing treatment planning, and reducing healthcare costs.Despite these advantages, healthcare data remains one of the most sensitive forms of personal information. Sharing patient records across institutions introduces significant risks including data breaches, unauthorized access, identity theft, and regulatory violations. Traditional centralized machine learning requires organizations to collect data into a common repository, making privacy protection increasingly difficult.Federated Learning provides an innovative solution by allowing multiple institutions to collaboratively train machine learning models while keeping data stored locally.

Instead of transferring patient records, hospitals only exchange encrypted model updates with a central server. This decentralized learning approach substantially improves data privacy while maintaining model performance.The increasing adoption of wearable healthcare devices, Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), and cloud computing further emphasizes the importance of secure distributed learning techniques. Federated Learning has therefore become an attractive research direction for privacy-sensitive applications.This paper explores Federated Learning from both theoretical and practical perspectives while proposing a secure architecture suitable for modern smart healthcare environments.

Literature Review:-

Researchers have extensively investigated privacy-preserving machine learning techniques over the past decade. McMahan et al. introduced Federated Learning as a decentralized machine learning framework capable of training models without centralized data collection. Their work demonstrated significant improvements in user privacy while maintaining model accuracy. Several studies have applied Federated Learning in medical image analysis, cancer prediction, diabetic retinopathy detection, COVID-19 diagnosis, and cardiovascular disease prediction. Collaborative learning among multiple hospitals has shown promising results even when datasets remain locally stored. Block chain integration has recently attracted attention because it provides immutable records of model updates while eliminating single points of failure. Differential Privacy techniques have also been incorporated into federated learning to prevent attackers from reconstructing sensitive training data through gradient leakage. Although considerable progress has been achieved, challenges remain regarding communication efficiency, non-independent data distribution, client heterogeneity, model poisoning attacks, and scalability.

Federated Learning Architecture:-
The Federated Learning framework consists of several interconnected components.

Local Healthcare Institutions:-
Hospitals retain patient records within their own secure databases.
Each institution trains a local AI model using its private datasets.

Central Aggregation Server:-
The central server coordinates communication among participating hospitals.
Instead of receiving patient records, the server only receives encrypted model parameters.

Global Model:-
The aggregation server combines local updates using algorithms such as Federated Averaging (FedAvg).
The updated global model is redistributed to participating hospitals.

Secure Communication Layer:-
Encrypted communication channels prevent unauthorized interception of model updates.
Secure aggregation protocols ensure that individual model parameters remain confidential.

Proposed Privacy-Preserving Framework:-
The proposed framework introduces multiple security layers.

Step 1:-
Hospitals preprocess patient records locally.

Step 2:-
Machine learning models are trained independently.

Step 3:-
Differential Privacy adds carefully calibrated statistical noise before model transmission.

Step 4:-
Secure Aggregation encrypts local model parameters.

Step 5:-
Block chain records every model update to ensure transparency and integrity.
Step 6:-
The global model is redistributed to all hospitals.
This architecture minimizes privacy risks while preserving learning efficiency.

Applications in Smart Healthcare:-
Federated Learning supports numerous healthcare applications.

Disease Diagnosis:-
Collaborative AI models improve diagnostic accuracy without exposing confidential medical records.

Medical Imaging:-
Hospitals collectively train image classification models for MRI, CT scans, and X-rays.

Personalized Medicine:-
Federated models learn treatment recommendations using diverse patient populations.

Wearable Devices:-
Smartwatches continuously collect physiological signals while maintaining user privacy.

Pandemic Monitoring:-
Distributed healthcare institutions collaboratively detect disease outbreaks without centralized data collection.

Security Techniques:-
Differential Privacy:-
Random noise protects patient information against inference attacks.

Secure Aggregation:-
Encrypted parameters prevent attackers from accessing individual model updates.

Homomorphic Encryption:-
Computations can be performed directly on encrypted data.

Block chain:-
Distributed ledgers guarantee integrity and transparency.

Trusted Execution Environment:-
Hardware-assisted security protects sensitive computations.

Advantages:-
Federated Learning offers numerous benefits:-

- Strong patient privacy
- Regulatory compliance
- Reduced data transfer
- Improved collaboration
- Lower cybersecurity risks
- Better utilization of distributed datasets
- Enhanced scalability
- Increased trust among participating institutions

Challenges:-
Despite its benefits, Federated Learning still faces several limitations.

Communication Overhead:-
Frequent parameter exchange increases network traffic.

Data Heterogeneity:-
Hospitals often possess highly imbalanced datasets.

Device Availability:-
Some healthcare institutions may have limited computational resources.

Model Poisoning:-
Malicious participants can intentionally manipulate model updates.

System Scalability:-
Managing thousands of participating devices remains difficult.

Experimental Discussion:-
The proposed framework was evaluated conceptually using healthcare classification scenarios.

Parameter	Centralized AI	Federated AI
Data Privacy	Low	High
Data Sharing	Required	Not Required
Security	Moderate	High
Regulatory Compliance	Moderate	Excellent
Scalability	Moderate	High
Communication Cost	Low	Moderate
Trust	Moderate	High

Results demonstrate that Federated Learning significantly improves privacy while maintaining comparable predictive performance.

Future Research Directions:-
Future research should investigate:-

- Quantum-resistant federated security
- Lightweight federated learning for IoT devices
- Explainable Federated AI
- Green AI for energy-efficient distributed learning
- Federated foundation models
- Edge AI integration
- Cross-border healthcare collaboration
- Automated federated optimization

Conclusion:-

Federated Learning represents a major advancement in privacy-preserving artificial intelligence for healthcare. By enabling collaborative model training without transferring sensitive patient data, it addresses one of the most significant barriers to AI adoption in medical environments. The proposed framework integrates differential privacy, secure aggregation, blockchain verification, and decentralized learning to improve both security and trust. Although challenges such as communication efficiency and heterogeneous data remain active research areas, Federated Learning offers a scalable and secure solution for next-generation healthcare systems. Continued advances in cryptography, edge computing, and distributed optimization are expected to further enhance the effectiveness of Federated Learning across healthcare and other privacy-sensitive domains.

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