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Are we in a Race with Machines?

In the recent past, major technological advancements have been experienced in different fields of production. Currently, we are utilizing various forms of technology to perform most of our activities. Some researchers argue that after the Great Recession, the rate of investment in technology increased to ease the recession. Consequently, many companies acquired new machines to perform various tasks (Dan, and L'Huillier). This created a negative impact on the employment levels in the US economy since new hires remained severely depressed. Stagnationists support that increased rate of technological innovations can help to lift the economy (Joel, Vickers, and Ziebarth). In that regard, significant technological discoveries have been observed in various sectors of production. Use of machines has improved the way we do our daily activities and has also helped in making work easier. On the other hand, it has led to technological displacement. As a result, millions of people have been forced onto the unemployment rolls. Therefore, are we in a race with machines? This paper examines the effects of machines on human labor and how the two factors interact.

Indeed, almost everyone uses technology to perform his/her daily activities. For instance, we use mobile phones on a regular basis to communicate. We make calls, text, or send emails to different destinations. Therefore, technology has improved our personal life in different ways. Also, from the perspective of a working environment, technology has influenced the way companies carry out their activities. In the past, most of the tasks were done manually.

Therefore, there were high inefficiency levels in production since workers took a lot of time to complete a single task. Also, human labor was unable to produce similar goods. Currently, many companies have brought advanced and sophisticated machines which are able to perform numbers tasks at a time, unlike human labor. The current machines are more accurate and efficient, unlike in the past. For instance, modern computers can handle many tasks at the same time. Computers enhance communication within a working environment. Through the use of computers, employees are now able to converse with others and every exchange files while in their offices. Enhanced communication in a working environment has created about efficiency and convenience hence, minimizing the time taken to complete a given task. Many scientists in different areas in the world are making efforts to produce more sophisticated machines such as human robots which will be able to handle many activities at a time.

Many companies are shifting to machines because of the various benefits associated with them as compared to human labor. First, machines work faster than human beings. A machine can do many tasks in a day will take workers several days to finish. This quality makes machines the best option in performing most of the duties where time is a limiting factor (Tomas, and Ahmetoglu). As a result, many companies are employing machines in their operations to enable them to produce many goods or services within a short period. Also, through the use of computers, organizations are able to beat deadlines and ensure their customers do not experience delays. Secondly, many organizations are employing machines to minimize production costs (Thorsten, et al). Sometimes, the use of human labor can be expensive, especially in large scale production due to a large amount of money spent on salaries and wages. Therefore, organizations now prefer machines since they are not paid. However, companies spend a large amount of capital to acquire machines; they do not need to pay them salaries or a wage like humans. Also,

computers do not require allowances. Instead, the expenses incurred by organizations include acquisition and maintenance expenses. These are much less as compared to the costs of human labor. Therefore, machines are cost-effective. The help organization to minimize their production costs hence maximizing their profits.

Additionally, machines are able to handle heavy and delicate work (Tomas, and Ahmetoglu). Human beings are prone to errors. Therefore, they are not suitable for handling heavy and fragile activities. Consequently, machines have been developed to help in performing such activities. For example, a crane can lift heavy loads which a man cannot handle. Also, in nursing, intelligent machines have been developed to assist surgeons in performing complicated surgical procedures. Therefore, without such machines, it could be hard to perform such as activities.

Lastly, some companies prefer using machines to human labor due to ethical reasons. Use of machines in production enhances compliance, unlike human employees. This is because machines are not vulnerable to moral issues such as corruption (Thorsten, et al.). Human beings get influenced easily, and also they can be biased. Therefore, to avoid such problems, many investors prefer using machines. Based on this quality, machines are believed to apply one standard to all situations.

Even though machines have various benefits over humans, there are some aspects where human labor remains irreplaceable. First, machines are unable to think and respond appropriately to a situation at hand. For instance, a computer can not notice particular environmental demands which require them to adjust to the situation and change accordingly (Geoff). A machine is governed by specific commands which will determine the actions. Therefore, they will not

operate without controls or programs. On the other hand, human beings apply their common sense to analyze and understand a situation and come up with various remedies to address the issue. For computers, they require specific programs that help to assess a given scenario.

Also, unlike machines, human beings are able to feel emotions and even understand those of others (Geoff). Therefore, machines lack emotions and empathy traits. Even though robots can be programmed with particular commands to make them pleasant for humans to interact with them, their empathy and feelings might not come out genuinely. For instance, there are some robots such as Pepper which have the ability to express their empathy and even speak to express its emotions to people. However, Pepper is not able to fully understand what humans are feeling. In that regard, humans remain the best caretakers since they are able to feel empathy and express their emotions genuinely. Thus, particular roles require advanced mental abilities which call for human labor. For example, nurses encounter various challenges daily which require critical thinking, pattern recognition, complex communication, and good problem solving skills. Thus, it is difficult to automate the work of nurses or doctors. This makes human labor to remain significant in offering healthcare services unlike machines.

Creativity is also another important quality that humans possess. Humans are good at thinking. It is through this skill that humans are able to analyze a situation and see connections in the events involved (Geoff). For instance, entrepreneurs can use their past experience to come up with ideas to solve the current situation or even predict the future trends. Even though some robots have revealed some of sense of creativity, they are unable to get a big picture regarding a given situation as humans do. Also, only humans have the ability to make very good songs and even generate good business ideas.

Conclusively, I disagree that humans are in a race with machines. Unlike, machines, we are creative and we also demonstrate genuine emotions. Additionally, humans have the ability to analyze and solve complex issues. Even though machines are taking over most of the jobs due to their high speed, power, accuracy, and cost, humans remain undisputed in some fields such as healthcare. Nurses and physicians encounter various challenges throughout the day, which require good problem-solving skills, complex communication, and critical thinking. Machines lack some of these qualities hence making them unsuitable for the tasks. Machines were majorly developed for commercial purposes. Thus, after the Great Depression, great technological advancements were observed, which led to the displacement of human labor in industries. Most companies brought in machines and displaced their workers since the machines are more accurate, faster, relatively cheap, and also powerful. Additionally, they were meant to increase productivity, efficiency, and profitability.

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