

Artificial Intelligence: its Promise and Perils

Outline

1. Introduction:

Thesis-statement: Artificial intelligence promises to positively impact the world. However, it is also associated with several perils, the mitigation of which is of utmost importance for everyone's safety.

2. Overview of the current standing of Artificial Intelligence

3. Promise of Artificial Intelligence to the world

- a) Artificial Intelligence promises to enhance the capacity and efficiency of workers.
- b) By assisting medical professionals, Artificial Intelligence promises to revolutionize health services.
- c) Artificial Intelligence pledges to help students in the course of their academic journey.
- d) Integration of Artificial Intelligence in law enforcement is leading to betterment of law and order.
- e) Existential threat of climate change is going to be handled by Artificial Intelligence.
- f) Artificial Intelligence is aiding businesses and corporates with logistics and data-analysis.

4. Perils associated with Artificial Intelligence

- a) Humanoid robots are becoming the reason of unemployment.

- b) Artificial Intelligence is an environmental hazard owing to its energy hungry data-centers.
- c) Artificial Intelligence softwares are linked to decreasing critical thinking ability in scholars.
- d) Artificial Intelligence is responsible for ethical dilemma of digital recreation and digital humans.
- e) Analytical abilities of Artificial intelligence is being used for harmful purposes.
- f) Artificial Intelligence has ushered a new era of arms race between the world powers.

5- The ways in which balance can be shifted away from the perils of Artificial Intelligence

- a) Legislature should devise laws to regulate Artificial Intelligence.
- b) Banning the use of Artificial Intelligence in wars must be ensured by United Nations.
- c) Governments need to educate people about safe usage of Artificial Intelligence.
- d) Direct oversight by third party on the major technology companies is vital.
- e) Protection of privacy and intellectual property must be ensured by states.

6- Conclusion

Essay

Einstein's theory of relativity added a new perspective in the field of physics. The dream of attaining a state of energy security seemed to be achievable. However, when Oppenheimer used Einstein's theory to build an atomic bomb, an existential threat resurfaced. Today, the world is again standing at an important juncture of history where Artificial Intelligence (AI), like the theory of relativity, envisions to change the fate of humans for good. It promises to help the workers by increasing their efficiency, and keeping them safe by revolutionizing the health sector. Students are also grabbing the hand of AI to complete their academic journey without any trouble. This helping hand extends all the way to law enforcement agencies. The analytic abilities of AI are all set to tackle climate change and aid corporate sector in decision making. However, these promises are associated with several perils, chief among which are ethical dilemmas and environmental threats. At the one hand, it decreases critical thinking, and, at the other hand, it increases unemployment. Apart from these, it has ushered a new era of arms race and added a new dimension to the modern warfare.

Therefore, it can be stated that Artificial Intelligence, despite its promise of ushering a positive change, is associated with several perils. The mitigation of these perils is of utmost importance for everyone's safety.

The current standing of Artificial Intelligence has brought to light the good and evil associated with it. Although, Artificial Intelligence was existing since the late 20th century, it has captured the headline in the 21st century. Today, the world is divided in its opinions about Artificial Intelligence (AI). The big technology agencies are praising about the virtues of AI, while, the intellectual community is apprehensive of its excesses. An important example, in this respect, is the creation of AI powered chat-bots. These have helped many people in content writing. However, these have also raised concern about ~~plagiarism~~ plagiarism. Hence, the present situation of AI shows that it is a double edged sword.

Artificial Intelligence has promised to usher a future of prosperity for humans. Its promise starts by ascertaining its role in enhancing the capacity and

1 efficiency of workers. AI is, essentially, a tool to help humans in their day to day affairs. The users only need to insert comprehensive command for AI to complete a task. This is especially true for people workers related to Information Technology, such as software engineers. 'Chat GPT', an AI tool, developed by a company, 'Open AI', is of particular importance in this respect. It can develop an error less software programme after receiving a command to do so. This shows how AI helps workers.

~~in various~~

Along with assisting workers, Artificial Intelligence is aiming to revolutionize the health sector. "To err is human" is a proverb which shows the imperfection of a person human. Nonetheless, AI is not a human and errors are not its parts. It is being integrated into medical profession because of this reason. According to Forbes, in October 2023, Google is deploying AI for healthcare. The major aim is to evaluate lab results with precision which will help, hence, doctors reach at diagnosis with precision. Thorough integration of AI into healthcare will change the usual practices of medical field.

Apart from revolutionizing the health sector, Artificial Intelligence

has pledged to help students in the course of their academic journey. Many students feel difficulty in gathering ~~and~~ the required data for their subjects. The information provided by various search engines such as Google, Safari and the like, is not comprehensive. Nonetheless, AI is available to fill the void. "Bing" is a search engine which has been developed by "Microsoft". Students can get precise information by typing their queries. This will not only reduce the wasting of time but also increase the understanding of a specific topic. This shows how AI ~~pledges~~ can help students in their academic journey.

In addition to helping students in their academics, Artificial Intelligence's integration into law enforcement departments ~~can~~ is improving law and order situation. Effective controlling of crime requires both the apprehension of criminals and the prevention of criminality. Artificial Intelligence can help in both of these aspects. The "Social Credit System" in China is already doing this. It works as an omnipresent watch-dog. In case of any violation, law enforcement agencies are informed. This has significantly reduced crime rate in China. This highlights the ~~importance~~^{role} of AI in improving law and order situation.

Besides improving the law and order situation, Artificial Intelligence promises to handle climate change. This existential threat requires mitigation, as well as adaptation to the changing weather. Artificial Intelligence can play a major role in this respect. It can gather data from satellites, analyse it, and devise a plan of action. It can not only issue early warning but also recommend the needed measures. (Council of Foreign Relations, July, 2023). Therefore, AI can play an active role in handling the threat of climate change.

While Artificial Intelligence plays role in climate change efforts, it also aids business and corporate sector through logistics and data-analysis. AI can provide companies with information regarding their targeted audience or consumers. It also analyse this information and devise an effective plan to be followed. Currently, various big brands such as Adidas, Nike and the like pay AI based ~~platform~~ platforms like Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, ~~and the like~~, for marketing. These platforms in turn use AI to analyse the data and come up with a plan. Hence, AI is helping businesses and corporates.

Although, Artificial Intelligence promises to positively impact the world, there are several ~~points~~ ^{risks} associated with it. First and foremost, AI powered 'humanoid robots' are becoming the reason of unemployment. These are replacing humans in work field. The reason behind it is the reliability and cost-effectiveness of AI powered machines. As per BBC, in October 2023, Amazon began "tricks of humanoid" robots to 'free up' staff in factories. This depicts the part played by AI in unemployment.

At the one hand, Artificial Intelligence is the source of unemployment, and at the other hand, it is proving to be an environmental hazard. Its energy hungry data centers are detrimental to the ecosystem. It takes huge input of energy to keep these data centers running 24/7. In September, 2023, the Economist revealed that almost 3% of the total global ~~consumption~~ ^{electricity} is used to power and cool data-centers in Silicon Valley. This percentage will jump to 7% due to increase AI activity and reach. It directly translates into global warming. Hence, ~~AI~~ there is an environmental ~~cost~~ ^{footprint} of using AI.

Other than being an environmental hazard, Artificial Intelligence is decreasing the critical thinking ability in scholars. Critical thinking is not an innate trait. It is developed by active participation in solving problems. With the rise of AI, scholars do not bother to put effort in solving problems. They simply command the AI powered chat-bots to generate a solution. This is especially true for essay writing at school, college and university levels, a concern which has been raised by Queen's University Journal in March, 2023. Therefore, the increasing reliance on AI is decreasing critical thinking.

The negative impacts of Artificial Intelligence ^{on critical thinking} is followed by the ethical dilemma of digital recreation and digital humans. AI is being used to develop characters in various movies. ~~The~~ The resemblance between AI generated digital human and real human is remarkable which cannot be distinguished by a naked eye. This creates an ethical dilemma for humans. In 2023, a famous Indian actor, Anil Kapoor moved the Delhi Court against AI the digital recreation of his characters. Similarly, Hollywood actors, screenwriters and voice actors are running a movement, "Screen Actor Guild", against AI usage. Hence, recreating a person and directing his actions in digital media is

an ethical dilemma.

Ethical dilemma resulting from digital recreation and digital humans is coupled with harmful usage of Artificial Intelligence's analytical potential. AI is a double edged sword. Its analytic abilities are being exploited by for harming others. An evidence of this claim lies in the utilization of Elon Musk's "Starlink" technology by Ukraine in its war against Russia.

This technology uses satellites as source of vision, matches them with internet devices used by Russian, and guides Ukrainian missiles. All of this is done by A.I which makes its analytical potential 'harmful'.

Apart from harmful utilization of Artificial Intelligence's analytical ability, it has ushered a new era of arms race. The world powers are always looking to check-mate one another. In this quest they embark on arms race. A new dimension to this race has been added by Artificial Intelligence. The defense of which has not been discovered yet. Creation of A.I guided "supersonic missiles" by Russia, China, the United States and India is case point here. These missiles can travel at a speed of more than 1000 km/hr. These cannot be stopped even by the United States "Ballistic Missile Defense" system.

Other countries are also following the pursuit. Hence, by introducing new dimension, AI has started arms race.

Association of Artificial Intelligence with various perils compels the world to devise strategies for their mitigation. The foremost step, in this regard, should be to regulate Artificial Intelligence with appropriate legislations. In any country, legislation paves the way for policies. Devising laws to curb harmful usage of A.I. is important as presently there are not any legal documents against A.I. However, it is pertinent to note that constitutions grant fundamental rights to people. These can be extended to legislate on A.I. For example, "Article 19" of "the Constitution of Pak" gives people the right to information. Under this article it is people's right to know about the harms of A.I. This clarifies the need to legislate for placing a check on A.I.

Legislation for regulation of Artificial Intelligence should be followed by banning its use for wars. Banning A.I. for aggressive purposes is essential owing to its increasing usage in conflicts. As a largest inter-governmental body, United Nations has a responsibility to develop consensus against A.I. utilization for killing others. The gravity of the situation can be assessed by

Pentagon's Replicator initiative. It "envision[s] a swarm of low-cost autonomous machines that could remake the American Arsenal" (The New Yorker; September, 2023). This highlights the necessity of banning of using A.I powered weapons in wars.

Along with banning A.I usage in conflict, governments need to educate people about safe usage of Artificial Intelligence. Presently, people are unaware of the consequences of wrong usage of A.I. There is also paucity of checks on A.I powered search engines. Educating people about its proper usage is essential because such machines learn from users. This can lead ~~AI~~ A.I to become autonomous. "It would be a nightmare for everyone," states Bill Douglas in MIT Technological Review Magazine of May, 2021. According to Bill, A.I is learning from humans to create itself. This Hence, safe and proper usage of A.I is important.

Educating masses about A.I usage should be compounded by with direct oversight of third party on big technology companies. An oversight is essential to limit excesses of A.I. These excesses are resulting from mutual competition among tech-giants such as Google, Microsoft,

Open AI and the like. Recent meeting of Seven leading technological agencies with Joe Biden at White House is a positive development. Outcome of this meeting, held on September, 2023, was the establishment of oversight by third party which should include civilians. This shows the importance of a watch-dog over these AI company developers.

Oversight on major AI developers should be accompanied by taking measures to protect the privacy and intellectual property of people. Protection of privacy and property is the right of every person. This right is being violated by Artificial Intelligence. Deepfake videos of Donald Trump and Joe Biden are being circulated on social media platforms. as reported by CNN time and time again. Similarly, a ~~world~~ renowned singer, Drake, has been subjected to verbal deepfakes. A whole album was created which became viral on TikTok. This is a clarion call for the authorities to protect the privacy and intellectual property of people.

In conclusion, it can be stated that Artificial Intelligence has promised to change ~~the~~ the world for the betterment of humanity. It aims to do this

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by helping workers, medical professionals and students. It also promises to improve the working of law enforcement agencies as well as corporations and businesses. Moreover, AI has the potential to handle climate change. However, hidden behind these promises are several perils. While ~~AI~~ it has increased employment, critical thinking skills have declined. It has also proved to be a bane for environment. Among other perils are ethical dilemma, arms race and conflict exacerbation. These ills of A.I necessitate that a proactive approach should be adapted by the global community for everyone's well-being.
