

7/10/2024

Day: Saturday

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"Human Inventions Move Societies Backward"

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Human inventions are a double-edged sword that can push societies backward if not properly regulated, leading to rising ultranationalism, soaring warfare's expenditures, deepening economic inequality, erasing borders' security and replacing human labours; however, its benefits can be harnessed through regulating its use.

2- How Human Inventions Dragged Societies Backward?

2a- Caused downfall of old civilizations

(Downfall of Roman Empire)

2b- Disseminated the ideology of ultranationalism

(Case study of fascist policy of Adolf Hitler)

- 2c- Increased expenditures of warfare
(Invention of Nuclear weapons)
- 2d- Entrenched economic disparity
(Capitalist policies)
- 2e- Blurred borders' security of nations
(neo-colonialism)
- 2f- Threat of cultural homogenization
- 2g- Degraded environment
(fossil-fuel powered industrial technology)
- 2h- Exacerbated mental health issues
(American Psychological Association Report)
- 2i- Replaced human labours with robots
(Martin Ford's "Rise of the Robots")
- 2j- Overwhelmed workers
(Case study from the Atlantic)
- 2ki Overreliance on technology

3- How Human Inventions Pushed Societies Forward?

- 3a- Improved healthcare system
(Telemedicine invention)
- 3b- Democratization of education
(MOOCs, e-learning software, virtual classrooms)

3c - Revolution of green energy
(Solar panels and wind turbines)

4- How Can Human Inventions Be Driven In Favour OF Societies?

4a - Need stringent implementation of international treaties
(Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons)

4b - Spread comprehensive awareness campaigns to regulate the use of technology
(Case Study of Finland's extensive awareness programme)

5- Conclusion

"Human Inventions Move Societies Backward"

Human inventions are a Trojan horse of modern life, offering convenience while silently eroding deeper aspects of society. History provides multifarious evidences of how human inventions inadvertently stifled societal progress and prosperity. The cascade of innovations in every area of life shaped the fate of societies. It needs to be explored in detail of how human inventions push societies backward. Certainly, human inventions are a double-edged sword that can move societies backward if not properly regulated, leading to rising ultranationalism, soaring warfare's expenditures, deepening economic inequality, erasing borders' security, and replacing human labours; however, its benefits can be harnessed

through regulating its use. Undeniably, the unbridled use of human inventions has stalled social development.

Moreover, it overshadowed the potential benefits of human inventions.

The appropriate use of inventions can surely push societies forward.

However, it depends on the collective effort of societies. As, Albert Einstein, a German theoretical Physicist, aptly said:

“It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity”

Starting with the inventions of ancient civilizations, the excessive reliance on these innovations eventually led to their decline. The historian, Edward Gibbon, wrote in “The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire”, Rome’s advancements could not prevent its social and political collapse. The Roman Empire was

technologically advanced with innovations such as aqueducts and concrete. However, they misused their resources and technologies, including heavy reliance on the slavery contributed to their downfall. Despite of their advancements, the people of Roman empire faced discrimination, which gradually led to social erosion. It highlights that human inventions can also lead societies backward.

" To further understand the impact of over-reliance on human inventions on society backwardness, this section explores the idea that innovations of different ideologies sometimes contribute to societal stagnation. For instance, the ideology of ultranationalism is one of the biggest hurdles in social progress. The case study of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler is its stark

example. After coming into power, Hitler adopted fascist policies in Germany. He exerted extreme control over society through pervasive surveillance, censorship, propaganda, and a brutal police state. It enforced strict ideological conformity, eliminated political dissent, and orchestrated horrific atrocities, including the Holocaust. Ultimately, it led to World War II, which caused the downfall of society. It reinforces the idea that such technological innovations push societies backward.

Apart from the invention of extremist ideologies, the innovation of deadly weapons also dismantled societal progress. As the invention of sophisticated weapons puts pressure on rival nations, it initiates an arms race between them. Resultantly, states have to allocate massive

resources to defense and military technologies, putting economic strain on nations. The depletion of resources further stifles societal growth and development. For instance, the invention of Nuclear weapons has created security dilemma between countries. This led them to enrich their weapons for the purpose of deterrence. It clearly illustrates that innovation of weapons moved societies backward.

Building upon the previous discussion, human inventions have also contributed to economic inequality. Inventions like capitalist policies have deepened the gap between rich and poor countries. Such policies exploit labours, wide rich-poor gap, erode public trust and degrade social values. Consequently, it perpetuates resentment among marginalised segment of society.

Moreover, it curtails social progress by the allocation of so much resources to so few segments of society. Karl Marx in "The Communist Manifesto" criticized this capitalist economic system and emphasized to replace it with communism. Therefore, it becomes evident that such inventions hinder the societal development.

Expanding on this perspective, some human innovations have jeopardised national borders' security. Neo-colonialism provides evident example. This new form of colonialism includes economic dependencies, political manipulation and cultural dominance of less developed nations by developed ones. Thus, it exploited underdeveloped countries and made their societies marginalized. Additionally, excessive economic reliance on advanced

countries gave them authority to install their economic systems in poor countries such as KFC and McDonald are global fast food chains. These systems have threatened security of poor countries as it demands free border movement. Hence, it serves as a testament that human innovations have raised national security issues.

To illustrate this further, human inventions have accelerated the process of globalization, leading to cultural amalgamation. As invention of advanced transportation system enhanced free movement of people in different countries across the world, it allowed people of different cultures, ethnicities and religions to come together. Consequently, people shared their cultures with each other. Particularly,

Western culture has exerted significant influence throughout the world. It suppressed the local cultures and traditions. People in majority became xenocentric. They mostly prefer western culture over their local cultures. Resultantly, it posed huge threat to societies as it can trigger social fragmentation and chaos. Thus, such inventions might push societies backward.

Another crucial aspect to consider is human innovations are a potent threat to environment, which is directly linked with societal development. The fossil-fuel powered industrial technology has brought catastrophic change in climate. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas releases huge amount of carbon dioxide gas. It, in return, has increased global temperatures through trapping

intense heat of Sun. Therefore, it directly impacted societies by adverse impacts of climate change, including floods, intense heatwaves, droughts and wildfires. Therefore, it clearly illustrates that societies can move backward even after human inventions.

Another line of thought on role of innovations in societal decadence demonstrates that the invention of social media has significantly aggravated mental health issues in societies. A study by the American Psychological Association revealed that young people who spend more time on screens are increasingly reporting feelings of loneliness and depression. It underscores that excessive use of social media apps, which are designed to grab the attention of consumers, is enhancing mental

health issues in society. It, ultimately, is pushing societies towards its downfall. As more people have become vulnerable to social media addiction, there is more probability of their reduced contribution in social development.

In addition to this, innovation in technology are thought to replace human workers with robots in near future. As Martin Ford in "Rise of the Robots" showcases that technological innovation can render human labour obsolete. It can lead to widespread unemployment and a sense of purposelessness.

Moreover, it can further deepen social fragmentation, rise social disparity, soar poverty and exacerbate crimes in society.

Therefore, the advanced technological inventions such as Artificial Intelligence can harm society by

making people more vulnerable. Such evidence highlights that human inventions sometimes deprive societies.

The next critical societal issue caused by some human inventions is exhaustion of workers. In the 21st century, the inventions of email, messaging apps and productivity software are designed to improve working efficiency. However, a case study from Atlantic reveals that these technologies have led to burnout with workers feeling pressured to be constantly available. Instead of providing relief, these inventions have created an environment where work never stops, pushing societies into a state of perpetual exhaustion. Therefore, such tools have burdened people and reduced

their productivity. It can lead to societal degeneration, which provides clear evidence that human inventions can be harmful for societal development.

Building upon the previous discussion, inventions of advanced technology made people dependent on it. For instance, artificial intelligence machines have automated manual tasks. Those tasks which previously required physical exertion, now handled by machines. Consequently, people became overly dependent on these technologies. It made them lazy and reduced their productivity. Moreover, it exacerbated health problems, such as obesity, heart issues and blood pressure problems. Resultantly, it contributed in the overall reduced participation

of people in social advancement. Therefore, such over-reliance on technologies can push societies backward.

From a different vantage point, human inventions have also pushed societies forward in many sectors. For instance, the innovation of telemedicine has significantly improved healthcare system. This invention has increased access to healthcare of even remote areas. Now, doctors can treat patients remotely. It removed the barriers of transportation in far-flung areas, leading to timely diagnosis of serious illnesses. Hence, it contributed to decreasing mortality rates. Therefore, people in different societies can now participate in social well-being and development with improved productivity. Undenably, such

inventions have moved societies forward.

Moreover, the contribution of inventions in expanding access to quality education also enhanced social progress. Different online systems such as Massive Open Online Courses, e-learning software and virtual classrooms have fostered the learning opportunities, bolstered the immediate access to quality content and customized studies.

The pervasive use of these technologies reflects the importance of innovation in advancing societies. Moreover, it changed the trajectory of educational system by removing the glass ceiling of women's education, particularly in rural areas. They can also achieve education and endeavor to build safer, healthier and more prosperous society, which demonstrates positive impacts

of human inventions.

Lastly, green energy has revolutionized by human inventions, which has huge impact on societies. Innovations of solar panels and wind turbines inspired hope to averse the catastrophic impacts of climate change. The more the countries inclined towards the use of renewable energy resources, the more the chances of development of sustainable societies. Hence, these innovations are a blessing in disguise in the contemporary world. Moreover, green energy is environment friendly. It has significant contribution in reducing air pollution, which is one of the causes of respiratory diseases. Hence, it also alleviated the changes of diseases, leading to enhanced social development.

To derive human inventions in favour of societies, it is imperative to enforce international treaties in true letter and spirit. For instance, treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons should be complied. Concrete actions need to be taken by global community to curtail the arms race between global powers. It can regulate the unchecked perpetuation of nuclear weapons. Consequently, humans advancements in sophisticated technologies would not be used against them, helping societies to move forward.

Another step to prevent human inventions to create hurdles in societal development is the expansion of awareness campaigns regarding the use of technology in favour of people. For this purpose, promote and organize

such campaigns in educational institutions, including schools, colleges and universities. It can profoundly contribute in shaping the mindsets of youth. Ultimately, they will become aware about the adverse consequences of over-reliance on inventions.

Countries can emulate Finland's extensive awareness programme in which they have integrated curriculum of responsible use of technology in their educational system. It can ensure the mindful use of human inventions in favour of societies.

In a nutshell, human inventions have significantly played role in pushing societies backward by the downfall of once advanced empires, integration of ultranationalist ideologies, introduction of economic disparity and overly dependence

on technology. Moreover, it threatened the human workforce with replacing them with autonomous machines. However, human inventions are also crucial in the advancement of societies, particularly, in education, healthcare and energy sector. Undeniably, the prudent and pragmatic use human technologies can pave the way towards social prosperity and development. Surely, the road towards curtailing the catastrophic impacts of inventions on societies is fraught with formidable challenges. Nevertheless, the concerted efforts of all civil societies, international community and non-governmental organization can change the trajectory towards progression. As Yuval Noah Harari, Historian and Author, aptly said:

"Technology is not deterministic.

You can use the same technology to create very different kinds of societies"