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# Artificial Intelligence: Its Promise and Perils Essay

Artificial Intelligence is an ever emerging field which has altered modern technology and course of human advancements. While it promises us a bright and secure future, it has its own dangers and perils. Artificial Intelligence on one hand provides man <sup>with</sup> ease in modern life and different opportunities. On the other hand, its advancement has brought many ill minded people with ways to implement creative ways of wicked acts. As artificial intelligence advances, curiosity of people increases and subsequently its uses lead to unpredictable circumstances. Artificial Intelligence, therefore, has potential to promote evil doing and ills in society, as well as push human civilization to the optimal phase of humanity.

Artificial Intelligence, in simple terms, is a field of <sup>science</sup> which is concerned with building computers, machines and technology that can reason, learn, interpret and act to solve problems in such a way that would normally require human intelligence. It involves data that exceeds what humans can normally analyze. It can be incorporated in many fields and

daily life. Emerging AI robots both on different websites and in physical forms in various spheres of life, assist humans. Initially, its use promised advantageous impacts on human life. With the passage of time, it gave alarming signs of its potential to promote new ways of human downfall and evil doing. Artificial intelligence is the simulation of human intelligence. Just like how humans have the capability to do good and bad, Artificial Intelligence has both advantageous and detrimental impacts on human life and society.

Numerous Artificial Intelligence technologies provide hope for a promising future. One example of such benefits is the reduction in human error and increase in precision and accuracy. Humans while performing many difficult tasks and complicated calculations, make inevitable errors. Such errors can be alleviated using artificial intelligence apps and robots. For instance, apps such as ChatGPT, and Google Assistance, manage <sup>large</sup> data and analyzes with more precision. Hence, Artificial impact in fixing human error in data analysis is undeniable.

Artificial intelligence technology <sup>also</sup> saves a lot of time and improves time management. It quickly and easily handles and analyzes large data and can do tasks repeatedly. One example can be again ChatGPT. If one orders ChatGPT to write a cover letter for a job, it will complete the tasks in seconds. It can also be used repeatedly throughout the day. This elucidates its time management capacity.

Artificial Assistants such as AI bots and AI robots in physical form, ease the humans in many ways. For example Sophia, a realistic humanoid robot capable of displaying humanlike expressions and interacting with people, is designed for research, education and entertainment. It has the ability to interact with humans in a conversational manner. It can help in nursing homes and customer service. Such AI assistants have proved ability of Artificial Intelligence to ease lives of people.

Another way Artificial Intelligence eases people's lives is its availability throughout the week. AI based systems are available 24/7 and can be accessed whenever required. AI chatboxes such as Bing chat, The leader: Chat GPT, and Google Bard can be accessed at any time of the day. Many AI chatbots have been introduced in 2023 and are still being introduced. This also save a lot of time. It, therefore cannot be denied that AI technology has eased people's lives through its availability and easy access 24/7.

Many systems available 24/7 can be introduced to improve security. AI algorithms can detect patterns and abnormalities that may indicate a security breach, even if any obvious threat is absent. It is not only be used in cyber security but also security at homes. For example the AI bot Alexa has several built-in security features. Therefore, AI security can be used to improve security tremendously.

Along with managing security, Artificial Intelligence is being utilized in managing space and buildings. For example, in Japan, there is a hotel called Henn-Na Hotel (Japan Robot Hotel) opened in 2015. It is staffed with multilingual robots which serve to check in guests, carry luggage to guest rooms and assist them. Recently AI chairs have also been introduced which return to their original position around the table in offices after being used. It can be concluded that Artificial Intelligence's ability to manage space is unparalleled.

Managing space ability of Artificial Intelligence can also be proved from its use in transportation. Traffic signals, for instance, can be operated using Artificial Intelligence. Another example would be AI cars and aircrafts. Concept of self-driving cars and autopilot was introduced even before 2000 AD. Self-driving Tesla cars are expected later this year as stated by Elon Musk in July (France 24, 2023). Hence, the role of Artificial Intelligence has improved and still is upgrading the transportation system.

Along with the benefits of Artificial Intelligence, its dark side and perils poses threat to future civilization. As Elon Musk calls AI "potentially the greatest threat to civilization" (Times of Israel, 18 September, 2023), AI technology has its own dangers. Take the example of unemployment. Artificial Intelligence has increased unemployment and is still in the process of doing so especially in the advanced countries. Recently, 4000 Americans lost their jobs due to AI in June, 2023. AI-driven automation poses <sup>5</sup> fear of unemployment in many fields.

Another danger of AI is the content manipulated through Artificial Intelligence and hence spread of fake information. Edited videos, edited pictures, and edited content spreads like wildfire nowadays. In this year, Deepfake AI has been introduced which creates fake but very convincing videos, images and audios. It can also be used to create nude images or almost nude images of people. Fake political videos can also be created using this software which if spread, will cause a havoc. Such misleading content is already starting to stir problems which may grow into irreversible and huge complications.

This content manipulation may grow because of unchecked AI systems. The new AI softwares are mostly open to public and left unchecked. Chatbots around the world are used by many people due to easy access. This gives access to ill doing. Recently an edited picture using Artificial Intelligence, of Henna Ortega of the series "Wednesday" raised concerns online and experts are starting to worry about unchecked systems. Hence, unchecked Artificial Intelligence technology is a threat to modern civilization.

Unchecked AI systems and Content Manipulation further leads to security and Data Privacy issues. Sensitive AI systems are vulnerable to hacking which can result in private data to be exposed. Not only will this cause problems for the customers but also for the organizations. <sup>6</sup> In 2020, the Capital one breach exposed personal data of over 100

million customers, showcasing the vulnerability of sensitive information to hacking. In a similar way, Artificial Intelligence systems used in security of homes, offices and institutions are hacked, it will give rise to new problem of security of people. Hence, widespread use of Artificial Intelligence systems in different fields poses a real threat to security and Data Privacy.

With all the dangers Artificial Intelligence has introduced, there are even more still unexplored as AI is hard to predict. As AI is hard to predict, by the time we understand the gravity of the new issues arising due to AI in future and by the time the problem is detected, the damage will be hard to control. As Elon Musk said that if something happens, it will be too late to put regulations. AI may take control and take decisions (Fox News, 2023). The unpredictability of Artificial Intelligence systems is a great threat to human civilization.

With Artificial Intelligence unpredictability and advancement, humans have lost and will keep on losing <sup>some</sup> control on some systems powered by Artificial Intelligence. Two Google bots recently created a new language on their own which may help them to take a bit control while humans will lose control over it. The learning capability of AI robots can put humans in a difficult situation ending in humans losing control over Artificial Intelligence systems.

Along with uses of AI, another dangerous use is AI powered autonomous weapons. Weapons powered by Artificial Intelligence can independently search for and engage targets. These weapons may seem useful, however, one small mistake or the unpredictable mistakes of AI can result in grave accidents causing massive destruction. Take an AI missile for instance, may not be able to analyze the situation a way it should be and might cause destruction of target a wrong region. Artificial Intelligence weapons, therefore, pose threat to many accidents.

Artificial Intelligence will and still do cause problems and that is inevitable. However, steps can be taken to mitigate the resulting damage or prevent disasters from occurring. One way is regulation of Artificial Intelligence. Elon Musk says that he is an advocate of AI regulation. Some factors of AI regulation include shutting down AI systems that may seem to get out of control and disallowing some AI apps and softwares to general public or at least allowing only limited use. AI regulation is most efficient method to mitigate threats of AI and prevent major disasters from occurring.

Some counter measures can also be taken to alleviate damage caused by Artificial <sup>Intelligence</sup> Technology. Counter softwares can be introduced to detect fake videos, audios and images. Cyber security has been introduced to tackle the security issues and private data exposure. Recently in 2023, a system has been introduced to



remove fake images especially fake news from the internet. New counter measures will tackle the threat of Artificial Intelligence while taking advantages of its bright side.

Another effective way of dealing with Artificial Intelligence perils is international agreements. Recently a proposal for AI convention has been submitted to tackle the issue. This convention, sometimes referred to as AI treaty, is intended to be the first legally binding international convention on AI. Similarly, other treaties and national or international agreements should be introduced to prevent the detrimental future of Artificial Intelligence.

Hence, Artificial Intelligence has modernized technology to heights of success facilitating humans in all spheres of life. However it also poses very serious threat to human civilizations which should be taken into account. If steps to counter these perils are taken continuously, Artificial Intelligence may aid us without causing much damage.