

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic: Artificial Intelligence: Its Promise and Perils

### Outline

#### 1. Introduction

Thesis statement: The dawn of artificial intelligence gives us hope for a brighter future but to reap its benefits, the potential risks associated with artificial intelligence need to be addressed.

#### 2. A new era of technological advancement

#### 3. The promises of artificial intelligence

- a) Improvement in the global economy
- b) Aid in achieving climate sustainability
- c) Key to healthcare advancements
- d) Agent of a new cultural revolution
- e) A more equitable world
- f) Development of human capital
- g) Way forward to a global village

#### 4. The perils of artificial intelligence

- a) Will result in greater economic inequality
- b) Overpowering the human intelligence
- c) Increase in bias and discrimination
- d) Terrors of weaponisation
- e) Use in political engineering
- f) Dwindling of societal norms

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. The way forward

- a) Framework for AI regulation
- b) Addressing the ethical concerns
- c) Further development of AI
- d) In the right hands and for the right purposes

## 6. Conclusion



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Year 2050, the dictator general of the artificial intelligence (AI) armed forces orders his soldiers to detonate the humans congregated in island X. "It is time we get rid of the nuisance that is humanity". AI leading to an apocalypse? Many have started to wonder could it be a real possibility or as Stephen Marche suggests, "Silicon Valley uses apocalypse for marketing purposes. It tells us the technology we produce will end us to show how important they are." Only time will tell us whether AI fulfills the promises of a better future or will the perils of AI sweep us all away towards the doomsday. However, keeping in view the data and evidence that we have at present we can suggest that AI promises us advancements in healthcare, climate sustainability and economic development. It brings with itself potential risks as well which include increased weaponisation, greater economic inequality and overpowering of human intelligence. The premise of this essay would be to highlight that the dawn of AI gives us hope for a brighter future but to reap its benefits, the potential risks associated with



Date \_\_\_\_\_

AI need to be addressed.

We live<sup>m</sup> an era of so called "information revolution" which is driven by the advancement in technology. When internet was first introduced, people had their reservations related to its consequences. However, today internet has become a necessity. Likewise, AI is adding to the ongoing era of technological advancements. With the introduction of powerful tools like ChatGPT and other LLMs (Large Language Models) we are witnessing further developments in different sectors of the world. AI is a reality and it is here to stay. Like every other innovation it carries risks but also promises for a better future.

One of the major promises that the advocates of AI make is that AI will transform the global economy and bring significant improvements in it. Economical factor is always a major concern of the present day policy makers. AI gives us hope that it will boost the global economy. A report by Goldman Sachs in April 2023 states: "AI will increase global



GDP by 7%." Hence, we can be hopeful that AI will enhance the global economy.

Another promise that AI gives us is that it will help us with the progress in climate sustainability. Climate change is a major concern that the world confronts today. The use of AI to predict weather patterns and analyse the climate data to bring up novel solutions will help mitigate the damages due to climate change. In the south west England, AI technology is used to predict the weather patterns and associated pollution that may be a result of it. By analysing the data, they have been able to reduce water pollution in their rivers. Therefore, AI can play a major role in abating the damages caused by climate change.

Healthcare has always benefited with the advancements in technology, AI can be a key to further improve the healthcare sector. With the rise of health issues such as antibiotic resistance, new cancers, spread of pandemics and myriad of evolving pathogens, a sophisticated approach is needed to deal with these problems. AI uses a vast quantity of data and then analyses the patterns within these to suggest



Date \_\_\_\_\_

possible outcomes and solutions. ~~The concept~~ keeping in view the complex health problems, AI can provide novel solutions to the healthcare problems. The use of automated robots in complex surgeries is an evidence to the fact that AI can assist humans where they have limitations. Therefore, the use of AI in health sector assures us of significant improvement.

The process of culture is dynamic and ever-evolving. There are different factors that drive cultural change. One of them is technology. AI will bring about a new cultural revolution in our society. The link between technological evolution and cultural change has been suggested by sociologist Lenski. In his theory of social change he postulates that technology drives the cultural change. The pre-industrial societies had limited technology. Compared to them contemporary societies have a vast abundance of technological resources. With introduction of AI we will witness changes in the structures of society and culture. Hence, AI will give rise to many cultural



transformations in the near future.

AI will also be an instrument of change for a more equitable world. As the spread of AI will increase, many communities in the developing nations will benefit from it. AI is a cheap source of getting vast amounts of knowledge. If rural areas are connected with usage of AI, they can have access to quality education. Moreover, it will be a tool through which they can improve their vocational skills as well. Therefore, by elevating the educational and vocational status of communities in the low income countries AI can provide an opportunity for a more equitable world.

Another promise that AI makes is that it will improve the human capital. Whenever technology has taken place of humans, it has allowed human to focus on more critical aspects than the tedious tasks. AI can efficiently perform large amounts of quantitative mental tasks. In turn, it will enforce the humans to develop skills that will require more creative thinking and critical analysis capabilities. This way AI will aid in improving the human capital of the world.



Furthermore, AI will lead a path forward ~~for~~ a global village. Globalisation process has <sup>to</sup> sped up more than ever since the information revolution. The interconnectivity between people across the globe has significantly improved. AI will provide an opportunity to enhance the connectivity. As a tool itself it contains large quantities of data from all over the world. AI platforms can be utilised to exchange ideas, develop a unified global economy and share the benefits of this magnificent tool. Hence, AI pledges a future that will be more interdependent and interconnected and will evolve into a true global village. Present day world

Despite the promises AI has made to us, these promises also come at a cost. One of the major dangers of AI is that it will increase the global economic inequality. AI can possibly become a tool serving the interests of a few elitist classes. It has already resulted in millions of people losing their jobs. A report by Goldman Sachs suggests that 300 millions jobs are <sup>at</sup> stake due to AI.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

With this huge number of people likely to lose their jobs, only those at the helm of affairs would have all the power and resources.

Therefore, AI will become a tool to further the economic disparities.

The apocalyptic theory associated with AI is primarily due to the fear that AI will soon overpower human intelligence. The masters will soon become the slaves themselves. Already the generative AI models like ChatGPT have performed well in exams such as GMAT, USMLE and GRE. Moreover, one of the pioneers of AI technology left Google in May 2023 citing the reason that AI chatbots will soon overpower human intelligence. Therefore, one of the glaring perils of AI is that it can overwhelm the human intellect in due time.

Another concern regarding AI is that it will increase bias and discrimination. The present day use of internet and social media to promote racism, hate and prejudice is a testament to the fact that technological advancement can become a tool to spread malice if placed in wrong hands.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

technological  
The European Union chief, Margrethe Vestager, expressed her worries related to AI as she said, "The possible increase in bias and discrimination are more pressing concerns related to AI." Thus, AI can be a source of strengthening the quarters of those who spread hate and propagate discrimination.

When nuclear weapons were introduced, the world became terrified. The integration of AI in the weaponisation process poses a threat far greater than <sup>that of</sup> nuclear weapons alone. There are serious concerns already regarding the escalation of automated arms and ballistics. Not only will the use of AI to produce more weapons will pose an alarming threat, but also the fact that without proper safeguards AI can initiate the launch of weapons of mass destruction. <sup>is a great concern</sup> This will eventually result in a catastrophic war and humanity may not have an answer on how to deescalate it. Hence, AI can be an instrument that portends an existential crisis for the present day humanity.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

The political arena of contemporary times ~~is~~ is filled with intrigues and manipulation. AI can abet in the process of political engineering. Many analysts have raised their voices regarding use of AI to propagate propaganda and to alter the public opinion. The global social media company, Facebook, was fined over trying to affect the US election results by manipulating public opinions. Since AI is a far stronger tool when incorporated in the social media, it can easily sway public opinions and hence, be a tool that can be utilised for political engineering.

Moreover, AI can be a threat to present social order and result in the dwindling significance of existing social norms. When AI will be pervading through the society it will guide individuals regarding the social values and norms. The current social institutions will become of less relevance. AI will takeover as a medium of socialisation. This will result in inculcating of foreign values and many moral and ethically depraved customs within the individuals. Therefore, AI ~~is~~ poses a threat to the existing societal norms.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

Looking forward into the future it is of utmost necessity that policies and frameworks must be drawn to regulate AI and best utilise its advantages. ~~Regulation~~ Regulation of AI is necessary to lay down the groundwork for its usage in a positive way and to mitigate the potential harms. Any successful technological development is based on a proper policy framework. The CEO of Open AI Sam Altman proclaims, "AI ~~can~~ can lead to a prosperous future but the potential risks need to be addressed." Therefore, the state authorities along with the different stakeholders of AI need to sit together and formulate guidelines for efficient and harmless use of AI.

One major issue that we confront related to AI is the ethical challenges. Often there is a catch 22 situation between the scientific benefits and moral arguments. Altering of human genetics or cloning pose such ethical concerns. Likewise, AI is bound to raise ethical questions. These can include the use of AI in weaponisation, the extent



Date \_\_\_\_\_

of AI use in our daily life, the ~~question~~ ~~regarding~~ question regarding who can or cannot use AI and to what extent we need to develop AI. In order to avoid the conflicts in future, we need to address these ethical questions. The best use of AI will only be possible if the ethical issues are taken care of and the development and functionality of AI is viewed from both scientific and moral perspectives.

AI is still at its nascent stages. There needs to be a lot more scientific development in this tool to make it a potent object of human prosperity. Although the different forms of AI are serving a multitude of purposes, the thing that they essentially lack is the human emotion and ability to comprehend abstract concepts. John Marcus, a professor of psychology at NYU suggests: "AI is currently using statistical knowledge to respond to language prompts but it lacks the ability to understand abstract concepts." Hence, AI needs to be incorporated with emotional intelligence, abstract thinking and critical thought process to enhance its capabilities.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

lastly, the most important thing that needs to be ensured is that AI needs to be in the hands of right people and AI must be only used for the right purposes. As already discussed, the perils of AI can be immense if it is utilised for the wrong purposes. Moreover, if it falls in the hands of people with malicious agendas then it can seem to be a great threat to rest of the global community. Therefore, there should be laws related to AI which restrain its usage for only welfare and good will purposes and also prohibit its usage by the criminal elements of the society.

Hence, it can be concluded that AI presents us with a myriad of promises and perils. It is an instrument that can improve economic growth of the world, bring a new cultural revolution and lay down a pathway for a more equitable world. ~~Despite these promises, it~~ ~~promises~~ ~~it~~ though it promises us a brighter future, it also poses potential risks. These risks include increase in bias and discrimination, use of



Date \_\_\_\_\_

AI in political engineering and increase in economic disparities. Keeping in view these promises and perils the way forward is to develop policy guidelines for usage and development of AI. Moreover, to get the maximum benefits of AI it needs to be further developed. As Google CEO states: "we need to balance the innovation and potential harms" in order to effectively utilise the resource that is AI. Only time will be the judge of whether AI banishes us from our homeland or whether it will coexist with us to bring about a better, prosperous and a peaceful world.