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PMS Essay (1000 - 1500 words)

Artificial Intelligence is not all Evil - It can Promote Social Good, too.

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Essay

"I am become death,
the destroyer of worlds". American
nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenhei-
mer said these famous words
as he reflected regrettably on
inventing atomic bomb which
resulted in destroying Japanese cities
of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in
World War I. This incident also
demonstrates that when technology is
used for evil purposes, no matter
how ^{socially} useful it is, can result
in huge losses. Same is the case
with Artificial Intelligence (AI). Rise
of AI has raised apprehensions about
its misuse. It has already manifested
itself in form of AI-powered
autonomous weapons being used in
Gaza, fake videos being surfaced
around the globe in this year of
elections, increased cyber attacks and
rising joblessness due to AI based
softwares. However, AI is not all
evil. It has also positively impacted
society too. AI powered tools are
proving helpful in early diagnosis
of various diseases. AI has also
transformed the education sector with
the help of softwares and chatbots
that make the learning process
easier. AI based softwares are also

helping police in maintaining law and order. AI is also useful in promoting small businesses and identifying groups that deserve loans to boost their business. Hence it can be said that despite the chances of being abused, AI is contributing significantly towards social good.

Firstly, the evil of AI has manifested itself in form of autonomous weapons. AI has enabled weapons to detect, target and kill the enemies. A recent example of AI powered drones used by Israeli forces to cause destruction in Gaza points out the dangers of unbridled use of AI in warfare. As these drones does not require human supervision, they can work for longer periods and reach areas which are not easily accessible to human soldiers. This results in increased lethal potential and possibility of killing non-combatants. Thus, increased mortality in wars is one of major evils of AI.

Secondly, AI based softwares are being responsible for undermining democratic values. The success of democratic system depends on the ability of voters to make

sound choices based on sound information. AI based fake videos of politicians hinder this process. In the ongoing Indian elections a myriad of such fake videos emerged. In one such video, politician Manoj Kumar was seen withdrawing from elections in favor of ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This was a fake video. However, it created confusion among the supporters of Manoj Kumar and benefited the BJP candidate. Thus, AI is resulting in negatively impacting democracy.

Thirdly, AI based tools are resulting in increased cyber attacks. AI based softwares are used by hackers to penetrate into security systems of various organisations. These softwares have the ability to analyze millions and millions of combinations of code to break into digitally secure systems. Tech giant Meta admitted of such breach which resulted in leakage of private data of millions of users of its social media site facebook. If such a huge organisation could not protect its data, apprehensions are bound to arise regarding the dangerous potentials of AI.

Lastly, AI has also resulted in increase in unemployment. AI based softwares and robots are experts at doing repetitive tasks. This makes them extremely useful in manufacturing industry as it results in increased productivity. However, this has also resulted in job losses in manufacturing sector. According to McKinsey & Co., use of AI in manufacturing sector has resulted in around 8 million jobs. It is not limited to manufacturing sector only. Software, legal and industrial sectors are all letting go of employees due to boom in AI. Thus, AI has resulted in increased unemployment too.

Above paragraphs shed light on the dangers of AI. However, AI is not all evil. It has also impacted the society positively too.

First of all, use of AI in health sector has improved the society as a whole. AI based technologies are able to diagnose diseases in early stages. Journal for American Medical Association (JAMA) has published

in one of its articles that AI based softwares are able to efficiently examine all the medical reports of a patient and predict the chances of heart attack with upto 84% accuracy. This early diagnosis paves way for timely intervention, and results in saving precious lives. Thus, use of AI in health care is resulting in social good.

Similarly, education sector has also been revolutionised by use of AI. Students use AI based chatbots like ChatGPT and Gemini for resolving their academic queries. Teachers also use AI to design course objectives and prepare interactive lessons for students. AI is also used by teachers to plan their schedules. This gives them more time to do important tasks that require their attention e.g. checking the exams etc. Thus, use of AI in education sector has resulted in more effective learning which positively impacts society.

Moreover, AI tools are also proving helpful in maintaining law and order. AI has the ability to analyse large datasets.

and identify various patterns. This ability of AI is being utilized by Chicago Police Department (CPD) to identify areas of higher criminal activity. They are able to take effective measures to control law and order. Similarly in Dubai, AI based softwares are used to identify to drivers who break traffic rules by matching the pictures of traffic cameras with citizen database. Thus, AI is proving helpful in maintaining peace in the society.

Last but not least, AI has also helped in alleviating poverty. AI based softwares enable small businesses to attain small loans in a timely manner. Banks in United States (US), use AI based tools to go through the financial records of the applicant. These softwares suggest the loans to the deserved people without the biases associated with human auditors. AI based softwares also help small businesses in effectively marketing their products by identifying their target audience. Thus, AI is contributing to poverty alleviation and the resulting social good.

In conclusion, it is

fair to say that AI is not all evil - It can promote social good too. There is no denying of the fact that AI has an evil side. AI's use in wars has resulted in unprecedented mortalities in the battle field. AI is also negatively affecting democracy. It is proving to be a peril for cyber security domain and resulting in increased unemployment. However, AI has a positive impact on society too. It has revolutionised the health and education sector. It has enabled people to live a healthy and more informed life. AI has also made society more peaceful by enabling law enforcement agencies to do their job effectively. It has also helped people in securing themselves financially. The healthy, informed, and physically and financially secure society partially owes itself to the rise of AI.