Technology vs. Men

“It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity” (Albert Einstein) Technology has grown faster than the human race in the last few decades, but will there be a time when technology will overtake the human race? It is a question that should not be seen silly at all. So many stories were written around the topic of technology taking control over humans and many movies too. The latest of them was *iRobot*, a blockbuster Hollywood film, in which the hero fights against a computer that starts to control thousands of robots to demolish humans. It is practically possible to believe that we could be the slaves of our own inventions! Today, the usage of advanced technology is causing job loss, and it’s making the new generation less smart.

The high technology and new advanced machines are taking over a lot of jobs and it’s causing unemployment. I went grocery shopping the other day for a small number of items making my way to the front to be greeted by an automatic teller. It asked me to place the groceries on the left then scan them through and into the cart. Impressed and wondered by this new technology, I couldn’t help but get a feeling that something wasn’t right. It was missing the smile and the have a nice day, something only a human could give. This is upsetting when corporate companies install this technology and then suddenly a cashier’s job is replaced. When President Obama recently mentioned during an interview with the Today Show that “when you go to a bank and you use an ATM, you don’t go to a bank teller. Or you go to the airport and you’re using a kiosk instead of checking in at the gate,” his words became a running joke to conservatives.

The director of the 7th Ward Neighborhood Center, J. Samuel Cook, had a different opinion. Cook suggested that president Obama’s ATM remark, in which he suggested that structural problems with respect to the United States economy were responsible for slow job growth, made for a good reason. And, accurately spun, fit into the Right-Wing meme that the President lacks the business knowledge to get the economy going again. Unfortunately for the Right, however, Obama’s remarks, to most economists, made perfect sense. Businesses are becoming more efficient (and much more profitable) with fewer workers. And the arrival of more sophisticated technology unintentionally results in greater efficiency for companies, which often results in fewer jobs for unskilled laborers (par. 2).

Technology and machines are killing people’s creativity and ability to solve problems. The Author of "Look me in the eye", Rabison, stated in his article that due to the use of new technology people’s brains are not getting the training that they need “by relying on the computer, we stop training out minds, and we stop filling our memory banks. By doing so, I believe we diminish our ability to solve life's problems unaided, and we become more and more dependent on machines” (par. 3). He also suggests that technology is making the young generation dumber and lazier “They have become slaves to machines out of intellectual laziness and the laziness makes them less smart” (par. 3). They have a question, They Google it. They have a math problem, they use a calculator. They’re lost, they enlist the help of their GPS, and so on, gadgets seemingly making life easier, but also making it easier for the individuals to grow dependent to a point where their minds shut off, slow down and depend only on these tools instead of their own intellectual power. Many have already lost their sense of direction. GPS receivers are everywhere; in the car, on the cellphone or even in people’s shirt pocket. It's true they’re never lost, but it's also true that there's a big chance, they’re never learning that road since they were too busy listening to the little gadget giving them directions instead of relying on human senses to help them memorize the road. The same can be said about calculators. The art of learning the multiplication tables is a lost one. It is rare that one can find someone these days who can multiply 12x14 in their head. 90% of elementary school graduates back in the 70's could probably give you the answer in less time than it takes you to press these keys on your calculator. (If you're struggling with that, the answer is 168). The same goes for people researching items online. Some researchers are warning that people getting so reliant on online tools for knowledge that "general knowledge" is disappearing, and faster than ever. People are getting dumber and the lot of things that people learn no longer register on the long term brain cells. Everything we learn is disposable. Even what we learn at schools evaporates shortly after the finals.

Technology is life and life is thus becoming that much more interesting. I just want to make sure that before we get caught in the under of this craziness, we will step back and recognize what is real and what is valuable in life. Always cherish the human touch, voice and face. And never let a computer replace a friend or a lover. Always value the potential of the human mind. I guess, it wouldn't hurt to try and resolve a puzzle sometimes, or do an arithmetic challenge from time to time. Just to make sure your gadgets are simply not smarter than you.

Work Cited

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