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Letting robots do our jobs?

The Internet era is a new page in human history, and the fruits it bears have brought tons of benefits to us. Especially the recent breakthrough of artificial intelligence, which can chat, think, and complete tasks like a human, or I can say, even better than us. Perhaps we are getting near to those sci-fi fictions where we can live a carefree life, with robots doing all our jobs.

Robots have long been used in production chains. Compared to human hands, those metallic arms can work around the clock nonstop and assemble products flawlessly, as long as there is electricity. Yet, compared to using tools and animals or machinery for production which our ancestors did, companies directly remove human workers from the production chains. These production chains, or ‘sweat factories’ are set up in developing countries, where leaders aim to trade the environment for the countries’ development. Now, with the help of robots, their citizens cannot even work in those factories and become jobless. This is also the reason for notorious pirates in South Africa – they cannot fish due to pollution nor work due to robots, so they choose to rob those corporations in order to be the breadwinner of their family. The use of robots will topple the equilibrium of job opportunities and job seekers. Low-skilled workers, which are on the bottom of the pyramid, would first be affected. And the harmony in the society would be disrupted as disputes arise.

Apart from competing with human labour, especially manual workers, for job opportunities, replacing humans with robots will intensify clashes between nations and put the whole earth into a chase for advancement. If more humans are replaced by robots, it is very important for a country to have top-talented researchers and engineers to create prime robots and gigantic computational power chips to ensure its competition. However, the number of top AI scholars in America is even higher than all those in the rest of the world. How can other countries compete with the US? Similar to the ‘Chase to the Moon’ during the Cold War, tons of resources were used for achievements and advancements, which were not essential at that time. Think about the impoverished people in the world. Is it better to focus on them first than creating better codes and chips? The replacement of human jobs with robots will

cause top world powers to grow even more ambitious, as they have more resources and talents. And actions to limit technological advancements like sanctions will lead to disputes, if not war.

Disney fantasies are usually fairy-tale-like and utopian, and I am 100% sure our future will be like Wall-E if robots replace human jobs. Since we have nothing to do but just enjoy the best of our life, we will become as fat as pigs, sitting on hover chairs to travel. As we do not have to work, what is the point of learning? We can just sit at home and play, which decreases our intelligence and creativity. At that time, no more advancements will be made as AI cannot create new things but only generate 'new' things from databases of human's work from the past, and we will be useless. Although this future is too distant, it is undeniable that letting robots do our jobs causes the decumulation of human capital. Jobs requiring interactions with humans, namely law-enforcers, teachers and medical professionals will also be taken over by robots. Learning from a robot and talking to it will hinder the communication skills of the next generation, as the best way to learn language and interaction is through person-to-person communication, or else we will be like animals in zoos with robots being the zookeepers. As non-sentient beings, robots cannot truly have emotions, and how can the future generation distinguish emotions if they experience cold expressions from robot medical workers since birth? At the time, are we truly humans who are creative, emotional and diligent? The replacement of jobs with robots will cause beautiful traits of humanity to fade in time gradually, even without us knowing, which is the last thing we humankind desires.

Please do ponder about whether it is right to let robots do all our jobs. It doesn't solve the world's most imminent problems but only aggravates them, if not creating more thorny ones.