Ensuring AI For Sustainable Development and Sustainability of AI

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Abstract

Will AI take human jobs? Will AI accelerate the pace of environmental degradation and increase carbon footprint? The answer could be both Yes or No. Invention of AI is like invention of nuclear energy with potential to usher in a golden era for human civilization, while at the same time having potential enough to bring human society to its nemesis. In the history of third industrial revolution lie lessons on the impact breakthrough technologies can bring upon the society and how their potential can be utilized to steer the course of human civilization in the desired direction. Computers, electronics, digitization and networking were the fruits of third industrial revolution, which when were being introduced, were largely opposed in fears of taking away human jobs and eating into labour-force at massive scale. Today, it is more than evident that digitization is leading the race of human civilization's development and has led to such geometric rise in globalised services, communication and commerce that resultant job and entrepreneurship creation is extensively more than the jobs that were lost with introduction of computers and digital technology. However, jobs were indeed lost. The fear is real. And with AI that fear is justifiably even more pronounced as earlier digital automation used to take "routine-manual" tasks, including assembly and construction work which were mostly unskilled manual jobs, but AI is going to hit "routine-cognitive" tasks and take away even the 'skilled' jobs. IT hubs like India that are leading the GDP growth story owing heavily to IT and service sectors are expected to be at the immediate receiving end of this disruption. The history does show jobs are not taken away for ever but are actually displaced into other sectors. E.g. the lost jobs in brick and mortar commerce stores were turned into paid e-commerce hours for fulfilment centre workers who do 'picking and packing' for customers and the truck drivers who drive those goods. On a similar note many digital content creation jobs expected to be lost with introduction of GPT based AI systems like Chat GPT and Bard would be converted to paid hours for GPT prompt designers and writers. The essence seems to lie in ensuring a

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