

BYE BYE HUMANS! AI IS OUR NEW LOVER

Intel to lay off 24000 employees

TCS to lay off 12000 employees

Microsoft to lay off 10000 employees

Infosys salaries are the same for the last 10 years. Freshers are paid 3 lakhs per annum in a city like Bangalore.

Start ups are not hiring anymore.

Corporates have found a new lover: Artificial Intelligence

What is wrong with us? Can't we see the human impact of our technological choices? It is taken as a Gospel truth that machines are always our slaves and hence no amount of automation could be bad for us. So, any talk of limiting technology is immediately attacked. If it is causing disruption and job losses, it is argued that these social costs are only temporary and that subsequent innovations in technology would somehow remedy the situation. It is never clearly defined how. But we have reassurances.

In his book Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Power, Rajiv Malhotra writes: "The routine assurance given to these reasonable concerns is that when AI eliminates certain jobs, those employees forced out will move the value chain to higher-value tasks. This simplistic and misleading answer overlooks the fact that the training and education required to advance people is not happening.....those that promise the solution of re-education have not thus far put their money where their mouth is." Elsewhere in the same book he emphasizes, "the financial burden of the massive re-education of millions of workers is not something we can assume the corporates will automatically do. The rosy promises of re-training workers are simply not backed by credible commitments. In fact, some reports

suggest that such talk by industry leaders serves as good public relations to mask the calamity of unemployment, by kicking the can down the road rather than dealing with it."

Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal agrees that "a robotics revolution would basically have the effect of people losing their jobs". But he hastens to add, "it would have the benefit of freeing people up to do many other things." Being freed up sounds so much more pleasant than being fired, no? But now that we are going to be "freed" from those slavish, mundane jobs, what are going to do with our freedom?

So all those who are looking for alternate careers, think about psychiatry. We are going to need one psychiatrist in every household in this insane society where machines work and humans remain idle. At least you would be saving on the expensive psychiatric treatment for your whole family. Or else, acquire skills like plumbing, appliance servicing, electrical maintenance etc. Artificial Intelligence is yet to make inroads there.