



Fears about mass unemployment due to AI, growing automation in future

Are the anxieties about Artificial Intelligence (AI) taking over in one field after the other, especially, a scenario of mass joblessness due to even more automation, correct and realistic?



The Asian Tribune

www.asiantribune.net

The fear of AI stepping into all the fields and AI-driven jobs, automation leading to mass unemployment is causing unease in the society.

Definitely, the concern is valid as job losses bring real pain and affect families and lives.

However, whenever there is a change or a disruption, there are apprehensions.

Economists too are poring over the data and are analysing this situation. It is an era of transition, just like the period when the computer had first arrived in the society, decades ago.

Technology evolves and fears

are natural because this is human tendency. In the case of AI, a system that has capacity to rival & replace humans, it is bound to create worry among citizens, especially, the young population across the world.

Technological upgrades took place over centuries. Looms turned into power looms and from pens, people moved to the typewriters and later the computers and laptops.

Now, it is even the thought that would be machine generated and this is the most serious aspect. But, the question is that will AI & automation make us redundant? [Cond on Page 4].

Pushing Indian citizens into B'desh is sad, unjust

The Asian Tribune

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Shahida, 40, a woman hailing from North 24 Pargana district in West Bengal, was living in Mumbai for nearly twenty years.

But, all of a sudden, when she went out for a market on a fateful day, she was picked up, termed a 'Bangladeshi', despite producing documents that include her birth certificate, school mark sheets and other identity related papers.

She was taken to Assam and pushed to the other side of the border. Her husband and family members were shell-shocked. Now, she is in a camp in Bangladesh & she has

Despite possessing documents, Shahida, an Indian, was forcibly sent to Bangladesh.



contacted her family through phone. The police' action is surprising.

This is not the first such case. Earlier, the case of Sonali Khatun who had been sent out of the country by security personnel, hit headlines.

Sweetie Bibi was also deported. The issue had reached Supreme Court and Centre agreed to take back Indian citizens who were deported.

But this pattern is indeed alarming. Citizens who have parents and grandparents born in India, evicted on mere claim or suspicion. That's a tragedy.

INSPIRATION: Late Abdul Jabbar's grit and relentless, lifelong battle against injustice

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

The Asian Tribune

When middle-aged Laxmi Nirmala urgently required critical medical care and needed five injections, each of which costs Rs 25,000, this wife of a mill worker had no means to arrange even Rs 5,000 and she turned to the only man whom victims of Bhopal gas tragedy approached—it was late Abdul Jabbar.

Jabbar, himself a victim of the worst industrial disaster in the world, all alone fought the nexus of corrupt bureaucrats, corporate brokers and the politicians who over 30 years tried to silence the voice of the victims of the industrial disaster that left thousands dead and lakhs suffering due to impact of the deadly gas that head leaked out of Union Carbide plant.

Jabbar didn't have enough money but he fought the great battle against the powerful entities, national and international groups and the Union Carbide company, apart from its local lobbyists, later the Dow company, a fight unique in the world. He commanded enormous respect because of his lifelong struggle. Perhaps, it was his extreme determination to fight for justice, his support among men and women,

his ability to bring thousands on streets any day, that made the bureaucrats listen to him and work--as they knew that this man can't be 'managed'.

Laxmi Nirmala got the injections and was saved. Raja Ram was unable to move and no hospital was admitting him but Jabbar intervened and got him treated. Or take the case of young, 28-year-old Aqeel, who need dialysis every three days but was thrown out of super specialty BMHRC hospital that ought to provide it free of cost for life, Jabbar tried every method, even going up to judges and even chief justice, to get the man treated.

In a society where people seldom speak for others, Jabbar spent his entire life with the single minded devotion to get justice for victims and worked like a maniac. By the time, he was a middle-aged man, he was suffering from various illnesses, turned diabetic and was barely able to read even headlines of newspapers. He however had the moral authority that when he calls up a politician or a bureaucrat, either the police chief or the chief minister--they did listen. After all, everyone knows that the man lived by his principles.

After all, at the bottom of the heart they know that when it comes to honesty, this man has no parallel. Unlike NGOs and activists who hardly care for



Late Abdul Jabbar

protest or 'candle light vigils' which get attention, Jabbar didn't care about gimmicks. His organisation had no website.

A veteran Delhi-based journo once wrote that each day more than 6,000 still seek medical aid for a host of respiratory ailments at designated medical centres." For them the process is an exercise in daily humiliation and there is almost none to help them out.

The Monitoring Committee for Medical Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims set up by the Supreme Court in 2004, a full 20 years

after the tragedy, had been without a chairperson for the last year and a half", he wrote recalling his days in Bhopal.

"The Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan, led by Abdul Jabbar, focuses on helping the victims in their daily quest for medical help. Abdul Jabbar is a man who speaks little or no English, his organisation has very little presence on the Web, yet for the victims, he is the only one who can help out with their daily struggle".

The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.



Courage, Conviction: Bhopal gas disaster & Jabbar's extraordinary fight for victims

The gas leak had caused instant death of thousands and lakhs suffered respiratory and other serious disorders. The diseases passed from one generation to another. The toxic waste in the premises of Union Carbide factory, the US based company that tried to get away by paying a compensation, the multiple issues of the victims, their cost of treatment and the rehab, all these issues were dealt on a daily basis by Jabbar.

Authors, foreign journalists who came to Bhopal and did leg work, stayed in city for long to see plight of victims who had inhaled the toxic gas in December 1984, stress that how most of the work about the issues of families of gas victims and their voice centre around the figure of Abdul Jabbar.

His devotion, dedication and immense hard work led to petitions that brought up hospitals and medical centres. From issue of compensation to victims, their families and their treatment or rehab, Jabbar almost single handedly fought this battle.

The Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan (BGPMS) was set up in 1985 and they held their meetings at the Yaadgar E Shahjahan Park in Bhopal. The gas leak had caused instant death of thousands and lakhs suffered respiratory disorders. The children who were born after gas disaster were also ill and the diseases passed from one generation to another.

The toxic waste in the premises of Union Carbide factory, the US based company that tried to get away by paying a compensation, the multiple issues of the victims, their cost of treatment and the rehab, all these issues were dealt on a daily basis by Jabbar who remembered

everything--each day of a court hearing and all the issues pertaining to the gas victims, ranging from their unemployment to the dubious role of corporations and the corruption in compensation.

Jabbar paid a heavy price as far as his own health was concerned. A principled man, he refused to take donations from American and other western governments or agencies.

He struggled to pay his own electricity bill and couldn't live a life of comfort. His children's education was also affected due to lack of money. But when he passed away, Bhopal cried.

The city had lost its moral voice, the conscience keeper of the region, who had an indefatigable energy to intervene and fight against injustice for everyone, not just the gas victims. It was an extraordinary life that ended in 2019. A former chief minister was appalled to see his condition and he tried to send him to Mumbai with air ambulance but it was too late.

Too proud to tell anyone about his personal issues and poor financial situation, Jabbar lived with authority and dignity till the end. The man who raised voice on every act of injustice and who was offered assistance by mega star Amitabh Bachchan on live television as he too was impressed by Jabbar's work,



along with countless others across the world. He had tremendous self-respect. Few people in the world have fought such huge battles. Jabbar fought against big multi nationals, their associates, nexus of the evil and the corrupt, with rare courage.

He got immense respect, love and blessings but he had chosen this life for himself--devotion to society, not to oneself or family, suffering personal hardships. He posthumously received the Padma award that his wife received in Delhi.

Abdul Jabbar's life was a message for the society that often takes such humanitarians for granted, just because they don't care about creating personal aura or wealth and give back everything to the society. This article is a tribute to the society's conscience

keeper late Abdul Jabbar, who lived a unique life, devoted themselves totally to a cause and live for others. There are several aspects of his personality. He hated self-projection.

He didn't care about false and fat egos of certain journalists who would just arrive in Bhopal on the anniversary of gas tragedy every year, as this story would 'sell' and he had the moral strength to scold them or take on any politician without worrying that this might piss them off.

In an era when marketing, self-glorification and publicity create public images and undeserving people get undue credit, his life is a shining example of a common man who became a legend in his life time as circumstances made him take principled decision.



AI-led revolution has potential to change the world but visionary leadership is must

The Asian Tribune
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History is witness to the fact that update in technology has changed the way things worked but it has not replaced work. In the past, there were fears when the vehicles replaced the carriages and also when other old methods for productivity got changed.

However, it didn't lead to mass job losses, because there was job creation as well and the sectors just changed in terms of working style as well as the skills that were needed for those jobs.

The last century saw multiple waves, one of the biggest change came in the middle of the century when avenues for new jobs opened up and then once again, at the turn or the twenty first century.

Automation was witnessed in different forms in factories and industrial units earlier as well. Right now, it is quite tough to predict the future but it is clear that while AI may shake us and force us to stretch our limits and enhance skills, the fear and a doomsday thought is not the right way to deal with it.

Engineers, doctors, teachers, lawyers, writers, almost all seem to be worried about the AI but the fact is that high skilled person would remain in demand, provided he remains up to date.

There are job cuts and coders as well as the employees in BPO and IT have been facing a tough time.

But it is also going to enhance the quality of work, make the person more informed and do the job faster.

AI will eventually help man in ways that we don't even as well as the doctor in diagnosis. It will help the patient as well as the doctor, help the latter in diagnosis, aiding him. It's not

that the doctors would be replaced. Health staff, nurses and all the experts who conduct tests and run machines, operate and conduct other procedures will remain.

But AI would assist in faster and more efficient work. Also, there will be huge data to seek information from, and there will be more professionalism as the limits of humans and their expertise would be tested.

There will be transformation of the roles and the current systems would see changes.

It will help customers as well as the service providers due to the fast suggestions, analyses and the vast data.

But it's certainly not the end of the world though governments need to be serious and let the change be steady and focusing on ways to ensure that the skills are upgraded, there is no sudden and seismic situation.

AI helps humans and will go a great deal in problem solving in almost all the sectors. It will be a boon for productivity and in better services.

The tech sector is suddenly most worried about job losses and certainly the demands of the jobs would no longer be the same.

It will be more competitive as well as easy in some other ways due to the advent of the AI. If the governments and the leaders are not circumspect and act recklessly, without a proper policy or ways to ensure that unemployment doesn't go out of hand, then it would be manageable and will serve the society.

The challenge would be for the countries that lack visionary leaders and they may undergo a period of economic loss due to the retrenchment in certain

Countries that are already lacking behind in tech and have leaders who are not serious about adoption and adaptation, would suffer the most.

fields. But the states that will focus on it and make clear policy, not just about AI's use, but also about the duties of the welfare state towards the citizens, would be able to deal with the AI juggernaut.

On the other hand, countries that have leaders who are passive and who don't take this situation seriously, may find their countries fall in a potentially bad situation

It will make these countries go further behind in production and technology, apart from unemployment and growth in financial disparity within the society. Adoption and Adaptation are the keys when technology arrives fast and at a pace that may surprise the common

man. If wages are affected and the earnings are low, this would be a recipe of disaster for nations, particularly, those which are already seen as under developed or developing nations.

The countries that adapt fast and have business honchos who are far-sighted and where the state ensures that the policy makers and think tanks timely sound alarm, will be able to deal with AI revolution and its aftermath.

The potential is huge but if the benefits are disproportionate and reach just a small section, while leaving millions untouched and even more falling behind in race, then it'd be a real catastrophe.

