

## Homework #3

### CS & SE 3162

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#### Identify job eliminating technology

Changing Precision Technology Company recently streamlined one of their factories for intense automation. Their switch to robotic production line cut the workforce in the factory down from 650 employees down to 60 [1]. This factory is unique because it was initially designed for employees to do most of the assembly and processing. The main reason for the overhaul is to save money. China's workforce is getting more expensive to employee. Also, China can not afford to lose their manufacturing industry due to the higher wages demanded by employees. To offset the high cost for human workers companies are starting to invest in robots to handle a wide range of tasks. Some functions that are replaced by robots include, material transport in the factory, soldering of electrical components and assembly of cellphones[2]. Changing invested a large sum of money to remove human errors from their manufacturing process and increase throughput. They saw a 250 percent increase in productivity with robots compared to humans[1].

#### Would I face an ethical challenge?

Yes, I would face an ethical challenge. The dilemma I would face is being a so called "axe man" removing jobs that someone might want. Even though most of the population in China wants higher wages without repetitive task-based work, that might not be the case for everyone. There are people who would want to have access to the jobs that this technology will eliminate.

#### My recommendations

I would recommend that our governments seriously look at a Universal Basic Income. This would ensure the entire population is guarantee a small stipend for just existing as a human on Earth. A free market

economy is still in play for those who can climb and achieve more, they deserve more money. The UBI would eliminate the destabilizing tendency of societies with large gaps between the poor and rich. Pilot studies are already being conducted in India, Canada, and Finland [3].

## References

- [1] TechRepublic. (2019). Chinese factory replaces 90% of humans with robots, production soars. [online] Available at: <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/chinese-factory-replaces-90-of-humans-with-robots-production-soars/> [Accessed 18 Feb. 2019].
- [2] Inspiretochangeworld.com. (2019). Production Soared 250% After Chinese Factory Replaced 90% of Its Employees With Robots – ITCW. [online] Available at: <http://www.inspiretochangeworld.com/2017/02/production-soared-250-chinese-factory-replaced-90-employees-robots/> [Accessed 18 Feb. 2019].
- [3] Futurism. (2019). Production Soared After This Factory Replaced 90% of Its Employees With Robots. [online] Available at: <https://futurism.com/2-production-soars-for-chinese-factory-who-replaced-90-of-employees-with-robots> [Accessed 18 Feb. 2019].