The Ethical Challenges of Artificial Intelligence

The recent advancements in generative Artificial Intelligence have transformed various aspects of society at an astounding rate. While its advancements have proven to offer benefits, AI also raises some very significant ethical concerns that must be considered for the sake of the future of our society. Issues such as unemployment, the potential for educational cheating, and plagiarism demonstrate challenges that will require solutions as AI continues to be widely adopted. This case study will take a look into these ethical dilemmas and analyze how AI affects society and the individuals within it while also analyzing potential solutions to help mitigate these risks. Artificial Intelligence is a topic that personally impacts the prospects of my career and the future of many of my passions, so it's vital not only for me, but also my peers for AI to be handled properly to secure our future.

One major ethical concern regarding artificial intelligence is its impact on employment. As AI systems become more advanced, they become increasingly capable of automating tasks that were once performed by humans, leading to fears of widespread layoffs and world-wide unemployment. Industries such as manufacturing, customer service, and even creative fields are seeing a shift toward automation with AI tools being implemented in a number of ways. While automation can increase efficiency and reduce costs for businesses, it also raises concerns about the potential economic inequality and workforce stability. Many workers (particularly in older generations) may find themselves unprepared for the rapid changes occurring within their career, leading to unemployment and financial insecurity. To mitigate this issue, governments and organizations must invest in programs to promote AI-human collaboration rather than replacement, and implement policies that ensure a fair transition for workers affected by automation. Additionally, there must be legislation and policy within companies to properly

evaluate how (or if) AI should be implemented to prevent executives from using AI as an excuse for mass layoffs. Without proper intervention, the rise of AI could deepen economic divides and create significant financial challenges for large groups of vulnerable people.

Another very important ethical concern related to artificial intelligence is its potential to enable cheating and plagiarism within educational institutions. With the continued advancements of generative AI tools, students are enabled to create essays and assignments with minimal personal input. This greatly puts the problem of academic dishonesty into the spotlight. As Furze observes, "Academic integrity – or using AI language models to cheat – has been by far the biggest potential issue of AI covered recently in the media". While AI can be a powerful tool in education to summarize and digest information for learning, its misuse greatly undermines the learning process and devalues academic integrity. This concern of AI is one that I personally am worried about the most. If the next generation of students are offloading their education to a chatbot, I believe we will see staggering numbers of low education rates. In turn, educators are tasked with the challenge of distinguishing between genuine student work and AI generated content, which can make traditional grading methods much less effective. Additionally, an overreliance on AI tools could place a degree into the hands of an individual who actually isn't properly trained to face their career field. While AI detection tools do exist, they are riddled with false results and are rendered completely ineffective by any human intervention in the writing process. Another potential solution is the "AI Assessment Scale" proposed by Mike Perkins et al, where assignments are given permissive use of AI of limited scale. While I do believe this scale could be an effective way to introduce the use of AI into academics, I do not believe that it prevents the problem of academic dishonesty. I believe the solution to this is rather complicated and likely will require concessions by educational institutions in some ways. For one, I believe

that student assessments should return to being solely physical (i.e. proctored tests) to help make sure that students are actually learning and understanding the information they are learning. Additionally, I believe that educational institutes need to adopt and promote ethical generative AI use. AI is without a doubt a very useful tool for studying, and by promoting its use in an ethical matter, students may not be as likely to involve themselves with academic dishonesty.

Ultimately, artificial intelligence creates a large range of ethical challenges that must be carefully approached and solved as its influence over society continues to grow. Issues such as unemployment and academic dishonesty show the very real potential risks AI creates if left unregulated. While AI can be a powerful tool that enhances productivity, it also requires regulation and responsible implementation to prevent harm. Governments, organizations, and educational institutions must take proactive steps to ensure that AI is used ethically, as the future of our society depends on it. We must ensure that we are prioritizing humanity and well-being as AI continues. By acknowledging these ethical problems and working toward solutions, we can utilize AI's potential while safeguarding the values that define us as a society.

References

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