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INSTRUCTOR: MICHELE SIDONIE MFATCHEU KWETO

THE IMPACT OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ON JOBS

INTRODUCTION

The Brookings Institute report examines several emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics, autonomous vehicles, and more, evaluating their potential impact on jobs and employment. This response looks at which technology has the highest versus lowest potential to replace human jobs, as well as how these innovations have already impacted daily life.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE'S HIGH DISPLACEMENT POTENTIAL

Of all the technologies, artificial intelligence (AI) seems poised to take over most human jobs. AI already shows proficiency at automating not just routine physical tasks but also complex cognitive ones like financial analysis, medical diagnosis, and client service interactions (West, 2015). As algorithms grow more advanced, fewer roles seem safe from their capabilities. AI threatens jobs in sectors like healthcare, law, finance, and administration that have historically relied heavily on human judgment, intuition, and decision making. With rapid advances, AI may soon match or outperform humans on these fronts.

ADVANCED ROBOTICS' LOWER DISPLACEMENT POTENTIAL

Advanced robotics currently has limited potential to make many human jobs obsolete since most robots still lack the flexibility and adaptability to perform complex real-world tasks as well as people, especially critical jobs in fields like healthcare. Therefore, of the emerging technologies discussed, advanced robotics poses the least threat to replacing human roles and responsibilities

soon (West, 2015). And compared to AI solutions that can scale cheaply once developed, advanced robots require high upfront costs and maintenance investments, limiting widespread adoption. Thus, advanced robots seem less likely to replace human roles outright.

PERSONAL IMPACT

These emerging technologies have already influenced daily life in small but meaningful ways. AI powers convenient features like virtual assistants, navigation apps, and streaming recommendations that assist with tasks or offer personalized suggestions. Meanwhile, basic robotics has made manufacturing more efficient and reduced prices on goods. So, while AI and robotics may displace some roles, they also create new conveniences that enhance quality of life. However, as these technologies continue advancing rapidly, they will also raise complex questions around privacy, security, accountability, and more that society must grapple with responsibly.

CONCLUSION

AI shows the greatest promise for automating a wide range of jobs, while advanced robotics faces more limitations in matching human capabilities. At the same time, these emerging technologies have already conferred various lifestyle conveniences, though they also pose broader societal challenges ahead. Understanding their possibilities as well as limitations will be crucial for responsibly leveraging their benefits while mitigating downsides. Additional policy changes may also be necessary to help workforce transition and ensure shared prosperity if these innovations displace jobs at scale.

REFERENCE:

West, D.M. (2015). What happens if robots take the jobs? The impact of emerging technologies on employment and public policy. Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings. Retrieved from: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/robotwork.pdf>