* What did you learn in these three readings?

I learned that people should be valued and served in a way that takes their true needs into account. They are currently viewed as service tickets, email addresses and passive receivers. No one really knows how their data is used and their data is far more priceless than they think, it’s the basis of digital business and society today. So we need to create solutions that give users more power over how their data is used and cut out the middle man to give maximum profits to contributors instead of tech giants who harness this data and leave little for the content creators themselves.

* How are these three readings related?

All the three articles talk about how digital transformation has affected the world and discuss how humans fit into the equation. Data dignity is the most important aspect, without considering human emotions or the people where data comes from, we are cooking up a recipe for disaster. The Faceapp had to apologize for equating a certain skin color to good looks, so these kinds of mistakes won’t be forgiven because now people are more aware than ever. A solution must be crafted soon where people have control over their data through the MIDs they join and are equal partners in benefit sharing.

* What are your thoughts about the responsibility of designers and builders of technology to society?

No machine can be fully held accountable for the results it puts out, builders and designers are equally responsible. There are risks of bias being embedded within algorithms due to the data that gets fed into it by humans. According to the situation, one would have to use a diverse enough set or a specialized enough set to cater to audiences accurately. Algorithm accountability often needs to be revisited and questioned to avoid instilling human prejudices into autonomous systems.

* What questions are you left with, if any?

I am curious about the structure of MIDs and whether many small ones could join and merge into one all-powerful MID that can again be a means of exploitation since it has its users invested and no alternate solution exists at that point.

I am also keen on finding out if individual data is in fact worth as much as its claimed to be or if it only holds value when tech giants collect and process data and make it into something useful and monetizable.

I am also left contemplating if people would really contribute when responsibility is shifted entirely to them, which might lead to decision fatigue and remove the ease that the current system provides.