Artificial Intelligence can replace the role of humans. Do you agree?

In this modern era, given the dynamic nature of artificial intelligence (AI), and its design with the use of human intelligence, technology, and AI are heavily yet easily integrated into our society which provides greater convenience and efficiency to the humdrum of our everyday lives. However, over the years, the benefits that AI offered to society soon became a necessity that people could not live without, essentially replacing the human mind with that of a machine. As a result, Luddites would argue that artificial intelligence can and will soon replace the role of humans in the long run, calling for a complete stop in further developments of technology and AI. Yet, others would dispel such baseless convictions when considering the economic and social role that humans have. In view of such contrasting opinions, this essay asserts that artificial intelligence cannot replace the role of humans.

Opponents would argue that AI can replace the roles of humans due to the AI's forte in increasing productivity in a workplace. Humans are replaced in the workplace because of AI’s superior organisation, precision, and tireless capabilities in comparison to that of a human, making it inevitable for factories to replace costly laborers with the more productive AI. This can be seen in sectors that are required to produce goods in large capacities, such as in the assembly lines of factories. (AI’s features) For example, a study done by GlobalData found that AI already dominates Japan’s factories, while Europe is beginning to integrate into the use of AI for production purposes. This shows that the strength of AI that matches the needs of the production role cannot be met by human capacity, and hence humans will be replaced.

Yet, the above notion has its discrepancies when considering the limitations of AI in different job sectors. Some jobs require more than just the capabilities of the AI, which human roles can perform better, as people would prefer the ‘human touch’ in this industry as opposed to the virtual world. This is seen for professions in the entertainment industry, such as singing and acting careers. For example, Japan’s biggest holographic pop star: Hatsune Miku, may be enjoyed by the majority of youths, but she is largely disapproved by conservatives - such as a large majority of individuals in the older generation. This is because of the presence of psychological barriers against AI in the entertainment industry. As a result, it may take a longer period of time before people are willing to accept AI into the entertainment industry.

From a wider perspective of this issue, AI will also not be able to replace humans in their economical role in society. The economical role of humans is similar to that of the circular flow of income, where consumers buy goods from the firms in the form of consumer expenditure, while workers earn income in the form of factor payments. However, the AI does not have needs and wants similar to what humans have, as they are not designed with the capabilities to comprehend the idea of gratification from the purchase of a desired specific item, and thus the idea of currency would be disregarded by them as well. As a result, countries with large amounts of domestic consumption such as the United States and China cannot rely on AI to fulfill the country’s economic purpose, because it would be largely unsuccessful and both these country’s economy would collapse, inciting a global economic downturn.

(Additionally, countries that have a large amount of domestic consumption such as the United States or China are less likely to attempt to rely on AI to fulfill their respective country’s economic purpose, because the risk of it being unsuccessful would result to a collapse of the country’s economy and risk a global economic downturn in the long run as a result through a dominio effect.)

Another role that AI will not be able to replace humans in is the social role of humans. Humans are socially dependent creatures, and without social interaction for a prolonged period of time, an individual could feel isolated, lonely and develop lower self-esteem overall. Due to AI’s lack of independent thought and lacking in what many know as ‘The Human Touch’, humans would be able to recognise that they are not interacting with a real person and would thus continue to feel the earlier mentioned negative emotions, despite having an AI around them. Although many engineers have attempted to recreate this ‘human touch’ in AI, there have been no recorded successful attempts of the AI passing the Alan Turing Test. (An AI test meant to find out if the AI is able to perform basic social functions). This leads many to believe that the ‘Human Touch’ can only be cultivated in AI if they are able to possess an identity, with independent values and norms to conduct socialisation, which is impossible to create at the current era of technology.

Lastly, AI cannot replace natural human roles, such as the need for humans to ensure the continuity of their species. This is because AI lacks the natural instinct that allows them to hone a sense of individuality as humans do. This stems from an AI lacking in human consciousness, which is inherited from many societies, such as many newborns' first society - their family. However, since AI is developed differently from a man-made means rather than the natural means of nurturing and from life experience and lessons, they are unable to develop as humans do. As a result, are unable to create an identity with human consciousness, along with the relevant values and norms required to conduct socialisation.

In conclusion, AI can never replace the role of humans. The primary functionality of the AI is to serve humans to make their lives more convenient and perform tasks more efficiently. As a result, programmers and engineers would not find the need to go the extra mile to design an AI with the ability for an AI to be capable of independent thought and the ability to be a complete substitute to humans. Additionally, if the time ever came where such a design is made, the ethics of proposing such a design have to be questioned and with the many organisations and constitutions existing in society to ensure the guarantee of human rights, this completely diminishes the chance of such an AI to ever be developed to replace the roles of humans.