

The Slavery Of The New Century And The New Freedom Struggle

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ABSTRACT

We are experiencing a technological revolution that we have never envisaged before. This era is also posing problems that the human mind had no experience dealing with. The influence of the gadgets in our day to day life is having a significant impact on our psyche and our thought processes. The mental script needs to be rewritten or one needs to walk through the future to comprehend the way of life down the time. The fundamental nature of mind in the aura of these gadgets is examined here. Man is becoming a slave to these gadgets and at the same time, he seeks freedom from them.

KEYWORDS

Gadgets, future, technology, mind, individual, freedom, humans

INTRODUCTION

The modern generation is experiencing a paradigm shift in the role of Gadgets in day to day life. The activities that were supposed to be carried out using the human body are now gradually being carried out by machines. This is resulting in minimising human effort and simultaneously improvising the efficiency of the work. With the introduction of technology and science, one often encounters new devices using new software and interfaces, every new-year.

Fundamentally, these devices have made life easy and are the fountainhead of convenience. At the same time, one gets dependent on them and may reach a level of obsession. A new kind of slavery is born and a time comes when one

realises this and then wants to be free from them. The new freedom struggle begins. One needs to explore how the human mind that has been designed and conditioned for ages to deal with the real gets trapped in the ideal and romantic world of ideas and imaginations.

DISCUSSIONS

These gadgets are quite geared up to outperform humans when it comes to communication, navigation and awareness. So much so that the speed of these entities has exceeded the speed of human comprehension and the human mind is unable to catch up with what is happening in his outside world.

The human mind remains primitive with all its attributes and capacities. The internal world has not transformed with the technology and so it struggles to keep pace with the external happenings. This results in the birth of impatience and the mind resorts to impulsive irrational behaviour when it is not aligned with the outer. Road rage to frustration intolerance with impulsive idiosyncrasies is the imperative outcome of this speed gap.

This speed deficit creates a vacuum in the mind that seeks more experiences and Gadgets like Mobile phones by this time have become favourite oxygen. The user thus seeks higher and more functional devices to fulfil this emptiness and there is born a market for higher technology-oriented gadgets. Soon we will be seeing driverless cars and chef-less kitchens as machines/gadgets would fulfil their roles effectively and efficiently. Moreover, man will become completely dependent on them for his body would not offer enough tone to perform and his mind quite dull to be receptive and responsive.

With this phenomenal pace of development, what will happen to the human mind? Can we foresee the future of Man and his relationship with machines?

Let us ponder on the design and working of the human mind-body coordinate. This is built to protect itself from all dangers and threats. One finds that the moment one is attacked with a virus, the defence mechanism is activated and antibodies are created to protect the body, resulting in the eviction of the threat.

Similarly, a thorn or a bee sting is ultimately thrown out of the body by its defence mechanism. Eventually, the body is designed to throw away the source of pain and what is considered as a threat to survival.

The mind has always tried to escape from pain and move towards pleasure. The perception of threat responds to a flight or fight mechanism in the mind that is inherent to the survival mechanism built into us. This mechanism was primarily designed to defend us against physical threats. Now the nature of threats has migrated from physical to mental as man is now living more into an ideological world. The mind now sees a psychological threat and tries to work out a psychological defence system which it is not designed with. It fails invariably as the speed at which the technology is operating is too high for the mind to catch up with. The result is impatience.

Time is going to come when the mind will realise that the dependency for its survival has boiled down to an object, i.e. gadget and it is eventually losing its existence and control to an external entity. This would be perceived as a threat to the self and the mind will start building up a resistance to combat this enemy.

The moment this insight is born, it will throw away the gadgets and restore the cardinal way of operating life. This would bring around order by aligning its activities with nature. One would thus sow seeds and wait and wait for the rains to come. The history will repeat itself by Man going back to farming and hunting.

We have already witnessed this phenomenon in the over-stressed breed of ambitious professional who is resorting to meditative techniques and isolated jungle retreats to rejuvenate. However, this rejuvenation has very short term effects as the dangers perceived were short term. The moment one realises that these dangers are life long; one will discard completely, the entities that have taken over human functioning. The long term solution to this long term problem will bring Man closer to nature.

Life would again restore to “factory settings” and it would be a rebirth of another civilisation where objects of love, care and compassion would be humans and not objects.

I wonder if we should organise this mutation or leave it to an individual to bring around a transfiguration. An individual who would go through this metamorphosis will have the capacity to transform the world as the inner would eventually take the outer.

CONCLUSIONS

The growth of technology and devices has immensely benefitted the mankind but on the other hand, the mind that was not designed to operate at a pace at which these devices are functioning struggles to deal with the problems born out of it. The pleasures and the pains of the technological development would peak in time to come and then the downtrend is imperative. Subsequently, man would resort to his basic survival and life will experience the shift from objectivity to subjectivity.

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