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Dangers of Eliminating Human Dignity due to the Proliferation of Artificial Intelligence (*AI*)

Introduction

Human dignity is the intrinsic and inalienable value inherent in every human being, simply by virtue of being human. Every human person deserves respect, autonomy, and protection - regardless of age, ability, status, or circumstance. We are living in a digital era where human life is significantly influenced by technologies. It is crystal clear that the growth of technology in the recent past has been fast-flowing. Today, technology has intruded into humans' daily lives and become a part and partial. This reality is understood as a digital or technological revolution. The technological revolution has remarkably changed the lifestyle of this human generation: how to live, work, and communicate.

The proliferation of technologies is both useful and powerful. In recent years, advances in science, technology, and our understanding of the world have led us to an increasingly broad use of the term 'intelligence'. However, these very technologies, specifically artificial intelligence (*AI*), threaten and challenge the human existence. Their impact on the present humanity and society is significant and very dangerous; and their applications are widespread in every sphere of human life.

AI has the potential to bring about numerous positive changes and advancements in society, including enhanced productivity, improved healthcare, and increased access to education; but also poses real, profound and growing risks, dangers and challenges to humanity. Late Pope Francis issued a warning against artificial intelligence, saying that it should be used in the 'service of humanity' and warning to be vigilant of the 'rapidly increasing impact' the technology is having on society. Geoffrey Hinton (nicknamed the godfather of *AI*) warns against the risks of outperforming humans and the dangerous advancements ahead.

The future does indeed have a promising direction with *AI* helping create more convenient ways of living and more advanced science, knowledge, and machinery. Proliferation of these technologies is something not to be overlooked. It is essential to find a way to contain them.

- Objectives: Development of preserving human dignity in Artificial Intelligence proliferation.

- Methodology: Qualitative, Quantitative, and theoretical methods will be integrated to address the complex ethical, social, and technical dimensions of the topic.
- Hypotheses: *AI* may have the potential to bring about numerous positive changes and advancements in society, but also poses real, profound and growing risks, dangers, and challenges to humanity.

1. A Brief Account of Human Intelligence

The simple understanding of human intelligence is the general ability to reason, learn, and solve problems influenced by genetic and environmental factors. It is a cognitive function involving perception, attention, memory, communication, planning, etc., which can be analytic, creative, and practical. It is a faculty of understanding that involves a learning process: acquiring knowledge by readings and experiences, personal and also of others, and correctly utilizing it in one's practical life.

2. **Artificial Intelligence**

We cannot give a clear definition for artificial intelligence, but we can explain that artificial general intelligence could have the powers of reasoning and perception along with language, creativity, and emotions. However, it is not easy to give a clear definition of *AI*. It is an integration of computer science and physiology. *AI* is the science of teaching machines to learn humanlike capabilities. Some categorize *AI* as "Weak/Narrow", which is a computer that can behave as if it were thinking wisely, and "Strong *AI*", which is also a computer but thinks like humans. In other words, strong *AI* is a computer programmed literally like a human mind to understand and have other cognitive functions: a machine with a full set of cognitive abilities. On the contrary, weak or narrow *AI* performs its activities within a limited context, focusing on carrying out a single task exceptionally well. (M. Morioka, 2023, 29-30) For example, the weak *AI* includes Siri, Alexa, a Self-driving car, Google search, Chat GPT, etc.

A brief account of *AI* is a machine-learning that has a higher possibility of success in comparison to human intelligence: "the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings." (B.J. Copeland, accessed on 18 August 2025) The exponential growth in *AI* is due to the database technology, the growth of which has become the core of the software enterprise. As we study the momentary growth of database technology, we find that it is at a breakneck speed that leads to the big data theory. *AI* and big data are interconnected: *AI*, as machine-learning big data greatly supports *AI* algorithms and models. (R. Fay - W. Trenholm, accessed on 18 August 2025)

Artificial intelligence is concerned with making computers behave like humans, in a more human-like fashion, and in much less time than a human takes called *Artificial Intelligence*. Generally speaking, artificially intelligent systems can perform tasks commonly associated with human cognitive functions, such as interpreting speech, playing games, and identifying patterns. These are done by processing massive amounts of data and looking for patterns to model in their own decision-making. Mostly, *AI*'s

learning process is controlled by humans to make the right decisions, but not in all cases, because there are *AI* systems designed to learn without supervision. Major areas found in Data Science are Machine Learning[1] and Deep Learning[2]. These two types of learning in *AI* have the potential to make a wide range of transformations in industries by providing insights and automating decision-making processes.

AI can generally be categorized into two groups. They are artificial general intelligence (*AGI*) and artificial capable intelligence (*ACI*). *AGI* is when an *AI* can perform all human cognitive skills better than the smartest humans, and *ACI* is somewhere in between *AI* and *AGI* which achieves a wide range of complex tasks. The other latest technological advancement is synthetic biology which is the ability to design and engineer new organisms down to the level of genes, molecules, and DNI.

3. Algorithm

The algorithm is a procedure used in mathematics, computer programming, and computer science to solve a recurrent problem. Also, it is used as a specification for performing data processing and as a means to play a significant role in automated systems. Initial inputs and instructions describing a specific computation activate algorithms. Once the computation is carried out, the process results in an output.

In short, the algorithm is a problem-solving program, i.e., a set of instructions for solving a problem or performing a task. Computerized devices use an algorithm to operate their function in hardware or software-based programs. An algorithm forms the foundation or basis of computer programming. Significantly, it creates the foundation for artificial intelligence and machine learning to develop intelligent systems such as image recognition, natural language processing, and decision-making. Concerning data science, the algorithm is used to analyze, process, and extract insights from a large amount of data in various fields.

4. Advantages and Disadvantages (Dangers) of *AI*

4.1 Advantages

The general benefit of *AI* is that it replicates the decisions and actions of humans without human shortcomings, such as fatigue, emotion, and limited time. Machines driven by *AI* technology can perform consistent, repetitive actions without getting tired. It is also easier for companies to get consistent performance across multiple *AI* machines than it is across multiple human workers.

[1] Machine learning is a subfield of AI that focuses on the development of algorithms and statistic models understood as "A machine learning algorithm is fed data by a computer and uses statistical techniques to help it 'learn' how to get progressively better at a task, without necessarily having been specifically programmed for that task."

[2] Deep learning is a subset of machine learning using neural network architecture. It contains several hidden layers that study the complex patterns and relationships in data. i.e., unlike machine learning, in deep learning, the algorithms are created in such a way that they consist of many more levels of algorithms.

Companies incorporate *AI* into production and service-based processes. In a manufacturing business, *AI* machines can generate a high, consistent level of production without taking a break. This efficiency improves the cost basis and earning potential for many companies. Mobile devices use intuitive, voice-activated *AI* applications to assist users in completing tasks. For example, users of certain mobile phones can ask for directions or information and receive a vocal response.

The premise of *AI* is that it models human intelligence. Though imperfections exist, there is often a benefit to *AI* machines making decisions that humans struggle with. *AI* machines are often programmed to follow statistical models in making decisions. Humans may have difficulties with personal implications and emotions when making similar decisions. Famous scientist Stephen Hawking uses *AI* to communicate with a machine, despite suffering from a motor neuron disease.

4.2 Disadvantages

Geoffrey Hinton, the "Godfather of *AI*," as he left his position at Google in 2023, stated: "These things could get more intelligent than us and could decide to take over, and we need to worry now about how we prevent that from happening." Additionally, in the same year, Elon Musk, the Tesla and SpaceX founder, and 1,000 other tech leaders wrote an open letter to stop wide-ranging *AI* experiments, emphasizing that the technology can bring about profound risks to society and humanity. The identified risks in *AI* are Automation-spurred job loss, Deepfakes, Privacy violations, Algorithmic bias caused by bad data, Socioeconomic inequality, Market volatility, Weapons automation, and Uncontrollable self-aware *AI*. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

The potential risks and dangers depend on the motive of those who develop *AI*. As we explore *AI* technology and the explosive speed of its development, we can identify certain dangers.

a) Lack of transparency and explainability: It is very difficult to understand the *AI* and deep learning models, which leads to a lack of transparency for how and why *AI* comes to its conclusions, creating a lack of explanation for what data *AI* algorithms use, or why they may make biased or unsafe decisions. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

b) Job losses due to *AI* automation: As *AI* robots become smarter and more dexterous; the same tasks will require fewer humans. While *AI* is estimated to create 97 million new jobs by 2025, many employees won't have the skills needed for these technical roles and could get left behind if companies don't upskill their workforces. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

c) Social manipulations through *AI* algorithms: This fear has become a reality as politicians rely on platforms to promote their viewpoints. For example, TikTok, which is just one example of a social media platform that relies on *AI* algorithms, fills a user's feed with content related to previous media they've viewed on the platform. Many criticize that the app targets this process and the algorithm's failure to filter out harmful

and inaccurate content, raising concerns over TikTok's ability to protect its users from misleading information. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

d) Social surveillance with *AI* security: Social surveillance with *AI* security will affect privacy and security. By tracking a person's movements, there is a possibility to gather enough data to monitor a person's activities, relationships, and political views. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

e) Lack of data privacy using *AI* tools: *AI* systems often collect personal data to *customize user experiences or to help train the AI models* you're using (especially if the *AI* tool is free). But where is it going, and how is it being used? While there are laws present to protect personal information in some countries, there is no explicit federal law that protects citizens from data privacy harm experienced by *AI*. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

f) Biases due to *AI*: Various forms of *AI* bias are detrimental too. In addition to data and algorithmic bias, *AI* is developed by humans, and humans are inherently biased. Developers and businesses should exercise greater care to avoid recreating powerful biases and prejudices that put minority populations at risk. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

g) Socio-economic inequality: The idea that *AI* can measure the traits of a candidate through facial and voice analyses is still tainted by racial biases, reproducing the same discriminatory hiring practices businesses claim to be eliminating. Widening socioeconomic inequality sparked by *AI*-driven job loss is another cause for concern, revealing the class biases of how *AI* is applied. It's crucial to account for differences based on race, class, and other categories. Otherwise, discerning how *AI* and automation benefit certain individuals and groups at the expense of others becomes more difficult. (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

h) Weakening ethics and goodwill: Along with technologists, journalists, and political figures, even religious leaders are sounding the alarm on *AI*'s potential socio-economic pitfalls. In a 2019 Vatican meeting titled, "The Common Good in the Digital Age," Pope Francis warned against *AI*'s ability as follows: "If mankind's so-called technological progress were to become an enemy of the common good," he added, "this would lead to an unfortunate regression to a form of barbarism dictated by the law of the strongest." (M. Thomas, accessed on 20 August 2025)

i) Autonomous weapon powered by *AI*: As is too often the case, technological advancements have been harnessed for warfare. When it comes to *AI*, some are keen to do something about it before it's too late: In a 2016 open letter, over 30,000 individuals, including *AI* and robotics researchers, pushed back against the investment in *AI*-fueled autonomous weapons. The letter questions whether to start a global *AI* arms race or to prevent it from starting. Autonomous weapons will become the Kalashnikovs of tomorrow. Hackers have mastered various types of cyber-attacks, so it's not hard to imagine a malicious actor infiltrating autonomous weapons and instigating absolute Armageddon. (M. Thomas, accessed on 21 August 2025)

j) Financial crises brought about by *AI* algorithms: The financial industry has become more receptive to *AI* technology's involvement in everyday finance and trading processes. While *AI* algorithms aren't clouded by human judgment or emotions, they also don't take into account contexts, the interconnectedness of markets, and factors like human trust and fear. These algorithms then make thousands of trades at a blistering pace to sell a few seconds later for small profits. Selling off thousands of trades could scare investors into doing the same thing, leading to sudden crashes and extreme market volatility. Companies should consider whether *AI* raises or lowers their confidence before introducing the technology to avoid stoking fears among investors and creating financial chaos. (M. Thomas, accessed on 21 August 2025)

k) Loss of human influence: An overreliance on *AI* technology could result in the loss of human influence - and a lack of human functioning - in some parts of society. Applying generative *AI* to creative endeavours could diminish human creativity and emotional expression. Interacting with *AI* systems too much could even cause reduced peer communication and social skills. So while *AI* can be very helpful for automating daily tasks, some question if it might hold back overall human intelligence, abilities, and the need for community. (M. Thomas, accessed on 21 August 2025)

l) Uncontrollable self-aware *AI*: There also comes a worry that *AI* will progress in intelligence so rapidly that it will become sentient, and act beyond humans' control, possibly in a malicious manner. Alleged reports of this sentience have already been occurring, with one popular account being from a former Google engineer who stated the *AI* chatbot LaMDA (Language Model for Dialogue Applications) was sentient and speaking to him just as a person would. *AI*'s next big milestones involve making systems with artificial general intelligence, and eventually artificial super-intelligence. (M. Thomas, accessed on 21 August 2025)

5. Ethical challenges

As *AI* develops rapidly, along with the developments, its ethics becomes a common concern for everyone. Many individuals and the governments of several countries are concerned about how *AI* will affect our world in the next few decades. The ethics of *AI* has become an important topic that must be understood by individuals who are already interested in *AI* and *ML* algorithms. As a new science and technology, many have become interested in *AI*, and therefore, people, companies, and academies are getting involved regularly. *AI* applies *ML* (Machine Learning) algorithms to develop tools and models to accomplish its objectives. The development of *AI*-based models has a lot to do with data. The quality and quantity of the data are major factors in how the *AI*-based model will behave.

The common good, as the promotion of the well-being of each member of a society, should not be empowered by *AI*. Having power over the common good, *AI* can promote a system of oppression, inequalities, marginalization, and discrimination. The use of *AI* in the sphere of military technology can be a threat to human life and the principle of proportionality and discrimination in warfare. Although benefits and advantages are found in using *AI* in the medical field, we cannot deny the danger of

missing aspects of human contact and care. The absence of personal interaction and membership in education due to the overreliance on *AI* endangers human relationships. (T.J. Burdick, accessed on 11 September 2025)

There is a tremendous risk in research on making artificially enhanced slime mould. We must prevent the uncontrolled runaway of artificially enhanced slime mould because this research intends to give slime mould high-level calculation capacities. If they are emitted into the environment, they might cause devastating damage to humans and ecosystems; hence, the research ought to be carried out at the highest biosafety level in facilities that have the capacity for physical containment stipulated by the Cartagena Protocol. In the first place, we cannot imagine how slime mould would behave when its capacity for calculation is enhanced. There might be a risk that artificially enhanced slime mould with high-level intelligence could proliferate on a huge scale and cover the entire Earth in search of food. In the case of toxic microbes, research on giving them high-level calculation capacities should not be allowed. This type of research can also be seen as enhancement research, using artificial objects with microbes as their targets. Therefore, this topic is connected with bioethical discussions on enhancement. While *AI* has supported biotechnological research in many ways, in the future, there will be a completely different situation in which *AI* research is directly combined with the manipulation of organisms in the field of biotechnology. We must have an intensive and interdisciplinary discussion before it becomes a reality. We can conclude that the gulfs between *AI* research, biology, and philosophy have become much shallower than before. (M. Morioka, 2023, 29-42)

6. The Teaching of the Church

As we all know, the moral teaching of the Catholic Church is grounded in human dignity, the inherent reality found in every person. The very fact that God created man in his image and likeness brings upon man dignity. Therefore, the prime concern of the Church is to protect and promote human dignity in all possible ways. Regarding the use of *AI*, the Church is well aware of the potential of *AI* and the possibility of violating human dignity.

The Church teaches that humans have a unique moral status based on their capacity for reason, freedom, and creativity. This teaching affirms that only humans have the moral authority to make decisions. They are the ultimate decision-makers in moral choices. Moreover, the Church also has a concern for the privacy and autonomy of man. Privacy in human life is an essential aspect of human dignity, and therefore, the use of *AI* must respect the right to protect and control one's personal information. Also, the Church emphasizes the importance of informed consent while using *AI*, particularly in the medical sphere. (T.J. Burdick, accessed on 11 September 2025)

7. The need for *AI* ethics

The Catholic Church recognizes the importance of accountability and transparency in the development and use of *AI*. The Church calls for ethical guidelines and standards to be developed by interdisciplinary groups and for the involvement of a

broad range of stakeholders, including civil society and marginalized communities. The Church also emphasizes the importance of ongoing reflection and evaluation of the impact of *AI* on society and the need for a commitment to correcting any negative effects. In conclusion, the Catholic Church teaches that the development and use of *AI* should be guided by the principles of human dignity, the common good, and solidarity. *AI* has the potential to benefit society, but also poses risks and challenges to humanity. (T.J. Burdick, accessed on 11 September 2025)

Conclusion

The use of artificial intelligence (*AI*) has the potential to bring about many benefits to society, but it also poses several risks and challenges. The unchecked use of *AI* can lead to bias, lack of transparency, unemployment, malicious use, big dependency, and other negative consequences. These risks can have significant implications for society and individuals, including increased inequality and loss of privacy. To address these risks, it is important to take a responsible and ethical approach to the development and use of *AI*, ensuring that the technology benefits society while minimizing the potential risks and negative consequences. This requires the implementation of regulations, ethical frameworks, auditing and accountability mechanisms, as well as collaborative development and education and awareness campaigns. By doing so, we can harness the power of AI while minimizing its potential risks and ensuring that it benefits society as a whole.

Pope Francis, in his message for the 37th World Youth Day at Parque, issued a warning against artificial intelligence, saying that it should be used in the 'service of humanity' and warning to be vigilant of the 'rapidly increasing impact' the technology is having on society. Moreover, the Vatican has announced that the theme for the next World Day of Peace would be "Artificial Intelligence and Peace." The Holy Father earnestly requests everyone to reflect more on the urgent need to orient the use of *AI* responsibly and ethically to avoid conflicts and antagonism. (M. Bohannon, accessed on 15 September 2025)

In the recent past, Elon Musk and hundreds of other high-profile technologists, entrepreneurs, and researchers kindly requested *AI* labs to stop work on their systems and urged developers to step back from development while society better assesses the risks advanced artificial intelligence poses to humanity. Even Geoffrey Hinton, nicknamed the godfather of *AI*, left his role at Google to spread the word about how *AI* could soon outperform humans and the dangerous advancements ahead. (R. Hart, accessed on 15 September 2025)

The introduction of *GPT-4*, the chatbot, has sparked enormous excitement - and great anxiety about the latest advances in artificial intelligence could bring profound risks to society and humanity. *AI* technologists are locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one - not even their creators - can understand, predict or reliably control.

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