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AN EVALUATION OF AI-INDUCED DEHUMANIZATION: THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND REMEDIES

By

Bassey UDOM, Ph.D.
Sociology and Anthropology Social Science
University of Uyo.
Akwa Ibom State
Nigeria.

And

Dr. Effiong EKPO
Department of History and International Studies
Ritman University
Ikot Ekpene
Akwa Ibom State

ABSTRACT

This study critically evaluates the phenomenon of AI-induced dehumanization, examining how the increasing integration of artificial intelligence in social, professional, and interpersonal contexts can lead to diminished human value, empathy, and agency. It explores the psychological, ethical, and societal consequences of treating individuals as data points or algorithmic outputs, highlighting negative impacts such as automation of human-centric roles, bias reinforcement, and alienation. As humans become increasingly dependent on AI-powered assistants and virtual entities, there is a risk of replacing genuine social interaction with artificial empathy, thereby weakening communal bonds and self-perception. The illusion of AI as a neutral and objective force can mask the reality that these systems are products of human choices, often lacking the moral and emotional depth required in social decision-making. The study concluded that by integrating human-centered design, transparent governance, and ethical oversight into AI development, society can mitigate the risks of dehumanization and ensure that technology serves to empower rather than diminish humanity. The study also recommended that Governments and regulatory bodies must develop and enforce comprehensive legal and ethical standards that govern AI deployment.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence, Induced Dehumanization, Negative Impacts and Remedies

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to revolutionize industries, redefine human capabilities, and mediate socio-technical interactions at an unprecedented scale. However, amidst this technological marvel lies a growing concern over the subtle erosion of human dignity and social value, a phenomenon scholar's term "AI-induced dehumanization." This occurs when individuals are treated as data points, algorithmic outputs, or automated decision-making subjects rather than as human beings with intrinsic worth. The displacement of human agency in favor of algorithmic precision creates conditions where empathy, individuality, and ethical accountability may be ignored or suppressed (Cave et al., 2020).

One of the prominent negative impacts of AI-induced dehumanization is its manifestation in automated systems such as facial recognition, predictive policing, and algorithmic recruitment. These systems, when poorly regulated or biased, often reproduce structural inequalities and strip individuals of the right to be judged within humane and contextual parameters. Marginalized groups, in particular, bear the brunt of these dehumanizing technologies due to embedded algorithmic bias and opaque decision processes. In healthcare, AI tools have sometimes failed to reflect patient individuality, leading to generalized treatments that disregard nuanced human needs.

Furthermore, the psychological and social implications of continuous interaction with AI systems foster alienation and emotional detachment. As humans become increasingly dependent on AI-powered assistants and virtual entities, there is a risk of replacing genuine social interaction with artificial empathy, thereby weakening communal bonds and self-perception (Alakwe, 2021). The illusion of AI as a neutral and objective force can mask the reality that these systems are products of human choices, often lacking the moral and emotional depth required in social decision-making.

To mitigate these dehumanizing effects, it is essential to design and implement AI systems that uphold human-centered values. This includes ethical auditing of algorithms, participatory design involving end-users, transparency in decision-making models, and the inclusion of diverse cultural and philosophical perspectives in AI development. Human-in-the-loop (HITL) frameworks, ethical AI education, and legal safeguards can help restore the human essence in automated processes and promote a responsible AI future. An evaluation of both the impacts and remedies of AI-induced dehumanization is, therefore, crucial in balancing technological advancement with human dignity.

CONCEPT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

According to Copeland (2025), Artificial intelligence (AI), the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. The term is frequently applied to the project of developing systems endowed with the intellectual processes characteristic of humans, such as the ability to reason, discover meaning, generalize, or learn from past experience.

According to Staff (2024), Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems capable of performing complex tasks that historically only a human could do, such as reasoning, making decisions, or solving problems. Xu et al. (2021) explained that Artificial intelligence (AI) coupled with promising machine learning (ML) techniques well known from computer science is broadly affecting many aspects of various fields including science and technology, industry, and even our day-to-day life. The ML techniques have been developed to analyze high-throughput data with a view to obtaining useful insights, categorizing, predicting, and making evidence-based decisions in novel ways, which will promote the growth of novel applications and fuel the sustainable booming of AI.

Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the capability of computational systems to perform tasks typically associated with human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and decision-making. It is a field of research in computer science that develops and studies methods and software that enable machines to perceive their environment and use learning and intelligence to take actions that maximize their chances of achieving defined goals.

According to Scott (2025), Artificial intelligence (AI) technology allows computers and machines to simulate human l intelligence and problem-solving tasks. The ideal characteristic of artificial intelligence is its ability to rationalize and take action to achieve a specific goal. According to Craig (2024), Artificial intelligence (AI) is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, especially computer systems. Examples of AI applications include expert systems, natural language processing (NLP), and speech recognition and machine vision.

JETIR (2019) asserted that Computers are designed to act like humans in this branch of computer science. Artificial intelligence encompasses games, advanced devices, neural networks, the language of design, and robotics. There are actually no machines with full artificial (that is, they can mimic human behavior) intellect. In the field of play, the biggest developments have taken place. The best programs in computer chess can now beat people. Neural networks are now the hottest artificial intelligence field and have shown progress in several areas such as voice recognition and computation in the natural language. AI languages are renowned for the fact that they are almost entirely used for AI apps. LISP and Prolog are the two most widely encountered. Artificial intelligence works a lot to reduce human activity, but to reduce production.

CONCEPT OF AI-INDUCED DEHUMANIZATION

AI-induced dehumanization refers to the phenomenon where interactions with artificial intelligence (AI) systems lead individuals to perceive and treat other humans as less human. As explained by Kim and McGill (2024), this occurs when people attribute human-like minds to AI agents, such as virtual assistants or humanoid robots, which subsequently causes them to assimilate their perceptions of actual humans toward the perceived lower humanness of these AI entities. This assimilation process results in diminished recognition of human uniqueness and can lead to various forms of mistreatment. Their study highlights that the socio-emotional capabilities of AI agents play a significant role in this dehumanization process.

According to Al-Amoudi (2022), AI-induced dehumanization encompasses three social mechanisms: the impediment of human flourishing, the degradation of marginalized groups, and the replacement of typically human activities by automated processes. Post-human technologies, including AI, blur or displace the boundaries of our common humanity, leading to concerns about the erosion of human dignity and the potential for individuals to be perceived as mere data points or functional components within technological systems.

Furthermore, as discussed by Akingbola et al. (2024), the integration of AI into healthcare settings raises concerns about the depersonalization of patient care. They explain that while AI offers advantages in diagnostics and efficiency, it's increasing role risks overshadowing the empathy, trust, and personalized care traditionally provided by human clinicians. This shift may lead to patients feeling like objects of data analysis rather than individuals receiving compassionate care, exemplifying another facet of AI-induced dehumanization.

CASES OF AI-INDUCED DEHUMANIZATION

In healthcare, the integration of AI has led to concerns about depersonalized patient care. A study by Kim and McGill (2024) discusses how the socio-emotional capabilities of autonomous agents can lead individuals to attribute humanlike minds to these nonhuman entities, affecting perceptions of actual people through an assimilation process. This "assimilation-induced dehumanization" can result in various forms of mistreatment in healthcare settings.

In the labor market, AI's role in technological unemployment has been linked to dehumanization. Morandín-Ahuerma et al. (2023) emphasize that AI systems are gradually replacing human work in various industries, impacting workers and raising ethical issues related to the lack of transparency in complex algorithms. The study emphasizes the need for regulatory frameworks and robust institutions to manage the transition to a more automated economy.

Furthermore, the use of AI in decision-making processes within organizations can affect perceptions of justice and dignity. A study by Lee et al. (2022) highlights that AI decision-making in human resource management contexts can lead to perceptions of dehumanization, especially when decisions are perceived as lacking empathy or fairness. The research highlights the importance of transparency and human oversight in AI-driven decisions to maintain trust and uphold human dignity. These cases underscore the multifaceted nature of AI-induced dehumanization and the importance of addressing ethical considerations in the deployment of AI technologies across various sectors.

THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF AI-INDUCED DEHUMANIZATION

AI-induced dehumanization has several negative impacts across various sectors, as evidenced by recent scholarly research.

- **Erosion of Human Empathy and Social Connection**

Kim and McGill (2024) explain that when individuals attribute human-like qualities to AI agents, such as virtual assistants or humanoid robots, they may begin to assimilate their perceptions of actual

humans toward the perceived lower humanness of these AI entities. This "assimilation-induced dehumanization" can lead to diminished recognition of human uniqueness and result in various forms of mistreatment. The socio-emotional capabilities of AI plays a significant role in this dehumanization process.

- **Depersonalization in Healthcare**

The integration of AI into healthcare settings raises concerns about the depersonalization of patient care. While AI offers advantages in diagnostics and efficiency, it's increasing role risks overshadowing the empathy, trust, and personalized care traditionally provided by human clinicians. This shift may lead to patients feeling like objects of data analysis rather than individuals receiving compassionate care, exemplifying another facet of AI-induced dehumanization.

- **Reinforcement of Social Biases and Inequalities**

Bias in AI systems can perpetuate and even amplify existing social inequalities. Zhou et al. (2024) analyzed images generated by popular generative AI tools and found systematic gender and racial biases, with women and African Americans being underrepresented or portrayed in stereotypical ways. These biases in AI-generated content can reinforce harmful stereotypes and contribute to the dehumanization of marginalized groups.

- **Automation of Human-Centric Roles**

The automation of roles traditionally requiring human empathy and judgment, such as caregiving and counseling, can lead to a loss of human touch in essential services. This shift may result in individuals feeling like objects of data analysis rather than recipients of compassionate care, exacerbating feelings of dehumanization.

- **Feedback Loops Amplifying Discrimination**

Predictive algorithms, especially in law enforcement, can create feedback loops that disproportionately target marginalized communities. For instance, predictive policing software may allocate more resources to areas with higher reported crimes, often minority neighborhoods, leading to increased surveillance and arrests in those areas. This cycle reinforces existing biases and contributes to the dehumanization of these communities.

The Remedies to the Negative Impact of AI-Induced Dehumanization (Precious)

AI-induced dehumanization presents multifaceted challenges across various sectors, including healthcare, employment, and interpersonal interactions. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive strategies that encompass ethical design, bias mitigation, and human-centered approaches. Below are detailed remedies:

- **Implementing Human-Centered AI Design**

A fundamental remedy to AI-induced dehumanization is the adoption of human-centered AI design principles. This approach emphasizes the integration of ethical considerations throughout the AI development lifecycle, ensuring that AI systems align with human values and social norms. By focusing on user needs, promoting transparency, and facilitating meaningful human-AI interactions, designers can create systems that respect human dignity and autonomy. The "Ethics by Design" framework advocates for the systematic inclusion of ethical deliberations in AI development, aiming to prevent dehumanizing outcomes by embedding moral values into technological artifacts (Brey & Dainow, 2024). This proactive stance not only mitigates potential harms but also fosters trust and acceptance among users.

- **Enhancing Empathy in AI-Driven Healthcare**

In the healthcare sector, the integration of AI has raised concerns about the potential erosion of empathetic patient care. To counteract this, it is crucial to design AI systems that augment rather than replace human clinicians, preserving the therapeutic alliance between patients and providers. Strategies include developing AI tools that support clinicians in decision-making while allowing them to maintain direct patient engagement. Additionally, training programs that emphasize the importance of empathy and communication skills can ensure that healthcare professionals effectively balance technological assistance with compassionate care. By prioritizing patient-centered approaches, healthcare systems can leverage AI's benefits without compromising the human touch essential to healing.

- **Mitigating Bias through Inclusive Data Practices**

Bias in AI systems often stems from unrepresentative or skewed training data, leading to discriminatory outcomes that dehumanize certain groups. To address this, it is imperative to implement inclusive data collection and preprocessing practices. This involves curating diverse datasets that reflect the heterogeneity of the target population and applying techniques such as reweighting, resampling, and fairness-aware algorithms to correct imbalances. Regular audits and impact assessments can further identify and rectify biases, ensuring equitable treatment across different demographic groups. By fostering data inclusivity, AI systems can make fairer decisions that uphold the dignity of all individuals (Sripathi et al. 2023).

- **Establishing Accountability and Transparency Mechanisms**

The opaque nature of many AI systems can obscure accountability, leading to decisions that negatively impact individuals without clear avenues for recourse. To remedy this, establishing robust accountability frameworks is essential (Habli, Lawton & Porter, 2020). This includes implementing explainable AI (XAI) techniques that make decision-making processes transparent and understandable to users. Moreover, regulatory policies should mandate documentation of AI system functionalities, decision logs, and avenues for contesting unfavorable outcomes. By enhancing transparency and accountability, stakeholders can ensure that AI systems operate responsibly and respect individual rights

- **Promoting Ethical AI in Employment Practices**

In employment contexts, the use of AI for recruitment and performance evaluation has raised concerns about the depersonalization of workers. To counteract this, organizations should adopt ethical AI practices that prioritize human judgment and oversight. This involves using AI tools to assist rather than replace human decision-makers, ensuring that final employment decisions consider contextual nuances and individual circumstances. Additionally, transparency in how AI assessments are conducted and the criteria used can empower candidates and employees, fostering a sense of fairness and respect. By integrating ethical considerations into AI-driven employment practices, organizations can uphold the humanity of their workforce.

CONCLUSION

The dehumanizing effects of artificial intelligence pose significant ethical, social, and psychological challenges that must not be overlooked in the pursuit of technological advancement. While AI has the potential to enhance efficiency and decision-making, its misuse or unchecked application can erode essential human values such as empathy, individuality, and dignity. Recognizing these threats is the first step toward creating a more humane and inclusive digital future. By integrating human-centered design, transparent governance, and ethical oversight into AI development, society can mitigate the risks of dehumanization and ensure that technology serves to empower rather than diminish humanity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Developers and designers should prioritize human-centered approaches in AI system development to ensure that technologies respect user autonomy, cultural diversity, and human dignity.**
- **Governments and regulatory bodies must develop and enforce comprehensive legal and ethical standards that govern AI deployment.**
- **Societies should invest in public education and awareness campaigns to enhance AI literacy, enabling individuals to understand, question, and challenge the decisions made by AI systems.**
- **Organizations deploying AI should maintain human-in-the-loop (HITL) systems, especially in sensitive areas such as healthcare, law enforcement, and employment.**

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