



E. AHAMED MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE INDIA 2025

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Unity Transcending Boundaries: Patching Together the Global Mosaic

AGENDA:

Revolutionising Automation and Structural
Unemployment : Harnessing Technology to
Bridge Global Income Disparities

~ **Background Guide** ~

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I. ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) is one of the oldest and most important configurations of the Council of the European Union. It plays a critical role in shaping the economic policies of the EU, overseeing fiscal policies, economic coordination, and financial markets regulation. ECOFIN also manages the economic governance framework of the EU and is responsible for economic relations with countries outside the EU. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, ECOFIN meetings are held in various configurations, with finance ministers from all EU member states attending. These meetings focus on areas such as the EU budget, taxation issues, and economic surveillance. The leadership of the Council is provided by the rotating presidency, which is held by each EU member state on a six-month basis.



ECOFIN's main focus is to ensure the economic stability of the European Union by coordinating financial and economic policies among member states. The Council is crucial in setting regulations that strengthen financial markets and promote sustainable growth. ECOFIN also addresses issues like financial transparency, tax evasion, and economic reform, guiding the EU through challenges while fostering prosperity and competitiveness on a global scale.

ECOFIN's work extends beyond the borders of the European Union, encompassing global economic relations where it represents the EU in major international financial institutions and forums, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the G20. Through these platforms, ECOFIN plays a vital role in shaping global economic policies, promoting financial stability, and advocating for sustainable development on a worldwide scale. The Council engages in dialogue with global partners to address pressing economic challenges, such as financial crises, global trade imbalances, and international tax cooperation. By aligning EU economic policies with global standards and promoting a rules-based international order, ECOFIN ensures that the European Union remains a proactive and influential player on the global stage, contributing to the stability and prosperity of the global economy.

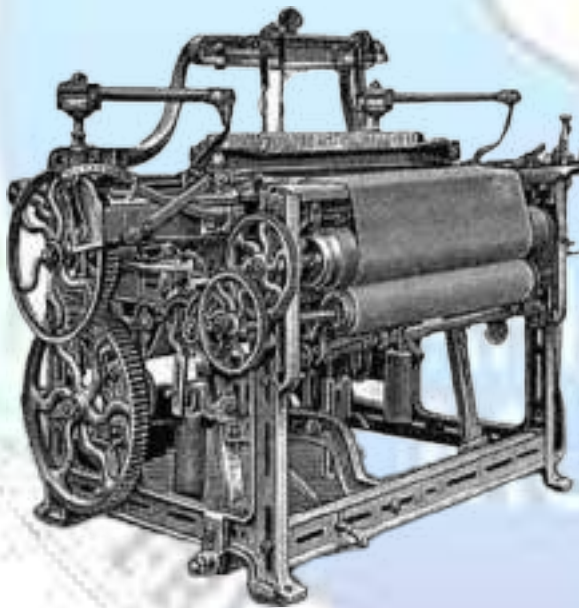


II. Introduction To The Agenda

Automation is defined as the introduction of automatic equipment to the production process. In economic terms, it is the replacement of human labour with machinery for increased productivity, faster production and greater monetary benefit. In this day and age, automation has become the norm, where almost all industries; textile, automobile, mining, refinery etc... are moving towards replacing workers with machines and robots, to increase output and profit.

But this efficiency comes with a great bane, that is the eradication of the jobs of millions. Automation is becoming more and more popular with businesses all around the world due to its lucrative benefits, and it is becoming worse and worse for people who rely on menial jobs for money. The development of AI is only furthering this process. With this progress, comes the loss of livelihoods of too many people and the gap between the rich and the poor only widening further and further. Needless to say, it is a miserable predicament for people all around the world. This problem poses a serious threat and hence needs to be acknowledged and dealt with as soon as possible.

The Historical Context Of Automation



19th Century

Automation as we know it comes from the 18-19 century, where the industrial revolution brought about immense changes to production. Steam powered machines and power looms began to spread their influence, making the production process cheaper and faster. These machines started replacing humans from production and reducing the involvement of man in the making of articles. This was seen in many an industry, textiles, printing, looms, etc... Artisanal labor and small-scale handicraft artisans never recovered from this blow. Many regional crafting techniques passed down from generation to generation were wiped out in favor of mass-produced factory goods.

Early 20th Century

The twentieth century ushered in an age of unimaginable technological advancement, and with it, new methods of automation. Electricity made machines even faster, more productive and cheaper as a whole. Particularly, the automotive industry was revolutionised by the assembly line. This made automation even more popular. It was now becoming the norm for massive industries to rise through automation and machines and sell goods to millions of people worldwide.

Mid to Late 20th Century

Now, programmable machines and other software and hardware technologies have emerged on the scene. Introducing us to advanced computers, capable of doing complicated mathematical problems and predicting patterns, tasks that only man could previously. Over the decades, software improved and moved from only being used by the military and government organizations to being household. Along with this, computers are powerful and portable now. This has made a large number of people obsolete in the workforce, shifting employment from the primary and secondary sector to the tertiary sector in the process.

21st Century

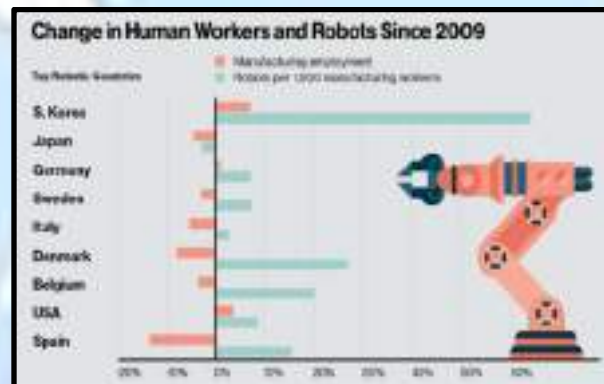
In this day and age, we have seen first hand how widespread and advanced automation is. Robots, algorithms and machine learning are the new face of automation. Robots and algorithms have revolutionised science and manufacturing and the effect of AI is yet to be seen. Services, creative industries, logistics and other fields which were previously thought to be untouchable are now being invaded by robots and machines. Everyone is being replaced, and no field will be left untouched by the effects of these technologies for long.

Structural Unemployment

Structural unemployment is a situation where there are people without work because they do not have the necessary skills to be employed. This is a situation where a certain group of people don't have a means to earn a living because of the external environment and system of governance around them

Automation and Technology

Over the last century, the leading cause of unemployment is structural unemployment. This is a massive issue of our time. Jobs in all sectors from daily wage menial labour to software development are being replaced and automated left and right. The total number of jobs available is reducing as compared to the number of jobs available is reducing as compared to the number of people entering the job market.



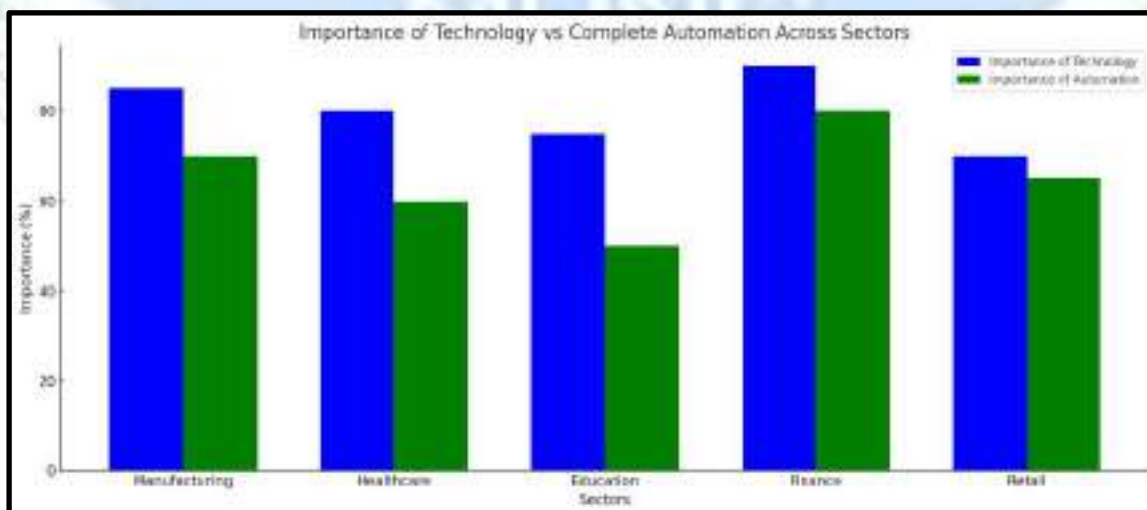
Robots and automation are set to displace 85 million jobs by 2025. All of these facts seem unfavourable on their own, but if more jobs are not created as a result of these technological advancements unlike previous technological revolutions like the industrial revolution, the consequences will be truly dire. This will only worsen as AI becomes better and even more efficient over the years.

Improper Education and Skills

As technology progresses further and further, the population which does not have access to it is left behind in the job market. A significant portion of the population cannot find employment because they lack understanding of the job requirements demanded by companies and have the wrong skill set for the modern workspace. Not only that, the education system is severely lacking in teaching relevant information and skills for the current job market. Aside from that, there are millions without college level education because of how expensive higher education has become over the years, and the poor population that can't afford it stays locked out of better professions as a consequence.

1. IMPORTANCE OF TECHNOLOGY OVER COMPLETE AUTOMATION

“Technology is the application of conceptual knowledge for achieving practical goals, especially in a reproducible way”. Technology came into being in the last 100 years and it helped us transform our lives and allowed us to progress even further, most importantly technology has made it possible for us to live comfortably and conveniently. Technology has become a vital part of our life. Everything we do from starting our day to ending it involves technology. The sheer benefits that technology brings to our lives in both minor and large ways justify the ongoing effort to advance technological innovation. Technology has also helped us learn more about our world and outer space. Every sector owes its progress to technology, demonstrating the significance of technology in many aspects of our life, even the highest-paying IT occupations. Technology enables entrepreneurs to launch new enterprises and raise funding by providing a variety of possibilities. People with ideas may find ways to put them into action and convert them into the next great thing, develop revolutionary business strategies, and take the first steps to establish a business more easily.



The challenge of increasing output while lowering inputs is one that organizations face on a regular basis. This is where automation in technology is needed.

“Automation is the use methods or equipment to reduce labour” Technology resources decrease the possibility of errors from manual activities, increasing the accuracy of decision-making.

Automation has many benefits like, it relieves people from having to perform dangerous and physically exhausting activities. Machines can perform tiring routine jobs. Machines can operate continuously and with a high level of performance, and speed of manual processes. Moreover, automation improves the quality of products and reduces personnel costs.



2. EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

In the current era, technology is so influential that its effects on world economy are technically undeniable. While assessing the pros and cons Technology has been the key to unlocking the doorway to making a global web of economic connections. From agricultural advancements to AI modeling structures, there seems nothing impossible to attain through it. Firstly the automation of tasks and processes has increased efficiency and productivity, supporting overall economic growth. Although technology has indeed paved its way into our lives, its impact on livelihoods is nothing short of a sensation

It has also led to displacement of jobs in industries where manual laborers are replaced by AI and machines. On the other hand, technology has created opportunities for digital marketing, data science and has created a need for upskilled labor. Understanding technology is therefore a critical step in understanding its impacts. All in all, technology is multifaceted with both positive and negative implications which need to be implemented after serious considerations.



A. Structural unemployment -

Automation of jobs is a topic which has gained significant attention in recent years. As technology continues to grow at a faster pace, there is growing concern about the impact of technological automation on workforce.

One of the major arguments in favor of automation is that it can lead to overall more productivity, help reduce financial investment on laborers and ensure cost cuttings leading to overall profits for any business. This can lead to higher output and competitiveness in markets worldwide. However, there is also rising opposition towards automation as it eats away labor opportunities as certain skill sets become less valued.

Unemployment in specific social spheres:

i) For a \$3.7 trillion economy of India, 1.5 million engineers graduate every year, making India thrilled to boast itself as the country producing largest number of engineers globally. Over the years the most important transition in the engineering sector has been the shift from various branches of engineering towards AI modeling, software, biotechnology which



hold greater scope in the future. In addition to this, students below the age of 16, are given fruitful opportunities to learn to code and seek guidance on undergraduate topics while coders get to work with new inventions that could change the face of the future. As every coin has 2 sides, technological advancements also come with a cost.



ii) Technological advancements can never completely replace humans, especially in the field of medicine, but progress in the robotic developments is stressed upon to improve quality of treatment of patients. However, scientists are constantly trying to program robots in countless ways with a vision to replace human workers in the future. Although this seems highly non-viable especially while dealing with human life, robots tend to

patients' welfare, disinfect hospital rooms, provide emotional support and conduct data mining to increase a pharmacy's efficiency. Apps pertaining to patients welfare like Origami robot, TUG, SAM, cancer screening, AI cardiac monitoring software add to patients benefits rather than being a threat to employment of healthcare workers.

B. Income Disparities-

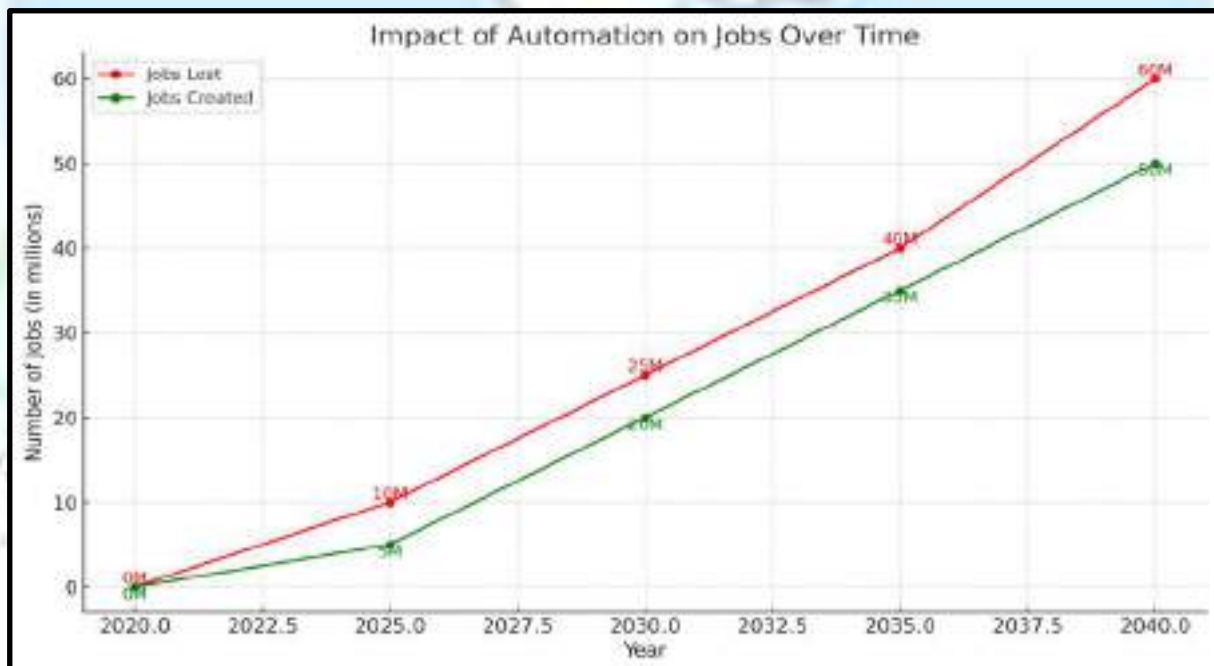
One of the major factors by which technology has affected livelihoods is the automation of jobs, where tech replaces human force. Although in some hazardous working atmospheres technological automation is beneficial, it has also led to the decline in demand for certain types of jobs, particularly those which involve simple skill sets that can be easily automated. Furthermore, governments across the world have their eyes set on improving their global economy ranking by attracting foreign interests. While doing so, many have compromised the safety and job security of their workers.



Moreover, the unequal distribution of access to education and technological resources has widened the existing income disparities, thereby increasing the gap between the poor and rich. Those who have the money and means to acquire technology continue to prosper, while those in declining industries face lower wages and large scale unemployment. It is important to address these disparities with thoughtful policies and measures to ensure a more equitably arranged society.

Tackling technology's impact of automation on jobs is a complex and challenging task that requires a multi-faceted approach. Here are 3 major strategies which can be implemented to tackle this issue effectively:

1. Implementing government policies to support indigenous laborers:
Governments must take initiatives and implement policies that safeguard the rights of workers, especially of those working under multinational enterprises and outsourcing companies, provide financial support to affected families and assistance in transition to new employment opportunities for many more.
2. Encouraging investments in education and development of skills:
Emphasizing the importance of education in susceptible and remote areas could help reduce income disparities in many years to come.
3. Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship:
When the number of jobs available for people is not satisfactory to employ everyone, new startups and innovative ideas can be encouraged and funded. Not only does it allow the development of an individual's mindset, it also creates job opportunities for the rising youth population to seek employment.



In conclusion, controlling the automation of jobs and income disparities requires coordinated efforts from various government institutions, business enterprises and educational sectors. By facilitating dialogues and addressing ethical collaborations in global markets, it may be possible to mitigate the negative impacts of automation on technology on workforce and ensure that its benefits are better reaped by everyone equally.

3. IMPACT OF AUTOMATION ON JOB MARKETS

Automation describes a plethora of technologies that reduce human intervention in repetitive tasks and processes by converting them into automated actions that can be performed by machines, computers or AI. These include manufacturing roles, data entry, and some



customer service positions. The automotive, electronic, and textile sectors have also seen significant job losses due to the instigation of automated machinery and robotics.

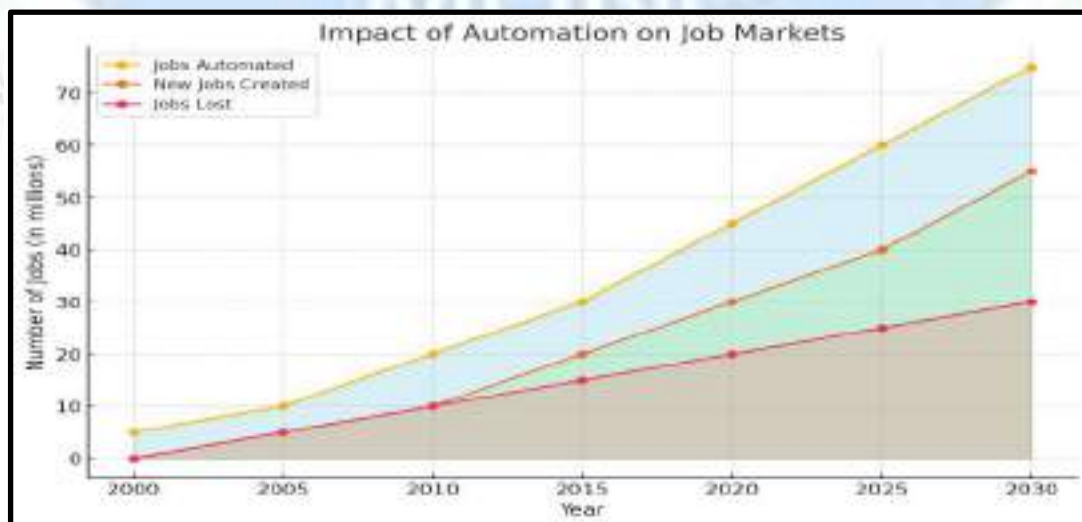
Automation tasks vary from simple repetitive tasks to complex operations that require advanced decision making and problem solving capabilities.

Organisations today estimate that 34% of all business related tasks are performed by machines. The demand for automation grows each year, as industries including healthcare, customer service and logistics integrate automation into their workflows. AI automation technologies (intelligent automation) allow businesses and organisations to supplement human workers with IA digital workers to streamline tasks and processes. This frees employees from monotonous tasks so they can focus on higher value strategic work.

A significant example includes AI power chatbots and customer service centres. These centres are often bombarded with thousands of mails and reports, too many for even a couple hundred people to respond rapidly to. However, AI chatbots answer customer queries instantly, reducing customer wait time by working around the clock.

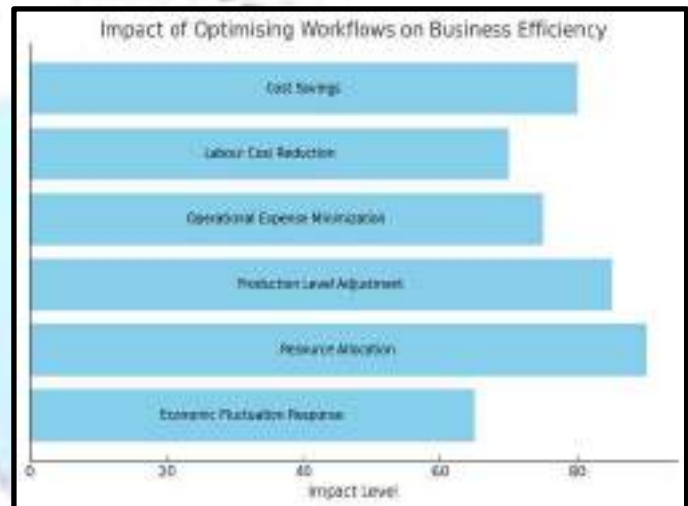


If by chance the query cannot be clarified by AI, it is brought to the attention of a human employee. This model reduces wait times, clears backlogs, and improves efficiency, which means that employees can focus on other strategic cases.



A variety of advantages come along with the application of artificial intelligence in job markets. Productivity can be taken to new heights by eliminating the need for manual labour and performing tasks faster. This results in increased output and shorter production cycles. The precision and consistency of automated machinery leads to the improved quality of products and services. Eradicating human errors and deviations provide higher levels of customer satisfaction.

By optimising workflows, eliminating bottlenecks, and reducing wastage of time and resources, businesses can achieve cost savings through improved efficiency, reduced labour costs and minimising operational expenses. A greater number of changes can be integrated into automated systems in the long run. They offer substantial flexibility to adjust production levels, allocate resources and respond to fluctuations in the economy. This versatility can help businesses stay competitive and meet customer demands effectively.



Job Growth:

While artificial intelligence and automation can reduce the demand for jobs, it can also create considerable opportunities in previously unexplored areas. Besides, the creation of artificial intelligence and implementation of automation requires specialised skill sets, whose impact is forecasted to grow. Machine learning engineers, data scientists and specialised researchers are increasingly in demand.



Integrating AI also reiterates the need for support from AI ethics and cybersecurity specialists. With the growing recognition of the ethical implication of automation, there are several opportunities for ethics excerpts to ensure that decisions made by automation software and AI systems align with social and moral principles. The security risks associated with the absence of human monitoring calls for cybersecurity specialists to protect systems from external threats.

Upskilling in the Age of Automation:

In today's age of automation, real world skills such as communication, problem solving, adaptability, and leadership form the cornerstone of deciding a person's future. As teams become more cross functional and interdisciplinary, developing soft skills is essential to give yourself an edge.



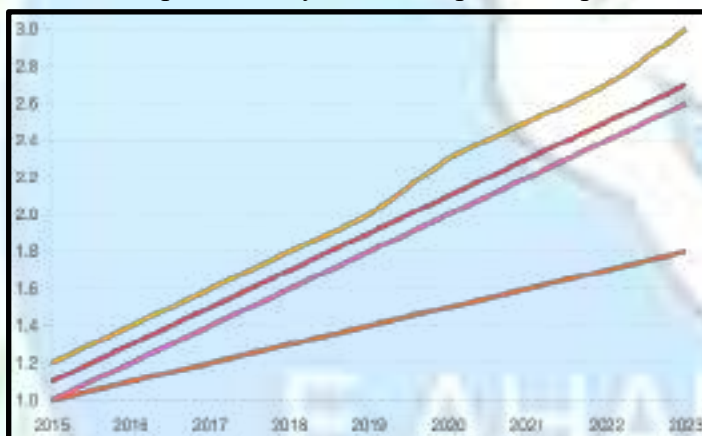
Gone are the days of grasping a single skill set and continuing with it throughout one's career. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development(OECD) predicts that by 2030, almost half of the global workforce, approximately 1.1 billion workers will require crucial upskilling. Analytical thinking is considered to be a core skill by more companies than any other skill. Embracing automation requires continuous up-skilling which allows



more focus on cognitive skill and creative thinking. A study conducted by an automation software company, Zapier, shows that 90% of knowledge workers say automation has improved their lives in the workplace. In this digital age of learning, upskilling has never been more accessible. Several platforms such as Coursera, LinkedIn Learning, and Udemy provide several courses which cater to soft and technical skill enhancement.

Addressing Labour Shortages with Automation:

The significance of automation and our reliance on it became quite evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the manufacturing industry crumbled due to labour shortages and decreased productivity, the widespread adoption of robots and the usage of AI became the



Manufacturing Healthcare Retail Transportation

cornerstone in meeting increased demands. The World Economic Forum estimates that by 2025, automation may displace around 85 million jobs, while simultaneously creating approximately 97 million new jobs. The use of this technology in manufacturing has saved up to months of time, and data analysts can identify trends for future issues which are likely to arise from logs and records.

A webinar organised by the Association for Advancing Automation titled, “Smart AI Automation to Tackle Labour Shortages and Increase Productivity”, cited that in February 2023, there were 750,000 unfilled manufacturing positions. This number is predicted to reach a whopping 2.1 million by 2030. This is due to the declining appeal of monotonous factory work. With people seeking more fulfilling positions, AI and automation can effectively replace the repetitive aspects of these jobs to provide new opportunities in more desirable positions.

4. NATURE AND CAUSES OF STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Nature of Structural Unemployment- The meaning of the unemployment model lies in its specific features and causes that distinguish it from other types of unemployment, such as friction or unemployment. Here are some important aspects of unemployment:

1. Long-term in nature: Unemployment tends to be long-term rather than temporary. This is because this is due to changes in the economy rather than short-term changes in demand.

2. Skills Mismatch: A key part of the unemployment model is the mismatch between the skills employers want and the skills jobseekers have. This conflict may arise due to technological changes, changes in consumer preferences, or changes in business models.



3. Sector and occupation specific: Unemployment patterns often affect a particular sector or occupation rather than the economy. Labor demand may fall in some industries and rise in others, resulting in increased unemployment in a particular industry or occupation.

4. Solving the challenge: Unlike frictional unemployment, which can be solved with better data or matching methods, unemployment patterns are generally more difficult. It requires significant changes, such as employee training, business restructuring, or business diversification.



5. Geographic Concentration: Unemployment in the sample may be geographical; It is possible that unemployment may be higher in some areas due to fewer jobs or jobs. This can lead to social and economic inequality between regions.



6. Effects of income inequality: Unprecedented unemployment can affect certain groups of workers, such as those with low education or special skills, the same goes for income inequality. Addressing unemployment patterns often involves policies to reduce income inequality and promote inclusive growth.

7. Legal Policy: Policymakers have faced significant challenges in solving the unemployment problem, because this often requires long-term strategies and structural reforms. These may include investment in education and training, labor market reforms and business development initiatives. Reducing its causes and effects is important for individuals and societies.

Causes of Structural Unemployment- Unemployment patterns occur when employers need skills that jobseekers do not have. Here are some of the functions and reasons for this

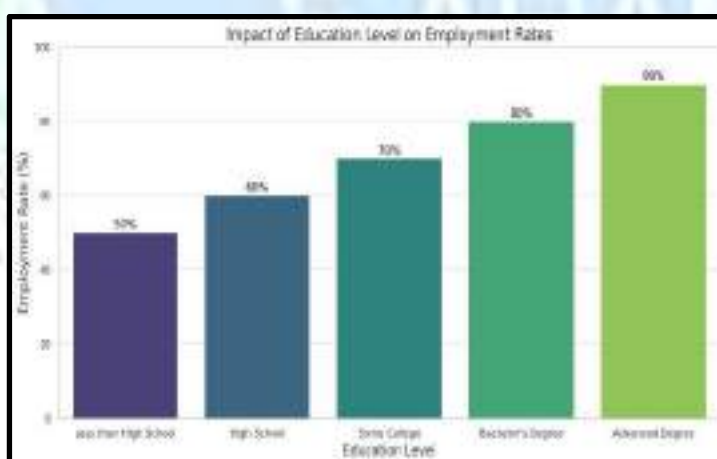


1. Technological change. Technological advancements create new skills that are needed, and some skills may become obsolete. Employees who do not have the skills needed to adapt to new positions may lose their jobs.

2. Globalization. Globalization primarily leads to outsourcing and outsourcing to countries with low labor costs. This could lead to job losses, especially in some industries and regions where labor costs are high.

3. Changes in consumer demand. Changes in customer preferences and business requirements lead to industry downturns and job losses. For example, the rise of e-commerce has led to a decline in brick-and-mortar stores, putting many retail workers out of work.

4. Skills mismatch: Economic changes create demand for skills beyond the unemployed. For example, the demand for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills will increase, while the demand for manual labor will decrease.



5. Geographic mismatch: Unemployment patterns also occur when jobs are available in a particular area, but jobseekers are unwilling or unable to move to that location.

6. Labor market laws: Labor market laws and regulations can increase unemployment by inhibiting hiring or preventing people from going to work.

7. Education and training: A weak education and training system will lead to a shortage of skilled workers in a particular industry, leading to reduced employment. This can happen if the school does not provide the necessary skills or if employees do not have access to training. Temporary regulations encourage innovation and business diversification.

5. EXACERBATION OF INCOME INEQUALITY

I. Income Inequality: An Economic Analysis

Global inequality is a relatively recent research topic. The first computations of inequality across world citizens were done in the early 1980s, (Grosh and Nafziger 1986). This is because computing global inequality requires a database of (within-country) national income distributions for most countries in the world. It is also imperative to note that even if the between-country component is the largest, overlaps between the distributions of countries are not negligible either. There are several methods to measure income inequality: the Gini Coefficient is considered the standard, it varies from zero for perfect equality up to one for perfect inequality; Others include the Lorenz Curve which gives cumulative income against population share in a graphical form, there is also Theil Index and Atkinson Index.

II. Income Disparities Within and Between Countries

A. Factors Contributing to Income Inequality Between Countries

1. Historical Factors

Colonialism:



Colonies with a large proportion of European settlers, like French Algeria, developed very high levels of income inequality. European settlers had a larger monopoly over power in economic and political realms, which resulted in a big gap between them and the indigenous population. In the case of colonies that did not have many European settlers, such strong inequality did not develop. The top income shares were about 25% for the top 1% in French Algeria in the mid-1930s, in contrast to 15% for France. Several generations later, the unequal allocation of this wealth and land among European settlers has affected the distribution of wealth in modern-day and time resulting in the form of persistent gaps between high and low-income earners.

Resource Exploitation:

According to research conducted by Science Direct on the Heterogeneous impact of natural resources on income inequality included in *Economic Analysis and Policy*

With highly developed diversified economies, the reliance on resource rents is less marked in high-income countries. For their part, the lower-middle-income countries show a strong one-way causal relationship between natural resource rents to higher income inequality. The findings suggest that income inequality leads to the spread of the shadow economy, which lowers revenues from taxes and increases the reduction in public spending on social policies to reduce inequality.

2. Political and Economic Institutions

Corruption:

Biased Tax Systems: The powerful and the rich can easily avoid bringing upon themselves unwanted state attention and take advantage of all available opportunities for tax optimization and evasion. An example of a country avoiding this by employing progressive taxation systems is that of Sweden.

Trade Policies

Trade Agreements and Tariffs: Through WTO and similar world bodies, countries can agree on trade liberalization. Usually, tariffs can serve as a means for shielding local businesses; however, they can also result in the implementation of reciprocal restrictions and trade wars.

Agricultural Trade: Current analyses of trade policies regarding agriculture are important for the world food market. Agriculture is one sensitive segment of international trade, and the USDA is dedicated to creating and marketing commercial markets for agricultural products.

Regional Trade Agreements: Bilateral trade provisions including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) a cooperation agreement targeting to encourage trade as well as growth within a particular geographical location. These agreements thus can provide an environment that removes trade barriers and enhances economic cooperation



B. The Gap Between Developed and Developing Countries

Developed Countries:

High-income countries, as already described earlier on, have a relatively high gross domestic product (GDP) per capita indicating high levels of income and well-being.



Technological advancements and their usage are found significantly high, which incurs a positive impact on productivity and the economy.

Globalized countries are usually more favored, mainly industrialized, services, and technologically advanced economies. The populations' social welfare, health, and education standards promote stability in the societies and a reduction in poverty levels.

Developing Countries:

Depending on the level of their economic development, one can differently estimate their capability of generating income; in any case, the general tendency is to have a lower rate of GDP per capita and a higher rate of poverty.

Communications infrastructure is particularly poor and hinders the growth of transportation systems, health services, and educational institutions. They do not have much influence or access to modern facilities either which affects productivity not to mention the general economic progress. The structure of these economies was much simpler in a way for they depended much on agriculture and the export of raw materials than on industries.



C. Impact of Automation and Structural Unemployment on Income Inequality Between Countries

1. The Disproportionate Impact of Automation on Developing Countries

In most of the developing nations, many employees serve in the manufacturing firms within the low technology low skill demanding occupations. Using current job markets, Automation poses more risk to these jobs than to high skilled which are relatively harder to automate.

Skill Mismatch: This is due to the objective fact that many developing nations simply do not have the educational and training infrastructure that would allow for mass retraining of their workforce for jobs that could be produced with greater efficiency through automation technologies. This skill mismatch deepens unemployment and under-employment within the labor market affected by the advances.

Economic Disruption: Whole industries that are deeply engaged in low-wage employment can find themselves struggling, expecting downturns in the economic flow of these countries.

2. Technology Transfer and Skill Development: Challenges



Investment and Funding: It was noted that the efforts to harness automation necessitate the assigning of sizable capital towards building the necessary facilities, and tools, and organizing people towards achieving automation goals. It is often the case that developing countries do not have the necessary financial means, and sometimes have (very) difficulty gaining access to foreign investments.

Global Competition: The rat race among countries to gain more power and more capital has rendered 'developing' countries to cease 'developing'. It is challenging to start and gradually move ahead as developed countries dominate the market with well-defined technologies and highly skilled human capital.

Educational Infrastructure: One major concern that developing countries are likely to face is the inability to put in place the education facilities to offer the right caliber of training to the labor force as they adapt to emerging technologies. This is because many of the fractured states suffer from poor education systems, and few can boast of functioning vocational training institutions.

Access to Technology:

The problem of upgrading the technological level is a severe challenge for developing countries, as the newest technologies can often be inaccessible due to their high price, protection of intellectual property rights, and the absence of necessary infrastructure. This makes them competent to adopt and infuse advanced technologies. Facilitating technology transfer and knowledge sharing can help developing countries leapfrog this hurdle.



3. The Potential for "Offshoring" Jobs Due to Automation and Its Impact on Income Inequality

Globalization has brought some effects on income inequality too, for example reshoring and offshore jobs. For instance, cost-effective automation may lead to re-shored positions being created within the advanced countries hence reducing employment prospects among those developing ones which previously used to enjoy offshoring opportunities. At the same time, offshoring of high-skilled jobs to regions with cheaper yet proficient labor may not be enough to offset unemployment in other sectors. This drives wage gaps because the demand for skilled labor increases in the developed countries while the wages for low-skilled labor in the developing countries remains stagnant with increasing unemployment.

4. The Possibility of a Widening the Income Gap Between Countries

It would be naive not to acknowledge the fact that adaptation to automation and technology has the potential to increase the gap between the countries that are effectively absorbing the new technologies and the ones that are left lagging behind. The investment in skills, innovation, and infrastructure will place countries on a footing that will enable them to use technology for job creation, especially within high-wage sectors, to bring about growth in economic development and reduce inequalities. Countries that will not adapt will find themselves falling even further behind with increased unemployment, slower economic growth, and an increase in disparities. There are crucial policy actions which may mitigate the negative effects of automation such as development policy, training policy, health enhancing policy and education policy. Further social economic challenges could arise in the absence of these policies.

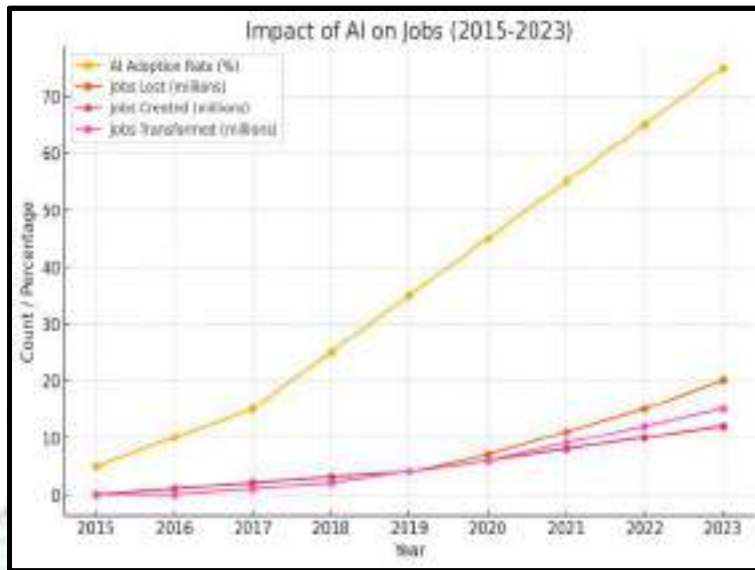
6. JOB POLARIZATION

Job polarization, a significant trend observed in the labor markets of advanced nations in recent decades, has been closely associated with the increasing gap in income distribution. This phenomenon, characterized by a shift towards high- and low-paying jobs while traditional mid-level jobs diminish, carries substantial implications for both the composition of the workforce and the structure of the economy. The correlation between rising polarization and income inequality has been extensively studied.



1. Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the core areas of the fourth industrial revolution, along with the transformation of the mechanical technology, electric power technology, and information technology, and it serves to promote the transformation and upgrading of the digital economy industry.

2. Digital technology will inevitably replace some of the tasks that were once performed by human labor. In recent years, due to the influence of China's labor market and employment structure, some enterprises have needed help in recruiting workers. Driven by the rapid development of artificial intelligence technology, some enterprises have accelerated the pace of "machine replacement," resulting in repetitive and standardized jobs being performed by robots.



4. AI has the effect of creating and filling jobs. The intelligent manufacturing industry paradigm characterized by AI technology will assist in forming a high-quality “human-machine cooperation” employment mode.

5. AI and machines increase labor productivity by automating routine tasks while expanding employee skills and increasing the value of work. As a result, in a machine-for-machine employment model, low-skilled jobs will disappear, while new and currently unrealized job roles will emerge.

6. AI has both a destructive effect and a substitution effect on employment. As soon as machines emerged as the means of labor, they immediately began to compete with the workers themselves. As a modern new technology, artificial intelligence is essentially humanly intelligent labor that condenses complex labor. Like the disruptive general-purpose technologies of early industrialization, automation technologies such as AI offer both promise and fear regarding “machine replacement.”

7. The rise of AI in the job market has resulted in a demand for new skill sets. Jobs requiring advanced technological and analytical skills are growing, while low-skilled positions face the risk of obsolescence. This polarization of jobs exacerbates income inequality and presents challenges for individuals without access to education and training opportunities. The need for upskilling and reskilling programs becomes crucial to equip workers with the skills necessary to adapt to the changing job market.



8. The impact of AI in the job market is not evenly distributed across industries. While some sectors may experience significant job displacement, others may see minimal disruption or even job growth.

9. AI systems are not immune to biases inherent in the data they are trained on. Concerns about bias and discrimination in AI algorithms have been raised, as these systems can inadvertently perpetuate existing societal biases.

III. CASE STUDIES

1. COVID

Telemedicine is the practice of using telecommunications technology to provide healthcare services remotely. It gained significant traction during the COVID-19 pandemic. In India, the pandemic expedited the use of telemedicine due to the need for social distancing and the burden on the healthcare system. Various platforms, such as PharmEasy and Apollo 24/7, played a crucial role in delivering healthcare services to millions of people.

These services have played a crucial role during the pandemic, ensuring healthcare access to most people across the country



1. Non COVID Health Issues:



Telemedicine platforms ensured that patients could continue to receive medical advice and consultations without needing to visit healthcare facilities, which were overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases. This continuity of care was vital for managing chronic conditions and addressing non-COVID health issues.

2. Online Consultations:

Telecommunication Platforms like Apollo 24/7 provided remote consultations with doctors. Patients could consult healthcare professionals via video calls, and receive digital prescriptions. This was beneficial for those in rural, underserved and impoverished areas, where access to healthcare was limited.



Influence of Technology on The Healthcare System During The Pandemic



1. COVID-19 Helplines- Telemedicine platforms set up dedicated helplines and consultation services for COVID-19-related consultations and symptom checks. This helped in early detection and management of cases, reducing the burden on hospitals.

2. Remote Support- For mild and asymptomatic COVID-19 cases, telemedicine platforms offered home isolation support. Patients could receive regular check-ups and medical advice from the safety of their homes, reducing the risk of spreading the virus.



3. Reducing Healthcare Disparities- Telemedicine reduced the cost and logistical challenges associated with accessing healthcare. Patients have been able to save on travel expenses and waiting times, making healthcare more affordable and accessible, particularly for low-income families and people living in rural areas.

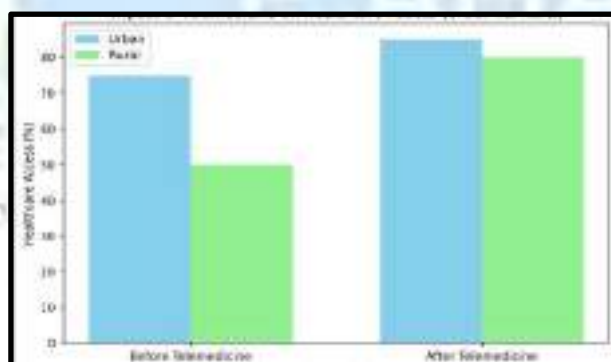
Technological Innovations and Partnerships

1. AI and Chatbots- Several Platforms integrated AI to handle initial patient queries and symptoms. This improved the consultation process and ensured that patients received timely advice and care.

2. Public-Private Partnerships- Telemedicine initiatives often involved collaborations between the government and private sector. The Indian government, recognised the potential of telemedicine and launched guidelines to support and regulate the practice. These partnerships enhanced the reliability of digital health services.



Impact on Income Disparities

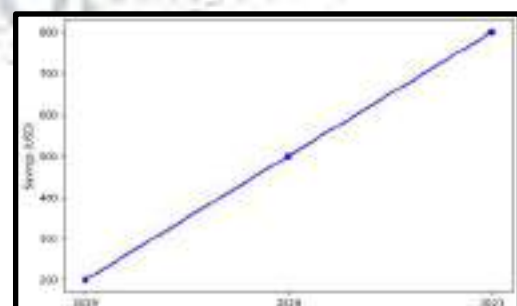


1. Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide: Telemedicine significantly bridged the healthcare access gap between urban and rural areas. Rural populations, who traditionally face challenges in accessing quality healthcare, could now consult with specialists located in urban areas, thus receiving better care.

2. Economic Savings for Patients

The reduced need for travel and associated costs provided significant economic savings for patients, particularly benefiting those from lower-income backgrounds. This financial relief was crucial during the pandemic, when many households faced economic hardships.

Economic Savings for Patients Due to Telemedicine



Solutions to Challenges Posed by this Practice



1. Privacy Concerns- Ensuring patient data privacy and complying with medical regulations were major challenges. The Indian government's telemedicine guidelines provided a framework to ensure secure and compliant digital health practices.

2. Awareness and Adoption- Initially in India, There was a lack of awareness and trust in telemedicine. Continuous education campaigns, success stories, and endorsements from healthcare professionals helped increase acceptance and adoption among the population.

2. China

I. Introduction

China, situated in East Asia, is the 3rd largest country in the world and houses a population of a staggering 1.41 billion. Despite China's size, and the fact that about one-fifth of the world's population lives within its borders, its role in the world economy was comparably small until late in the 20th century. However, since the late 1970s China has dramatically increased its interaction with the international economy, and it has become a dominant figure in world trade.



Over the past few decades, China has established itself as a manufacturing superpower. With a workforce of 740 million, it generated \$4,975.61B of market output in 2022 alone, underscored by significant technological advancements and rapid automation across all sectors. However, China's rise to the top is not without its challenges. While overt automation is bringing about a significant change not only in China's economy but also the world economic landscape, it is doing so at the expense of the jobs of millions of Chinese workers.

II. Growth of Automation in China



A. Need for Automation in China

- China's large-scale investment in Automation can be traced back to the late 1990s and early 2000s. However, a key driver for these investments came in the mid 2000s with one crucial policy, the One-Child Policy, implemented in 1979, which had resulted in an aging population and massive labour shortage in China. As China's economy boomed, the country continued to face labor shortages, particularly in low-skilled manufacturing jobs.

- Another issue arising in parallel to labor shortages, but paradoxically, was the increase in labor costs. This increase was due to several factors, including the demand for higher-skilled workers, government policies mandating minimum wage hikes, and the overall economic growth which improved living standards and expectations for better pay.
- China, therefore, needed to maintain its robust industrial system and compete with emerging markets and hence placing robots and investing in automation across sectors helped China overcome the aforementioned issues by filling the gap left by a shrinking workforce and offered a solution to rising wages in China, which threatened the cost-competitiveness of its manufacturing sector. Robots could perform tasks at a lower cost, allowing Chinese companies to maintain profit margins.

B. Efforts of the Chinese Government in Automating China

• Made in China 2025

Launched in 2015, the Made in China (MIC25) initiative aimed to bolster China's manufacturing sector. It is a 10-year plan which laid out a strategy for transforming China's economy into a dominant force in advanced manufacturing across the globe. China made robotics a central pillar of this plan and set national goals of producing 100,000 industrial robots a year and by 2020, 150 robots were in operation for every 10,000 employees. The Chinese Government also provided financial incentives and subsidies to companies that invested in automation technologies encouraging widespread adoption of automation across different industries.

• “Go Global” Strategy

Launched in 1999, the “Go Global” strategy, aimed to encourage Chinese companies to expand their international presence and compete effectively in the global market. Automation was seen as a key tool to achieve this goal. By adopting automation technologies, Chinese companies could reduce labor costs, a significant factor in global competition, particularly for labor-intensive industries. Additionally, automation could help maintain consistent product quality, which was a crucial factor for establishing brand reputation and customer trust in international markets at the time. Prominent examples of this strategy are Huawei and Alibaba.



• 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010)

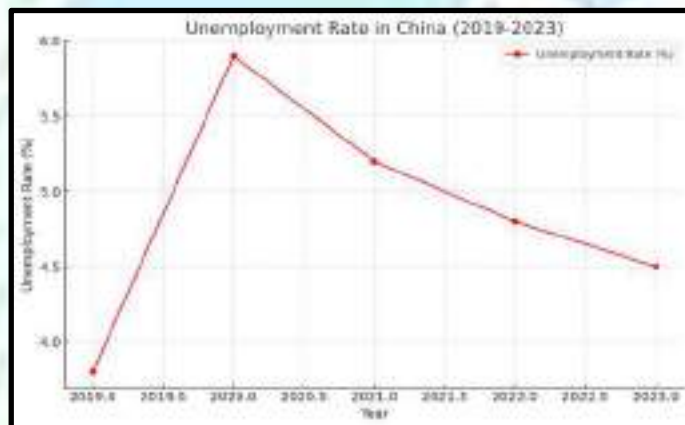
Specific Initiatives: This plan explicitly called for:

- **Increased investment in research and development:** This aimed to boost domestic capabilities in robotics and other automation technologies, reducing reliance on foreign

- **Modernization of manufacturing:** Automation was seen as a key tool for enhancing productivity, improving product quality, and maintaining China's competitive edge in the global market.
- **Upgrading infrastructure:** The plan recognized the need for robust infrastructure, including efficient logistics and communication networks, to support a growing automated economy

III. Effects of COVID-19 on Automation Employment

China was the first country to experience the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Naturally, this also had devastating effects on its economy as its GDP growth rate fell from 6.1% in 2019 to 2.3% in 2020. In this environment, the COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst for the adoption of automation in China. The need to address the labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, and the growth in e-commerce led to increased investments in automation technologies. Social distancing too played a huge factor in favoring machines over humans and because companies couldn't stop running, they decided to pivot and invested heavily in automation.



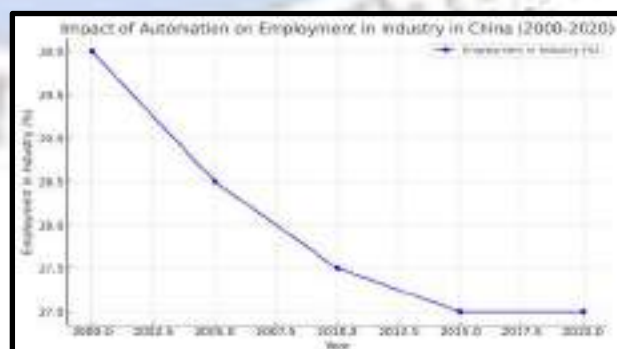
In 2020, China saw a significant increase in robot installations with a record 168,400 units installed, which was a 20% hike since 2019. The net output of the manufacturing sector grew by 7.1% year-on-year in 2020, outpacing the overall industrial growth rate. Companies like [JD.com](#) and Alibaba invested heavily in automated warehousing and logistics and even on automated delivery systems, including drones and

autonomous vehicles. (It is important to note that this investment was financed by the Chinese government through grants, subsidies and tax incentives) In 2020, China's R&D spending reached 2.4% of the GDP, which specifically aimed at advancing automation and AI. Therefore, due to the adoption of automation during the pandemic, China's industrial output grew by 2.8% in 2020. This also provided China the to rebound post-pandemic, contributing to an increase in its growth rate from 2.3% in 2020 to 8.1% in 2021.

IV. Effects of Automation on Income & Employment in China

A. The Employment Crucendo

Automation in China has payed off in terms of increasing its total output even during COVID- 19. However, in this process, the Chinese workforce has suffered. We observe the reoccurring pattern of automation advancement being inversely proportional to employment, from the very start.



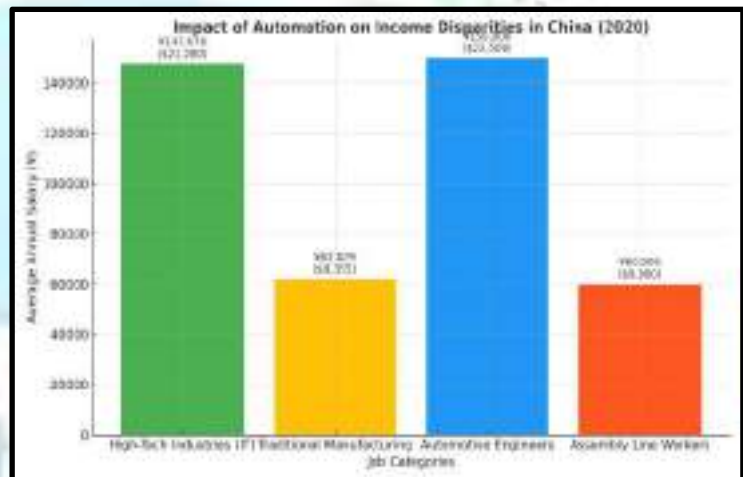
In 1999, the “Go Global” strategy led to the loss of 7.5 million manufacturing jobs due to automation and structural changes in the economy. The adoption of industrial robots in China led to the loss of about 14% of manufacturing jobs between 2005 and 2015, which included the period of the 11th Five-Year-Plan, which equates to approximately 10 million jobs. Employment in industry as a percentage of total employment in China decreased from 30% in 2000 to 27% in 2020.

B. Income Polarization and Growing Income Inequalities

Alongside employment, we also see a trend of growing income disparities often as a function of automation. Automation impacted the incomes significantly in various sectors, particularly in 2020 when the Gini coefficient rose to 0.47% indicating a relatively high level of income inequality and constrained economic mobility.

Advancement in automation and its encouragement by the Chinese

Government, has led to many companies now wanted highly skilled professionals trained in programming automation software, data analytics and AI. Therefore, we huge income disparities between regular workers in manufacturing compared to individuals in high tech, with the average annual salary in high- tech industries such as IT was ¥147,678 (\$22,280) in 2020, while ¥62,029 (\$9,355) was the average average in traditional manufacturing sectors. These disparities are prominent in industries such as the automobile industry, the largest consumer of automation, where the average annual salary for an automotive engineer in China is approximately ¥150,000 (\$22,500) as of 2020, compared to around ¥60,000 (\$9,000) for assembly line workers . We also predict that increased automation in the Chinese automobile industry could potentially displace up to 5 million low-skilled jobs by 2030, further exacerbating income inequality unless countered by effective reskilling and social policies .



3. India

I. Introduction- The Indian Peninsula, carved into the center of the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean; serves as a bustling crossroads of commerce and culture. Its extensive coastline, with bustling ports and harbors, has long facilitated maritime trade routes, connecting the riches of the East to the markets of the west. From the scenic shores of Kerala to the bustling metropolis of Mumbai, the Indian Peninsula's strategic location has been a beacon for merchants and adventurers, fostering exchange and prosperity across continents for centuries.



II. Importance of Technology over Complete Automation

The importance of technology over complete automation in India lies in its potential to drive economic growth, improve efficiency, create employment opportunities, and enhance overall development. While automation offers benefits such as increased productivity and cost savings, technology provides a balance by enabling human workers to collaborate with automated systems, leading to more sustainable and inclusive growth.



One key aspect of the importance of technology in India is its role in driving economic growth.

Technology has the power to transform industries by enhancing productivity, reducing costs, and improving quality. According to a report by the International Data Corporation (IDC), the digital

economy in India is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2025, fueled by advancements in technology such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT). By supporting technology, businesses can innovate, expand their operations, and stay competitive in the global market. The government's Digital India initiative aims to connect every citizen and deliver services electronically, leading to increased transparency, efficiency, and accountability in governance.

Merits:

- a) **Agricultural effect-** Technology plays an important role in improving efficiency across various sectors in India. For example, the adoption of digital platforms and automation technologies in agriculture can help farmers to effectively use their resources, increase yields, and reduce post-harvest losses
- b) **Manufacturing sector-** In this sector, technologies like robotics and smart manufacturing enable companies to streamline production processes, improve product quality, and meet customer demands more effectively

Demerits

a) Complete automation without human oversight can have negative consequences. For example, being relied on automation in a few sectors can lead to job displacement, widening income inequality, and social unrest.

III. Effects of Technological Advancements on Economic Growth

One of the major effects of technological advancements on economic growth in India is the enhancement of productivity. By leveraging advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and automation, businesses in India have been able to streamline processes, improve decision-making, and boost output.

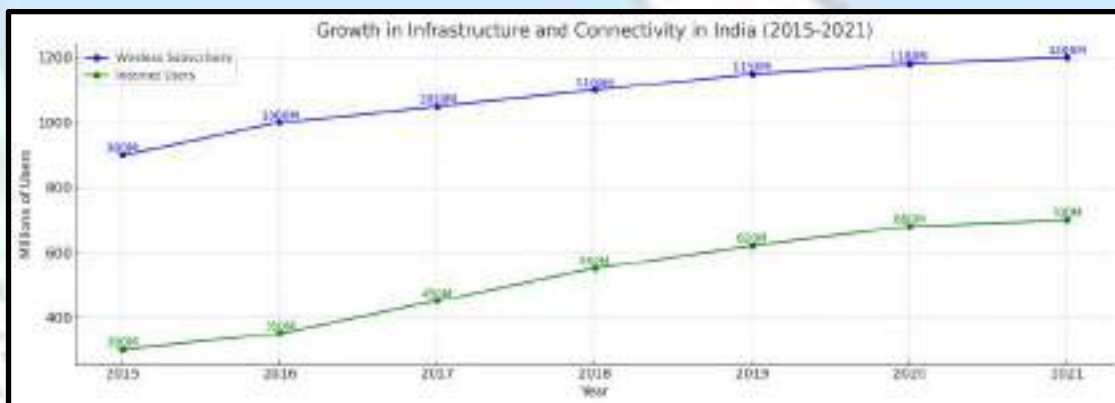


According to a report by the McKinsey Institute, automation and digital technologies could contribute up to \$500 billion to India's annual GDP by 2025. This increase in productivity not only drives economic growth but also creates new opportunities for innovation and value creation.

a) Infrastructure and Connectivity-

A significant change that came along with technological advancements in India is the improvement of infrastructure and connectivity. The development of digital infrastructure, including broadband networks, mobile connectivity, and cloud computing platforms, has expanded access to information and services across the country.

According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), India had over 1.2 billion wireless subscribers and over 700 million internet users as of 2021, showing the widespread adoption of technology in daily life.

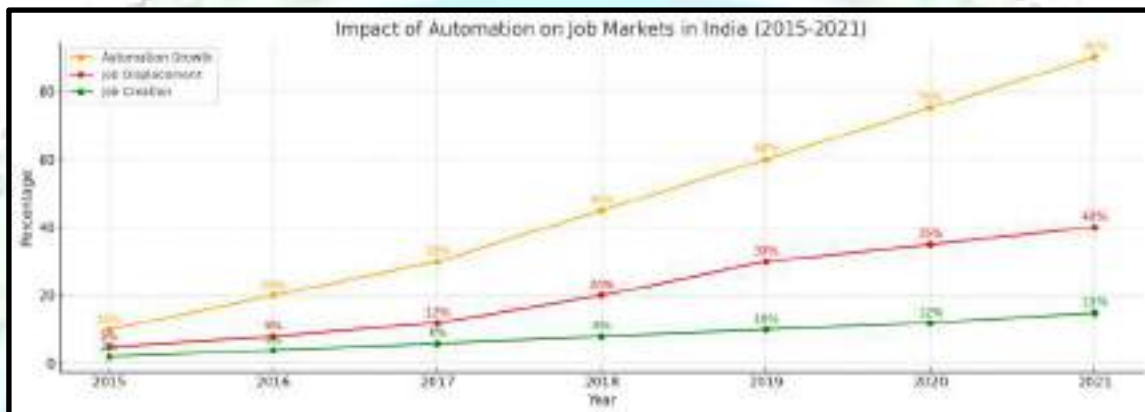


b) **Startup Ideas-** The startup environment in India not only generates employment opportunities but also fosters a culture of innovation and risk-taking, essential for sustained economic development. According to the NASSCOM Startup ecosystem Report 2020, India is home to over 50,000 startups, with sectors such as fintech, healthtech, and edtech witnessing significant growth.

c) **Education-** Technological advancements have contributed to improving the quality of education and skills development in India, paving the path for a knowledge-based economy. According to a report by the World Bank, investments in digital infrastructure and e-learning initiatives could result in a 2% increase in India's GDP growth over the long term.

IV. Impact of Automation on Job Markets

Automation and technological advancements have significantly impacted the job market in India, altering industries, labor dynamics, and skills requirements. Routine and repetitive tasks are increasingly being automated, while workers with advanced technical, analytical, and problem-solving skills are in high demand. According to a report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), automation could lead to the displacement of 56% of all workers in India, majorly in sectors like retail, transportation and textile.



One of the major concerns regarding automation in India are the chances of unemployment and how it will affect the people. While automation can create new job opportunities in sectors such as AI, data analytics, and cybersecurity, it also increases the risk of job displacement. Automation may lead to temporary job displacement as workers will have to transition for new roles, but it has the potential to create a more productive and efficient workforce. The World Bank stated, automation could result in a net gain of jobs in India by 2050 with regard to the investments made in skills such as education and social protection.

V. Nature and Causes of Structural Unemployment

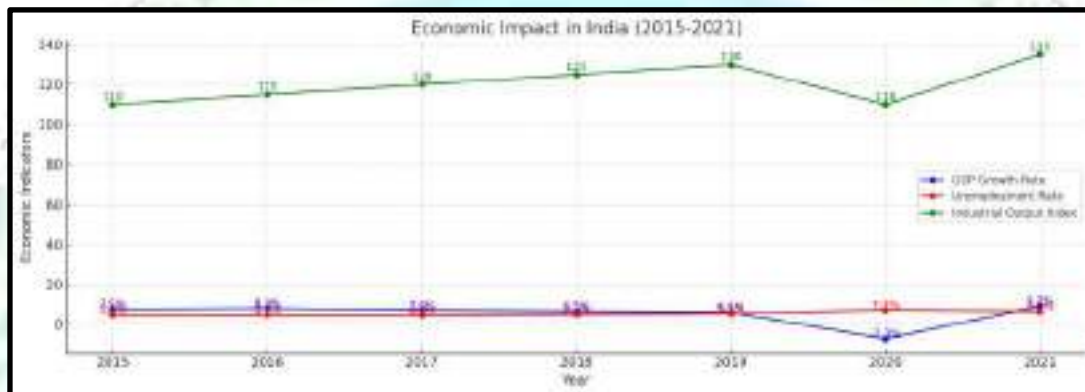
Structural unemployment happens because of the mismatch between the skills possessed by the workforce and the skills demanded by employers. This mismatch is intensified due to rapid technological advancements, inadequate educational and training systems, and changes in industry dynamics. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), India is facing a skill gap, with a large portion of the workforce not possessing the necessary skills for available jobs in sectors such as IT, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing.

Primary causes of structural unemployment in India:

- a) Lack of arrangement between education and industry requirements- The education system in India focuses less on practical skills and relevant knowledge needed for employment in a rapidly evolving job market. This is something that the Government is constantly working on in order to change it. According to the Annual Employability Survey, a large proportion of graduates in India are known to be unemployable because they are not well versed in communication, problem-solving, and technical skills.



b) Mismatch between the geographical distribution of jobs- Urban areas in India, mainly IT hubs like Bangalore and Hyderabad, offer a larger number of high-skilled job opportunities, while rural areas struggle with limited accessibility to quality education and employment opportunities. This disparity leads to underemployment in rural areas and overcrowding in urban centers, further increasing structural unemployment. Initiatives such as the Skill India Mission, launched by the Government of India, aim to provide vocational training and certification programs to equip workers with the skills needed for emerging sectors.



VI. Conclusion

Overall, technology plays a vital role in improving the overall development of India. Access to digital technologies and the internet has the power to bridge many major issues that a country has to face. One initiative taken by the government, The Digital India, aims to connect every citizen and deliver services electronically, which can lead to an increase in many factors such as transparency, efficiency, and accountability in governance.

As a whole, the country of India is growing at an exceptional rate while embracing change and modernity. It is also important to note that while the present sees a blend of challenges and opportunities, the future holds promise. Roles might change, but the essence of humanity will always remain unchanged. Eventually we must realize that all of this is leading to economic development which in turn benefits the country.

4. Japan

Introduction-

Japan is an island country in East Asia. It is in the northwest Pacific Ocean and is bordered on the west by the Sea of Japan, extending from the Sea of Okhotsk in the north toward the East China Sea, Philippine Sea, and Taiwan in the south.

Japan is the most technologically advanced country, particularly in the field of electronics. They're the vanguard of the burgeoning robotics sector, with expertise in fields like artificial intelligence and smart connectivity. Cutting-edge robots have been put to work in realms ranging from healthcare and hospitality to manufacturing and agriculture.



Revolutionizing Automation in Japan



Agriculture

Smart agriculture can assist farmers in monitoring, analyzing, and optimizing farm operations by collecting and processing data from various sources. It also reduces production cost but still increase production efficiency. Japan is highly developing in smart-farming-related areas, such as drones and robotics, and has adopted a variety of cutting-edge digital technologies in the past few years.

Japan is using smart agriculture as a solution to its acute labor shortage and rising demand for food. By entrusting more complex and tedious tasks to artificial intelligence, farmers hope to increase their productivity and efficiency.

In Hanyu, a city in eastern Japan, a farm called Takamiya No Aisai has been using an Ai robot to pick cucumbers. The robot has 4 wheels and a camera and can identify ripe cucumbers and cut them off with precision, without damaging the stems. It collects about one cucumber every minute. The robot as been really helpful with shortage of labor.



Japan's Smart Cities

Smart cities are set to radically change the way we envisage city living. This is particularly true in Japan, who are a leader in smart city development. Smart cities in Japan are gradually increasing in number across various prefectures, with more companies joining the Smart city Institute Japan which is a non-profit organisation that connects sectors engaged in the development of smart cities in Japan.

Toyota- Woven City -

At the beginning of 2020, Toyota announced its plans to build a 'city of the future' at the base of Mt. Fuji. Woven City is a place where diverse residents who share the same passion of weaving a brighter future through mobility, can come together to contribute to creating a future of well-being for all.

The city will be home to 2000 residents and researchers who'll develop AI and other technology on site. The city is still in development and is planned to be fully sustainable.



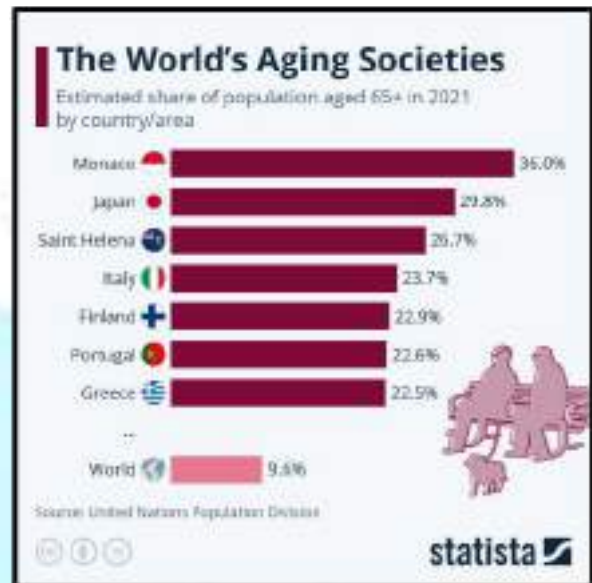
Importance of Technology over Automation

Although automation plays a big role in Japan's success, the importance of technology cannot be understated. The growth in economy is driven by technological advancements especially in sectors such as healthcare and finance. Technology has improved quality of life through telemedicine and assistive devices. Japan's commitment to green technology and smart infrastructure highlights its focus on environmental sustainability, which cannot be achieved with just automation. Education technology (EdTech) is preparing the workforce for future challenges, ensuring continuous learning and skill development. By leading in technology, Japan strengthens its global position and contributes to bridging global income disparities through international collaboration and sharing of expertise.



Current Challenges

Japan ranks number one amongst all countries in having the highest elderly citizens. Currently over one in 10 people are above the age of 80. National data also shows 29.1% of the 125 million population is aged 65 or older- a record. Japan also has one of the lowest birth rates. The country's elderly employment rate is among the highest across major economies - workers aged 65 or more make up more than 13% of the national workforce. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said in January that his country is on the brink of not being able to function as a society because of its declining birth rate.



Conclusion



In conclusion, Japan's commitment to integrating advanced technology across various sectors, from agriculture to smart cities, underscores its leadership in global innovation. However, this progress comes with significant challenges, particularly in managing the societal impacts of an aging population and declining birth rates. As Japan continues to advance technologically, it must also address these demographic challenges to ensure sustainable development. By leveraging technology not only for economic growth but also for social well-being, Japan has the potential to create a future where innovation meets the needs of its people, ensuring a resilient and inclusive society.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the global impact of automation on job markets is profound, offering both significant opportunities and challenges. While automation drives productivity and economic growth, it also brings concerns about job displacement, income inequality, and the need for workforce reskilling. The future of work will depend on our ability to balance technological advancements with policies that protect and empower workers. Governments, businesses, and educational institutions must collaborate to ensure that automation benefits are widely shared, fostering an inclusive economy where innovation enhances human potential rather than diminishes it. As we move forward, it is crucial to create an environment where technology and human labor coexist harmoniously, driving sustainable development and social equity across the globe.

As automation continues to reshape industries worldwide, it is essential to recognize that the transition will not be uniform across different regions and sectors. Developing economies, in particular, may face unique challenges as they adapt to these changes. Therefore, global cooperation and knowledge sharing will be vital in addressing disparities and ensuring that all nations can harness the benefits of automation. By fostering a global dialogue and promoting inclusive policies, we can work towards a future where technological progress contributes to shared prosperity and a more equitable world.

V. QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. How can the European Union ensure the stability and resilience of its financial markets in the face of global economic uncertainties?
2. What measures should be taken to promote sustainable economic growth while balancing environmental responsibilities?
3. How can member states improve financial transparency and combat tax evasion more effectively?
4. What strategies can be implemented to foster economic cohesion and reduce disparities between member states within the EU?
5. How can the EU enhance its role in global economic governance and strengthen its partnerships with international financial institutions?
6. What policies should be implemented to support job creation and reduce unemployment, particularly in sectors most affected by automation and technological advancements?

VI. RECCOMENDED READINDS

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VII. POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Format:

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12

Position Paper Page Limit: One page (excluding bibliography)

Page One

Delegate Name: _____

Country: _____

Institution: _____

Topic: _____

‘A quote is preferred, not compulsory’

Paragraph one:

Introduction to the topic and steps taken by the UN on the topic at hand.

Paragraph two:

Elaboration on the country’s laws and policies regarding the topic, how it is affected by the topic at hand, and measures incorporated by the country to combat the problem. Statistical Data is preferred.

Paragraph three:

Unique solutions suggested by the delegate to combat the problem.

Page Two

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BACKGROUND GUIDE PREPARED BY-

Akshita Santosh
Bhoomi Toprani
Grishnesh Reddy
Hitesh Gurnani
Madhav Desai
Niranjan Sunil

Saranya Bhat
Seethalekshmi Kishore
Shriya Narendra
Tarun Venkatesh
Vaishnavi Joshi

Mentored by Mrs. Maleka Iqbal Ariwala.

Plagiarism Report: 1% (Checked by Dupli Checker)

