

THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND SOCIETY

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The 21st century is busy discussing about the transformation of human life. The technological expansion around the world that changes the whole aspects of social life. Virtual reality in which life is expressing its wonders. Please note in the world of artificial intelligence-What is going to happen in sports? The technology is altering the sports and sports competitions.

Artificial intelligence and Football-The foot ball team(UNSW)won the world robot soccer championship .They defeated an Australian team(B-human).The margin is 3-1(Sydney Morning Herald).The match is so tough. At the end, speed helped the Australian team to win the match. In this game,There was not much difference from the football match of human beings. All the tough tactical games of the modern total football were in the field. The soccer competition is based on software and artificial intelligence(AI).The technology is dominating more and more in life sphere.Robots are more in command rather than human beings. Sports are changing too fast through artificial intelligence and finding out the new technologically meditated market. Life and sport has traveled a lot in the artificial intelligence and technology, One side, for instance, climate change and the future of this planet is the core issue of the era Another side, The world is moving towards an alternate reality. A wonderland for the mainstream social life in 2016.Alternate realities for the consumers in 3-D.Nowadays,people are living more in their own virtual world.(Four important things to expect in virtual reality in 2016 published by Rachel metz in the technology review of MIT)What is real? and what is virtual? New age cultural life and its virtual world turning the life into a fantasy in total. These cultural products and alternate worlds are teaching that images rule the world. The fantasy world gives more security, freedom and protection than the real world of violence, fear and suspicion.But,many parts of the world, people are far off from this kind of technological paradise.But,they know the impact on it. Mobile phones that touch the whole society. Now, the 4th industrial revolution-What is it?How does it shape the world and its future imprints on the world?

What Prof.Klaus schwab writes on the fourth industrial revolution -"navigating the industrial revolution-

- 1-1784 information- steam ,water, mechanical production equipment
- 2-1870,division of labor, electricity, mass production,
- 3- 1969-electronics,IT,automated production,
- 4 cyber-chemical systems

The fourth stage of industrial revolution and its current era social realities, Prof.Klaus schwab wrote that the first stage of industrial revolution based on steam and water and the second stage on the mass production using the electricity. the third one that is on the basis of electronics and IT and the fourth stage, the present technological transformation based on the cyber -chemical systems.

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The technological era that comprises of artificial intelligence, robots and driver less cars etc. In short, This is a technological wonderland. The technological utopia and its possibilities and capabilities are to be noted carefully. The present World economic forum is discussing the phenomenon. Their main theme of this year's conference is "Mastering the 4th Industrialization" PROF. Klaus schwab is the founder of WEF. The conference is on the basis of business perceptiveness. The global elite of the world is responding towards the 4th industrial revolution in a broad way.- But, the impact on workers and other subaltern sections on the population is so important. The global economic sphere speaks out inequality. Then, what will be the outcome of this technological advancement? In many parts of the world, even the industrial age of development is not yet reached.

Flexible work and life-The flexibility is the word that captures the basic essence of present day life. The flexibility in working hours has been the winning game of the business models in the present era. In short, Being flexible means to win the game in life. Flexible working hours and the present day accumulation drive don't give much benefits to the working people of the world. The skill deficit exacerbates the precarity of workers.

Sharing economy and sharing life. Is a co-operative life in order? The global economy is expanding and creating its own problems and possibilities.

How is to understand the sharing socio-economic realities. The sharing taxi service is so cheap that makes so attractive to the citizen-consumers. And these type of sharing taxi services (for eg. Uber) are in the midst of big [debates](#). Is it a part of sharing economy or not?

.At present, Sharing or collaborative economy gets a global attention Rachel boatsman was trying to define the economy ([rachelboatsman.com](#)). A sharing and caring economy of the new age technological wisdom that is transforming the citizen's life completely. Sharing taxis, homes etc, After all, sharing the economic life for the whole world.

.New technology helps to promote the sharing economy. Amsterdam-This city has been the role model for this kind of economic collaboration and sharing experiment. New business and economic models are having much impact on the social life. The new era technology based life has given a big boost to these sharing economic life experiments. In Cochi (Kerala)-. There have been some clashes between taxi drivers and the online taxi services. The argument is that the online taxi service has been a threat to the traditional taxi drivers' employment opportunities. This has given a challenge to the trade unions and political parties. In Kerala, Labor unions are yet to understand the sharing phenomenon. Not only in India, all over the world, The problem of sharing economy is in such a confrontation. In Australia, Australian labor party has come out a plan for the Uber and Airbnb -(The guardian, oct-22).

When society becomes more and more meritocratic, what is the level playing field in democracy? Meritocracy dominates the world. Democracy and its relation to the meritocracy is a discourse of the current era... Positive discrimination policy -this is an essential for the subaltern sections of the population. Indian society has realized the dangerous consequences of the meritocracy. And its demand for the reservation has a long history. Mahatma phule had demanded it in the 19th century itself. Recently, The scholar of Inequality, Thomas piketty has

congratulated India for addressing this issue. Indian society has such a long history of reservation as a tool for social justice. But, the hegemonic world of meritocracy has created a social justice gap is a crystal clear reality.

What is Democracy and social justice in an economy of meritocratic age? What are the new age instruments to tackle the social gap created by the ideology of meritocracy in this technocratic world of 4th industrial revolution?

Inequality-The discourse of inequality is getting a worldwide attention. How is to solve the inequality question? In the European context, The Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras spoke about the hard realities of society., There are two Greeces-. Four million people are living the below poverty line, Other Greece, One can see, if you go out on a summer evening in a bouzouki night club along the coast or if you go to Mykonos (Spiegel interview-manfred ertel, Katrin kuntz), The rich and poor, 1 and 99% - These kinds of social realities give us a big shock. Greece situation is the worst situation in Europe. Inequality and society that has given birth to many populist parties/movements in the world. Populism is an easy short cut for political mobilization. It might be left wing populism or right wing populism.

The entire spectrum of the society is so much worried about the present day inequality in the society. While calculating the list of billionaires, they are expanding and spreading across the countries. Forbe magazine (Oct, 2014) reported that all the richest 100 persons have been the billionaires in India. All over the world, The total number of billionaires are 1645, among them 268 persons are new billionaires. The list includes 172 women billionaires too.

Expansion of wealth and middle class-Does it become a safeguard for democracy? It will take many years to give a proper answer. Democracy must have a basic socio-economic opportunities for working smoothly. But, new job opportunities along with the wealth creations have exposed to the new economic and green challenges. Pope himself has warned the hard core reality of wealth gap. The warning of Rousseau on inequality has been a naked fact. It could be seen in the present day work of Thomas Piketty (capital in the 21st century) No doubt, The most important moral and ethical question of this century is inequality.

Politics, Economics and The Global common-The two spheres of life that have been the basic discourse of our society for ages. The political economy of the present crisis and Politics and economy for whom? What is it? This is what reflected in Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter (On Care for our common Home-W2.vatican.ca) - The criticism of the present way of life style is touching all the aspects of life - from global warming to the crisis of modernity. Modernity and its over importance to the anthropocentric life style, globalization, technology, inequality, pollution, waste, throw away culture, loss of bio diversity, technocracy and the quest for moral and ethical living.. All these issues are widely being debated in different social and political contexts. According to Pope Francis, There should be a dialogue between politics and economics for the common good (see politics and economy in dialogue for human fulfillment). The criticism is closely related to the present day political economy and its market driven life style. A global consensus is developing for the common good. The Global Common in which economy and politics is to reflect ethics and mortality for the common good, not power and wealth.

World unemployment scenario opens a Pandora's box. ILO report(2015)has clearly reflected the condition of unemployment, by 2019,more than 212 million workers will be out of work,The current unemployment level is 201 million.(world employment and social outlook trends - 2015).South Asia and sub Sahara is in the category of the worst affected relating to the vulnerability of unemployment..Middle classes are increasing(34 % in developing countries)The message is very clear, New consumer aspirations along with the middle class boom are a fact. The newly urbanized middle class aspirations are leading the society into new era social questions. And the crisis of unemployment is creating insecurities and social risks.Old age people and care is also a big social issue in coming decades. A graying society in the making .Skill development is also a relevant issue. skill development schemes are expanding in different parts of the world. National Skill development in India and Skills future council of Singapore are some of the skill initiative programmes in the world. But, the technology and employment is a burning issue confronting the human civilization.

Democracy and its digital way-21st century is so wonderful, How is a world of "Digitalism". and life is in online?In election, Estonia gives a lesson, The role model for internet voting in democracy. New generation voters are the forerunners of the digital voting. The internet political constituency changes the political culture."online democracy"-Making a digital citizen is a democratic challenge in representation and participation ,and of course,The duties and responsibilities of becoming a digital citizen.

The life at margins and job creation –

The job creation in which ILO says that (world unemployment and social outlook report trends - 2015) Unemployment is the serious reason for the social unrest. For tackling the social unrest means to provide a secure employment. The new age consumerist aspirations make working class life much more vulnerable..

Ageing and development issue-The future world is facing a core issue that is ageing and development-Old age people are increasing. in India. Global age watch index ,2014 says that the ageing position of India is 69.There are various issues from income to social security need to be taken into consideration .And emotional well being,the core area is being ignored. Norway is in the position of rank number one. Increasing ageing population is a challenge for the society and to create a social and economic structure for the old population. One of the most neglected people in our society is the older people.A large number of people in this bracket are growing so fast. 2050 is a crucial year of old age people (around 2 billion people in the world).Most often,the problems of old age are considered just as an issue of development .And it becomes a part of care economy in a narrow sense of development. There has to be a new outlook in the policy of ageing. Contributions of the old age people to the family and community could not be ignored at all.

Decent job-The decent work agenda is ILO's slogan which includes promoting jobs,guaranteeing rights at work,extending social protection,promoting social dialogue etc.,In short,Work has a holistic meaning.What is the life condition of worker today? In many parts of

the world, even the jobs of subsistence wage are not available, where is the decent job? - Migrant workers and their tragedies that hit news paper headlines everyday. Technologically, the world economy is so much advanced, the economy is changing so fast from agrarian mode of production to the latest digital economy. The concept of decent job, international community is to rethink their concept on work.

While discussing the crisis of democracy and Inequality in the era of 4th industrial revolution, The crisis is developing across the globe - One of the prominent thinker of democracy - Tocquville - had warned the democracy and equality relation in the 19th century. The present day inequality is beyond everybody's imagination. That is democracy, of course, fortunes should be there, but, fortunes shouldn't remain in the few hands. In that way there can be rich man, but, they don't form a class (Equality and democracy) of equality. The present day inequality and the fortune making in democracy has had multiple effects on the society. Look at the Greek democracy where the economic crisis led to a total social and economic immobility of the society. Populist movements have been raising their voices in this socio-political context. Many classic studies of Inequality (scholars like Stiglitz, A. Atkinson, Piketty etc) provide some serious analysis on the current era inequality in our world. The growing gap of rich and poor and redistribution of wealth has been the biggest debate in any society. The 4th industrial revolution era is an era of the highest stage of inequality too.

Trade unions are the part of mainstream society life for years. And The trade union has a central role in the functioning of the modern society. Recently, In USA, Larry Summers has just mentioned the importance of unions (Unions must be a part of the national agenda., Sept, 11) Washington Post) And its role in shaping the modern society. In our part of the world, Unions had such a commanding presence in social life. Really, Weakening union means it erodes the basic life confidence of the working people. This is a real danger to the democratic life. The centre of human labor is disappearing. Robots will play a dominant role in the future. In recent times, a robot killed a worker in Germany. The 4th industrial revolution is an age of the conflict and co-operation of the machines and human beings. Beyond that, A planetary boundary is clearly visible.