

Envision | Issue Statement Paper

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Issue and Topic

Re-Education for Job Displacement

Problem Statement

The growth of technology is creating a more efficient, more intelligent, and more widely connected world. Information is produced and exchanged in almost every area of the world through connected wires and waves. It can be argued that human induced improvement of technological function will never decrease. In fact, it is suspected that humans will improve upon technology to a point where the technology will have the ability to improve upon itself. Major industries will be run by technologies; millions of jobs will be mechanized and will no longer need human bodies to complete work. As of 2016, it is estimated that 7.1 million jobs in the world's richest countries could be lost through redundancy and automation (Kottasova, 2016). In October of this year, Anheuser Busch sent its first driverless delivery truck of beer on a 120-mile test with success. Full success in autonomous trucking would put around 3.5 million people from this industry out of jobs in the United States alone (Rueters, 2016). The world is moving to a time where people are not needed to be the means of physical production, but instead instructed to focus on knowledge creation. Today's leaders will need to not only develop the roles that individuals will fill in the future due to mechanization, but will also need to help develop those who are being continuously displaced by these developing technologies. This can be done by creating accessibility to re-education options for individuals who lose jobs due to this recurring automation and phase out of industry in order to not only ensure economic viability, but also to inform the initial education process.

Sustainable Solution

The focus will need to be on mind not matter, brains not brawn, and ideas not things. Our education system will need to be able to develop individuals in society to become better thinkers and more adept problem solvers. We already have the most powerful tool readily available with typical development, the brain. This resource has capabilities

far beyond what is researchable. Increases in accessibility to existing resources on a national level will influence real change. The Americans who are displaced by automation and redundancy are largely those who are in the lower-income demographic. These individuals likely do not possess skills that are able to transfer from their current line of work to more complex work. It is predicted that 65% of children who started primary school in 2015 will end up working in jobs that do not exist today (Kottasova, 2016). The training for their future is vital. The current educational institutions are centered on the way that our current world functions. The training for adults who are removed from their positions and those who are unable to join a depleting industry is also incredibly important. There will have to be voices that will depend on a change in the way that all ages learn and develop their problem solving skills.

Introducing Associate Degrees at the high school level will put focus on the two-year colleges that provide for a diverse range of people. High school students face the daunting task of determining what the next step in their life is at 18 years old. To reduce the stress of an immediate income, students would be rewarded with an Associate Degree after completing the appropriate workload in their four years in high school. This adds a number of options in the lives of students as they will be able to stick with their trade or they could continue their education with affordability. This not only provides the student with multiple resources, but would help to in turn reduce student debt. Providing essential resources to a targeted, diverse population may provide that solution.

The progress already made in creating new and efficient technologies is astounding. Machines will inevitably dominate the production of goods in American society at some point in the very near future. They may even take over some services that are taken for granted due to commonality such as restaurant serving, customer service centers, retail shopping assistants, etc. The actions to cope with and adapt to these emerging shifts must begin soon in order to have ample time to design effective and meaningful opportunities for each and every person across the globe. The leaders of today can make this predestined transition as one that does not completely unhinge current societies. We can offer our adult population that is affected by this change by encouraging re-education. Two-year institutions have “42 percent of the nation's community college students that are the first in their families to attend college. Thirteen percent are single parents, 12 percent have disabilities, 6 percent are non-U.S. citizens and 3 percent are veterans. Most community college students receive financial aid, which usually requires them to carry a full course load and maintain a certain grade point average — stipulations that can add to the pressures” (Clay, 2012). To help alleviate that stress, we can provide funding to those that go as an incentive to the future of our country. A form of tax on automobile companies that outsource their

production could go towards this funding. We want to encourage spending in America and provide new job openings. We can do just that by re-educating adults who lose jobs due to automation and provide them with sponsorships from this tax fund.

Our goal is to transform education in tandem with the transformation and innovation in our evolving society. We will transform the focus so that we are concentrating on mind not matter, brain not brawn, and ideas not things. We all want a more equal and represented America and we have the solution, but results require action. We ask you to make that action today.

Research Sources

Clay, Rebecca. (2012). "Diversity at Community Colleges." Monitor on Psychology. American Psychological Association.

Kottasova, Ivana. (2016) "Technology could kill 5 million jobs by 2020." CNN Money. CNN.

Reuters. (2016). Uber and Anheuser-Busch Make First Autonomous Trucking Beer Delivery. Fortune. Time, Inc.