

The Role of Philosophy in a Technologically Developed Society

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Abstract:

This article analyzes the impact of modern technologies on philosophical and ethical theory. It discusses how technological development affects human life, society, and ethical values. Technologies, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and the digital revolution, raise philosophical issues such as ethical decisions, human freedom, privacy, and information security. Philosophy plays a significant role not only in understanding these technologies but also in evaluating their social consequences. The importance of philosophical approaches in critical thinking, ethical responsibility, and making conscious decisions is discussed, as well as the future social and ethical impacts of technologies. The article presents key ideas and recommendations necessary for properly understanding the relationship between humans and technology in a technological society.

Keywords: • Modern technologies, Philosophy, Artificial intelligence, Ethical responsibility, Critical thinking, Humans and technology, Technological society, Digital information, Metaverse, Biotechnology, Genome editing, Information security, Social justice, Technological ethics, Virtual reality, Digital divide, Philosophy and innovation.

Introduction:

In today's global context, technological progress is advancing at an unprecedented rate. Innovations in artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, and information and communication technologies are radically transforming human lifestyles. These changes are not only in economic or technical domains but also leave deep marks in social, ethical, cultural, and ideological areas. In such a situation, the field of philosophy, with its methodological, ethical, and critical approaches, becomes highly significant.

In modern society, technologies are not only making human activities easier but also introducing new complex problems. For instance, the independent decision-making capabilities of artificial intelligence, violations of privacy, and the ethical boundaries of biotechnological experiments require a philosophical approach. Philosophy, at this point, takes on the task of searching for answers to crucial questions facing society and ensuring that scientific and technological achievements do not conflict with human values.

This article analyzes the role of philosophy in a technologically developed society, its ability to respond to the demands of the information age, and its role in maintaining a balance between humans and technology. It also discusses the role of philosophy in developing a critical approach to technological processes and its contribution to the formation of a conscious, responsible, and sustainable society.

2. Philosophy and Technology: Historical Context

The relationship between technological development and philosophy has existed since ancient times, with both complementing each other, and sometimes working in opposing directions. Philosophy began as the search for human thought, knowledge, and the nature of existence, later forming the foundation for scientific thinking. Ancient philosophers such as Aristotle, Plato, and Democritus not only laid the foundation for philosophical thought but also contributed to the formation of natural sciences. Their views on nature, motion, cause and effect, and the structure of the cosmos form the roots of today's scientific progress.

In the Middle Ages, philosophy was more closely associated with religious beliefs and ethical principles, but technological knowledge continued to evolve. Scholars like Abu Nasr Farabi, Ibn Sina, and Al-Khwarizmi, who worked in the Muslim world, integrated philosophical thought with science and made significant breakthroughs in mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and mechanics. In their works, philosophy served as a theoretical foundation for technological progress.

In the modern era, philosophers such as René Descartes and Francis Bacon developed the methodology of scientific knowledge and laid the foundations for experimental sciences. Especially Bacon's empirical approach and the principle that "knowledge is power" became the ideological foundation for technological progress. In this period, philosophy had already become closely linked to science, and technological achievements were justified through philosophical concepts.

In the 20th century, the relationship between technology and philosophy deepened further. Philosophers such as Martin Heidegger, Jürgen Habermas, and Herbert Marcuse advanced critical views on technological consciousness, technological rationalism, and the objectification of humans. They emphasized that, while technology could ease human life, it could also become a tool of control. Heidegger, for instance, viewed technology as one of the ways humans understand their existence, while Habermas focused on the social and democratic impact of technological progress.

Thus, throughout historical processes, philosophy has provided theoretical foundations for technology, analyzing its social, ethical, and ontological consequences. Today, this relationship holds even greater importance as technological achievements are shaping the future of humanity, and philosophy's role in understanding, controlling, and guiding these impacts is unparalleled.

3. Philosophy in the Modern Technological Environment

At the beginning of the 21st century, the digital revolution and the rise of artificial intelligence, big data, genetic engineering, quantum technologies, the metaverse, and blockchain have deeply penetrated all sectors of society. In this environment, humans are no longer just technical operators; they are forced to reconsider their role as ethical decision-makers, conscious, and responsible beings. For this reason, philosophy is being revitalized as a crucial theoretical and practical foundation in the current technological development processes.

One of the key philosophical issues associated with modern technologies is the ethics of artificial intelligence. For instance, when AI systems make decisions on behalf of humans, what ethical standards should be followed? If autonomous cars (e.g., self-driving vehicles) have to choose whether to harm someone to avoid an accident, what principles should guide that decision? These questions are being analyzed through philosophical schools of thought such as Kantian ethics, utilitarianism, and deontological approaches.

Another pressing philosophical issue is information technology and privacy. The internet and mobile technologies enable the constant monitoring of people's actions,

thoughts, and emotions. This leads to the re-examination of concepts such as freedom, privacy, and surveillance. Philosophy addresses this issue from the perspectives of human rights, social justice, and ethical control.

In the fields of genome editing and biotechnology, practices such as altering human DNA, cloning, or selecting the traits of unborn children raise fundamental questions about the future of humanity. Questions like "What does it mean to be human?", "What is natural, and what is artificial?", and "Where do ethical boundaries lie?" are explored through philosophy.

Furthermore, issues such as technology addiction, manipulation of digital information, and the social impact of virtual reality also require philosophical analysis in the modern technological environment. Especially among the youth, immersion in the virtual world, the conscious and unconscious influences of social media, and the formation of self-identity in artificial environments are central philosophical concerns.

In conclusion, in the modern technological environment, philosophy enables humanity to understand technologies, assess their nature, boundaries, and consequences. Philosophy not only raises questions but also creates the foundation for society to make conscious decisions based on ethical criteria.

4. Human and Ethical Issues in a Technological Society

The unprecedented acceleration of technological progress has led humanity into new social and ethical contexts. In modern society, while technology has become an integral part of human life, this process has also raised numerous ethical, spiritual, and existential (ontological) issues. Philosophy deeply analyzes this situation: how technology impacts human nature, freedom, values, and responsibility.

First and foremost, the issues of human value and freedom are pressing. Information technologies and artificial intelligence are automating many aspects of human activity. This leads to the loss of certain jobs and the devaluation of human labor. Philosophy examines how technology impacts human labor, values, and self-awareness at this point. Does technology empower humans, or does it turn them into passive, controlled beings?

Ethical responsibility is also a crucial issue. As technologies, especially artificial intelligence and algorithmic systems, begin to make independent decisions, the question arises: who is responsible for the consequences of those decisions? For example, what are the ethical and legal consequences if autonomous weapons or facial recognition systems malfunction? Philosophy approaches these questions through the concepts of "responsibility" and "ethics of decision-making."

Social equality and justice are also important ethical issues that need to be addressed in a technological society. Technologies sometimes deepen existing social inequalities: the digital divide, i.e., differences in access to technology, is growing both between developed and developing countries and within societies. Philosophy develops the theoretical foundations for overcoming these inequalities and promotes the concept of technological justice.

Concerns about the future of humanity and technological dystopias also require ethical and philosophical analysis. The ideas of "transhumanism" advanced by futurists, which aim to enhance human beings technologically, raise many ethical questions: What makes us human? Does technological perfection mean giving up humanity? Philosophy discusses these questions based on values, culture, and ethical standards.

Another important issue is ethical relativism and universal values. Technologies are spreading globally, but each society accepts them based on its culture and values. In this context, how universal can ethical approaches be? Philosophy contributes to creating global ethical platforms based on intercultural dialogue.

In conclusion, in a technological society, humans should understand their role not only as users of technology but also as conscious and ethical beings. Philosophy, as the guiding force in this process, helps to explore the social and ethical consequences of technologies and lays the foundation for making conscious choices, maintaining moral stability, and building a just society.

5. The Role of Philosophy in Critical Thinking and Decision-Making

As technologies become more complex, it is essential to develop a conscious, cautious, and responsible attitude towards them. Decisions related to technological innovations are often made in uncertain and risky conditions. For this reason, it is vital for modern humans to have developed critical thinking skills. Philosophy serves as the primary tool for this purpose.

Critical thinking involves analyzing facts and data, justifying conclusions, evaluating alternative options, and approaching decisions with deep logical thinking. In a technological society, these skills are crucial not only on an individual level but also in political, economic, and scientific decision-making processes. Philosophy, especially through logic, epistemology (the theory of knowledge), ethics, and political philosophy, provides the foundation for critical thinking.

Today, people rely on many algorithmic systems: news feeds, AI recommendations, financial decision-making programs, and even healthcare algorithms. However, how these systems operate and what data they rely on to make conclusions remains unclear to many. Thus, critical thinking transforms individuals from passive "acceptors of what

technology says" into conscious beings who understand, evaluate, and challenge these systems when necessary.

Philosophy develops a reasoned approach to decision-making. For example, utilitarianism proposes selecting the option that provides maximum benefit, while deontological approaches emphasize adherence to principles. Thus, every technological decision can be viewed through ethical, social, and human lenses.

Evaluating the reliability of information, combating fake news and manipulations, and analyzing AI decisions are all practical expressions of critical thinking and philosophy. Especially in guiding the younger generation in the digital world, philosophical knowledge and communication culture are essential.

Furthermore, philosophy plays a crucial role in developing alternative future scenarios. What is technology capable of, what will it change, and which path will humanity choose—philosophy serves as the theoretical basis for analyzing and predicting these questions.

Thus, critical thinking is not only an intellectual or scientific activity but also a vital tool for survival in modern society, making conscious decisions, and preserving humanity. Philosophy plays a decisive role in developing and deepening these skills.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The process of modern technological development is one of the most significant turning points in human history, radically transforming all aspects of human life. Against this backdrop of profound change, the importance of philosophy, on the contrary, is not diminishing but is, in fact, increasing. Philosophy not only allows us to understand technologies but also to comprehend their ethical, social, and ontological consequences.

As discussed in this article, philosophy has historically provided the theoretical foundations for science and technology, and in the contemporary era, it continues to play a key role as an ethical guide and a source of critical thinking. In today's technological society, humanity faces complex issues such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, personal privacy, algorithmic control, digital information flows, and many others. Addressing these challenges requires deep philosophical engagement.

Furthermore, philosophy enables the development of critical thinking, the use of ethical criteria in decision-making, and the cultivation of an informed and conscious attitude toward technology. This approach leads humanity not only to technological power but also to achieving spiritual and social stability.

Recommendations:

1. **Greater Emphasis on Philosophy in Education:** Philosophy should receive more attention in the education system. In particular, for students studying technical fields, philosophy, ethics, critical thinking, and the fundamentals of technology ethics should be included as mandatory subjects.
2. **Philosophical Expertise in Advanced Technologies:** The integration of philosophical expertise into sectors dealing with artificial intelligence and advanced technologies is essential. Every major technological project should be evaluated from the perspectives of ethics, society, and human rights.
3. **Promoting Philosophical Literacy Through Media:** Increasing philosophical literacy through mass media and internet platforms will contribute to shaping a civil society capable of deep, critical thinking about technology.
4. **Interdisciplinary Approaches:** It is recommended to develop strategies for managing technologies through interdisciplinary approaches — that is, through collaboration between philosophy, computer science, biology, psychology, and social sciences.
5. **Integrating Philosophical Research with Technological Innovation:** Philosophical research should be integrated with innovative technologies to develop new social technologies, responsible innovations, and technological models that align with human values.

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