

**SOCIAL ORDER AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE:  
A SOCIO-ETHICAL DISCOURSE**

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**Abstract**

People around the globe have moral values and principles. These moral values and principles govern society, since no human society practices a free-rider system. These rules and regulations form the foundation of the public good and general well-being of every society, as far as social order is concerned. Social Order, the matrix of human relationships in society, arises from the context of human nature. Human nature includes many social attributes and characteristics, such as ways of thinking and empathy. Replacing human contact with the technological term Artificial Intelligence (AI) raises serious social and ethical concerns. Ethics developed and is used because humans are corporeal, vulnerable, and empathetic. These characteristics are the basis of human social nature and, hence, societal ethics. Therefore, this paper examines the social and ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI) in modern society. The new normal, termed artificial intelligence (AI), poses significant social and ethical challenges that demand careful consideration. It can transform our society positively or negatively. To achieve this study's objective, the paper uses a phenomenological and sociological approach, theoretically framed by human nature theory. The study observes that while artificial intelligence (AI) can bring significant benefits to society, it will also affect social attributes such as thinking and empathy that human nature is endowed with. Brotherhood will be completely erased, and family ties and closeness will be destroyed. The work, however, suggests that AI must be built to align with humanity's overarching goals.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, Social Order, Human Nature Theory and Ethics

**Introduction**

Change has been the only constant in human society. Humankind's life has witnessed a series of evolutions and has been reshaped through inventions and innovations. According to Laura (2006), the human species evolves in all its dimensions: biological, physical, social and cultural. Modern humanity faces numerous challenges across all arenas of life, from the economy and politics to the environment, healthcare, culture, and law. One of the burning subjects of the twenty-first century is the ethical issues raised by artificial intelligence. On this note, Rotatori (2021) explains that the advent of technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, big data analytics and the Internet of Things, is ushering in a new wave of challenges across military, political, economic and social spectra, forcing a rethink of how activities from the individual to the global level have

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so far been conducted. Vijayakumar (2023) equally states that artificial intelligence has already crept into activities at various levels of human behaviour in tangible or intangible ways. Nosike et al. (2023) on this same subject matter concur that artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century, revolutionising industries, augmenting human capabilities, and reshaping societal norms. The co-evolutionary journey between humans and digital machines has begun, and this will expand human capabilities and open new spaces of knowledge.

Ogu and Okechukwu (2024) argue that AI, as a general-purpose technology, is predicted to have a deep impact on society, particularly in justice, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and the future of work and employment. As with most life changes, artificial intelligence can transform the world for good or ill. AI's transformative impact on society will have far-reaching ethical, economic, political, legal, and regulatory implications that need to be addressed.

Gordon & Nyholm (2021) argue that, in many areas of human life, AI has rapidly and significantly affected people and how we interact with one another. This implies that artificial intelligence can restructure society's entire social order, affecting the workforce and economy. Laura (2006) further explains that an increasingly artificial world, generated by human-made machine interaction, will produce not only growing machine complexity but also growing complexity in humanity itself and its moral values. Artificial intelligence, as a unique and novel sociotechnical system that includes a humankind-like agent, poses challenges in projecting its exact role in the global order.

### **Definition of Terms**

To properly understand the subject matter, the major keywords, social order and artificial intelligence, should be defined.

### **Social Order**

When we talk about social order, we refer to due process or the proper functioning of society. According to Mbohu & Udoh (2019), social order is a fundamental concept of society that refers to the way in which the various components of society: social structure and institutions, social relations, social interactions and behaviour, and cultural features such as beliefs, norms, and values work together to maintain the status quo. Hechter & Horne (2003) define social order as the way people relate and behave in society. Social order, however, is a state of stability and consensus that exists without chaos and upheaval. Social order exists when human rights are recognised, and human equality is maintained. It is a concept used in history, sociology and other social sciences. For Mosby (2009), social order is how a society is organised and the rules and standards required to maintain that organisation. Social theorists such as Talcott Parsons, Emile Durkheim, and Jurgen Habermas have proposed different explanations of what social order consists of and what underpins it. For Emile Durkheim (1858-1917), people are the product of their social environment, and behaviour cannot be fully understood in terms of individual biological and psychological traits. He believes human potential is not biological but social.

Edafejeko (2013) argues that social order arises from the context of human nature. According to him, human nature is the concept that humans have a set of inherent distinguishing characteristics,

including ways of thinking, feeling, and acting. Social order occurs when society is organised around its members' shared values, grounded in rules and regulations.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

The combination of the two words artificial and intelligence needs to be examined. The word artificial refers to an attribute that is not natural; once an attribute is not natural, it becomes artificial. However, only human beings have natural intelligence. A human being is an organism that has two major parts: the body, which is essentially what we can see and the brain, which makes us special or rather, a higher animal. The brain holds intelligence. According to Sidelique (2017), artificial intelligence is what makes a machine intelligent.

Sezqin & Balcioqlu (2023) say it is a computer-controlled robot that can perform tasks usually done by humans, as it requires human intelligence and reasoning. Mohammed (2019) confirms that it is intelligence demonstrated by machines, in contrast to the natural intelligence displayed by humans and other animals. According to him, artificial intelligence addresses the crucial question of what knowledge is required for thinking and how it should be represented and used. On the other hand, Pavaliou & Kose (2017) say it is an effective science which employs strong enough approaches, methods, and techniques to solve unsolvable real-world problems. Verma et al. (2023) explain that it involves using machines and computers to aid problem-solving and streamline human operations. For them, artificial intelligence powers tools that mimic the cognitive capacities of human minds. Baucher (2020) says it is a system that displays intelligent behaviour by analysing its environment and taking action with some degree of autonomy. For Ogu and Okechukwu (2024), it is a domain of computer science that deals with developing intelligent computer systems capable of perceiving, analysing, and reacting to inputs.

Despite these definitions, the common idea behind artificial intelligence is that machines and computers help human beings solve problems and streamline work processes. It is also a term used to describe functions of human-made tools that emulate the cognitive abilities of the human mind. Ogu and Okechukwu (2024) further state that AI, generally associated with computer science, has also developed important links with other fields such as mathematics, psychology, linguistics, neuroscience, sociology, biology, philosophy, and many others. AI is heading toward transforming humanity and, through its inventive capabilities, is trying to usher in a new world that might disorganise the social order.

### **Artificial Intelligence and Its Impact on Human Society**

Humanity is witnessing a technological revolution that has fundamentally altered how we live and relate to one another. According to Rendsburg (2019), we are in the midst of the fourth industrial revolution, which follows the third revolution, often called the digital revolution, which involved the development of computers and IT (information technology). These innovations and inventions sparked by the fourth industrial revolution are shaping the face of human society, with both positive and negative impacts. These innovations and inventions will raise some of the most significant ethical, moral, and religious issues we can face as human beings. They fuel anxieties and ethical concerns. It raises questions about the trustworthiness of AI systems, including the danger of codifying and reinforcing existing biases, such as those related to gender and race, or infringing on human rights and values, such as privacy. The fourth industrial revolution of artificial intelligence is considered the biggest threat facing the world today, and it threatens national and

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international security. He maintained that machines have always been weaponised in some way, and battlefields are no longer “out there” but “in here” through cyber warfare. Verma et al. (2023) explain that artificial intelligence, known by some as the industrial revolution, will change not only how we do things and how we relate to others, but also what we know about ourselves. The implication of this kind of change to human society is that the social order, which is specifically about how the various components of the society’s social structures and institutions work to maintain stability in the society, will be disrupted. Artificial intelligence is like a developed brain, and how we use this power will affect society.

However, as stated earlier, artificial intelligence, often seen as bringing visible revolutionary change, has both positive and negative impacts. In the healthcare industry, AI has brought visible positive change; for instance, various artificial intelligence algorithms predict diseases earlier. Today, robots can serve as assistant surgeons. According to Verma et al. (2023), AI is entering the healthcare industry by helping doctors diagnose conditions, identify disease sources, suggest treatment options, perform surgery, and predict whether an illness is life-threatening. Maheshwari et al. (2023) also state that scientists, medical researchers, physicians, mathematicians, and engineers can create AI that focuses on medical diagnosis and therapies, providing dependable and secure platforms for delivering health care.

Similarly, banks and financial institutions use artificial intelligence applications to access current market information and deliver mobile or internet banking services to customers, making communication easier. Mindel & Reynolds (2023) argue that artificial intelligence can drive economic growth, create new jobs, and improve productivity. Furthermore, in education, it has brought positive change by offering a step-by-step teaching platform suited to each student’s level, especially in numerically structured subjects such as mathematics and physics. Balcioglu (2023) argues that artificial intelligence benefits society in many ways, including increasing productivity and efficiency by automating routine tasks, reducing human error, and improving resource utilisation. As society changes and embraces a more automated lifestyle, new jobs will also be created to monitor, enhance, and repair these automated machines. Holt (2018) captures this scenario:

There are many ways autonomous machines will help improve our lives as they continue to be refined over time. As mentioned before, a few areas where AI will help us include smart cars, improved websites, making phone applications more personalized, enhancing positive outcomes in the medical field and doing many of the dull, dirty, dangerous and difficult jobs in factories and other industries

People in the 21<sup>st</sup> century do not have to work as their forefathers did because machines can do the work for them. Khritish (2024) further explains that AI’s impact has spread across various industries, revolutionising business operations, healthcare, finance, transportation, and more. It has a visible transformative effect on industries, thereby changing the social order.

Nevertheless, artificial intelligence has posed serious challenges to human society. It can reinforce inequality within society, thereby disrupting the social order. Farahani & Ghasem (2024) classified the major inequalities that artificial intelligence will reinforce as economic, opportunity, social, digital, and ethical inequalities. They stressed that AI-driven automation may displace jobs and

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disproportionately affect workers in low-skilled or routine roles, widening the gap between high-skilled and low-skilled workers. Yavuz (2023) argues that young societies that have just entered the labour market will face difficulties, as they will have to solve potential future problems due to their inexperience. As a result, AI can hinder income generation for young people and less-educated workers in automatable areas. In many developed countries, machinery has replaced many jobs, and many automobile assembly lines are now filled with machinery, forcing traditional workers to lose their jobs. They also stated that access to artificial intelligence education and training programs may be limited, leading to unequal skill development and job prospects. Selwyn (2019) states that despite AI's potential benefits, its deployment in education raises ethical considerations and challenges. Issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the digital divide must be addressed carefully to ensure equitable access and fair treatment for all students. On social equality, biased AI systems may produce discriminatory outcomes in areas such as criminal justice, healthcare, and access to public services, disproportionately affecting marginalised communities and perpetuating social injustice. AI adoption and access to AI technologies may vary across regions, socioeconomic groups, and demographic categories, leading to digital inequality. AI also raises ethical concerns about fairness, accountability, and transparency. Another major challenge posed by artificial intelligence is privacy. The confidentiality of the credentials entered into the artificial intelligence system is very important. Sensitive information such as identity numbers, nationality, gender identity, and other private personal information should be protected.

Furthermore, social attributes and characteristics, such as ways of thinking and empathy, that human nature is endowed with will be jeopardised. This could trigger a major social shift that affects how we live in society. These AI-related risks are serious and could significantly affect millions of people worldwide. It can influence humanity as a whole. It will eventually replace face-to-face meetings, the primary way we exchange ideas, reducing human contact and closeness. In Africa, for instance, the spirit of brotherhood, a hallmark of African philosophy, will be completely erased. You are on your own, and the mind-yourself syndrome will be fertilised, and family ties and closeness will be destroyed. According to Trapple (1987), artificial intelligence will give us many toys that distract us from more human interaction. Similarly, Zeinab (2022) observes that despite the importance and advantages of AI applications, current health circumstances have reduced children's social communication with peers through outdoor play, shifting them to game applications and negatively affecting children's social intelligence.

AI may radically change human self-understanding. Artificial agents are created not only to assist but to replace humans in processes such as fabrication, business, services, communication, research, education, and entertainment. The human cultural dimension is also transformed, and a technical man is born. All types of values are renewed because of the emergence of new human needs, often satisfied by virtual relations and virtual means, in a virtual environment, which is a technical and mainly intellectual artificial environment.

Artificial intelligence is like a developed human brain, and, if not properly channelled, its power might bring negative changes to society. It has considerably expanded human capabilities and opened new spaces of knowledge. It is a powerful technology created by humans. If a human master, by chance, creates or invents something that is racially or egocentrically oriented to harm certain people or a race, it will cause world disorder. Awadhesh et al. (2020) argue that, despite AI's positive promises, human experts are still essential to design, program, and operate AI to

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prevent unpredictable errors. This suggests that AI, when not built, designed, and used for the common good, will disrupt social order and adversely affect human society.

When designing artificial intelligence systems for social services, designers should pay special attention to users' privacy and personal information. For example, security cameras are in people's private lives. Zou and Schebinger (2018) explain that despite AI's transformative potential, its widespread adoption also raises ethical concerns and societal implications. Issues such as algorithmic bias, privacy violations, job displacement due to automation, and the concentration of economic power among AI technology providers must be addressed to ensure responsible AI deployment. The confidentiality of the credentials entered into artificial intelligence systems is also important. Strong data protection programs and strict regulations are necessary to prevent privacy violations and misuse of sensitive information.

### **Artificial Intelligence and World Social Order**

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the world by penetrating many job sectors and reducing the need for human input in areas such as transportation, medical procedures, military applications, and even industrial and commercial fields. According to Holt (2018), artificial intelligence can enhance everything from household appliances to medical neural networks that can diagnose diseases or perform operations. He maintained that as society changes and embraces a more automated lifestyle, new jobs will also be created to monitor, enhance, and repair these automated machines. AI promises numerous benefits, and many AI policy documents focus on the economic gains expected from higher efficiency and productivity. Trapple (1991) argues that AI may radically change human self-understanding and that people's view of themselves will shift when confronted with a superior intelligence. However, the problem may not be employment, since humans can adapt to certain environmental challenges, but social order, which emphasises the due processes required for society to function. Human beings create rules that guide society, and those rules are geared toward maintaining social order.

Ukagba (2013) emphasises that physically, people differ in size, weight, age, speed of reaction, etc.; psychologically, they differ in talent, experience, abilities, intelligence, memory, sense, acuity, etc. He explains further that these individual differences are partly due to physical and psychological inheritance. Every individual carries within himself a unique result of the chance combination of genes from his ancestors, transmitted to him by his parents. Another big challenge is that artificial intelligence is not a phenomenon that relates purely to technological development; it affects such areas of human activity as ethics, the nature of human consciousness, and the essence of will, emotions, memory, intuition, and everything that is still not known even in the sphere of human nature itself.

According to Broom and Selznick (1973), a social order exists when an entire community or society, or a significant portion of its history, is characterised by distinctive and interwoven patterns of social organisation. Of course, observing the work of artificial intelligence provides material for understanding the essence of consciousness itself. However, modern practice and rapidly evolving technologies suggest a coming turning point. The interaction between human consciousness and artificial intelligence will eventually spark a confrontation between two distinct cognitive worlds, each claiming control over how future knowledge is generated, stored, and transmitted.

## **Conclusion**

Artificial intelligence is now a reality and should be evaluated seriously for a better future. It is important to raise awareness of the ethical issues that may arise as AI advances worldwide. Preventive measures are needed to ensure AI safety, as uncontrolled innovation could have unpredictable and unintended side effects. This increasingly artificial world, shaped by human-machine interaction, produces not only growing complicity with machines but also with humanity itself and its moral values. As it stands, technological progress will not stop, but it can be controlled through a code of ethics with strong precaution and risk-management assessment, anticipating predictable outcomes. To ensure that AI contributes positively to the global environmental sustainability goals, it is important to address the ethical, regulatory and technological challenges it poses.

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