

AI is overcoming one mental limitations
but not expanding one mental horizon

One day while scrolling youtube, I came across a video and what it entailed really amazed me. Two men were sitting across each other and asking each other their favourite song and favourite singer. So, one person said I like Arijit Singh the most and my favourite song is Kal Ho Na Ho. The other replied that how amazing would it have been if he can listen to his favourite song in the voice of his favourite singer. Now if this conversation was happening 10 years ago, it would have been a little far fetched (have) but now thanks to Artificial intelligence or AI, they just did some clicking here and there and alas, Arijit Singh

was singing Karo Ho Na Ho, my personal favourite too.

This small incident reflects the immense potential that AI hold for humanity to overcome its mental limitations and shortcomings.

Every innovation that has happened in our human history is been due to our limitations in one way or other. We can't calculate, subtract, add, multiply large number, we invented calculators. When the data we possess in form of texts, audios went beyond our storage capacity, we invented computers to store everything at one place.

AI is just another tool that is developed by human to overcome its limitations in almost every domain of his life.

What is really Artificial intelligence?
In simple terms, it is a tool or software that ~~computes~~ aims to mimic human intelligence in terms of planning, decision making and problem solving. If we go in more sophisticated meaning, it would mean series of algorithms that are trained ~~on~~ on a large amount of data called big data to find patterns and learn from it and then employ that learning to take decisions.

It is this ability of AI that has made it into a new genie for human kind. You don't know what to dress today, just say 'Alena' - what should I wear today!, She will ask you questions like - how are you feeling today, what are your plans, business meeting or friends gathering, and here is your answer - 'you should try a black jumpsuit'!

It is not just limited to your dressing preferences but can expand ^{it} into your food preferences, book and even song preferences. It is like your personal assistant that reminds you about the number of steps you have completed or that you haven't talked to your mom today yet. Thus it has overcome our most basic yet extensive limitation that is to remember things.

You want to know today's hot news, just open google and it will show you everything you want to know without you needing to read whole newspaper. You are served with readymade opinions on twitter everyday, you don't need to apply your mind what is wrong or right.

Companies like Open AI has gone even a step further by developing Chatgpt, a generative AI tool. It just don't ~~help~~ ^{help} you decide from the existing songs but can create a new song for you. It can be an absolute boon for students where they don't need to copy assignments from their friends but just command Chatgpt and served with readymade things.

AI's utility is not just limited to individual domain but can expand into society's sphere of things. It is coming very handy for law enforcement authorities when they need to identify one criminal within a crowd of lakhs using facial recognition technology. It can even help them in identifying hotspots where a communal violence can broke out by looking at his historical data.

Army on our borders is right and capable but still human has its limitations.

But with the help of thermal sensors, AI devices, they can track any illegal infiltration making our borders safer.

Our farmers are losing in this era due to their limitations of not knowing when to sow the seed, how much fertilizer to apply, when the pest will attack, when to irrigate but AI based sensors can easily do these tasks for farmers.

Our Health system is riddled with regional disparity with 80% of doctors in urban areas where only 33% population resides.

AI based diagnostics could revolutionise the health services for our rural and remote population. Similarly, teachers find it difficult to change their pedagogy as per needs of each child but AI can provide personalised² guidance to every child.

Thus, AI is helping us overcome our mental limitations in almost all dimensions of our life. But is it really serving us something we need or we think we need! AI is often blamed that in the guise of serving us, it is making us its servants. It is no way helping us in expanding our mental horizons.

We as human race is actually retracting on our civilisation history, from being the cultivators of knowledge, we have turned into hunters & gatherers in this AI driven data forest. Our attention span has reduced considerably even less than a gold fish (6 seconds). We have lost our power of patience with everything coming to us even if we don't need it.

The infodemic led by AI driven algorithms has made us just consumers of knowledge. If you searched for a bag and now you're seeing photos of it at every website you visit. It is leaving us no time to reflect that whether we actually need it or opportunity to search even a better bag than this. Consumerism and materialism is at its peak!

The idea of instant gratification is leaving us with no time to reflect on what we already know, connect the dots and use it to develop new concepts and knowledge. AI has actually taken away our power and ability to try out new things, innovating things. Imagine, if Newton was born in AI era, while seeing a falling apple, he would have ^(gone) to google to find answer, - no answer then would have switched to a new reel - no discovery of gravity.

Chetan Bhagat once said that when we watch something, we just watch it but when we read something, we imagine it. Every story becomes our own story with our own characters, their skin colour, their dress, their height, their voice, their background, everything is decided by us. But the tools like Chatgpt are slowly taking away our inherent creative abilities. It is turning us into passive beings and it is actually dangerous.

Our ability to critically analyse things, rationalise the information we receive and then forming our viewpoints is somewhere lost. When you are served with ready opinion, why would you bother to exercise your mind to see whether that opinion is even right or not.

AI driven diagnostics and AI's personalized guidance can't replace the personal touch of a doctor or teacher. Surely, AI has helped us in innumerable ways and almost at negligible cost but is often said that when something is for free, we are the product. The Big tech companies like Facebook, Amazon are reaping their profits while leveraging our limitations.

It is indeed a concerning situation and we need to do something about it. Firstly, there has to be a global cooperation for developing common legal framework for regulating AI. There is a need to bring transparency in AI algorithms so that we may know how these big tech companies are shaping our preferences.

At the personal level, we need to reflect and see how AI is overcoming our mental limitations but it is making us overly dependent on itself. What we need is personal restraint on one part to limit the use of technology for our personal decisions. Somewhere we need to find a balance.

So next time, you need a dress suggestion, call your mother or friend, remember your favourite song from childhood and ask Alexa to play it. It is important that we follow our heart instead of directions of a tech tool. We all need to have a digital detox day where we retrace our natural roots, go to a park, meet people, discuss politics on a cup of tea and then shape your opinion.

We really need to reorient our education system to teach our children, not to become slaves of technology but be the masters of it. AI is future but it shouldn't be allowed to destroy our future.

How wonderful it would have been that instead of using computer and algorithms, those two men could listen to that song directly from Arijit Singh on an Instagram live - a balance which we should aim at.

The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them

A young girl in her teens was so fond of going to school and passionate about her education. Everything was going well for her but one fine day, she was stopped from going to school. Some people consider it as unreligious that girls are going to school. She didn't remain silent. She resisted and fought back for her right. ~~and~~ But this fight was not easy, she had to suffer even a gun shot in her struggle. But even then she persisted and today we know her as Malala Yousafzai - recipient of Nobel peace prize and an ardent vocalist of women education.

She has moved beyond her name and her struggles and now known to people a strong lady who fought for her right. She has, beyond her struggles and hardships but (gone) to reach that stage, she has to go through it, suffer in silence and bear all the physical and mental agony.

What do we mean when we see going beyond things. To me, it would mean overcoming our hurdles and limitations, finding our potential and real worth and making a mark for us in the society. It is like when we etch our name in people's memory for the things we have achieved in our life or the kind of person we have become.

As Socrates has said - an unexamined life is not worth living. To find that purpose and wisdom, we need to go through things. Buddha gone through so much hardships and pain before he attained enlightenment. Similarly, Gandhiji find his purpose of non-violence and Satyagraha when he suffered racism and moved beyond that to uplift every person who is discriminated & marginalised.

Every man is not born same. Some are born with god-gifted talent and mind. But every man possess within itself the ability to get what he want to achieve, to reach that stage of self actualization. As we often say that hardwork beats talent and time and again, many people have proved it. Dhoni might not have been with inherent

Talent for cricket, but he worked hard for it. And now he is our captain cool and among the best cricket captains in Indian history. Shahrukh Khan worked day and night for his dreams and now meeting him is dream of many - he is indeed last of superstars.

We human beings are not free from faults and mistakes. In our journey of life, we often do things which we repent later on, but isn't life is like this only! We can't change our past mistakes but what we can do is to move beyond them for a better purpose and goal. Ashoka in his quest for expansion & empire, did ~~at~~ a lot of destruction and violence but one was changed his outlook towards life and he adopted Dhamma policy to lead his life in peaceful and righteous manner.

Our society has evolved in a way that we have become so judgemental. Whenever ~~something~~ ^{somebody} is laying to do something, we often bog him down with criticism and harsh words. In that moment, those who persist and remain resilient to that criticism will make a mark for themselves. They will move beyond people's judgements & opinions and will shape their own destiny.

BR Ambedkar, founding father of our Indian constitution as we know him, was put down by society in every possible way because of his caste but he overcame everything to achieve his dreams. As Sachin Tendulkar has written in his autobiography - 'Playing my way' that when people throw stone on you, you turn it into milestones.

When we aim at a higher goal and strive towards it, it is never a smooth journey, it is full with ups and downs. Every achievement comes with its own failures and we need to embrace those failures. We have to be more beyond those failures to reach our success. Thomas Alva Edison failed 100 times before he could give us bulb.

We all strive for happiness ~~and~~ but it is really an unquenchable thirst. What we should aim is for a bigger purpose and goal. The attainment for goal is not important but it is the journey. It shapes your character and ideas and it changes you for better. You become a better version of yourself and gain ability to face challenges of life.

But why do we need to go beyond things, can't we be satisfied with what we have! Why we need to go through all those hardships. firstly, it is impossible! life is cruel and it puts you in such situations where you can't be in autopilot mode. You need to reset yourself, change your ideas and way of doing things. Dassath Manji was forced to chip the mountain to form that passage because of situation life put him into. ~~life put him into~~
(had)

It is often said that there are two great days in a person's life - a day he is born and the day he came to know why he is born. To get to that day, we need to move beyond every limitation, every criticism and every failure. Buddha achieved it and we can also do it.

change is the only constant of life. With time, we all need to change. Some change for better, some for worse. But those who fail to change, will perish. Those who moved with time and embraced the changes became big and made a name for themselves. TATA is a very successful conglomerate who ~~en~~ changed according to needs of time and ~~to~~ move beyond the shackles of constancy.

But sometimes, when we change with time, it can be ~~for~~ worse. Humankind in his quest for change and innovations has caused immeasurable damage to nature. Its impact is seen today in form of climate change. To correct its impact and repent our faults, we need to focus on improving and correcting it by investing in technologies and innovations.

~~Is it so simple to move beyond this?~~
Is it so simple to go through those hardships and pain to make that name for ourselves? It is actually not. A person is required to have immense gait and determination to move beyond things and go through every agony and misery that comes his way. Success is always ups and downs & never a straight line.

Arjuna was indeed the great warrior of all time but he had worked hard for it. He trained his mind to sleep whenever he want, wherever he want so that he can practice more and more. He developed his skills to become the greatest warrior. Similarly Gandhiji has to suffer imprisonment, numerous criticisms and for his fight for independence. But he remained true to his ideals of truth and non-violence and today he is the harbinger of peace all over the world.

In today's era, people are suffering from depression and anxiety because of the inability to deal with stress that come through cut-throat competition. Students are committing suicides after failing in exams and career. This is a concerning situation for our society.

We need to prepare our children for the best and worst days of life. There is a need to prepare them in mind as well as character. There is a need to provide them with moral and value based education. It is necessary to teach them to learn from mistakes but not allow your mistakes to become the only reality of your life. They should learn to move beyond them.

We need to create right role models. When we publicise success stories, at the same time, failure stories should also be told. Every man is an end in itself. Instead of comparing one life journey with others, we need to believe in one own journey, go through it and go beyond it.

We as a country is facing challenges of poverty, inequality, unemployment, social injustice, climate change. Each of this challenges requires us to go through the pain and ~~that~~ failures before we reach that sweet spot of economic and social justice.

As Nelson Mandela has said that it is not the life that we live matters but the difference that we make

to the life of the others will determine
the worth of one life.

Don't
write
anything
in this
margin

