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AI Roots in Modern Dreamland

Online communities used to react to a social media trend with super realism cakes by joking if anything is real or just a cake. Nowadays, they question whether it is real or AI generated instead. Max Read, a senior editor at New York magazine, defines AI slop as "a term of art, akin to spam, for low rent, scammy garbage generated by artificial intelligence and increasingly prevalent across the internet". AI slop videos are being uploaded on social media at an alarming rate. At the same time, people are starting to get accustomed to the usage of AI to reduce effort of mind. Subsequently, these recent events have resulted in a greater demand for energy. AI generated content has a negative impact on contemporary society because it increases environmental strain, deepens technological dependence, and commodifies human creativity.

To start with, AI consumes significant amounts of energy. Each stage of its lifecycle of modelling, testing, and maintenance contributes to growing energy demand of the modern world. To produce enough energy, more fuels like coal, oil, or natural gas are burned. This leads to increased carbon footprint on Earth. For instance, 2026 research by a group of various university affiliates in Western Europe attested that "AI-related carbon emissions are highly variable but potentially substantial, particularly for large-scale and continuously operating systems" (Oliveira et al.). Their conclusion confirms that extensive AI operations result in a considerable amount of carbon footprint and thus increased climate impact. Commercial AI giants like OpenAI provide

services for millions of users across the globe. Therefore, they can be considered large-scale and continuous operations that negatively impact the environment.

Despite these circumstances, environmental sustainability is often overlooked in the name of convenience. People like shortcuts and view environmental awareness as a hoax. However, a fundamental principle of the law of nature is that a man cannot consume more than he produces. Fresh water is limited. Unpolluted quality air is limited. Energy is limited. Unlike our energy-efficient brains that only need about 20 Watts of power to function, AI chatbots require a staggering amount of energy to operate. Therefore, it would be a waste of energy, as well as the entire procedure and labor that went into producing it, for these AI models to provide answers to people who are clueless about the most basic "how-do-I" questions. Simple behavior changes such as looking for resources at the right places before generating lines of output from AI chatbots may help conserve energy consumption. If convenience continues to be a priority over sustainability, men could end up relying completely on technology for survival.

Concerns regarding increased technology reliance are on the rise. To maximize profits, companies often replace human labor with cheaper AI tools. For example, advertisers may use AI-generated images instead of hiring photographers, and software teams may shrink because AI boosts productivity. As a result, many skills are becoming replaceable, reducing self-reliance. Nowadays, people ask the most basic questions to these large language models before making the slightest effort to figure things out by themselves. This designed habit results in loss of a critical function of the brain to learn from mistakes. On the other hand, building things by oneself may take longer but it ensures longevity. For example, a student may save time by copying homework from AI generated content. However, if they take their time and effort to really build up their understanding of the material, they will not forget about it quite so easily. In

fact, repeated effort would create a habit of learning new things through pattern recognition which means higher adaptability in all unforeseeable circumstances. Unlike tech reliance, self reliance trains the brain to learn how to think effectively.

Moreover, media influence spreads more easily due to growing reliance on technology. Modern trends, opinions, and social norms are changing rapidly due to the advancement of technology to reach the global audience instantaneously. On the surface, it seems to provide harmless fun. However, this development also carries dire consequences. For example, in the ongoing Strait of Hormuz crisis, the Iran regime appears to be winning the propaganda battle against the cultural superpower of the United States with the use of AI generated content. Their content usually depicts Lego characters with a direct criticism of President Trump to yield global appeal. A British news journal, The Economist, observed that "AI allows expensive-looking videos to be made cheaply and quickly in response to breaking news." When a large volume of videos can be uploaded and shared across the platforms easily, even the entertainment and media power of the land of Hollywood cannot compete at the same pace. Consequently, the rapid spread of AI-generated content threatens democratic societies by increasing the risk of misinformation and creating a poorly informed public that may make misguided political and social decisions.

Furthermore, AI slop attempts to overshadow human creativity by copying byproducts of knowledge without the knowledge itself. Recently, a term for programming practice called "vibe coding" has been used to frown upon novice developers who cannot write a functioning program without constant assistance from AI. Most vibe coders suggest that AI-generated lines of code have made traditional software development obsolete. They would, for example, ask AI to design a website and then sell it to a clueless local business at a cheap price. They call it a miracle when

their website finally works as prompted in the AI chatbot. However, it is only a miracle to them because they do not fully understand why it works. In fact, this miracle is simply a byproduct made possible by the preexisting knowledge of human civilization built on a giant shoulder of history. Current AI models are simply output machines of content available online rather than sentient beings who are able to think something new by themselves. Therefore, these vibe coders are essentially copying off someone else's creative work through the usage of AI.

Growing AI slop is made possible by AI content consumers. Max Read has asserted in his essay Drowning in Slop that "Slop requires human intervention or it wouldn't exist". The biggest contributors to this system are not the vibe coders or AI generated video spammers but those who continue to support them. For instance, small businesses would choose cheap vibe coders as a short-term solution instead of paying a higher price for expertise and longevity. Furthermore, companies like Meta keep monetizing AI content creators simply because users like to scroll endlessly to dull their minds by watching these random videos. Therefore, AI slopes are also an attack on human creativity because human content creators cannot upload videos at the same rate as these spammers and therefore, their creation cannot easily reach the right audience. In short, they are basically drowning in slop.

In conclusion, while artificial intelligence seemingly offers benefits in speed and accessibility, its widespread use also produces significant societal consequences. AI systems contribute to environmental strain through high energy consumption, reinforce growing dependence on automated tools, and contribute to the mass production of low-quality "AI slop" that undermines human creativity. Although some argue that these developments will lead to a more efficient and reimagined future, such optimism overlooks the risks of diminished skill development, weakened self-reliance, and the displacement of meaningful human work.

Ultimately, the challenge is not whether AI should exist, but how it should be used in ways that preserve environmental sustainability, human capability, and creative integrity.

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