

Artificial Intelligence and its Implications for Education

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Computer is considered the heart of rapidly emerging information society on our globe. Information society is a social set-up where economy is based on information as a main commodity of life. A number of eminent writers have expressed the notion that industrial societies of the world are transforming into information societies (Naisbitt, 1984). They hold that 21st century will be dominated by information society. Culbertson (1983) beautifully compares the factory based society with information based society and believes that computers will minimize human manipulation in industrial production processes. The output of information society will be the processed information instead of material goods. The frontiers of present market will keep expanding as the consumption of information continues to grow by the people of different countries of the world.

The impact of computer on individual, organizations and society has been increasing by leaps and bounds since the invention of micro-computer. On positive side, the individuals are becoming efficient, independent and resourceful. Industrial/ commercial organizations are better managing their productivity, quality control and marketing by using intelligent machines. Societies are better informed, medically cared and safer from physical and social destruction than ever before. These benefits of computers did come alone. They have however, brought some threats to the human beings as well. For example, individuals are threatened to lose their privacy, control over decision making and job security.

One of the popular conceptions about computer takes it as an advance calculating machine to solve mathematical problems with greater efficiency, precision and speed. But, a realistic view contends that computer is an extension to human brain just as a hammer is an extension to man's arm, telescope is an extension to man's eyes and knife is an extension to the human's teeth. With the help of computer, man is able to add up to his memory, speed of thinking and processing of informations.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be defined as a "branch of computer science that deals with ways of representing knowledge using symbols rather than numbers and with a rule-of-thumb". (Buchanan, 1985). It builds upon knowledge obtained through the understanding of intelligent actions of man so that a computer systems can be developed to perform the same kind of intelligent actions.

Most of routine computer programmes are based on algorithm; a step-by-step procedure with a specific beginning and end to offer a specific solution to problem. Mathematical formula are examples of such algorithm. Artificial intelligence, on the other hand uses the heuristic way of doing things. A heuristic is a rule of thumb, a strategy or trick, a hit and see technique, or any other kind of plan which is capable of increasing the plausibility of a solution or improving the efficiency of a problem-solving procedure. Heuristics lead to optimal solutions. In fact, as some believe, heuristic method does not guarantee a solution at all. In stead it only increases the plausibly of obtaining a

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determination, which caused heavy casualties on Israeli forces, and put them to retreat.

Since December 1987, hundreds of Muslim scholars, teachers, and community leaders have been detained in Israeli jails without trial, more than a thousand Palestinian youths have been killed by Israeli forces, dozens of parents whose children were involved in throwing stones and bottles on Israeli security forces have been deported to neighbouring Arab countries.

But to the dismay of Israel, the uprising, instead of losing steam, has been gathering momentum. Any call for a strike by the Intifada leaders is widely observed by Palestinians living in occupied land. The movement has also become a focus of attention of the Muslim Ummah. Since Israel has exhausted all methods and has failed to crush the movement, there appears to be strong impulse that urges it to transfer the administration of occupied territories to the local Palestinian representatives while still maintaining its military presence in these areas. This is the essence of Shamirs' tactics and the Israel's so called "peace plan".

Israel has declared that it would never give up an inch of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it calls Judea and Samaria, and would never give up Jerusalem. Israel considers the East Bank as a part of promised land and in the future it may make an attempt to occupy the East Bank too. The type of peace agreement that Israel seems to be seeking under present socio-economic and political pressures is a limited autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel will agree to these so-called concessions only when Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other oil-producing countries of the region recognise Israel's right to exist and establish diplomatic ties with it. This will enable Israel to import cheap oil from Middle Eastern countries and export its goods to these countries.

A new generation of Palestinians after making a realistic analysis of the entire situation, assessing their resources, strengths and limitations, and identifying the real causes of the past failures, has embarked on a new path of struggle against aggression, oppression, occupation and injustice. The Intifadah is the name of this new movement, initiated on December 9, 1987 by young Palestinians living in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in Palestine. This uprising aims at the independence of Palestine through a long drawn out struggle, using all available resources, all legitimate means prescribed by the Holy Quran and practiced by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his Companions and true followers.

The Intifadah rejects all those individuals, groups and organizations which are inclined towards collaboration and compromise with Israel and accepts all those who are sincere and demonstrate a firm commitment to the Palestinian cause.

The Intifadah has its own leaders and advisors who are flexible enough to cooperate with leaders of any other group or organization, devoted to the Palestinian cause, but firm enough to take direction and command from the within.

The Palestinian refugees living mostly in Gaza, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, formed an organization called the Palestinian Liberation Organization aimed at the overthrow of the Zionist State of Israel. To achieve its goal, the PLO began carrying out attacks against Israel. Nine out of ten PLO attacks were directed against Israeli military positions and its sensitive installations, but thanks to the American mass media, every single attack was portrayed as an act of terrorism and projected any and all Israeli attacks on civilian populations and Palestinian refugee camps in the neighbouring Arab countries as legitimate and necessary military actions undertaken to ensure Israel's security.

In 1967, Israel launched an all out war against the neighbouring Arab States. In the Six Day War, the Arab armies from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq were defeated once again, enabling Israel to capture Jerusalem, the West Bank the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza strip and the Golan Heights. This painful defeat which was mostly the result of corrupt and dictatorial Muslim regimes and an underestimation of Israel's strength and military capabilities, disappointed and depressed the entire Muslim Ummah.

On October 6, 1973, Egyptian forces launched an offensive against Israel and forced it to retreat. This 18-day war shattered the Israeli image that it is invincible, and at the same time boosted the morale of the Egyptian soldiers. In the meantime, an oil embargo and the quadrupling of oil prices, initiated by the Gulf states and followed by many other oil exporting countries, (later on called OPEC), gave a devastating blow to the Israeli and American economies.

However, Anwar Sadat underestimated the impact of the war and the oil embargo on Israel and fell in to temptation of making peace with Israel. In September 1978, President Carter, Sadat of Egypt, and Begin of Israel, met at Camp David, and signed two peace agreements. In 1982, Egypt and Israel complied with the first agreement when Egypt granted diplomatic recognition to Israel, and Israel withdrew its forces from Sinai Peninsula. But, for one lame excuse after another, Israel refused to comply with the second Camp David Agreement which required Israel to withdraw its forces from the West bank and Gaza strip and granted complete autonomy to Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Moreover, Israel also violated the second agreement by declaring Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel.

In the Summer of 1982, expansionist Israel launched a major offensive against Lebanon, using tanks, heavy artillery, and air force. After heavily bombarding Palestinian and Lebanese positions for several weeks, the Israeli forces besieged the Palestinian refugee camps, killing and wounding thousands of civilians. Yasir Arafat, instead of asking his guerrillas to fight back with courage and determination and teach Israel an unforgettable lesson, pulled out 15,000 PLO fighters from the besieged camps under an agreement with Israel. Soon after the departure of the PLO fighters from Lebanon, a horrific massacre took place in the camps of Sabra and Shatila. More than 3,000 men, women, and children were killed in this genocide committed out by the Lebanese Phalangists under the supervision of Israeli forces.

However, credit must be given to Lebanese Muslims who fought with unprecedented courage and

The Uprising in Palestine

*Muhammad Ayub Munir**

Palestine, "the land of prophet" is sacred for three great monotheistic religions of Judaism, christianity and Islam. The first Qibla of Muslims, that is usually known as "Bait al Maqdas" is situated here.

More than 75 years ago, European Jews, calling themselves zionists, launched a movement aimed at creating a zionist State in Palestine. During the First World War, when Turkish forces withdrew from Palestine and British forces occupied the Holy Land, the British foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour declared British support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. In 1920, the League of nations, which was dominated by Great Britain and its Allies, endorsed the notorious Balfour Declaration and mandated the British Administration in Palestine to allow the immigration of Jews, while protecting the rights of the native Palestinians. Within a couple of years, the massive inflow of Jewish immigrants, both legal and illegal, created severe social tensions and law and order problems. The British Administration, which was supposed to maintain law and order and protect the lives and property of the people of Palestine, showed criminal negligence in carying out its duties, thereby encouraging the Jewish immigrants to use whatever means and methods they deemed necessary to uproot the Palestinian Muslims and establish an embryonic Jewish State in Palestine. To speed up the process of formation of their own government, the Jews formed an underground army called "haganah", which launched a series of terrorist attacks not only against Palestinians but also against British targets.

On May 14, 1948, Jews declared themselves independent, proclaiming the establishment of the Zionist State of Israel. Soon after the declaration of independence of Jews and the departure of British forces from Palestine, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Muslims were forced to leave their homes and land and migrate to Jordan or Lebanon. A deep resentment against these flagrant acts of volume, aggression and terrorism against innocent Palestinians flared up in the neighboring countries. Egypt, Syria, and Jordan responded by a counter attack on Israel. However, the Arab armies being disorganized, ill-equipped, and lacking proper coordination, suffered a defeat, leaving Israel in control of three fourths of Palestinian land. Although Arab countries agreed to a cease-fire, they refused to accept a UN plan requiring the division of Palestine into two parts, one of Palestinians and one for immigrant Jews, with the city of Jerusalem under direct UN administration.

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