Ethical issues concerning robots and android humanoids

New improved humans

Robot workers versus human workers

The question whether it is ethically and morally responsible to manufacture robot workers - and an

There are no easy answers here. The debate has been going for some time and there are several

The argument that robot workers take jobs from human workers is false. These jobs are generally repetitive jobs,

It isn't if there are enough other jobs these humans can turn to. It is if it leaves thousands of peopl

Besides, these days it isn't robots that are taking away jobs from people, rather it's other people who are

Economics, capitalism and socialism

A more detailed answer lies in the progress and development of countries as well as advances in

The wealthier countries have enjoyed rapid advancement in science and technology, enabling the

And as even the uneducated nationals of these countries have been subject to improved wealth m

One option is to keep the factories local and "employ" robots to do the work at a reduced cost - an

Another option is to stimulate uneducated migrant workers from other   countries to come and do th

A third option, which is more often seen these days, is to combine   the above two - move the facto

In this scenario, yes, human workers lose out all around.

Government failure

Corporate economics stipulate to manufacture a product as cheaply as   possible so that the bottor

While this is fine for a corporate philosophy, governments, on the   other hand, have the responsibi

Unfortunately many governments these days have become capitalistic in   their policies and, instea

In addition governments are often catering to large corporations for   more income, disregarding the

And this not only applies to uneducated or factory workers. The   middle classes are increasingly ur

So what does all this have to do with the ethical issue of robots in   the workplace? Quite a lot, in fa

As such, the doom scenario predictions by those opposed to this   development seems to be groun

As in other areas of our increasingly complex civilization it is   necessary to obtain a balance.

A balance between robot and human workers.

So the real question is how to obtain a balance between using   the development of technolog

When computers started entering the workplace it was proclaimed by   many that they would take j

Robot workers versus human workers

[SiteNet](#)
Robots and the factory of the future.
[Exchange Net](#)
More machinery workers?
[Soldier Of The Lord](#) - Enslavement of the Human race via a   Microchip Implant?
[We need more robots, not illegal aliens](#) - excellent article   about the need of automation rather tha

The key issue here is that the local work force has had sufficient   education to upgrade
itself at the same pace as technology, creating the   need as well as the development base
for robot workers. In the United   States and Europe, uneducated migrant workers are used
for simple labor   rather than robots, creating social and economic problems for
governments and tax payers.

Migration is not necessarily a bad thing though it has caused   problems in many places.
Cultural and religious differences are creating   conflict and chaos where there was once
peace and welfare for all.

So why are we not building robots to do these jobs? Do we really need   street cleaners,
park attendants, and garbage collectors in human form?   Robots can do these jobs much
more efficiently. And without the   continuous cost and social upheaval.

As with artificial   intelligence, we can make robots to make our lives easier, handling
tasks that we do not want or cannot do. There is nothing wrong with   this.

Robots as helpers

Robots can be useful tools as much as computers are useful tools in our everyday and working lives. Taking over more of the repetitive, dangerous and time consuming tasks so that we can spend our time more usefully.

Provided the costs are low, a farmer can employ agricultural robots that till and seed the land, do the weeding and harvest the crops. A local robot workplace can take care of any necessary maintenance, for example, providing jobs. Would this robot run on [solar energy](#) it would be even better.

In the food industries robots are better and more humane butchers, as odd as that may sound. They can collect the billions of plastic bags now littering the world, underwater bots can clean up the garbage seas that have formed in our oceans. They can reforest the land, clean up the rivers.

In the home, robot machines and cleaners can do the housework and other chores, leaving us with more time on our hands to spend with family, work, study or leisure activities.

In hospitals robots can provide assistance in laboratories and operating rooms, dispensing medicines, for example, and do cleaning work. Or even do straightforward surgical procedures. The possibility of robots working at a micro precision scale may even make them more suitable for these procedures.

Robots of all sizes, including [nanorobots](#) , can clean up our landscapes, our seas, replant trees by the millions and so forth. They can monitor our environment and go out into space for us (see [Robots in space](#)) to look for resources and other worlds for us to live on.

And, of course, we can have robots fight our wars for us.

In short, we can manufacture robots to do all that we do not want to do for any reason. Perhaps our point of view is simply too limited or self-centred to accept the possibilities of robots as part of our development as a technological society.

Robot pragmatism versus human desire

It all sounds wonderful and perhaps at some time in the future, when the world isn't preoccupied with greed, when governments return to listening to their citizens, and corporations are satisfied with profitability rather than maximizing profit by any and all means in the short term, will we see robots as the workers and helpers they are, rather than simply cheaper replacements for people.

It is certainly not an impossible goal, though perhaps a long term one. In the meantime we should continue to examine the development of robots in the workplace with some degree of scepticism, keeping a balance between actual need and greed.

But the robot ethical issue has complications on a wider scale. Without changing our priorities from greed to "Doing the right thing" - such as taking care of all the people rather than a select few - we need to also address issues such as world population, migrant workers, environmental issues, diminishing resources, corporate monopolies and so forth.

And robots are more than mechanical workers. [Artificial intelligence](#) developments make the day that our children are taught by artificial intelligence teachers come closer all the time. And this is still only the tip of the iceberg. [Cybernetics](#) - (automated) control systems - also need examining in this respect and how they tie in to the overall picture of human development.

For more on this issue see also [Ethical Issues Regarding Artificial Intelligences](#) .

Your opinion

Let us know what your view point is about this issue. We will place a selection of your com

Let your voice be heard. Add a comment.

All comments are subject to editing or placement. Your email address will not be included.

Robot workers versus human workers -	Your opinion

Shahnawaz A.	Robotics is a field that highlights the blurred line between what is right and wron
Cody T.	I think we should look into robot workers because it would help us out i
David H.	It's not just robots but all kinds of automated equipment that take jobs away fr
Melissa P.	I would feel safer with a robot operating on me than a person. Robots don't ma
Sheera Y.	I don't think we need robots at all - better we develop humans to do the
Muhammed	Robots are kewl. I want them to do everything for me!