

The term “machine” can characterize a multitude of different things. There are machines that go hand in hand with just about any area of human society today, from medical sciences and computer technology to children’s toys. Looking a hundred years into the past at a world that was much simpler, one may wonder if living a life in that time period would be easier and more productive. Could technology actually be hindering the general public in relational and communication skills as well as endangering them by exposing them to a variety of different threats?

The days of snail mail and horse drawn carriages are long gone. In their place technology abides making the seemingly menial tasks of communication faster and more convenient than ever before. People across the country can now converse face to face over the internet in a matter of seconds thanks to computers. Long lost friends become found in the click of a mouse due to social networks and email. The newest fashions can be bought without ever having to leave the room and are delivered right to the door. Surgeries can be performed from across the world with ever increasing technological discoveries. People’s lives are being saved with operations that were deemed impossible before the creation of the surgical machines used. Positive things are happening in technology and for every instance there is a machine making it possible.

Life changing programs have been developing with a rather unique machine. Programs using robots have the potential to have an extremely positive impact on children and adults that have suffered from a stroke or cerebral palsy. Research is underway regarding the possibility of giving robots human feeling and emotion. Giving a machine the ability to interact like a human would be a mind boggling feat. If this is made possible, the world of Physical therapy and even beyond that will be changed. There are so many positive things that machine can do for humans

and society as a whole. It can become too easy to overlook the flaws that have become so increasingly prominent in this technological generation.

Numerous lives have been lost due to accidents involving machinery. Factory accidents and meltdowns are not uncommon. Machines just cannot be perfect. There will always be flaws that will cause machines to wear down or function improperly which can lead to unfortunate mishaps, serious injury, and even death.

Sometimes when problems happen it is not the machine that is flawed it is the person using it. In the world that exists today there are many people that use machines and technology to harm others. Computers can access all types of information and can be a great resource to students, families, and individuals when used properly. Unfortunately the internet can be an extremely dangerous place. Computers make it possible for a person to create any identity for themselves and to put on a visage that is increasingly difficult to unmask. Sexual predators lie in wait ready to pounce on their next victim. Cyber bullies thrive when they have the power of the internet at their fingertips. Identity theft has become a national problem because the use of electronic banking and purchasing has allowed predators to steal that information and use it in a negative way.

Those that drive a machine such as a car or an airplane have a responsibility to drive it in a way that is not a threat to people around them. When they fail to comply with that responsibility tragedies happen. Car accidents happen every day and are generally the result of flawed judgment or a lack of responsibility. It is not the car's fault that the driver ran a red light or failed to stop at a stop sign, it is the fault of the driver. Take September 11th 2001 as an example. There was no malfunction with the plane itself and the reason that it crashed was

because of a group of people who decided that they would cause the plane to crash. Destructive people can completely diminish the true intent of machines.

Machines can also instill in a person a tendency towards introverted behavior. With all of the social networks, messaging, and email available, people have significantly decreased the amount of face-to-face and live interactions that they have and instead choose to communicate through text. This behavior may cause for a future generation that is socially awkward and has a serious anxiety about conversing with people audibly.

Another thing people tend to forget about with the presence of so many distracting machines is how absolutely beautiful and calming the created earth is. In the early years of the United States people used to lead much simpler lives. The constant need to check the cell phone, facebook, email, or watch TV did not exist but was instead replaced by the sound of the wind and water and the sight of a truly beautiful starlit sky. The distraction of technology did not control one's life but instead one enjoyed the spontaneity of life.

Machines have a seemingly endless roster full of pros and cons. When used improperly they can be a threat to society. But, if they are used in a positive manner they can make serious impacts on individuals, societies, and the world. It seems that the growth of technology in 2010, as long as it is monitored can be a very positive and rewarding experience.