Self-Driving Cars Involve More Harms Than Benefits for Society

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Autonomous Vehicles and the Uncertain Promise of Social Benefit

Irrespective of the ubiquity, the benefits of self-driving cars remain uncertain. Self-driving cars do not eliminate the most visible problems faced by the countries, including traffic jams and overcrowded streets. In reality, self-driving cars will provide more relief to people, as they will not have to deal with the pain of driving for hours.

They can relax in the back seats and enjoy their trips, thus encouraging them to travel more often and go on long trips. The fact that people will spend more time in cars and take longer trips will worsen the traffic situation. The claim supports the main argument discouraging the replacement of driverless cars with driverless cars.

Automation, Job Loss, and the Economic Costs of Self-Driving Cars

As automation will put many people out of jobs, their lives will become miserable. Another disadvantage of self-driving cars is the threat to employment, as many drivers will lose their jobs. The world is already encountering the problem of unemployment, and driving provides earning opportunities to many people. Self-driving cars will definitely take away their jobs, thus creating a fuss for society. If taxi companies switch to self-driving cars, it will cause further damage as millions of taxi drivers will face unemployment. The situation is similar to the time when the technological age eliminated manual workers from factories due to the adoption of advanced technology and machines. In the case of self-driving cars, they will commit fewer or no errors compared to the drivers, thus improving the service. The companies will rely more on driverless cars and neglect the repercussions. Switching to driverless cars is not a wise solution in a world where society already suffers the consequences of economic instability and unemployment. More people out of jobs will suffer the consequences and undergo depression and despair.

More dependence on self-driving cars will mean high costs for the owners. The cars that are driverless involve the latest technology and automatic controls, giving an indication of high cost. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, n.d.) Driverless cars are not feasible in the current world because only the rich can afford them, creating a class gap between the rich and the poor. Self-

driving cars will create more social problems for people, depicting that they are unfavorable. Maintenance costs for these will be high compared to those of driverless cars. Social inequality will become more visible and become a negative aspect of technology. High costs make self-driving cars unfeasible in the current world. The majority of the population will be unable to afford these cars, thus motivating them to use driverless cars. People are already suffering from economic issues such as increased prices, slow growth of incomes, and fewer jobs, making it impossible for them to buy automated cars. The presence of self-driving and driverless cars on the roads will create more traffic problems (National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2023).

The probability of misuse is high, representing another threat to society. Self-driving cars will provide an advantage to criminals as they can use them to commit different crimes. It also poses the risk of being misused by terrorists and anti-state agencies for spying. The idea of introducing self-driving cars is ineffective when one considers the security issues. Keeping track of the driver poses a high threat to security agencies as they can move around with an unidentified owner. Driverless cars will increase risks for traffic officers, depicting the need for formulation of specific laws that identify the codes and standards for the drivers and the police. A hacked car is capable of carrying remotely piloted weapons, thus representing serious risks. Terrorists can also manipulate vehicle use, creating more security problems.

Travel Demand, Energy Use, and the Environmental Burden of Automation

Self-driving cars, when they cover long trips and stay on roads for more time, will contribute to a high carbon footprint. Environmentalists threaten society by minimizing their vehicle use as an intervention to reduce carbon emissions. Self-driving cars are against the idea of reduced vehicle use for environmental conservation. Automated technology influences people to enjoy long trips that would generate a negative impact, leaving a high carbon footprint. The use of cars for long hours also means increased consumption of fuels that will affect the overall demand, worsening the problem of oil depletion. The current consumption of people due to the increased number of vehicles promoted reliance on fossil fuels. Fossil fuels threaten the natural reserves of oil and natural gas. Under such circumstances, switching to self-driving cars is an impractical idea. Self-driving cars will necessarily contribute to air pollution, thus increasing the risks of global warming. The concept of automated cars is also against the idea of saving energy. Increased energy consumption will influence the countries facing energy crises.

Self-driving cars present new vulnerabilities, including increased accidents and traffic violations. The accuracy of driverless cars still remains one of the issues of concern as they pose greater threats in terms of road safety. Charging fines will be difficult for the owners of driverless cars when they are unidentified. Monitoring these cars also poses serious risks for traffic controllers. The cars will only follow the installed instructions, thus remaining unprepared for unknown incidents.

The claims support the argument that self-driving cars cause more harm than benefits to society. The assessment of the adverse effects depicts that dropping the idea of replacing automated cars with driverless cars is a better solution. Driverless cars generate more problems, such as increased accidents, security problems, affordability issues, and unemployment, making them impractical for the current world.

References

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