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Final Paper

Topic #2

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In this paper I will discuss the positive and negative effects of automation and its effects on both job security and obsessive work habits in the IT field. Quinn discusses both sides to automation and the ripple effect that occurs by the type of economy it creates.

Quinn discusses automation from the stand point of their being two opposite opinions on the matter. There are those who believe automation destroys jobs while others believe it creates jobs. (Quinn 370-374) Manufacturing jobs are the ones that are being automated and destroyed. The people who are highly against automation argue that the workplace will be taken over by automation and get rid of most jobs. The job creationists believe that this will create jobs due to the lower prices of the product and higher demands. These higher demands will lead to more people being hired to do creative work that can’t be automated (at least yet). Both are correct but lead to the hidden question of what kind of a world this pattern is creating. If supply and demand continues to increase, this leads to an economy based strictly on consuming which fuels more consuming. (Quinn 371-375)

This type of economy will lead to us consuming so much that it starts to effect the environment even more then we do now. If one isn’t worried about the economy then they would look further at how this type of economy would lead to the lack of job security. This is because of how people will have to constantly shift around due to automation taking jobs. As complete types of jobs become automated, people will have to retrain and get hired somewhere else. Job security is an important thing that makes the public feel stable and makes life less stressful. The only argument against this is that lack of job security is not solely an IT position’s problem. With the current economic situation, one can conclude that the lack of job security has been increasing in every position. (Quinn 374-378)

This lack of job security has led to people going to the extremes of attempting to keep their job. This has mostly been a negative thing considering the amount of stress individuals must feel to know they may not have this job in five years. This lack of job security along with automation is related to the obsessive work habits that have redeveloped. Devices such as cell phones, laptops, and pagers have made working at home the norm for a lot of jobs. This is specifically true in the IT field and has led to very obsessive work schedules. These devices and the lack of job security have led to a vicious cycle with employees that don’t want to get fired. Automation taking all the non-creative jobs along with hard economic times have led to most of these things being current negatives for the majority of job outlooks. (Quinn)

The potential benefits from automation cannot be ignored though. With cheaper products and more being created, it gives people a standard of life they use to only dream of. If there is a way to properly recycle the things we use while consuming, this would be extremely good for mankind in general. If the IT field can continue to improve our way of life by offering ways to bring us cheaper products, better designs on systems, and more jobs then there would be hope that IT field has a positive effect on mankind.

**Works Cited**

Quinn, Michael J. Ethics for the Information Age. 2nd ed. Boston: Pearson.