

TRANSHUMANISM IN A PANDEMIC CONTEXT

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Abstract

Mankind benefits from the advantages of the scientific discoveries of the last half a century, making significant steps towards the posthuman period. An example in this regard is the discovery of the virus which causes Hepatitis C, for which the 2020 Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded. This article identifies some of the ideas belonging to Transhumanism which can be applied during the current pandemic situation that the world is facing. The article ends with the urge to put the fundamental purpose of Transhumanism into practice, namely to improve the human mind, soul and body.

Keywords: *benefits, transhumanism, context, pandemic, mankind.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Our research starts from one of the definitions of Transhumanism which states that it represents "a way of thinking about the future that is based on the premise that the human species, in its current form, does not represent the end of our development, but rather a relatively early phase of this process." (TRANSHUMANIST FAQ, n.d.)

Following the scientific discoveries of the last fifty years which changed the human body, we can certainly say that mankind has already reached the transhuman period. People's perception of time is a linear one, but technologies change the world and make it develop at an exponential pace (SUSSKIND, 2019). The most recent example is the discovery of the virus which triggers Hepatitis C, for which researchers Harvey J. Alter (USA), Michael Houghton (Great Britain) and Charles M. Rice (USA) were awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Medicine (DUMITRIU, 2020). The immediate result would be an increase in the human body's defense potential in relation to this disease. Roberto Manzocco, in his book entitled *Transhumanism-Engineering the Human Condition: History,*

Philosophy and Current Status, published in 2019 at the prestigious Springer Publishing House, emphasizes the need for a "paradigm shift in our ethical and political understanding of human evolution" (MANZOCCO, 2019).

2. THE WAYS IN WHICH TRANSHUMANIST IDEAS CAN BE PUT INTO PRACTICE DURING A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Mankind has to be able to anticipate the major changes that might take place with the help of the new technologies in order to improve life and facilitate the transition to the posthuman condition. Even if they did not have the generic name of today, the ideas underlying Transhumanism have been anticipated since around 2000 and have even been screened in successful productions. Among these we can mention the series "Terminator" or the movie "Matrix".

This article aims to identify some of ways in which the ideas of Transhumanism can be applied in the current pandemic context that the planet is going through. Speaking about communication during a pandemic situation, Transhumanism supports the expansion of Internet all over the world. In this way, we can communicate both video and audio with the people close to us, without being forced to move. The idea of supporting the development of the mobile phone as an aid to the Internet is also presented here.

We should also speak about school lectures which, due to the use of technology supported by the principles of Transhumanism, take place online, where the number of infected people is very high. Another important benefit here is the

possibility of also observing the gestures of the students and teachers, another significant aspect, especially during the Romanian or acting classes.

Another worth-mentioning aspect is the procedure of expressing the right to vote. Transhumanism is in favour of the electronic vote in the current pandemic context. Unfortunately, in Romania, at this time, such a solution cannot yet be put into practice. It would require a legislative initiative and a political will expressed by all parliamentary political parties.

In the field of medicine, the transhumanist ideas support a greater replacement of the work of doctors with the work of robots which, for example, can operate much more precisely and also avoid the danger of transmitting the virus, especially in cases where there is a suspicion that patients might get infected.

Emphasis is placed on video cameras surveillance in public places. One consequence of this would be that citizens enjoy greater security (HRISCU, 2020).

In a pandemic context, transhumanism also claims that another benefit for the use of technology is represented by the possibility of gaining access to the vast majority of public information in front of the computer. We can also pay our taxes online and therefore we do not expose ourselves to danger of getting infected.

Another transhumanist idea that can be put into practice during a pandemic context is the replacement, to a greater extent, of the work of employees with the work of machines. This would increase labour productivity, as well as the rate of technological unemployment, infringing the right to work provided by the constitution.

3. CONCLUSIONS

We have presented some of the transhumanist ideas and the way in which these ideas can be put into practice in the current pandemic context. The author Jean-Pierre Fillard, in his 2020 paper entitled *Transhumanism. A Realistic Future?*, wonders whether or not we should become bionic men in order to fully take advantage of the machines of the future (FILLARD, 2020). We see this as an unavoidable process and we have to put the fundamental purpose of Transhumanism into practice, namely to improve the human mind, soul and body.

References

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