

## THE MORALITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONTEXT OF DIGITAL HUMANISM: INSIGHTS FROM THE TIME MACHINE BY H. G. WELLS

**Syed Abuzar Naqvi**

Lecturer, Minhaj University Lahore

[Abuzar.eng@mul.edu.pk](mailto:Abuzar.eng@mul.edu.pk)

**Waqas Yousaf**

Lecturer, Minhaj University Lahore

[waqas.eng@mul.edu.pk](mailto:waqas.eng@mul.edu.pk)

**Maryam Iftikhar**

MPhil Scholar

### Abstract

*This paper will explore Herbert George Wells' The Time Machine regarding the morality of technology while investigating its application into the ideologies of digital humanism. H.G. Wells novel offers a blunt image of the future, revealing the drawbacks of unchecked technological advancement and it also shows the consequential social stratification represented through the characters of Eloi and Morlocks. In the novel, Eloi characterizes the aristocratic class while Morlocks symbolizes the laborer class. The characters of Eloi and Morlock signifies the fact that the working class is suppressed by the aristocratic class and if this method of living the oppressed life continued like the times of H.G.Wells, people could end as prophesized in the novella. This work assists as per an admonitory tale linking the ethical implications of technology, and to prioritize the human values and social equality stresses the necessity of human-centered methods. The science-fiction work of H.G.Wells provides a dystopian visualization of human's future .in the novel there is a scientist who builds a time machine and continued his journey to future where he met two races. H.G.Wells predicted his idea that class dissections were mismatched with scientific development by supporting democratic socialism. Wells's time traveller character tracks the scientific method of hypothesis and experimentation. Ultimately, this exploration underscores the necessity of integrating ethical considerations into technological development to ensure that progress serves the collective good.*

**Key Words:** Morality, Digital Humanism, Time Traveler, Human Values, Democratic Socialism

### Introduction

This study explores the tensions between technological advancements in human world and risks that it impose on human well- being using the theory of Digital Humanism in the context of *The Time Machine* novel. The novel provides insights into the dark side morality of technology if not used ethically ,the Utopian world of Eloi which seems in light is actually in dark revealed to be a dystopian nightmare where they are exploited by morlocks who were poor British evolved into strong and intelligent being. This novel demonstrates that how technological progress and digital humanism can aggravate the social inequalities. The Eloi, who was upper class are now dependent on Morlocks lower class who work under the surface to preserve the machinery. This highlights the unequal division of technology and dangers of humanity totally being dependent on it. Morlocks were totally dependent on technology, loss their humanity turning to barbarous attitudes.

Digital Humanism is an approach, phenomena, philosophy and scientific methodology which promises society that it work for the betterment of society and people. They are working on producing a technology which provides improved future for current and future generations. The world we live in is intensely shape by technology. Nowadays the concept of Digital Humanism is

gaining more friction. Different Authors have projected various ways to line up technology and human values and have questioned opinions of technological applications that are risks to human intention, human skills and creativity, human values and innovation. They questions that what will happen if we carry on transferring work from humans to machines, will there still be a place for humans or humans are at the risk of turning into machine themselves.

This mechanization by resources of AI and digital humanism can lead to mass unemployment. In the novel when the time machine of The Time Traveller was stolen by Morlocks he discovers that his machine was well oiled only leavers were to attach otherwise it was ready to go . Morlocks wanted to trap the Time Traveller that is why they wanted him to think that his machine was operational. This shows that the Morlocks were not stupid and barbarous race but very intelligent well trained in machines as they took care of protagonist's time machine to trap him which shows that if human progress in technology remains unchecked it can be used to harm humanity. The Time Traveller ventures that Morlocks' understanding of machines can be inherent learned through epochs.

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This study implies that keeping in view the narrative example we should work on our human connections and prioritize human values over technological advances. Innovations should be done that are appropriate and beneficial for society like the time machine such inventions can be harmful for humanity as people with evil mindset can use them to play with time and future. Social inequality is the root of all evils in society so there is a need to address these injustices and social and technological divides. In conclusion, *The Time Machine* by H. G. Wells provides the insightful study into morality of technologies in the context of Digital Humanism. By navigating the intricacies of technological progress, we should give priority to the human connections, humanity, social injustice and divide that are prevailing in modern society. Consequently we can make sure that technology is serving humanity in a right way, rather than other way around.

### **Research Objectives**

The study aims to

1. To analyze the effects of technology on human beings and how the unchecked technology can result in the destruction of the human world.
2. To exploring the digital humanism theory and how its principles help in the development of technology which is useful for the humanity.
3. To examine the themes like morality in technology, class differences, exploitation, threatening effect of technological developments, use of technology in a bad way.

### **Significance of the Study**

This study is significant because it gives insights into the ethical use of technology by using the principles of digital humanism and warns us that if the technological advances are not keep in check it can result in the destruction of the human world. The study highlights the timeless relevance of the novel *The Time Machine* in understanding the digitalization of human world moral

implications of technology in society and class differences. Furthermore, the study relates two disciplines literature and technology in literary analysis of a science fiction novel by contextualizing the principles of digital humanism.

The study gives us wakeup call that how technological developments are making the human mind slave of technology resulting in the devalue of humanity and increasing unemployment as most of the work now done by Artificial Intelligence. The study highlights the consequences of the immorality in using technology which results in the human threatening and making slave of other humans.

### Research Questions

Following are the research questions of the study:

1. How does the novel *The Time Machine* interprets the moral consequences of unchecked technological developments and what findings we can get from this interpretation?
2. What is digital humanism and what are its key ideologies and how it explains the ethics of technology?
3. How does the novel help us in understanding the class differences and exploitation of people for private purposes relating it to the misuse of technology?

### Literature Review

The author in the chapter three The Early H.G.Wells: The Time Machine of his work analyzed that although H.G.Wells was considered as promoter of a world which is full of scientific devices and technological amusements but his early works ironically presents the vision of a dystopian world for this analysis he uses the novel *The Time Machine* (1895) it proposes that the modern trend of achieving a utopian society by technological advances would not result in peaceful utopian world but leads it to the edge of destruction with its immorality and evolvement of unchallenged man like Eloi into creatures who are fragile and docile (Buhaichuk, 2022).

The author examines the novel *The Time Machine* by H.G.Wells that the author uses his novel as a commentary on social and political conditions and emphasize on the role of writer should be like social mediator for audience. He allowed his audience who lack the experience to understand the unfamiliar world by asking questions about the status quo. by fiction Wells was able to get the attention of the audience towards the ideas that are abstract and difficult to understand. Science fiction helps the educated readers to evaluate the rational aspects of life providing a logical vehicle for impossible narratives. (Andika, Lufipah, & Lubis, 2020).

The researcher in his work gives analysis the role of society in the novel of H.G.Wells giving the example of Eloi and Morlocks in the novel he the author argues that Eloi in the novel lives the care free life ,bathing in the river, playing gently ,eating fruits and sleeping but this enjoyment at day time comes with the fear of dark while Morlocks are more energetic at night because they collect tools so that their underground residences and ventilation system keep on working (Paradžiković, 2018).

The author examines the plot and style of *The Time Machine* they put forward that the term the time machine is coined by Wells referring to a machine through which human can travel to different time now this time is universally used to give idea of such machine. By referring to the plot they interpret the eight trips that he made through the time travelling machine arriving in the year 802,701 where he met Sphinx ,childlike Eloi and barbarous but intelligent Morlocks hide his machine how escaped ,seeing the dying earth coming back narrating the story.

After the plot the researcher of the article examines the themes and style of novel. The novel represents the social and political views of Wells himself and growing anxiety about industrial developments. One theme in the novel is time which does not mean last year or week but time on larger scale when time traveller travels he does not look at the time of a person but whole specie (Song, 2017).

The author in essay moral decadence and capitalism in *The Time Machine* by H.G.Wells examine that this novel is about the pessimistic future of human world.it is about the moral decadence that British society feared in 19 th century with its urbanization and technological developments.in the novel by presenting two classes he present the theme of capitalism the one easily get wealthy Eloi and other who are working class and silently uprising. This division depicts the Victorian society's class distinction.

The author analysis the theme of evolution in the novel. They analyze that novel is the reflection of social Darwinism evolution that how social structures and conditions change inhuman world. For this they take the example of Eloi and Morlocks showing the effect of social grouping that can result into the biological evolution like Morlock develop into their underground industrialized environment and Eloi into the rich care free and fragile life style (Selvamani & Rabina, 2024).

The author in the article *Time and Man in The Time Machine:H.G.Wells* analyze the man and time in the novel giving overview about novel she refers to the Campbell's *theory of Initiation* where hero deals with all the dangers that comes in his way and final stage in the novel refers that now he has returned with knowledge that he achieved through deathly pain and hardships. The quest of protagonist leads him after escaping the Morlocks to the next dimension which is last stage because for him human life was like a mystery novel which he wanted to study till the page. According to Carlos Parada time in the fourth dimension of the novel becomes solid is a pseudo-mythical expression that tries to make time noticeable. Time is only kind of space (Johar, 2020).

Martin Recke gives argument that digital technology stands as a culture to prove he gives reference of a book by *The Second Self: Computers and the Human Spirit* Sherry Teckle which was published in 1984 the year of the 1984 novel by George Orwell. She put argument that digital technology is not just a device but an important aspect of our psychology and daily routine. She looks at the devices like computer with same way we look at our connections (Marienko, 2023).

The researchers analyze that digital humanism is a phenomenon that acts as a common bridge between human world and technology, between society and culture which is important for human social communication with artificial intelligence and internet. It helps in the betterment of different human life fields like medical it promotes technology in the field like by using technology humans can work on the research of a disease (Nikitenko et al., 2024).

Hofkirchne proposes that digital humanism should be form in accordance with the human values, culture, and need to form the human society. Achievements in the field of artificial intelligence have raised the questions that are humans are safe in the digitally humanized world overshadowed by technology (Hofkirchner & Kreowski, 2022).

### Research Gap

Although both digital humanism and science fiction work on the influence of developing technology on human world but the researches that assimilates these two fields are missing. There is a lack of researches on the time machine novel with the current development of technology and its moral implication. Although a lot of researches have been done on the moral influences of



technology on human society but still there is a need to do profound reading on the effect of technology. There is a very limited research on human values that how they work for the ethical implication of technology in society. There is a limited analysis on dynamic forces that are in power that how they help in shape the technology for better use in human world.

We require more reaches on the role of power dynamic forces in forming technology. The science fiction genre is used insufficiently for the study of ethical influences of technology on society. There is lack of studies on digital humanism's role for marginalized populations. Human imagination can be helpful in understanding about the role of technology but there are limited researches on how human imagination can help in the role of technological morality and development on human world.

### **Research Methodology**

This study implements the Qualitative research methodology for the profound analysis of the themes discuss in the novel and textual examination for the understanding of hoe technology shapes the morality of human society. By using the thematic analysis of the novel *The Time Machine* by H.G.Wells we understand the hazardous effects of unchecked technology on human society. The research paper uses the close reading strategy of the text to analyses the digital humanism that how it effects the future generations and can results in the superiority of technology.

The paper uses the philosophical analysis for the ethical understanding of technological advances. By using the coding scheme this study examines the symbols, motifs and themes about technology and humans that characterizes in the novel *The Time Machine* by H.G.Wells. The research uses the purposive and theoretical sampling technique. By using purposive sampling technique the study choose the related texts and data bases that are according to research objectives. Theoretical sampling helps in the in-depth understanding of digital humanism and how it is related to technological morality.

### **Limitations**

The research may overstress on the technological aspects in molding the human society and can ignore the complications of social hierarchy and human organization. It may focus on western point of view and ignores the non-western standpoint on technological development and humanism. There is a possibility the topic does not take the point of view of global south people on technological developments and its effects on human world who have different experiences of these technologies. The topic may not fully consider the insights from different disciplines like philosophy, science, economic, biotechnology and advance technological research. The research may not use the practical example from human world on the morality of technology.

### **Findings**

*The Time Machine* by H.G.Wells depicted the morality to signify the truth that humanity is degenerated due to advancement of technology especially future generations are on the edge of morality loss due to dependency on technological developments. In the text H.G.Wells uses the example of time machine to represent the dangers of unchecked technological developments to show how these unchecked developments leads to the social differences and moral degradation without reflecting on its long term consequences. The narrative also reflects on the fact that these technological developments results in class difference and exploitation of people from different classes as one has economic power while other develops the intelligence both conditions result in the misuse of technology. In the text *The Time Machine* in the opening scene when Time Traveller was explaining his guests about how time is traversable element and tries to explain the complex

theory of time travel the author wants to highlight that how future generation will surpass the past developments.

The assembling of guests at the Time Traveller party shows the theme of class difference which is going to be presented at the heart of the novel. The Time Traveller belongs to an upper and wealthy class so are his guests. When The Time Traveller reaches the year 802,701 he discovers himself in a strange garden of flowers near the statue of White Sphinx here he saw a strange and hazy curtain drawn between him and the distant future he is going to see. For the first time The Time Traveller fears what the future lies with its uncertainty and what are the hidden truths. He contemplates whether the humanity made right choices and dodge certain pathways. It is the indication that things might have not happened as it should be maybe humanity has lost its humanity and degraded morally.

What might appear when that hazy curtain was altogether withdrawn? What might not have happened to men? What if cruelty had grown into a common passion? What if in this interval the race had lost its manliness and had developed into something inhuman, unsympathetic, and overwhelmingly powerful? I might seem some old-world savage animal, only the more dreadful and disgusting for our common likeness—a foul creature to be incontinently slain. (Wells, 1895, pp.16-17).

The Time Traveller is more concerned about the future of humanity that it may have become more cruel and overwhelmed by the powerful advancements and immorality may have develop into them. The class division between Eloi and Morlocks represents the exploitation and future violence due to technological advancement and society division. H.G.Wells warns the human world against the moral consequences of progress without moral considerations and human values like empathy which can produce a society that is materially powerful but morally degraded. The narrative suggests that class difference in the society can happened due to technological advancements. For example the future where the protagonist travel was divided into two classes Eloi and Morlocks, where Eloi are upper class and lazy dependent on Morlocks working class for their daily life privileges. The Eloi they live in a world full of facilities and luxury they have lost the feelings of compassionate, sense of responsibility and morality. They become so indulged in the world of comfort that they do not want to question anymore and are not curious about things, this lead to degradation of their decision making power because their world is so comfortable and relax .

“The too-perfect security of the Upper-worlders had led them to a slow movement of degeneration, to a general dwindling in size, strength, and intelligence. That I could see clearly enough already (Wells, 1895, p. 37).

The Time Traveller wonders that the upper world people are too dependent on the lower class that leads to their moral degradation and loss of ability to think rationally. With the advancement of the novel the protagonist understands that this division has ruined his view of human progress he become disillusioned with the progress of humanity because humans have lost their kindheartedness and morality. The Time Traveller was hoping for a Utopian world humans achieved triumphant over nature with sympathy, morality and intelligence for the better future but instead he saw the rise of aristocracy in which upper class has progressed in science and technology but at moral cost they do not work for the betterment of society but for their hunger for power .this exploits the lower class people like Morlocks which are exploit by these conditions of societies. Through the narrative Wells reflects on the industrial development in Victorian era and

imperialism at that time and tried to warn the effects of this divisional violence which promotes the hate among the lower classes.

The great triumph of Humanity I had dreamed of took a different shape in my mind. It had been no such triumph of moral education and general cooperation as I had imagined. Instead, I saw a real aristocracy, armed with a perfected science and working to a logical conclusion the industrial system of to-day. Its triumph had not been simply a triumph over Nature, but a triumph over Nature and the fellow-man. (Wells, 1895, p. 37).

The time traveller's traverse also reflects that human evolution in future is directed in the moral degradation. The Eloi, in their luxurious and comfortable world has lost their instinct of survival independently they are dependent on Morlocks for their daily needs like sources, repairing of machines and everything that includes physical labor this laziness made them mentally dull and fearful. On the other hand Morlocks' use of technology point out the reality of exploitive and tyrannical control of upper class. The class division of Eloi and Morlocks creates an inferiority complex in the later who are physically and economically inferior maintain the power so that they can manipulate and control the technology.

A sudden thought came into my head as I stooped towards the portal. For once, at least, I grasped the mental operations of the Morlocks. Suppressing a strong inclination to laugh, I stepped through the bronze frame and up to the Time Machine. I was surprised to find it had been carefully oiled and cleaned. I have suspected since that the Morlocks had even partially taken it to pieces while trying in their dim way to grasp its purpose (Wells, 1895, p.62).

The Time Traveller's optimistic view of a Utopian future is now turned into questioning the horrors of moral degradation due to technological advancements. He is now forced to contradict from his early view of a developed and intellectual future to think that humans have become more stupid, lazy and morally corrupts. The use of technology has captured them in its web and made them afraid of dark. H.G.Wells uses the narrative to criticize the class differences of Victorian society which in future are labeled as Eloi and Morlocks and predicts that this class exploitation of people will result in the rise of lower class to rule the world but they have to morally corrupt and devoid of human emotions to reach this level. for instance in the novel ,Morlocks are lower class to whom Eloi rule over but Morlocks have gained the technological knowledge with which they are ruling and controlling the mind of the Eloi like they are afraid of dark.

I grieved to think how brief the dream of the human intellect had been. It had committed suicide. It had set itself steadfastly towards comfort and ease, a balanced society with security and permanency as its watchword; it had attained its hopes to come to this at last. Once, life and property must have reached almost absolute safety. The rich had been assured of his wealth and comfort, the toiler assured of his life and work. No doubt in that perfect world there had been no unemployed problem, no social question left unsolved. And a great quiet had followed. (Wells, 1895, p. 61).

The character of Weena in The Time Machine is presented as the remaining hope of humanity she was the only humanlike friend of the time traveller, she possess the human qualities like she was pretty, innocent ,emotional and kindhearted. When The Time Traveller was going on to bring back his Time Machine she placed flowers in his pocket it was an act of kindness that comforted the Time Traveller while going on a dangerous journey. Weena

belonging to the Eloi class who are lazy and stupid and she also get tired easily but he also has stamina which is not possible Eloi which proves

The Time Travellers hypothesis that if we challenge the humans about their shortcomings then they can progress. Human society give priority to their comfort and luxurious life over the morality, human connections and selflessness. They uses the physical and mental strength of Morlocks for their comfort and benefits. The time traveller is now disillusioned with his optimistic view of future of technology and how it affects the human world. He is sad that human who were once strong, compassionate and intelligent breed are now lazy, selfish and morally unethical.

I thought of the physical slowness of the people, their lack of intelligence, and those big abundant ruins, and it strengthened my belief in a perfect conquest of Nature. For after the battle comes Quiet. Humanity had been strong, energetic, and intelligent, and had used all its abundant vitality to alter the conditions under which it lived. And now came the reaction of the altered conditions. (Wells, 1895, p.24-25).

The future technological progress leads to the degradation of ethical values. In the passage “big abundant ruin” means the future civilization that has degenerated, the time traveller contemplates that morally corrupted and comfort living civilization indicates that man has “conquered nature” which means he has developed the technological ways by which he can dominate nature and its people. Humans who were once complete and compassionate full of emotions are now hollow man existing without any emotions. When men struggles to achieve mastery over the laws of knowledge and nature this struggles comes at a cost that they become lazy after achieving the goal means that technological developments made man’s life more easy and man becomes totally dependent on it leaving his desire to do some work physically instead of machines.

### Findings

Digital Humanism is an approach, phenomena, philosophy and scientific methodology which promises society that it work for the betterment of society and people. They are working on producing a technology which provides improved future for current and future generations. It stresses on the ethical role of humans in the connection to digital technology. It emphasizes on the use of technologies in such a way that is parallel to the human welfare and benefits whereas ensuring that technological advancements are working for the betterment of future world. The approach of digital humanism is a response against the technological developments that are increasing day by day these innovations often risks the human world and individual as they become dependent on the technology. Digital humanism promotes the creation of new ethical guidelines and standards for technology use keeping in view the human ethics.

Digital humanism is the concept that focuses on the technological inventions that enhance quality of life, such as medical technologies which helps in the treatment of diseases, providing solutions to protect the environment and lessen the effects of climate change. The concept of digital humanism is different from the traditional view of technological development former focused on the effects of these developments on humanity while the latter focused on the technologies neglecting their effects on human morality and values. Digital humanism focuses on the digital harms to the human ethics and privacy like hacking system, surveillance system and data exploitation by using latest technology. It favors the transparency and impartiality in the development and implication of digital system.



The concept of digital humanism concept wanted to get away from the total dependence on machine. It is of the views that nor nature or man should be consumed by the technologies. This world not a clock and humans are not automata. Technological developments are useful and essential for human life as they make life easier and comfortable but these inventions cannot take place of real human and their human responsibilities. Ironically these responsibilities of humans are expanded due to technological developments as humans have to keep the balance between technology and its effects on humanity. These responsibilities require to strengthen the human values which cannot be done by handing over the human responsibility of making connections with people to the robots or AI. (Rumelin, 2021, p.74).

Technological developments can also result in the moral degradation of humans if do not check their progress and use for example in the narrative *The Time Machine* the Morlocks is the lower class they work for the Eloi upper class .they live under the surface and work for the maintenance of machine which gives them knowledge regarding machines and their curiosity increase when they see the time machine of the time traveller while the Eloi they were amazed by it but soon become bored of it when they cannot lift it up. in the area of Eloi the time traveller left the machine unattended when Morlocks finds the machine they stole it.

Then came troublesome doubts. Why had the Morlocks taken my Time Machine? For I felt sure it was they who had taken it. Why, too, if the Eloi were masters, could they not restore the machine to me? And why were they so terribly afraid of the dark? (Wells, 1895, p. 37).

Eloi are afraid of dark because they are living life of comfort that do not do any physical effort to go after dark which makes them coward and Morlock who are habitual of living in dark become more strong and barbarous. Technological advancements can make people to forget human empathy. Wells presented the Morlocks as loss generation of modern time who has disregarded their cultural and human values and pushed them behind a hazy curtain. After losing the time machine the protagonist had to compete with the Morlocks which reflects that the terrible aspect of having privileges of technology can lead to human war. In narrative although the technology is presented as human need used for private purposes like the time traveller uses it feed his own sense of curiosity and Morlocks wanted it to gain power over the Eloi ad nature but there is still a hope of humanity in the form of Weena's character her character has the qualities like love, friendship and kindness.

"The creature's friendliness affected me exactly as a child's might have done. We passed each other flowers, and she kissed my hands. I did the same to hers". (Wells, 1895, p. 32).

The technology in itself is not a threat to humanity as it works as an external force which can affect human nature but he also implies that the pursuit of knowledge and curiosity for scientific developments for getting control over humanity leads the man to neglect the ethical and moral consideration. Humans use technology as a shield for their human desires of control and power. He argues that human have thought about technology as an ability that helps them to get superiority over other species and races and exceptional standing in the world. Paradoxically, this thought of uniqueness is now being confronted by the new discoveries and it reflects that balance of superiority between humans and machine is disturbed. (Pepperell, 2005).

This highlights that humans wanted to get superiority over the world by using technology as their tool but instead of controlling the technology they are being controlled and dominated by the machines. They are themselves become machine in their pursuit of power and dominance. Although technology has its advantages but when the boundaries of human intelligence are

challenged it can lead to destruction of the world and humanity. Through the narrative example H.G.Wells tries to elucidate that how humans can go to any extent to achieve their scientific success.

But to come to a stop involved the jamming of myself, molecule by molecule, into whatever lay in my way; meant bringing my atoms into such intimate contact with those of the obstacle that a profound chemical reaction—possibly a far-reaching explosion—would result, and blow myself and my apparatus out of all possible dimensions—into the Unknown. This possibility had occurred to me again and again while I was making the machine; but then I had cheerfully accepted it as an unavoidable risk—one of the risks a man has got to take! (Wells, 1895, p.16-17).

The author reflects on the risks and uncertainties that are involved in using the scientific technology. The time traveller is aware of the result if he tries to stop the machine through time it will result in his body jamming with everything that comes in his way. His willingness to take the risk shows the human's reckless nature in achieving his goals without concerning its hazardous effects. The novel highlights the concerns of technological advancements and digitalization of humans which affect their approach to humanity and nature. The philosophical approach of digital humanism favors the development of technologies that are beneficial for human world and innovations that are dangerous to society they try to control their usage and production. For example inventions like the time can be harmful for society and human values as people with evil mindset and power can use it to play with time.

It is a law of nature we overlook, that intellectual versatility is the compensation for change, danger, and trouble. An animal perfectly in harmony with its environment is a perfect mechanism. Nature never appeals to intelligence until habit and instinct are useless. There is no intelligence where there is no change and no need of change. Only those animals partake of intelligence that have to meet a huge variety of needs and dangers. (Wells, 1895, p. 61).

The ability to think is the only solution to face the problems that come in our way. To solve the challenges of life we should use our intellect and curious nature to ask questions. Change is due to the intelligence of people that compel them to challenge the nature and face the challenges of nature. When environment becomes too difficult and hard to live for an organism it struggles for its survival it applies the Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest. Wells pointing the evolution of human through intellect where there is no change no evolution, this intellectual knowledge is a response to cope with the dangers of nature.

Theory of Evolution by Charles Darwin was famous concept that change the scientific and cultural way of thinking about the origin of humans Wells referring to the scientific advancements in his time. In the environment where there is no external force or pressure to work, think and face challenges that civilization becomes motionless. In the narrative *The Time Machine* Eloi are living the life of comfort they do not want to question or fight with the Morlocks their lives are dull and stagnant, this motionless world them intellectually passive because they adapt to social conditions of their environment, Morlock preying on them, Eloi becoming afraid of dark and somehow stupid creature.

I have thought since how particularly ill-equipped I was for such an experience. When I had started with the Time Machine, I had started with the absurd assumption that the men of the Future would certainly be infinitely ahead of ourselves in all their appliances. I had come without arms, without medicine, without anything to smoke. (Wells, 1895, p. 41).

The Time Traveller had optimistic view of future where everything will be advance and well balanced but he forgot that every new environment has its own repercussions and challenges different from others. He criticizes his lack of this understanding and lack of preparation of equipment like medicines, match box or any kind of weapons which he may need in this journey. It is criticism on the ideal future which one thinks that technological advancements will bring it brings into consideration of people that human connections, culture and social conditions are also important like technological progress.

Technological development is important phenomena in today's world that started with industrial revolution of Victorian age. Technological developments require the industrial growth so that they can produce technologies that gave rise to class difference which use people with less economic power to work for upper class. Technological progress has extended to the globe. The dystopian narrative of Wells analyses the role of technology in the destruction of humanity. From the start of the text we get the idea that the protagonist has made a time machine that will help him to go in future which shows that his only purpose is to discover how the distant future of humanity look like. (Pordzik, 2012).

Nikitenko et al. (2005) designated that Digital Humanism also promotes culture and civilization by using digital technologies as these technologies provide material and history through the online sources. Digital humanism also helps in the improvement of education by giving access to the learning material and creating a connection between national and international institutions. Theoretical knowledge of digital humanism is important to understand as helps to improve different fields of life and in the progress of society making it a better world where there is ethical balance between technological developments and its consequences on human world.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) although this phenomena helps humanity in many but it is also a danger to the human intellect and their survival, digital humanism helps to control this complex system by highlighting the requirement of combining ethical, technological and monitoring measures. For this AI inventors can strengthen their security system by encrypting important data, limiting the access to confidential data and important security monitoring.

### Findings

There are more concepts in social sciences to describe the societal division rather than referring them to as "class". Some of the sociologists refers to class as set of that possess the common status in the social hierarchies (Warner, 1960; Parsons, 1970:24; Williams, 1960: 98). While some sociologists think that class is a conflict group that is determined according to their position in economy or power organizations (Dahrendorf, 1959:138; Lenski, 1966:95). In simple way we can define class difference as disparity between people on the basis of their social status, economy, race and access to daily life facilities these classes are often termed as upper class (bourgeoisie) middle class, lower class (proletariat). Class difference can result in the lack of health, education and economic opportunities to certain groups of society and can result in the exploitation of lower class by the upper class. (Wright & Perrone, 1977).

Karl Marx and Engels in the opening lines of their work *Communist Manifesto* present the view that all the previously existing societies have the history of class struggle. Free human beings and slaves, aristocratic and working –class, master and servant, in short authoritarian and oppressed stood in continuous conflict to one another (Guudle, 2017). For example in the novel *The Time Machine* Wells presented two divisions of class in the shape of Eloi (upper class) and Morlocks (lower class) Eloi are carefree, lazy and somehow childlike creatures that live above the

ground and are dependent on Morlocks who are mysterious creature for the Time Traveller and readers they live under the surface taking care of the machines. They prey on Eloi what they do, both of these creatures are far more different from their human ancestor as they do not possess the qualities of curiosity, kindness and sympathy.

But, gradually, the truth dawned on me: that Man had not remained one species, but had differentiated into two distinct animals: that my graceful children of the Upperworld were not the sole descendants of our generation, but that this bleached, obscene, nocturnal Thing, which had flashed before me, was also heir to all the ages. (Wells, 1895, p. 35).

The time traveller's journey is used by the author as to critique the social and economic differences of his time when people were divided into different groups of societies on the basis of their economic conditions as the Victorian world was industrialization rapidly and there were developments in the field of science and technology the condition of humans was deteriorating. Wells warns the society that if this social inequality continues it will result in the destruction of future generation of ours as those with facilities will be less active as compared to the ones involved in physical labor. The narrative highlights the important fact that this division will result in a dystopian future with the evolution of two different species that are morally and intellectually corrupt.

At first, proceeding from the problems of our own age, it seemed clear as daylight to me that the gradual widening of the present merely temporary and social difference between the Capitalist and the Labourer, was the key to the whole position. (Wells, 1895, p. 36).

Wells uses the observations of the protagonist to comment that how the cultural decline of humans resulted into the destruction of humanity that our descendent will be disillusioned from the reality and will become so unlike humans selfish and without any passionate emotions. Wells uses the example of Eloi and Morlocks to depict that they are not human like species. (Matt, 2012). Through these divisions Wells reflects on the social and moral consequences of class differences that people like Eloi exploit the lower class like Morlock for their own private means and live the life of comfort while the Morlock live the life of oppressed as they work for the luxuries of the Eloi.

This results in the decline of morality and intelligence of Eloi who are lost in the comforts given by technological advancement and social divisions they lost their desire of knowledge. This class division not only effects the upper class people but also the lower class like in the case of Morlock this division of class turned them into violent creatures who are more interested in the technological development then making human connections that is why The Time Traveller gets along with the Eloi more easily then the Morlocks he was afraid of them.

The Upperworld people might once have been the favoured aristocracy, and the Morlocks their mechanical servants: but that had long since passed away. The two species that had resulted from the evolution of man were sliding down towards, or had already arrived at, an altogether new relationship. The Eloi, like the Carolingian kings, had decayed to a mere beautiful futility. They still possessed the earth on sufferance: since the Morlocks, subterranean for innumerable generations, had come at last to find the daylight surface intolerable. (Wells, 1895, p. 43).

According to the traditional Marxist analysis of class division of capitalist society has based on three core social relations of production (1) private ownership of means of production (2) buying the labors of others (3) selling one's own labor power. The three criteria result in the three fundamental class categories within a capitalist society: capitalists possess their own means of



production, buy the labor power of others, and do not sell their own labor; workers lack ownership of their means of production and therefore are unable to purchase the labor power of others, but they do exchange their own labor power with capitalists; the petty bourgeoisie neither sell their own labor power nor, except in a very limited capacity, acquire the labor power of others, yet they do own their own means of production. (Wright & Perrone 1977).

The concept of capitalism is also about having the facilities of life like land, factories owned by the aristocrat which they use to rule over poor people this reflects into the social inequalities which lead to the conflict. The Eloi are upper class and uses the labors of lower class Morlock their this dependency on poor people makes them unskilled and they lack the ability to do physical work like Morlocks they have turned into species that are lazy and fragile like flower. That is why Morlocks comes in the dark to hunt and feed on them. They are unable to secure their selves. Similarly when the time traveller first meet with the Eloi with his time machine they were amazed and tried to lift it but their fragile body did not allow it. As a result they soon become disinterested and left it. The time traveller presented the Eloi as childlike creature looking at him and machine with childlike curiosity.

While on the other hand Morlock was physically strong and violent they tried to steal the Time Machine. In order to retrieve his machine the time traveller has to collect the courage as he was afraid of them. He observed that his machine was well oiled and seems like ready to go but it was a trap by Morlocks they know how to mend the machines but do not know how to operate it. This understanding and skills of machines focuses on the statistic that technological advancements and class difference can destroy the human race they can use technology to their own benefits. The Eloi class depends on the Morlocks their this dependency give lower class advantage of physical strength to carry out skillful tasks and be creative because they are exposed with the harsh situations of life. Wells warns this class difference can result into the rise of lower class as more dominant and violent.

At first, proceeding from the problems of our own age, it seemed clear as daylight to me that the gradual widening of the present merely temporary and social difference between the Capitalist and the Labourer, was the key to the whole position. (Wells, 1895, p. page 36).

Capitalism is best described as a society where man-eat-man. The upper class that is in power gets profit by exploiting the lower class creating a relation of predator and prey. This imbalance creates the inequality and discrimination. (Wackfelt, 2013). *The Time Machine* by H.G.Wells is the critique of capitalist culture of Victorian age. The Victorian society was progressing due to scientific innovations, theories of evolution by Darwin and Industrial revolution through the occurrences in the novel *The Time Machine* Wells is sketching the horrific and immoral future of humanity which is devoid of human emotions and technological developments have destroyed the nature.

During Wells' time theories like capitalism, communism and socialism was very popular he uses the time traveller's travel to the year 802,701 by using his scientific innovation of time machine to criticize these thoughts and dangers of technology using unchecked. The Eloi who are living the life of luxuries they have lost their desire of curiosity and search for knowledge they have intellectuality of a five year child.

"She was exactly like a child. She wanted to be with me always. She tried to follow me everywhere, and on my next journey out." (Wells, 1895, p. 36).

In *The Time Machine* the Eloi are presented as British bourgeoisie class who are living the lives of advantages and carefree but they are not capable of fighting their own battles as compared to Morlock who are not provided with facilities and living the desolate life. Morlocks' pray on Eloi in the dark and they are able to save them. The cannibalism of the Morlocks is the result of their inferior status that instead of rising to the upper class and improving their conditions they vent their anger through violence. Wells is criticizing the Victorian societies' social and economic imbalance that can distribute the humans into two different kinds that possess frightening characteristics. (Singh, 2022).

Then I tried to preserve myself from the horror that was coming upon me, by regarding it as a rigorous punishment of human selfishness. Man had been content to live in ease and delight upon the labors of his fellow-man, had taken Necessity as his watchword and excuse, and in the fullness of time Necessity had come home to him. (Wells, 1895, p. 46).

The Time Traveller reflects his thoughts on the horrors that the future holds for humanity and he comes to the conclusion that it is because man has become selfish in making his life full of comfort and easy that he exploits the other who are lower than him and to prove his innocence he blames on the word of necessity. He warns that this necessity of upper class for their private purpose can lead to the destruction of human values and moral degeneration. These class differences create in both groups the Eloi and Morlocks the inhuman characteristics, inability to rise from their current situations and instead of driving a solution tried other ways that are useless and barbarous. Like in the narrative as a substitute of fighting Morlocks' cannibalism the Eloi hide in their houses and become frightened of dark while Morlocks instead of making their life easy and livable.

### Conclusion

This study of morality of technology in the context of digital humanism through analyzing the text of *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells highlights the point that technological advancements are affecting the moral and ethics of humanity and if these developments are not checked under moral values of human world will result in the destruction of human world. It emphasizes the need of prioritizing human relation over the technology and power. This research also points the drawbacks of class differences that result in the exploitation of poor people and also the misuse of technology for private purposes. By using the approach of digital humanism we can design a society where technological advancements can work for the benefits of society by imposing dangers to the human values, human connections and human world.

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