

ESSAY WRITING

ESSAY TITLE: Coping with technological disruption as a good Muslim.

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What is technology? Collins Dictionary defines technology as a method, system and device that is resulted from a scientific knowledge being used for practical purposes. In the 21st century, we have witnessed a lot of technologies evolving around us. A lot of changes happen, for instance, the thick and heavy cell phone that was difficult for us to carry around in the past is now becoming thin and light that enables us to keep it in our pocket. From a manually driven car that runs on gasoline and petroleum which for some people, it is such a burden and later has progressed to an automated car that makes driving much easier. Now we even have self-driving car that can sense the environment and moving safely with little to no human interaction at all. This car also uses electricity to power on which is very environmentally friendly. With all these amazing technologies that we see and experience, we are not just able to see the positive impacts on the world but also we can see the negative side of them. Technology is superior to us. Confrontation is inevitable. Or will they? We will never know.

What does Islam say about human and technology? Islam encourages and values much any scientific research and studies that benefit the society. However, Islam discourages any harmful exposure to science and technology that can cause damage and jeopardize any lives. There is no doubt of the acceptance in Islam if science and technology is used to encourage more innovative techniques of knowledge of the facts while not breaching the Islamic values. Therefore, the Islamic view of technology and science will always aim for a better future for the world.

At a very quick speed, technology is changing. Technological development is transforming the way we work, live, and do business. In technology, there are two forms of innovation: sustaining and disruptive. Technology that innovates successively from time to time is sustaining technology. Meanwhile, disruptive technology is a newly invented technology that produces much more value than current technology and can change the way we operate, live, do business, and improve economic performance dramatically. How about technological disruption? What is

disruption? Disruption as defined in the Cambridge Dictionary is the action of preventing something, especially a system, process, or event, from continuing as usual or as expected.

Disruption is also defined as an action of completely changing the traditional way that an industry or market operates by using new methods or technology. So what does technological disruption mean? Technological disruption or disruptive technology is one that displaces an existing technology and shakes up the industry or a ground-breaking product that develops an entirely new industry, an invention that affects the way markets, sectors, or companies function significantly as it has characteristics that are recognizably superior that sweep away the structures or replace its behaviors. Disruptive technology includes online news sites, e-commerce, GPS systems, and ride-sharing apps. An automobile, electricity service, and television are also disruptive technologies. One example of how disruptive technology works is a personal computer or PC which has replaced the typewriter that had been used a lot in the past and this has also changed the way we connect and communicate. Another example of disruptive technology is email. The way we communicate has been changed by email, essentially displacing letter-writing and disrupting the postal and greeting card industries. Those are just the tip of the iceberg of disruptive technology and there are way more existing in the world.

But the real question here is how do we cope with technological disruption? How do we deal with that? Since the invention of the internet, disruptive technology has continuously given rise to the new markets and displaced existing commercial leaders, yet disruptive innovation is nothing new. As quoted by Ryan Kavanaugh, an American businessman, “The key is to embrace disruption and change early. Don’t react to it decades later. You can’t fight innovation.”. There are a lot of ways to cope with disruptive technology but as a good Muslim, how do we cope with that? We should be comfortable using this technology although we will be facing trials and errors. It is okay to fail. Do not be afraid to try new things especially with technology. Be confident and bold with it. Even in Islam, we are taught to never give up and it’s okay to fail. You can always get back up and try again, again and again. Experience is also a key when it comes to technology. If we are not experienced enough, we will always face a lot of challenges and soon we will feel such a burden with disruptive technology. Our prophet did also face a lot of challenges trying to spread Islam in the past and he managed to go through all that with an open heart and with such patience. This is what we should learn and practice; be patient and persistent. Islamic civilization is no

stranger to disruptive technology which is described as new technology that displaces older method, operation, product, procedure, or habit. There is a possibility of unlocking a powerful dynamism required to face changing times by getting the courage to look into the richness of the Islamic scientific heritage and make it the source of strength.

In a nutshell, we should take disruptive technology or technological disruption with an open mind and see it as an opportunity for us to thrive and make the world a better place, and as Muslims, we should embrace the rise of technology as it gives a lot of benefits to us. As long as it does not go against the Islamic law and rules, we should never think of technology as a negative thing to ever happen.