Short Communication

Before and After COVID: Apparent Change in Usage of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence

M Bhanu Sridhar*

Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Gayatri Vidya Parishad College of Engineering for Women, India

*Corresponding Author: M Bhanu Sridhar, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Gayatri Vidya Parishad College of Engineering for Women, India.

Life has changed drastically these days. COVID surfaced in early 2019 in Wuhan, China, but hit the world hard since 2020. Due to imposed lockdowns and other restrictions, people shifted to online mode for all works. Starting from online meetings and classes, every domain in general life started 'online mode' since the pandemic.

In this scenario, data usage, availability, security and manipulation has increased rapidly around the world. Whatever may be the field we take a look, the output is data. Typically every domain in common lives, starting from online payments to online medical consultancies produce data which has to be stored, protected and used carefully.

The current buzzwords in IT industry are Data Science, Machine Learning, Deep Learning and Artificial Intelligence. All these fields are closely related to study of data and making viable predictions about the future in the concerned field. And all these domains have become part(s) of human lives directly or indirectly. Previously, these topics were concerned to Scientists. Researchers and Corporate companies but now any layman has used them in them in his/her own way.

The situation has produced leaps and bounds of data and a careful study is needed to realize on what has occurred previously, what is going on currently and predict what might ensue in the future. For this purpose, data from different fields can be considered and appropriate algorithms can be put into place to understand and predict the future.

As a start, if we consider the medical field, it can be observed that COVID not only has an effect on breathing issues, but after healing it shows the so called 'after-effects'. Unexpected deaths due to cardiac arrests, strokes etc. could be observed in the society currently. If we notice carefully, many of them were previously attacked by the pandemic. Application of Machine Learning/Deep Learning algorithms on this concept might provide us stunning results about the future of a previous COVID patient. And those results will surely suffice the medicos with a 'refined data' through which they can warn/treat the patients.

Many other fields are also still reeling from the pandemic's hit. Stock market, sports, entertainment, education, economy, logistics, tourism etc. are still in recovery phase. To help these industries in the best possible way and predict what actions should be taken to come out of the COVID trance, is the exciting and challenging concept in front of the researchers.

For this purpose, the data of the field under study – before the pandemic and since the pandemic –is to be considered. Understandability of the previous and current situations forms the basis of prediction. Once the data, its existence, type etc. have been finalized, attention of a researcher should shift to prediction of future. The type of Machine Learning algorithm(s) that are to be used obviously depends upon how the data is to be mined – Classification, Association, Clustering etc. After deciding upon the sub-domain, the algorithms have to be applied as per their requirement, for future prediction, but with a different view. The chance of unexpected calamities should also be considered before a conclusion is reached.

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It can be concluded that research in the titular fields has taken an interesting turn of considering these 'Act(s) of God' too! Due studies are to be done, a bit deeply, to predict the future in any domain from now on. The existing algorithms should be re-studied, extended and many new algorithms should be proposed after ambient research to help to suffice the societal needs. This is to be realized by the IT industry and researchers as quickly as possible.