Is science and technology advancing too quickly for the good of mankind?

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Throughout history, there have been many scientific discoveries and technological advancements made that greatly improved the physical well-being of humans. For example, Penicillin was discovered in World War 1 and proved to be extremely useful, as it helped soldiers fight against bacterial infections on wounds and heal faster, saving countless lives. Transportation technology has improved significantly as well, allowing humans to travel from one end of the planet to the other in less than a day. Currently, science and technology is advancing at an unprecedented rate. Some individuals argue that it is advancing too quickly for the good of mankind, as mankind is still susceptible to human flaws and the full consequences and side-effects of scientific and technological advancements is not known. Others believe that science and technology is advancing at a rate that is sustainable for the good of mankind, since there are still many medical problems yet to be solved and humans are capable of preventing one another from crossing ethical boundaries in the development of new technology. Science and technology is hence advancing at a sustainable and beneficial rate, so long as mankind considers the ethical implications that might arise.

However, some people believe that science and technology is advancing too quickly for the good of mankind, as mankind has always been susceptible to innate human flaws such as greed, ambition, and the thirst for power. These characteristics are inherent human flaws, and cannot be completely eradicated. Since science is amoral and serves only to fulfil its functions, it is ultimately the user who decides how it is used. Thus, if the user intends to use certain types of benign technology for malicious intents, it will harm other human beings and hence be detrimental to mankind, especially in this day and age when science and technology is advancing at an unprecedented rate. For example, advancements and breakthroughs in nuclear technology enable countries to easily fire ballistic nuclear missiles at other countries, and countries such as Russia have the policy of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). Therefore, with so much power under the control of mankind, and with mankind being susceptible to human flaws, the thirst for power might result in countries employing scientific and technological tools to fulfil their selfish aims. This can cause many lives to be lost, especially if nuclear weapons were deployed, resulting in disaster for mankind.

In addition, science and technology is advancing too quickly for mankind, as the full consequences and side-effects of these advancements are not known. This means that even though certain scientific and technological products might be extremely useful and beneficial today, they might have severe consequences on mankind in the future, especially if these products have been considered ‘safe’ for consumption and the majority of individuals have been consuming them. For example, rapid scientific developments have resulted in the development of Genetically Modified (GM) crops that can now be grown under harsh conditions, or have additional nutritional value beneficial for consumers. One example of a GM crop is Golden Rice, which is genetically modified to have Vitamin A, essential for maintaining eye health. Thus, it seems that scientific and technological advancements have benefitted mankind by mitigating food shortages. However, the full impact of these scientific and technological advancements is not yet known, and the numerous studies on the possible health consequences of GM food have been inconclusive. Hence, the uncertainty surrounding the side effects and health consequences of such developments is a cause for concern.

On the other hand, science and technology can be said to be advancing at a sustainable rate because new solutions to existing medical problems are still being discovered, showing how there are still issues science and technology have yet to solve. For example, intensive research and tests

are currently being conducted to search for possible cures to diseases that threaten the survival of mankind such as Ebola, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and cancer. However, no cures for these diseases have been discovered yet, resulting in the loss of many lives each day. Many families have lost loved ones as a result of such diseases, showing how they still threaten the survival of mankind up till today. Scientific and technological advancements provide the glimmer of hope that patients will soon receive their cure. Therefore, science and technology is advancing at a sustainable rate, and should even be sped up in order to find cures to harmful diseases.

In addition, science and technology are advancing at a sustainable rate beneficial for mankind, as there are legal and ethical limits in place to ensure that new inventions are made with the appropriate intentions. Legal and ethical limits function as a check on scientists and researchers, ensuring that they do not get too caught up with the possibilities that science and technology has to offer, such that they compromise on the unique human aspects of empathy and compassion. Ethical and legal limits hence function as a check on our moral compass, and ensures that scientific and technological advancements are being made at a sustainable rate beneficial for mankind.

In conclusion, science and technology is not advancing too quickly for the good of mankind, but is advancing at a sustainable rate. Furthermore, the question's use of the words "too quickly" implies a negative connotation regarding the advancements in science and technology. However, advancements in science and technology are not necessarily bad, and this is exemplified by breakthroughs in the agricultural and medical sectors. For instance, the Da Vinci robotic surgical system has been used over 20,000 times, saving many human lives. Therefore, science and technology have advanced at a sustainable rate for the good of mankind.

Comments:
Provide more illustrations for your points. Morals and ethics, moral dilemmas involving new technologies need to be substantiated with illustrations. Nevertheless, the points are brought across clearly, which is good. Your conclusion can be improved - you should not introduce new points or examples when closing your essay.