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Context to the nugget

Vishy talks about how humans should think about staying relevant in a world where the processing power of the machines has become hard to beat by the human brain. He uses the metaphor of Advanced Chess where people compete with each other but with a machine on their side (Human + Machine versus Human + Machine). He talks about the diminishing role of humans in that context. But at the same time he talks about the exciting possibilities that technology has enabled in terms of new possibilities in the game and access to “best in class” coaching and learning.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): I am curious about what you think about the role of the human being in that context when you have the best on offer; on let's say on the cloud where anybody can access then what's the competitive advantage that you bring to the table as a human what's your take on that? Where is the space for us to have voice in that equation?

Viswanathan Anand (VA): Man plus machine, advances Man plus Machines are actually be turned out to be a dead end it's not going anywhere because machines have gotten to the point, I will make this analogy, Machines have become like incredibly fast cars and let's say the best chess players are like athletes which means the athlete is in his best ever moment is not going to have slightest chance against the very fast car, now imagine that advance chess once upon a time was two athletes are getting into their cars being able to use their car and being able to intervene themselves when they felt it would help, now this will only work if you have fuel in sufficient for the entire ride and certain portion had to be driven and what happens now is that Man plus machine versus man plus machine is just often machine was versus machine, it's very hard when your intervention is better than the machine, and it's so infrequent that it's hard to pick out and the point is you may decide that your intervention is crucial but your rival still using the machine then you have to be sure that your human touch is not worse than what it's going to do that is turned out to be dead end, however chess has become spectacularly enriched by our ability to work with the machine at home and combine its ability to throw up unusual patterns unusual ideas I mean one of the things that forgotten sometimes is how rich chess seems now because the machine has shown us how many things we had rejected which turned out to be possible and how many areas we thought were close for ever have opened up again I mean if the machine is guilty of closing doors its responsible for opening far more doors than it closed and right now it's an golden time in terms of how rich the game seems and the other thing is done it made just accessible to everyone because if anyone has the world best coach if a slightly not very expressive one then every person on the planet has the world's best coach available for a price that means that once you know, how to ask the right question you can get the right answers and you can grow so the learning process become incredibly interesting but unfortunately advance has itself is turned out to a dead end.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: It is fascinating to see how technology is having such a profound impact on jobs and careers. I am reminded of my chat with Atul Kasbekar (AK), the celebrated photographer who is also a Producer now. He talks about how the world of photography (in some ways) has gotten democratized given the penetration of smart-phones.

AK: *“where it comes to photography there is a certain like I like to call it a democratization of a medium and it’s just become massively accessible to everybody so on a given day your doctor could take a world class photo and by himself aided with some filters, apps etc whatever it is, that photo is unbelievable point is that can he do that time in time again and day after day then I guess you would be a great professional but why I say this this medium has become so democratic is because on a given day that doctor can take a great picture on no day can you either prescribed medicine for one of his patients nor can you perform a heart surgery”*

DJ: The big question facing all of us is how we stay relevant in this context. It raises some questions around the “Where to go” question. We need to ensure that what we are doing continues to be relevant in a world where machines are getting more and more intelligent. But technology is also such a wonderful enabler as we think about the “how to grow” question. As Vishy says, it is so easy to access some of the best minds in any profession. The equation has clearly shifted from a world of scarcity of supply to scarcity of time, will power and attention which often comes in the way of our development.

It is fascinating to see technology being the giver or the taker depending on the lens we choose to use to look at the situation.

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End of nugget transcription

Nugget from Atul Kasbekar that is referenced: [Staying relevant over the long-term](#).

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Viswanathan Anand - Nuggets

- 21.00 Viswanathan Anand - The Full Conversation
- 21.01 Viswanathan Anand - Committing to Chess as a career
- 21.02 Viswanathan Anand - Early formative years
- 21.03 Viswanathan Anand - Growing as a player and inflection points
- 21.04 Viswanathan Anand - What it takes to compete at the top
- 21.05 Viswanathan Anand - Understanding the Processor inside
- 21.06 Viswanathan Anand - Staying relevant in the world of machines
- 21.07 Viswanathan Anand - Performing at the top and staying grounded
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- 21.11 Viswanathan Anand - In Summary - Playing to Potential

About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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