

Technology and Employment: The Indian Scenario

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The ongoing technological revolution has created a lot of anxiety about the future of work across the globe. Since machines are getting better at performing routine tasks, several scholars have warned that technology in near future will destroy millions of routine task intensive jobs. India is also not isolated from the ongoing wave of the technological revolution either. The use of robotic technology and AI is fast catching up in India. Robotics has already made big inroads into a few manufacturing sectors, such as the automobile. Similarly, firms in information technology, law, and e-commerce businesses have started using machine learning and AI to boost their productivity. Given this, future of work debate has got a lot of traction in India too. Against this backdrop, this paper examines the labour-market implications of technology in India. It argues that given the low wages of workers and the huge domestic pent-up consumer demand, a job apocalypse is an unlikely scenario in India. However, technology is expected to change the nature of jobs. The paper found that technology and structural transitions have been altering the task content of jobs in India rapidly, which have significant implications for education and skill formation.