

RECONCEPTUALISING THE BLACK SWAN THEORY IN THE AGE OF AI: A CASE OF DIGITAL DIVIDE AND BURGEONING BARRIERS

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Abstract

The black swan theory, which describes unexpected events with major consequences, takes on new significance in the age of artificial intelligence. Named after the discovery of black swans in Australia, which challenged the belief that all swans were white, this theory highlights how unpredictable occurrences can shake our understanding of reality. It examines how unexpected AI advancements can create unforeseen gaps in technology access and usage. The study analyzes case studies, current trends, and potential future scenarios to understand the implications of AI-driven Black Swan events on social and economic inequality. A recent example is the internet ban in Imphal, India, which had unforeseen economic impacts. This sudden shutdown caught businesses and residents off guard, disrupting daily life and commerce. Online transactions came to a halt, affecting everything from banking to shopping. Local businesses that rely on the internet for their operations faced significant losses. The ban also hindered communication, making it difficult for people to stay informed or reach out. This event shows how our increasing dependence on technology can make us vulnerable to unexpected disruptions. The intersection of the Black Swan theory and AI highlights the need for proactive measures to address the digital divide. Policymakers, technologists, and educators must work together to ensure that AI advancements benefit society as a whole, rather than exacerbating existing inequalities. To address these challenges, policymakers and technologists must work together to create flexible and inclusive strategies that can adapt to unexpected developments in AI.

Keywords: Black swan theory, Grey swan theory, digital divide, political crisis, economic inequality