

AI can write but it cannot be a journalist

THEY say AI is coming for journalism. Correction - it is already here. Artificial intelligence - machines trained to think, write and decide - has entered journalism, not as a threat at the door but as a colleague we never quite hired.

Sitting quietly in our tabs, finishing our sentences, tightening our intros and sometimes sounding a little too much like us.

For a while, the reaction was predictable - panic and defensiveness, along with a lot of "it will never replace us". But maybe we have been asking the wrong question.

It is not whether AI will take over journalism but whether we are willing to evolve with it without losing what made us journalists in the first place.

Here is the truth we don't say out loud enough: AI is useful - painfully, brilliantly useful. It can cut through transcripts in seconds, help structure a messy draft and catch what your tired eyes missed at 1.47am when the page starts to blur and the deadline stops feeling like a threat.

Ten years in the media industry teaches you this: journalism isn't always glamorous. It is often repetitive, exhausting and unforgiving. Some days

you are not chasing truth - you are chasing time.

Back when I was a reporter, we did it the hard way - we called and called and called again. We showed up unannounced because sometimes that was the only way to get an answer. We waited outside offices in the kind of heat that melted your patience faster than your makeup. We scribbled notes in margins, hoping we would remember what mattered when we finally sat down to write. There were no shortcuts, only legwork.

Then I became an assistant news editor - a different battlefield but the same war. Less running, more deciding. You stop asking "Is this a story?" and start asking "Is this the right story to tell - and are we telling it right?"

Somewhere between those years and now, the landscape shifted. The new generation of journalists walks into a very different newsroom - faster, louder and more demanding. Everything is immediate and measurable, and now, everything can be assisted.

They don't have to struggle the way we did. Maybe that is not a weakness - that is the point. Every generation of journalists has had its tools; ours just happens to be more intelligent and more unsettling.

POTTU ON POINT



BY HASHINI KAVISHTRI

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AI can help you write but it cannot teach you what to ask. It can't catch that split-second hesitation that tells you something is wrong. It cannot decide that a small, overlooked detail is actually the story. And it cannot feel the weight of publishing something that could ripple far beyond your byline.

It doesn't carry consequences - we do. So no, the answer is not to reject AI - that fight is already lost, and honestly, it is the wrong one. The real question is: What do we, as journalists, bring that AI can't?

Judgement, instinct and courage and perhaps most importantly, humanity. Because at its core, journalism is not about filling space; it is about making sense of a world that rarely makes sense on its own. It is about telling stories in a way that people can feel, question, argue with and sometimes even see themselves in.

AI can assist that process but it cannot replace the human lens through which these stories are told. And maybe - just maybe - this is our reset moment: a chance to stop confusing speed with substance, to stop rewarding noise over nuance and to remember that journalism was never about who writes the fastest but who understands the deepest.

The younger journalists coming in now have something we didn't - tools that can take the edge off the grind. But what they still need to learn - the hard way and the only way - is how to think, question and stand by a story when it is no longer comfortable to do so. Because no machine will do that for them.

And for those of us who have been in the field long enough to remember life before all this, maybe it's time to let go of the bitterness. We did it the hard way; they'll do it differently.

But the heart of the work - the part that keeps you up at night, the part that makes you rewrite a paragraph 10 times because it doesn't feel right - that doesn't change and it never will.

So no, AI is not the enemy; it is a mirror. And what it reflects back at us is uncomfortable but necessary: if we strip journalism down to just words on a page, then yes, it can be replaced. But if we remember that journalism is built on people - on grit, doubt, instinct and care - then there is still something here worth holding on to.

Not the story but the storyteller. And that my friends, is still ours.

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