

The Circles of Creepy Surveillance in Dave Egger's *the Circle*

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ABSTRACT:

Surveillance, the systematic observation of individuals has a long and complex history. The digital age has ushered in an era of unprecedented personal data collection from social media interactions to smartphone location tracking for a constant trail. The objective of the current research is to analyze the pervasiveness of ubiquitous digitalization and its creepy surveillance in Dave Egger's *The Circle* (2013). The dystopian novel is significant to explore the chilling consequences of a society obsessed with absolute transparency and openness. The research poses question about ethical concerns of public and private life surrounding modern surveillance methods and challenges they pose for individuals' privacy and freedom. The research examines the sense of powerlessness where individuals' actions and choices feel increasingly predetermined by algorithms and unseen forces. The research is qualitative in approach employing textual analysis in detail. The research is an interdisciplinary approach embraces the philosophical and theoretical methods of Friedrich Hegel, Jean Paul-Sartre and Johan Galtung to help literary students to understand the interconnectedness of social media surveillance and peace studies. The research concludes by emphasizing on the need for nuanced conversation about balance between security and fundamental right of privacy. The current research is cross-cultural communication to bridge the gap between English Literature, Mass Surveillance and Peace Studies by applying the concepts of Peace Studies. The research concludes by demonstrating a demarcation between novel's portrayal of seemingly peaceful society and dissonance of basic human needs.

Key Words: Surveillance, panopticon vision, transparency, sense of freedom, peace studies.

Introduction:

Edward Snowden, an American-Russian technology specialist in 2013 revealed that data mining program PRISM conducted by National Security Agency (NSA) of America gathering metadata for millions of subscribers by their direct access to the servers of Internet giants as Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Yahoo, Meta and Apple. In an interview with Glenn Greenwald, Ewen MacAskill and Laura Poitras in Hong Kong he declared that, "I hope this will trigger among citizens around the globe about what kind of world we want to live in... I can't in good conscience allow the US government to destroy privacy, internet freedom and basic liberties for people around the world with this massive surveillance machine they are secretly building... how massive and invasive the system has become...an existential threat to democracy" (Guardian 2013). The disengaged, skeptical and isolated citizenry of the blue planet is facing the Web 2.0 revolt characterized by social media, surveillance capitalism, algorithmic censorship and centralized control. The digital age is not only aggravating our social, political, cultural, economic situation but also making mental processes and social habits more worsening. The digital transformation creates, maintains and promotes the splitting of social interactions isolating those individuals who stays physically as a familial unit. The Generation X (BORN 1965-1980), Millennials (BORN 1981-1996) and Generation Z (BORN 1997-2012) used smartphones and rely heavily on Tech-savviness. The Totalitarian regimes of surveillance and suppression of Nazi Germany and Communist Soviet Union has been revived and revoked by social media control of PRISM in USA.

The United Nations recognized the right to freedom of speech and expression as human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The Article 19 states that, "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression... to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of is art" (Wikipedia source). The right to Privacy is a law that restraints government for invasion of privacy of individuals. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) stated, "No one shall be subjected to interference with their privacy, family, home...nor to attack upon his honor and reputation" (UDHR 1948). However, in the Digital Age the global mass surveillance disclosures of 2013 by Edward Snowden leaked that government agencies such as the NSA, CIA, FBI, GCHQ and R&AW monitored World Wide Web and the UKUSA Agreement in 1946 originated ECHELON known as Five Eyes is an Anglosphere intelligence alliance among Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United

States to cooperate in signals intelligence. Perry Fellwock in 1972 and Margaret Newsham in 1988 leaked the information about ECHELON surveillance system capable of content inspection of telephone calls, email and fax. The FROSTING is an umbrella program established by NSA in 1966 to collect data processing from satellites communications to which ECHELON is a part. The data networking, artificial intelligence, ENET Technologies are the Titans of the age that pose a threat to humanity and everyone must find ways to coexist with Titans. In the age of E-Titans production who knows what Brave New World will bring to us. Being as the most dominant species some of the individuals believed that it was their right to stop the tangible and intangible destructive sides of advancements.

In the annals of history, it has been discovered that, “for every action there is always equal and opposite reaction” therefore, the cultures of censorship, surveillance, electronic spy, controlled environment and Big Brother occur in relation to government and rule of law that restrain and suppress freedom of speech of individuals at every corner of the world (Ryan 2013). The pervasiveness of controlled culture can be judged by the standards of society in the name of religion, politics, science, arts, technology and culture. Keeping in mind that the history of controlled culture traces back to ancient Greece and Rome to limit Socrates by poisoning hemlock and *Republic* of Plato is an account of censorship that reflects the belief that society should be shaped by law to demonstrate truth. It is an evident fact that the Jews were subjected to exploitation, segregation and oppression collectively with respect to organized religious observances of Christianity and the Holocaust (1941-1945) was the systematized persecution of six million Jews for dismissal of non-Aryan race. The authoritarian rule in the China denied political liberty to Confucius (551-479 BCE) and in 231 BCE his whole range of books liquidated in bloody purges. The historians of science historicized the rational narrative of science vs. conventional narrative of Church to register logic, reason and truth. It makes no difference whether the era is Middle Ages or the age of Enlightenment individuals dared to challenge and resist the prevailing political and ideological systems. The Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) an Italian astronomer and physicist was persecuted and martyred by ecclesiastical figures of the Church for recanted Heliocentric theory of Cosmos. The Italian Friar Giordano Bruno (1548-1600) an Italian cosmological theorist was burnt for holding the same view of Copernicus's theory 33 yrs. before Galileo. John Milton writes in *Areopagitica*, “he who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book kills reason itself, kills the image of God” (Milton 2012). The Tyranny of time and lineage of censorship, controlled culture, Big Brother remain same to the truth and truth holders who exposed corruption bringing about the excommunication to their facts to the World and the current example is Edward Snowden charged with ‘espionage act’.

The research is an endeavor to address questions and issues lying beyond the scope of Surveillance Culture and its hazards disclosed in past and present. The research article is an attempt to fill the gaps how surveillance culture affects our capacities, limits and to which extent we can rely on media culture for information.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature Review consists of two parts. The first part covers the historical background of the novel *The Circle*. The second part explores the detailed analysis of the text and its connectivity to the theoretical and philosophical framework of Friedrich Hegel, Jean-Paul Sartre and Johan Galtung.

THE CIRCLE

The Circle is post-Internet dystopian Science fiction set in San Francisco Northern California. A film is theatrically released based on the novel in 2017 stars Emma Watson and Tom Hanks produced by Anthony Bregman. *The Circle* is a novel, a type of retrospect for the rise of cybernetic revolt and tech startups in the California in 21st century. The period is marked by great discoveries of the Google, iPhone, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Dave Eggers in the novel addressed the serious issues of globalization and monopolization of worldwide access to information and the unauthorized centralization of personal data of customers of the Google. Eggers in the novel augmented and criticized that sense of alienation, quantification and time-disruption internet has created in lives of individuals including household, academic and professional routines. The author in the text narrated the story of renowned Internet company with the totalitarian 24/7 surveillance to monitor workers and highlighted unwary condition of citizens. The author presented the stereotypical meta social networking company culture that eroded societal norms changing and challenging the behavioral pattern of self-actualization phase. The theme and concepts of evolving dystopic literature that Eggers discussed in the text has already been discussed in the George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* respectively to the age, “just around the corner there lay a paradise where human beings are free and equal. We are not like that...one makes the revolution to establish the dictatorship. The object of persecution is persecution. The object of torture is torture. The object of power is power” (Orwell 2021). Eggers raised the detrimental truth in the text that individuals are being judged for the amount of time they spend on Internet as social interaction and all-encompassing media platform developing Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD). The internet dependency led individuals to update their personal details in posting, liking, Tweeting, Tik toking, Snap chatting, WhatsApping, Facebooking that revealed the time and of individual making it easier to trace anyone.

The Circle is the story told from the perspective of a new recruit young lady Mae Holland who arrives in the corporate campus labelled with the words innovate, dream and imagine. The name of the company is the Circle that stands for utopian innovation. Annie and Mae are very close friends and their closeness is the result of care once Annie paid to Mae when she broke her Jaw. The company welcomes Mae as, “welcome Mae Holland” by electronic flash on the walls along with old yearbook photograph that could be interpret as invasion in her privacy (Eggers 2014). Mae felt dissatisfaction after arriving at her cubicle but she recalls the nostalgic memories of her parents as a great booster not to be a financial burden on them, “who had plenty to worry about” (Eggers 2014). Later it was exposed that Annie pranked Mae for cubicle and explained her that

she will be working in Customer Experience Department. She introduced Mae to employees of the company working on, “world-rocking” (Eggers 2014). She takes Mae to the Circle’s collection of dogs, nightclub, theatre and ochre library. There hangs a portrait of triumvirate; three wise visionaries in which one of them is Ty Gospodinov; the young founder of the company. It is being rumored about him Ty is a patient of Asperger’s Syndrome a developmental disorder to communicate with others. Ty was the innovator of the idea to merge people’s online identities into one like their profiles, email accounts, payment systems named as TruYou. *The Circle’s* TruYou became the biggest hit on internet business and strangers exactly know the hidden identities of every single person. In the text Egger imparts a vision of political model Demoxie which means the account holder of *The Circle* is a registered voter through internet platform using The Circle’s account. The Circle envisions Demoxie as purest form of digital democracy and Eggers highlights the interplay of democracy and digital media as a source of dangerous feat. Ty, the creator of Demoxie, himself wants to stop it and persuades Mae to ignite a revolution, “under the guise of having every voice heard, you create mob rule, a filterless society where secrets are crimes” (Eggers 2014). The second person in the portrait is Tom Stenton; stereotypical shark the CEO of the Circle. He is unpopular in the utopian young circle because he seems proud, lax and aggressive. The third person in the portrait is Eamon Bailey; the programmer of the idea of openness that the world should unite electronically and believes in to share the experiences with everyone. His ideas are the root cause that threatens to engulf the blue planet. Mae comes to know about the secret room in the library. In the middle of the room there is a hole with a pole that extends down in the darkness. Mae has no intention to know where the hole leads for Circle’s long-term vision of secret operations. Annie introduced Mae to two coworkers Denise and Josiah spending the rest of the day with them at tour. She sees hundreds of happy people and a dazzling world who say that they felt pleasure to meet Mae. Mae ponders over that everything outside the walls of the Circle as a, chaotic mess with sense of menace. She thinks, “who else but utopians could make utopia?” (Eggers 2014).

THE CIRCLE OF CREEPY SURVEILLIANCE

Farhad Manjoo elaborated the politics of the novel *The Circle* as Internet Magnet like combination of unity in oneness of, “Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft and Apple” (Maurer 2020). The Circle works with highly smart technologies to monitor everything inside and outside everyone. The paper aims to highlight how information process works in modern world and how characters are beguiled by fabricated realities around them. Therefore, the research employs Friedrich Hegel’s model of Dialectical Philosophy and Jean Paul Sartre’s Existentialism philosophy to unearth strategic deployment of social media networking to critique the transparency of digital world. George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) was a German Philosopher and idealist of 19th century penned down his works covering the range of political philosophy, Metaphysics and philosophy of religion. The Hegelian Philosophy of Dialectical Method identifies three stages of societal circle namely Cognition, Communication and Co-Operation (Fush 2010). Hegel elucidates the notion of dialectic as a capability or notion to pass over into its own generated negation as an outcome of inner conflict between inherent contradictory aspects i.e.; moving and developing discourse indifference to purpose. The TRIADIC or TRIPLICITY construct glorifies the relation between individual, social relation and social construct. In this Triadic approach information is based on subjective cognitive process by which social relations (communication) emerge in which new relations are discovered (co-operation). The triad members are the thesis, antithesis and synthesis. Thesis is the starting point of individual’s cognition level where an idea, concept or social order is asserted in the foundation based on knowledge, experiences and biases. Antithesis appears as a social cognition when some external force challenged the idea or concept there arise need of strategic cooperation. Synthesis is the resolution of antithesis of collaborative cognition of people integrate and share knowledge. Individual is the primary source of communication at corporate and community level. Hegel explores that the evolution of consciousness of individuals is led by dialectical nature of reality, “everything depends on expressing the ultimate truth not as substance but as subject as well” (Hegel 1977). The Circle itself is a community and a world within itself in which meanings are constructed using individuals’ strategic subjective cooperation, “we see this workplace as a community and every person who works here is a part of community. And to make it work it requires a level of participation” (Eggers 2014).

The threefold process of dialectical development of cognition, communication and co-operation is further explained by the philosophy of Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980). He is a French philosopher and literary critic of 20th century; one of the key figures in the philosophy of Existentialism, “man is condemned to be free; once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does. It is up to you to give life a meaning” (Sartre 1993). He describes “being-in-itself (en-soi), being-for-itself (pour soi) and being-in-and-for-itself (etre en-soi pour-soi)” in his monumental work *Being and Nothingness*. He elucidates the philosophy of being-in-itself represents objects and fixed identity and reality. In *The Circle*, the company itself embodies en-soi. It’s a tech organization with its own infrastructure, goals and existence independent of individuals. It dictates transparency, eliminates privacy and strives for universal system of utopianism. According to Sartre being-for-itself represents consciousness and human subjectivity. A tree is a tree and unable to change its structure but man creates himself by his actions in the world. Sartre elucidates that when individual encounter the gaze, watch or observance of someone outside entity individuals become responsible and aware of own actions, “he is a nothingness, a lack, dehumanized by the other” (Sarte 1993). Mae Holland the protagonist initially embodies this concept. She has dreams, choices, desires and a past life outside the circle of The Circle. However, Mae Holland loses sight of her dreams and became victim to The Circle’s expectations, “It’s not that I’m not social. I’m social enough. But the tools you guys manufacture unnaturally extreme social needs. No one needs the level of contact you purveying. It improves nothing. It’s like snack food. You’re not hungry, you don’t need the food but you eat empty calories...you are pushing same thing...endless empty calories, digital-social equivalent” (Eggers 2014). She felt the sense of dehumanization by constant outside otherers watch, “she saw that everyone was seeing...a hand searching bag, clawing and instantly she felt desperate and wretched” (Eggers 2014). While the terminology of being-in-and-for-itself represents an ideal state of existence and recognizes; what is not in itself. In Sartre’s philosophy consciousness traces only known part of existence what it is by knowing the fact what it is not. The Circle claims to achieve this state through complete transparency and total

connection. The System eliminates freedom and authenticity to create homogenous society of being-in-itself. The individuals become cogs in the wheel (en-soi) blindly chasing predefined realities than to become autonomous beings (pour-soi), "Mae... knew... why wouldn't the wisdom of three hundred million Americans be taken into account when making a decision affected them all? How many lives are saved by killing AL-HAMED?... 71 percent of the Circlers favored a drone strike" (Eggers 2014). Egger uses Sartre's framework to show relationships become superficial and transactional lacking the depth of true being-in-and-for-itself. The Circle annihilates the individualism of oneself; the freedom to be different from others, which makes oneself as, "I think therefore I'm" (Descartes 2020).

Dave Eggers' fictional world seems closer to the real world where anyone can draw parallels because literature is a field that can reflect, highlight and make us aware of cultural modes of perceiving social and political structures. *The Circle* sends a message of social realism to the world that social networking influence the perceptions of the world and demands irrational need of constant attention. The premise of *The Circle* critiques how surveillance destroys the nuance and beauty of human interaction like how Mae Holland loses her connection to Annie Allerton after she goes transparent, "it was an affront, a deprivation to herself and the world" (Eggers 2014). The novel shows that the watchers at all times devolves freedom and ability to think, "it's a slippery slope: first harmless and pleasurable; later on, when it's too late to fight back becomes clear how dangerous surveillance really is" (Eggers 2014). The self-reliance and self-actualization phases are the phases in an individual's life to build confidence however in the text the Circlers are completely reliant on other people for validity and support. The novel suggests that true happiness is only possible when the people experience natural amounts of uncertainty, uneasiness, pain and sadness. The Circle tries to bring total happiness and perfection that creates deplorable condition to live in, that is the basic reason Eggers attack on utopianism as an alibi for unethical control and domination. For instance, the destruction of Mercer's community and the Partido community showcases are the Circle's intolerance of dissent and its desire to control all. Mercer's suicide stems from incompatibility with the world of constant monitoring symbolizes loss of self, death of resistance and a wake-up call to question the path society is taking with technology, "we are our choices" (Sartre 1993).

The history of past is a witness itself recorded the examples of totalitarian surveillance as a political machination like the Stasi in East Germany is secret police who recruited family members, friends and neighbors against each other to maintain pervasive atmosphere of fear and suspicion to maintain totalitarian regime. Another example is Gestapo in Nazi Germany was official secret police to enforce German ideology by using extrajudicial killings, violence and intimidation to eliminate dissent. The Gestapo targeted Jews, homosexuals and minority groups. Furthermore, the KGB in USSR was the main security agency who continued foreign espionage, surveillance and assassination. In the recent days the China's Social Credit System, Singapore's Safe City Initiative are the examples to create more orderly society by tracking citizens behaviors. In the contemporary world individual is the primary unit of society who transforms the digital content to social media and other users transmit it to community level. The social media becomes the historical platform to reflex the statements and responds of individual users. The modern society is grounded in multiple socio-cultural relations and reflections of their communications according to their roles in society. The cultural sphere of modern society can be divided into private and public cultures. "The private sphere is a sphere of intimacy" (Arendt 1958) which includes family life and emotional relationship. The private sphere is the realm to perform leisure activities; "externalization of inner life" (Habermas 1989). In modern society there are ways to organize leisure such as clubs, parties, healthcare etc.; therefore, the private converted to social life activities. The sphere of culture is the sphere which is a discrete phenomenon that guarantees grand narratives of social relations. Henceforth, lifeworld (culture in societal model) is the cultural site where the meaning of the world is built, kept and maintained. Hegel describes public sphere as, "political and civil society separate from family life" (Hegel 1821). Haberman describes the public realm as, "realm of commodity exchange and social labor" (Haberman 1989). In the late 19th and 20th century the boundaries between two spheres got blurred and collapsed therefore, "private units become quasi-political characters and amidst public sphere there emerged transformatory zone of repoliticized social sphere where public and private become one unit" (Habermas 1989). In the novel the Circlers movement are categorized as digital automatic movement get stored in big data archive with a niche possibility for all to access the data which never disappeared and deleted. The Circle works with highly smart technologies to monitor everything inside and outside everyone. The Circle have implanted smart chips in Circlers blood system to track their daily routines activities, physiological data and health statistics which becomes public information. The Circlers wear wristbands as location map to indicate their activity. The Circlers wear camera necklace around their neck 24/7 for transparency. See Change Cameras are pivoted in public spaces everywhere and the film is monitored on the screens as a broadcast event, "man is born free and everywhere he is in chains" (Rousseau 2006). Egger's novel serves as a cautionary tale about the potential dangers and unchecked technological advancements that demolished boundaries between 'Private' and 'Public' spheres. Eggers nudging the spectators to see beneath reality of fostering a culture of, "transparency is virtue" (Eggers 2014). The Circle assigns transparency scores to gamify the private spheres into strict public competition. Mae Holland's trip to Kayaking to enjoy nature becomes a scandal when she is caught without being transparent. The Circle pressurized her to share the details to public, "Governments who are transparent? Legislators owe their reputations to Circle? What do you think happen to Williamson? She threatens the Circle monopoly and feds find incrimination stuff on her computer" (Eggers 2014).

Social media surveillance is a technological and social process that integrates Integrated Sociality (cognition, communication and co-operation), Integrated Roles (public, private life) and Converging Surveillance (social roles and activities converge). The process of surveillance is defined as, "controlling, managing, governing, supervising, influencing and regulating behaviors" (Fuchs 2011). Zygmunt Bauman an English-Polish sociologist expressed his ideas about lifeworld of social media as, "liquid life" where reality always keeps changing and individuals need to adapt to survive. In the modern world the life is a struggle between freedom and security. The sense of belonging is fundamental for human beings but in contemporary times individuals are free to show their belongingness to network and social media sites to build own web of social and cultural fragile relations with a fear of being rejected or refused that develops sense of insecurity. The relation is directly proportional; more freedom towards ecosystem of social media more will be insecurity, "we know what we are, but know not what we may be" (Shakespeare

2019). Gary Max coined the term Surveillance Creep “powerful new surveillance tactics are developed, the range of their legitimate and illegitimate use” (Fuchs & Trottier 2015). The surveillance creep is the aftermath of 9/11 incident where, “Everyone becomes a reasonable target... where everyone is guilty until proven innocent” (Marx 1988). The modern world denizens are used to the sites of Iris recognition system, facial recognition system, fingerprint recognition, credit card data and CCTV cameras etc. In the novel, The Circle, the characters are constantly using social media with deep unresponsiveness for their own panopticon round the clock. The death of privacy became the degrees of clearness as a source and state for total visibility and radical transparency for the Circle, “if you have nothing to hide, then you have nothing to fear”. (Eggers 2014). The same thought recurs in Orwell’s 1984, “if you want to keep a secret you must hide it from yourself” (Orwell 2021).

AWAKE ARISE OR BE FOREVER FALLEN CALL FOR HYPOTHETICAL FUTURE

Dave Egger’s novel is a stark warning against centralized power structure of the high technology companies like The Circle. The author highlighted the importance of being aware of how our data is collected and used for misuse by the governments and corporations that seems valid after Snowden leaks. Egger forewarns us for hypothetical future of digital world that is lurking, looming and hovering on us. He pointed out the biggest fact that the digital citizens are like T. S. Eliot’s Hollow Man and Guy Faulk’s effigies born only to be burn to cope the mechanism of nihilism. The technology created a void and undeniably changed the way we live and interact. The digital citizens are Sherry Turkle’s *Alone Together* individuals because our reliance on technology is leading to the feeling of loneliness and isolation. The digital citizens do not show micro-resistance to scroll the screens and create multiple online fake personas for virtual identities grappling the illusions of liquid life rather to overcome barrier. Dave Egger in the novel challenges the digital citizens to embrace Sartre’s connection (en-soi) and authentic human experience (pour-soi) in order to exist in the world. Eggers expounds conscious way of living with Hegel; a man with mind and experience therefore Hegel in Preface to Phenomenology of Spirit describes as, “the nature of humanity is to impel men to agree with one another and its very existence lies in explicit realization of a community of conscious life” (Hegel 1977). Johan Galtung (1930-2024) is the founding father of Peace Studies and founded PRIO the world’s first institute dedicated to peace research. He developed the theory of Conflict Resolution in which he describes the root cause of conflicts as, “one approach to understand violence is frustration or blocked goals attainment or more particularly the goal is blocked due to other goal pursuit (by Other), that is conflict. The more goal has need characters for identity, survival, freedom and well-being the more likely violence. If self and other are collectives than conflict is war... peace assumes high level of equity, equality and acceptance of other as equal partners in negotiations and dialogues... peace by peaceful means becomes more difficult” (2007). He defines fundamental universal human Need-Based Demands as, safety/security, identity, cultural security, freedom, fair access to justice and economy and sense of self-acceptance on equal terms. When the demands for basic needs are incompatible or ignored and denied to the fair distribution to the races or groups or communities; they became dissatisfied by institutes particularly government, state and politics. This lead to create conflict and the result of conflict is disagreement, violence and frustration. Galtung emphasized on genuine needs while The Circle offers a fabricated sense of security and equality that creates a society of unrest, conflict and true needs remain unmet. The following is the comparison from *The Circle* to illustrate unmet needs of Galtung’s theoretical framework;

SECURITY VS FREEDOM

The Circle enforces complete transparency eliminating personal freedom and privacy. This removes personal ability to feel secure from unwanted scrutiny and judgement which lead to anxiety and sense of vulnerability.

SELF-ACCEPTANCE VS. STATUS QUO

The Circle’s rating system creates a constant pressure to be liked and accepted. This extrinsic validation system undermines genuine self-acceptance and fosters dissatisfaction due to ranking and comparison.

EQUALITY VS CONFORMITY

The Circle promotes a homogenous society where everyone is encouraged to share everything. This eliminates self-identity, individuality and freedom to express oneself distinctively, genuinely and uniquely. This lack of space for personal expression creates a sense of inauthenticity which lead to resentment.

NEED FOR SOVERIGNTY VS. CONSTANT MONITORING

The Circle tracks its citizens and employees constantly. This lack of autonomy and freedom of movement that restricts personal growth and lead to feelings of powerlessness and rebellion.

Therefore, the dissonance of what The Circle offers and what people need creates a volatile situation beneath the surface of seemingly peaceful society.

CONCLUSION

The research paper is an endeavor to lay bare the pros and cons of digital technology to demystify, decentralize and disfigure the image of digital connectivity and surveillance in contemporary world. It is a clarion call towards desensitization of digital natives for the normalization of digital stimuli induced in them. The digital natives are growing up in cultural straightjackets producing sociopath generations. Henceforth, it should be the task of every responsible citizen to break free from the circle of constant digital access and harbor the digital detox. The goal characters for basic human needs are blocked by The Circle; henceforth it is concluded that *The Circle* represents a confined space which restricts access to basic needs for peaceful society.

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