

The Evolving Landscape of Military Manpower: Evaluating the Rise of AI in Possible Futures

IGMKT Ihagama^{1#} and KERL Fernando¹

¹Foresight Envoy, Sri Lanka

[#]kavithathathsarani@gmail.com

Despite widespread predictions about Artificial Intelligence (AI) related military applications, a few studies have explored the underlying reasons. This study investigated the potential correlation between demographic trends and the increasing reliance on AI in military manpower. The research question that this study attempted to answer is, “Why will the military manpower of future armies shift from humans to robots?” The methodology adopted in this study was the future studies research methodology of the Six Pillars approach and the research tool of back-casting. Further, case studies of the three largest militaries, China, India, and the United States (US) were considered in data collection. Demographic trends including population growth rate, population median age, total fertility rate as well as birth rate, and their impact on military recruitment and force composition was evaluated as research variables. This paper aims to highlight the paradigm shift in military manpower from the traditional recruitment of humans towards the integration of robot soldiers in the Possible Futures with a special focus on analysing the potentiality of AI to address recruitment challenges arising from demographic shifts. The paper concludes that while AI offers potential benefits, a balanced approach that considers technological and non-technological solutions is essential for future military manpower strategies.

Keywords: *possible futures, military manpower, AI, robot soldiers, China, India, United States, demography*