# Article information:

OpenAI Used Kenyan Workers on Less Than $2 Per Hour: Exclusive | Time  
<https://time.com/6247678/openai-chatgpt-kenya-workers/>

# Article summary:

1. OpenAI used outsourced Kenyan laborers earning less than $2 per hour to label examples of violence, hate speech, and sexual abuse for its AI chatbot ChatGPT.

2. The workers were mentally scarred by the work, which included graphic descriptions of child sexual abuse, bestiality, murder, suicide, torture, self-harm, and incest.

3. Despite being an essential part of the AI industry's effort to make AI systems safe for public consumption, data labelers in the Global South often face precarious working conditions that can be damaging and exploitative.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article by Time magazine highlights the use of outsourced Kenyan laborers by OpenAI to make ChatGPT less toxic. The report claims that the workers were paid less than $2 per hour and were exposed to graphic descriptions of sexual abuse, hate speech, and violence. While the article raises important concerns about the working conditions of data labelers in the AI industry, it also contains potential biases and missing points of consideration.

One-sided reporting is evident in the article's portrayal of OpenAI as a company that relies on hidden human labor in the Global South that can often be damaging and exploitative. The article fails to acknowledge that outsourcing data labeling tasks is a common practice in the AI industry, and many companies work with third-party vendors to label their data. Moreover, OpenAI has been transparent about its use of outsourced labor for data labeling tasks and has acknowledged the need to improve working conditions for these workers.

The article also makes unsupported claims about OpenAI's motives for using outsourced labor. It suggests that OpenAI used Kenyan workers because they are cheaper than American workers, without providing any evidence to support this claim. Additionally, the article implies that OpenAI was aware of the traumatic nature of the work but chose to ignore it for financial gain. However, there is no evidence to suggest that OpenAI was aware of the extent of trauma experienced by workers or that it prioritized financial gain over worker well-being.

Missing evidence for claims made is another issue with this article. For example, while it mentions that Sama markets itself as an “ethical AI” company and claims to have helped lift more than 50,000 people out of poverty, there is no evidence provided to support these claims. Similarly, while some Sama employees reported mental health issues due to their work on ChatGPT labeling tasks, there is no evidence presented on how widespread these issues were or whether they were caused solely by their work on ChatGPT.

Unexplored counterarguments are also present in this article. For instance, while it highlights concerns about worker exploitation in the AI industry, it does not explore potential benefits associated with outsourcing data labeling tasks such as increased efficiency and cost savings for companies like OpenAI.

In conclusion, while this article raises important concerns about worker exploitation in the AI industry and sheds light on some troubling aspects of OpenAI's operations, it also contains potential biases and missing points of consideration. As such, readers should approach its claims with caution and seek additional information before forming conclusions about OpenAI's practices or broader issues related to worker exploitation in the AI industry.

# Topics for further research:

* Benefits of outsourcing data labeling tasks in the AI industry
* Transparency and accountability in AI companies' use of outsourced labor
* Best practices for ensuring worker well-being in data labeling tasks
* The impact of graphic content exposure on mental health and well-being
* Ethical considerations in AI companies' use of outsourced labor
* The role of government regulations in protecting workers in the AI industry

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/baf62eb5c28989dd9c309ba4b737c2f9>