

## **Information Technology's Impact on Society**

**--- Sandhya P. Pandey**

### **Abstract:**

Information technology and its developments had an influence on the society in general, in the so many years. Computer systems are designed, built and used by people. They are components in larger socio-technical networks that include human beings. They are used for entertainment, defense, transportation, shopping, studying, etc. The success of a system is determined by the community of people who use it. Since we live in the "information age," information technology has become a part of our everyday life and for society either it is positive or negative.

**Keywords:** Information technology, Social impact: negative and positive

### **Introduction**

"Information Technology," pronounced as "I.T.", refers to anything related to computing technology, such as Personal Computer, networking, hardware, software, the Internet, or the people that work with these technologies. All companies now have IT departments for managing the computers, networks, and other technical areas of their businesses. IT jobs include computer programming, network administration, computer engineering, Web development, technical support, and many other related occupations.

### **Objectives**

There is a strong tendency in the social sciences to understand and conceptualize the new information technologies in terms of their technical properties and to construct the relation to the sociological world as one of applications and impacts. Different developments and analytic categories allow us to capture the study of information technology and society.

### **Methodology:**

The secondary sources of data and related study were used.

### **Positive impacts of I.T. on society**

Change comes from two sources. One source is random or unique factors such as climate, weather, or the presence of specific groups of people. Another source is systematic factors for example, successful development like Information Technology

A century ago, the ancestors of modern computers were largely devoted to analysis of social data, but sociology and computer science diverged, and today they need to be reunited.

Technology runs in the veins of society. It is the fuel that drives our lives. It is an integral part of daily life. It has definitely benefited society. It has brought luxury in the life of every common man. Automation brought about by technology has saved human effort and time to a large extent. It has brought distant places closer and simplified information access. It has made the world a smaller place to live in. Some of the important areas, where technology has brought a positive change are as follows:

Automation of processes in the industry and the household: Technology has automated many of the critical processes in the industry as well as the household. Imagine the amount of labor that must have been involved in industrial processes when the concept of automation did not exist. Electronic gadgets have entered homes of the common man to rescue him from the boredom of daily chores. Imagine the amount of time people must be spending doing household chores during the time there were no machines and household appliances.

**Changed Modes of Transport:** Time has witnessed this industry evolve from mechanical scooters to automated aircraft. Animals were the only modes of transport in the olden days. Technology was the driving force behind the creation and design of the modern-day automobiles. Bicycles evolved into scooters and sports bikes. The idea of having four-wheeled modes of transport gave rise to the creation of cars. Modes of air and water transport came up, thanks to technology.

**Reduced Risk to Human Life:** Technology has evolved to an extent where machines can perform tasks that are not feasible for man, either because they are risky or life-threatening or because they are beyond human capacity. The use of advanced technologies like robotics and artificial intelligence has proven to be helpful in life-risking endeavors like mining and space exploration.

**Data Management and Information Retrieval:** Computer technology has changed the face of the world. Computers can store, organize and manage huge amounts of data. They can process large amount of information. Computers have given rise to the software industry. The Internet that seeded from computer networking concepts is the most effective communication platform and the largest information base existing today.

**Impact on the Entertainment and Advertising Industries:** The Internet has brought a positive change to the entertainment and advertising industries. Over the Internet, advertisements can reach the masses within seconds. Internet advertisements have changed equations of the advertising industry. Branding on the Internet is much more effective than other forms of product promotion. The entertainment media has progressed because of advancements in technology. Movies, songs, games are a few clicks away. People have begun using the Internet to watch and download movies, listen to music, play games and entertain themselves. Thanks to handy, mobile and user-friendly devices, all this has become really easy.

**Changes in Communication modes:** Cellular communication has revolutionized the communication industry. The conventional telephone, also a piece of technology, was one of the

earliest technological developments in communication. Mobile phones have broadened the horizons of communication by enabling convenient long-distance calling and mobile use

Satellite Technology: Satellite communication is an important facet of technology. Satellite TV and satellite radio have eased the broadcasting of events across the globe. Even communication to ships and airplanes wouldn't have been possible if not for satellite communication.

### **Negative impacts of I.T. on society**

The rapid revolution in technology affected our lifestyle drastically and led us to believe that our lives have changed for the better. Now communication with our distant friends or relatives, buying branded products or goods on-the-go and conducting business meeting is possible with just a single click. We believe that all these changes have made our lives more comfortable than before. However, there is a critical concern for parents - whether technology is affecting their children for the good or worse? What are some of the side effects of technology? What are we to do about the tech overload happening right now to students and everyone else?

The minds of children are like blank pages. Their elevated cleverness allows them to fill those pages very fast with the provided information. Such information can be extracted not only from books and other educational materials but also from games, TV shows and texting.

A limited use of gadgets can be quite useful for children as it will allow them to be up to date with the current technology. However, the overuse of these advancements can really hamper or even damage their development in the personal growth, communication and educational department.

Though we can't deny the endowments that the current era of advancement has provides us with, but like any other thing, we cannot deny the fact that there is always two sides to everything: Good and Bad.

### **1. Behavioral changes**

These days, children indulge themselves in internet, games or texting. These activities have affected their psyche negatively, consequently leading to increased frustration. Now they get frustrated whenever they are asked to do anything while playing games or using internet. For instance, when their parents ask them to take the trash out, they get furious instantly. This behavior has shattered many parent-children relationships.

### **2. Patience Reduction**

Determination is a necessity that comes with patience and without it no individual can survive the hardships of life. According to studies, tolerance in children is vanishing quite increasingly due to the improper use of technology. For example, children get frustrated quickly when they surf internet and the page they want to view takes time to load.

### **3. Declining Writing Skills**

Due to the excessive usage of online Materials and shortcuts, the writing skills of today's young generation have declined quite tremendously. These days, children are relying more and more on digital communication that they have totally forgot about improving their writing skills. They don't know the spelling of different words, how to use grammar properly or how to do cursive writing.

### **4. Lack of Interactivity**

No one can deny the fact that the advancement of technology has produced a completely unique method of interaction and communication. Now, more and more people are interacting with others through different platforms like apps, role-playing online games, social networks, etc. This advancement has hampered the physical interaction skills of many children. Due to that they don't know how to interact with others when they meet them in-person or what gesture they should carry.

Recent developments in technology such as the internet also led to a decline in “normal” social behaviors.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, modern technologies can very well be a double-edged sword, from safety to connectedness. They do have their advantages, but as with many revolutionary inventions, they can radically change our lives, for better or worse.

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