
A Study on Impact of Technology on Youth

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Abstract

Over the year's technology have increased significantly and is affecting the lives of several youngsters across the world. According to the Oxford Dictionary "Technology" is defined as the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes. It is derived from the Greek word "tekhologia" which means "art or craft". There are several different types of technology currently been used by today's generation namely; computers, iPods, cell phones, television, game systems just to name a few. With the wide spread of technology it has impacted on the lives of today's youth is several different ways. It has limit thinking capacity of youths exposed youths to several sexual dangers and as such decreases face-to-face communication. In this research paper the researcher aims to study the impact of technology on youth. This is a review paper is based on collection of secondary data from various journals, internet, books, articles etc.

Introduction

Technology is a gift of God. After the gift of life it is perhaps the greatest of God's gifts. It is the mother of civilizations, of arts and of sciences. - Freeman Dyson
Technology plays an important role in every sphere of life. It has certainly changed the way we live in different aspects of life and redefined living. Several sectors like medicine, warfare, transportation and navigation, business, economy, and even in education particularly in science and mathematics. Manual tasks can be automated; complex and critical processes can be carried out with ease and efficiency with the help of modern technology. Each field has undergone a major change and sure, they have changed for the better.

High technology these days has revolutionized the field of education. The importance of technology in schools cannot be ignored. Learners are more exposed to the daily information that comes from all parts of the globe. It has become easier for the teachers to render knowledge and for the students to grasp it. As the young generations live with this advancement in technology, different aspects of life had changed. This includes the negative impacts of this technology. Students spend a large amount of time engaging in technologies for entertainment, such as playing Game boy, watching DVDs, or listening to music players. They tend to be less involved in academic life. Positive impacts will be an important part of this study, for which technology used for academic engagement. A student may use computers, electronic mails, or a cellular phone for social purposes, however, those

same technologies will also be use for communication on academic matters, thereby increasing educational involvement. According to Maxima J. Acelajado, (Ph.D., De La Salle University), "It is a fact that with the growing sophistication of people's lifestyle, students have been unconsciously demanding for materials and gadgets.

The increasing technology has cause individuals to be less creative and more dependent on the computer to supply them with all the information they need. Hence causing their brains to process information in a slower way. Unlike any other parts of our bodies the brain also needs to be exercised. According to www.sheknows.com/health-andwellness stated that there are five everyday ways to exercise your brain can help improve your concentration and memory some scientists also believes that it can also create "cognitive reserve" that will allow you to stay sharp and you grow older. While technology proven to be a useful tool individuals tend to abuse it as a result its plagiarism. Plagiarism is taking other people work and making yours without even acknowledging the source. This shows that major of our youths are not majority of our youths are not thinking and is not using their brains to their maximum potential hence retarding their minds and thinking capacity. The use of technology has encouraged laziness both in schools, work, and homes.

Technology and its Impact on Youth

There are several ways in which the technology is having an impact on youth:

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1) *The Impact of Technology on Youth in Today's Society*

In our never-ceasing quest for progression and expansion, it seems taken for granted that technological advancement is a positive phenomenon. We are encouraged to believe that faster, more complex and superior technology will be beneficial to us in some way. Technology has many positive aspects but, in the wrong hands, it can become dangerous. Technology is a valuable tool but is somewhat misused by today's teens. The two main forms of technology affecting teenagers:

- cell phones
- Internet

This brought major changes in the lifestyle. We spend more time corresponding with our friends on cell phones and the Internet than we do working or participating in activities which expand and challenge our minds. Our fixation with technology makes us oblivious to the social implications. Teens today are lacking basic social skills because of an absence of face-to-face communication assisted by this technology. On average, a teenager uses his or her cell phone more than 100 times per week. Technology is becoming an addiction. Today's youth crave instant satisfaction, and our desires are met by broadband Internet and text messaging. The art of personal communication is being lost as it gives way to a new era of interaction. The introduction of cell phones and the Internet has challenged our notions of space and time by putting communications into hyper drive.

2) *Impact of Mobile Phone on Our Youth*

Globalization has many aspects. The whole world is accepting and adopting the ways towards the advancement of technology. The youth is playing a vital role in this rapid pace. In this global village, firstly our youth was allured to divert their attention towards the internet. They have changed a lot by the usage of internet. A few of them have inclined for knowledge, information, awareness and exposure but the majority of them appear to have misused the internet. To some extent, people were done up and vexed with internet but due to the ensconsment of cellular technology all gaps have been bridged for the destruction of youth.

3) *The Impact of Technology on Workplace Stress Level of Youth*

"Stress is tension from extraordinary demands, constraints, or opportunities" (Organizational

Behavior). There are many factors in our daily lives that cause stress, but how does technology affect stress? Does it affect it positively or negatively? Is there anything unethical about the technology and the way it is utilized? Through an exploration of Company A, one will see both the positive and negative impacts of technology on workplace stress and discover some of the underlying ethical issues involved.

Company A utilizes various types of technology, from pagers and cell phones to personal computers and numerous types of technical software. In the article, "Workplace Depression Blamed on IT Stress", David Williamson states, "Technology designed to help people work efficiently is now forcing employees into a state of 'digital depression' " (Williamson 9). In the article, Williamson also refers to a study done by Dr. Peter Honey in which Honey states, "Employees don't feel they can escape anymore".

Within Company A, employees and subcontractors utilize cell phones, pagers, radios, and e-mail. As such, employees are rarely unavailable and it is not uncommon to be interrupted during one's lunch hour. While this inability to "escape" may cause stress, these same types of technology can assist in relieving stress. For those who travel, cell phones can provide a feeling of safety since help can be a phone call away when one's car breaks down. E-mail and cell phones can both assist in keeping one in touch with the office. For working parents, there is comfort in knowing that one's children or family will always be able to have contact in case of emergency. Each of these uses can assist in the reduction of stress.

4) *Impact of Technology on Communication Pattern of Youth*

There's been a movement away from face-to-face meetings / communication. Instead, people and businesses use video conferencing, Elluminate (incorporates chat and presentation conferencing facilities) and virtual conferencing (Second Life). Technology is more portable and people have and expect constant access to the internet. Communication is virtually instantaneous (compare email versus snail mail). Communication is less rigid and less inclined to conform to traditional standards and rules. It's less formal. Mistakes are common.

Benefits

- Speed / time – money can be saved because it's

much quicker to move information around.

- Cost – it feels free to send an email (although it isn't); it's certainly cheaper than phone calls.
- Video conferencing saves money on flights and accommodation.
- Online communication brings families / friends together across distances.
- Education – it's accessible and there's lots of free information.
- Community – it can reduce isolation and provide support systems for people who need it. It's available 24 / 7.
- People can do shopping / banking / chat at any time they like. They can communicate with people on the other side of the world while everyone in their own country is asleep.

Issues

- Reliance on technology – people don't bother learning to spell because they use spell-checker etc.
- Loss of face-to-face may mean loss of some communication skills and loss of the personal touch.
- There are risks attached to the unknown / hidden elements on the internet (you don't necessarily know who you are talking to).
- Reliability of information – everyone's posting so just because something's on the web doesn't mean it's reliable.
- Viruses, fraud and identity theft are all risks for people using the internet

5) *The Impact of Cyberbullying on Youth*

Cyber bullying is a form of bullying that takes place over the internet or a cell phone message that maliciously threatens, humiliates, tricks, or excludes someone. (National Crime Prevention Council, 2010). Cyber bullying is a widespread problem and its effects can be deadly. It can cause emotional distress to its victims, including depression, which has been attributed to several youth suicides. Cyber bullying is difficult to prevent, but if society takes the necessary action, the frequency of it occurring can be greatly reduced. The effects of cyber bullying go beyond the victim. Friends and family of victims are also impacted

when cyber bullying occurs. They may find themselves in difficult situations where they are peer pressured into participating in the bullying, afraid that if they don't play along, they too could become a target. They may also feel powerless to stop it or guilty for not having spoken out against the bullying.

6) *The Impact of Technology on Individuals and The Society*

People are divided into their beliefs on whether the overall effect on technology is positive or negative. I believe that technology has a negative effect on human society, while many others would disagree. People may believe that the overall effect of technology is good, but there are clearly dangers and drawbacks. Every new technology breeds unsuspected or unwanted side effects. For instance, the Industrial Revolution, while reducing manual labour in the long run, had and still has many negative consequences, such as pollution, child labour, and workshop conditions. Technology actually serves to harm humans rather than help them. A competition between two cities or companies usually makes lives for humans even worse. Take for example when a city builds roads to attract tourists. This creates more traffic, not less.

7) *Media Violence: The Negative Impact on Today's Youth*

Media Violence (2009) says, "Because children have high levels of exposure, media have greater access and time to shape young people's attitudes and actions than do parents or teachers, replacing them as educators, role models, and the primary source of information about the world and how one behaves in it." While influence used to be the role of parents and educators, media may be in fact the most important and influential form of information for children. In today's society our children are being raised by the media. The impact that the media plays in the lives of our children can be detrimental to their growth and development. Children who are exposed to prolonged viewings and or viewings of violence at early ages are prone to exhibit aggressive behavior and they tend to be desensitized therefore having no real emotion or empathetic feelings.

Aggressive Behavior Children who are exposed to violence via television, movies, video games, and internet and in the home, are prone to a significant increase in aggressiveness. More times than none, if a

child experiences violence as a victim and or a witness they have an increased risk of becoming violent themselves. Many people are familiar with the phrase, monkey see monkey do.

8) *Impact of Technology on Education of Youth*

Positive Impact of Technology on Education. Technology plays a very important role in the field of education, especially in this 21st century. In fact, computer technology has become easier for teachers to transfer knowledge and for students to obtain it. The use of technology has made the process of teaching and learning more convenient. Talking in a positive sense, the impact of technology on education has been extraordinary. Using Internet and computers as an effective medium to establish communication between schools, teachers, students and parents; educational institutes have been able to handle many issues that were previously not handled.

Technology is A Teaching Aid

Computers offer an interactive audio-visual medium. PowerPoint presentations and animation software can be used to present information in an interactive way. This way of teaching invites greater interest from students. The method is equally helpful for teachers. Projectors and screens facilitate immediate viewing of information by a large number of students. These teaching aids have led to improvements in student attendance and their attentiveness in class. Interactive media have proven to be useful in increasing students' concentration levels.

Technology has Made Student Life Easy

Technology aids student expression. Students can use much more than just pen and paper to express themselves or present what they have learned. They can use software to make presentations and projects. This makes them more interested in the subject and leads to better retention of information. It's easier to store information: Computers enable better and more robust storage of information.

How Technology Affects Youth

The young people of today are constantly using technological devices, such as cell phones, X-Boxes, laptops, or iPods. Do you think Technology is effecting our youth today? Do you think it is a bad influence? Do you think it's becoming a problem with their learning? I think youths are facing a bad moment with the technology without noticing.

One effect the technology has is a negative influence on the social lives of youth, because it keeps people from experiencing reality. Youth are losing contact face to face because even they are at a party, family reunion or hanging out friends, most youth cannot leave their technological devices on the side and enjoy the moment. If youths are constantly being cut off from people and new experiences because of technology, our generation is dying in social life. If we never face reality by making personal relationships, experiencing things, and solving problems, we will never know how to solve any problem without help of technology. Another effect of technology on youth is youth are not paying enough attention in class or when they are doing homework. Youths are always thinking in what their friend or boyfriend are doing instead of being paying attention to class or homework. Youth has to have balance in how much time to spend on Facebook, YouTube, or any social media. For example youth are allowed to get on any social media but all school work and chorus have to be completed. The indiscriminate use of technology is making youth not enjoy the best of life like have a nice moment with their family, friends or boyfriend or girlfriend. In the other hand technology has too many benefits like helps to be in touch with people that are far. Technology is an excellent tool to learn.

Conclusion

Technology has revolutionized the human existence. Much of the progress that mankind has made in different fields right from the stone age to the modern age is due to the progress made in the field of science and technology. Not only material progress but also the mental outlook of man has been influenced by it. It has made man's life happier and more comfortable. Agriculture, business, transport, communication and medicine to name a few are all highly indebted to the wonders, science has produced. We have become scientifically more advanced from our ancestors. This is because the world has undergone a tremendous change because of the rapid strides made by the science and technology. Anything, which has advantages, has disadvantages also and this holds truth in case of technology as well.

Nowadays, if we have to reserve a seat in a railway compartment we need not go to the railway booking counter, we can do this just through the Internet by E-Reservation system. Similarly, if we have to send a

message to anyone, instead of sending a conventional letter we can send an e-mail. Telephones and mobile phones are so commonly being used by us that it has become difficult now to image life without them. All this, I feel, is enough for us to realize that technology has entered into our day-to-day life.

Electricity is one of the greatest wonders of modern science. The growth of fast modes of transport and communication has changed the world into global village. In the field of agriculture, science and technology has helped in increasing the crop production and improving quality. Science has enabled man to diagnose and treat many dangerous diseases. Information technology and computers have revolutionized our life-styles. But, the boon of science, in many cases, has been turned into bane because of its misuse. Science has posed a threat to the very existence of mankind with weapons-nuclear, biological, atomic, chemical etc.

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