

Essay topic : Scientific and technological ^{Date:} progress
cannot be equated with the
Progress of humanity

Outline:

(A) Introduction:

(B) What is progress of humanity based on?

(C) Why scientific progress cannot be equated with progress of humanity?

(i) Social reasons:

a. Cultural progress lag impedes social progress which can be achieved with technological advancements.

b. Scientific progress cannot undo cultural inertia which is an important factor for development of a society and progress of humanity.

c. Ethnocentrism of a society cannot be changed with help of technological progress.

② Reasons based on governance:

- a. Moral conscious of a society is deciding factor for its law and technology cannot amend it.
- b. Inherent redtapism of bureaucracies in third world countries do not let the technology improve governance.
- c. Popular narratives form the basis for governmental policies, where technology has minimum role in setting of governmental policies.

③ Economic and political reasons:

- a. Status quo remains unchanged with technological advancements
- b. Radical school of thought use technology for their own benefit which has various negative implications of progress of humanity.
- c. Polarization of politics increases with technology which curtails the progress of humanity.

① How progress of science and technology can act as a catalyst for progress of humanity:

- ① Digital media can help in promotion of cultural relativism which can strengthen the social fabric of the entire globe.
- ② Technology helps in creation of new avenues, for individual, in economic domain.
- ③ E-governance models can help in creating better governance mechanisms for progress of humanity.
- ④ Technology can help in solving the problem of food insecurity which can help humanity to progress.

E Conclusion:

Technoblogical and scientific progress is a double edged sword. As, it can work in favour of humanity and it cut down the progress of humanity like a katana. Progress of humanity is based on several factors, like; how well ^{are} the economic condition of humans are, or how the social institutions are performing, or is the political system delivering justice to the human? Thus, it can be said that progress of science is not directly proportional to progress of humanity. There are various reasons for this negative correlation between the two. Primarily the reasons can be categorized as social, political and economic. If the social reasons are cultural lag which daunts the progress of humanity in line with the technology. Apart from that cultural inertia and ethnocentrism further degenerates human progress, as technology progresses. However, political and economic reasons cannot be negated either. Status quo which comes under the domain of economic system goes unchanged with technoblogical progress. Apart from that political polarization can be intensified with technoblogical advancement which can act as a curse for humanity. Governance also has ^{its} due share in not letting the technoblogical progress be equal to progress of humanity. However, progress of science can also help in the progress of humanity. As, technology can help in making humans more food secure; it can ^{also} make humans earn livelihood from new means. It is pertinent to mention that progress of humanity is a complex phenomena which

is based on several factors and scientific progress does not equate to progress of humanity, but it can act as a catalyst of progress of humanity.

It is apposite to state that progress of humanity is based on several factors. These factors include a proper economic system, a cohesive social structure, and political institutions which provide justice to the humans. The Technology can act as a mean to improve these institutions, but it cannot help to overhaul them completely. For instance technology can help improve the economic conditions of people residing in a state, but it cannot change the prevalent economic woes of citizens of that respective state. A perfect example to quote in this scenario will be of a monopoly. As technological advancement cannot undo a monopoly which is functioning, due to support of the government to it. Hence ~~humanity's progress~~ ^{humanity's progress} requires changes in the social, governance, economic, and political institutions; rather advancement in technology. Thus, it

Social factors which daunt the progress of humanity and ^{they do} ~~do not~~ let technology technological progress go hand in hand with humanity's progress are primarily; cultural lag, cultural inertia, and ethnocentrism.

Cultural lag basically is a phenomena where the material culture of society ~~changes~~ changes drastically and the non-material culture lags behind. Technology only helps in changing the ~~non~~ material culture. For instance, innovation of a mobile phone only changed the mode of communication, but it ~~not~~ did not change the communication. Additionally it can be implied that the main component of culture, which is non-material, had minimal effect of such change. Thus, it can be said that ~~to~~ trying to bypass cultural lag is more important than technological advancement for the humanity to progress.

Apart from cultural lag, cultural inertia is another daunting reality which stops progress of humanity. It can be added that technological advancement plays a minimal role in undoing cultural inertia. Cultural inertia is basically a force inherent to societies which makes them prone to changes. As cultural inertia resists any sort of change to social structure. Hence, this ~~inertia~~ inertia cannot be undone with technological advancements. For instance, in Pakistan there is a concept

known as *learo-leari*; where lover a shot dead, due to they married against the will of parent. This old horrendous tradition cannot be undone with help of technology. Hence, it can be said that cultural inertia stop the progress of humanity and technology can do a little to bypass it and make the progress of humanity with its progress.

Lastly, another important social reason, an ethnocentric approach of the any nation, kills the progress of humanity. Humanity requires peace to progress, but ethnocentrism takes this away peace in a nation. Ethnocentrism is an approach of individuals of an ethnicity that their ethnicity is supreme. For instance, Hitler burnt more than 3 million Jews in his camps to show his resentment to Jewish community. This ethnocentric mindset of nations cannot be undone with scientific advancements, but it requires a apt change to educational, social, and political institution. Thus, it can be said that for social progress an approach free from ethnocentrism is required for humanity to progress; it is also important to state that ~~social~~ humanity's progress is not dependent on technology, but on an approach free from ethnocentrism.

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Apart from social causes there are various reasons due to which progress of humanity can go hand in hand with governance and not with technology.

Firstly, Moral conscious of a nation or a society plays a really important role in deciding the laws of it. Additionally, laws actually decides how citizens of that nation will be living. Technology cannot change this Moral ^{conscious} ~~conscious~~ of any society or nation which means the laws ^{for that state} also go unaffected by technological advancement. For instance, in Saudi Arabia, punishments that are invoked when a homicide is committed are based on times of Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H). These punishments include lashing for infidelity, amputation of hands for theft, and blood for blood in case of homicide. Thus, it can be clearly witnessed that technology has not changed the moral conscious of the society regarding its punishments. Even though these punishment are to be considered barbaric in modern times. Thus, it can be said that humanity cannot progress until the laws of society are made more human and technology plays a very little role in doing so.

It is pertinent to mention that good governance requires less redtapism coupled with just laws. Especially in third world countries governance faces horrendous effects of redtapism. This redtapism is maintained due to

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corruption. For instance, as per a report of university of Columbia, Clerical work is not automated, as the bureaucracies in South Asian countries use it as a tool to slow the governance process for bribes. Thus, technology can help solve this issue, but the bureaucracies in third world countries maintain red tape to keep their pockets hot. Thus, it can be said that progress of humanity is dependent of efficient functioning of public sector which is free from red tape ~~to~~ rather than progress of technology.

Lastly, governance faces a major threat from populist policies, as populist tend to set government policies as their priorities which will get them maximum votes. Due to this approach the progress of humanity can peril, as certain policies can trigger violence or even bring the state to its knees. For example, popular slogan of Donald Trump, 'make America great again' was a phenomena to gain votes of the racist community residing in America. This policy was the reason due to ~~to~~ which millions of Mexicans were thrown out of America to Mexico. Apart from the the incident of ~~George~~ George Floyd, who was killed due to racist approach of police, was triggered due to Trump's policy. Thus, it can be said that policies that favour humanity are to be enacted, rather than

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policies which hurt humanity. However, technology cannot play an important role in changing the policies, but a rational approach of leaders can.

Apart from social and governance factors, economic factors as well as political causes make progress of science impeded.

Status quo an important economic phenomena which stops technological progress ~~for~~ to improve progress of humanity. Status quo is everyone belonging from a certain class should not entwine with matters of a different class. This is a concept which was used by Marx to criticize capitalism as it favours status quo. Status quo can be a daunting phenomena, as it stops vertical mobility of ~~certain~~ individuals in a society ~~to~~ which makes the social fabric dysfunctional. For instance, a state favours to have certain elitist reap benefits from a monopoly; it will deplete the vertical mobility of the masses, as they have to buy on a price the monopolist desires. It further created unequal distribution of wealth which can lead to situations like a civil war. The perfect example is of the concept of 22 families in Pakistan in 1960s. Here 22 families were owning 70% of Pakistan wealth. Thus, it can be said that technology cannot stop

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the states from taking measures to uphold status quo, so progress of humanity cannot be equated with progress of science.

Apart from that technological advancement can be misused as well which can hurt the progress of humanity, rather helping it. For instance, the concept of a nuclear bomb was created during world war 2. This bomb was tested on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which made two of these cities of Japan alienable from living of humans. It can be clearly stated that technology can be used for political gains which can hurt the progress of humanity in a brutal fashion.

Political polarization and technology go hand in hand. As an effective method to polarize politics is propaganda. Propaganda with help of social media is far more effective in polarizing the masses than any other media. Social media is a result of technological advancement. It is being used as a method to polarize politics for personal gain. As it is pretty evident from a survey conducted by Gallup that showed polarization in politics increased by 40% with the increase in use of social media. Thus, it can be said that technology can polarize politics.

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which can directly hurt the progress of humanity.

However, technological advancements can sometimes act as a catalyst to progress of humanity, but not as a cause for its progress.

Firstly, Cultural relativism is important for promotion of harmony around the globe and technology can help promote it. Cultural relativism simply means that a nation or society does not form a biased image of another society. With help of ~~technology~~^{digital media} awareness can be created amongst the nationals of various nations to understand cultural differences. It is pertinent to mention that as per a research conducted by university of oxford people after the innovation of social media are less culturally biased than they were before. Thus, digital media which is a technological advancement can promote cultural relativism which is important for progress of humanity.

Secondly, technological advancements can be used to create new avenues for individuals to earn money for their lively hood. For instance, the concept of freelancing was introduced with creation of internet. As now people sitting at their home can work on various projects and earn ample amount of money. Hence, this allows humans to economically

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Progress. Thus, it can be said that technological advancement can ~~promote~~ create new sources of ~~an~~ income for an individual. Hence, this help in technology help in progress of humanity with changing the economic structure of a society.

Thirdly, E-governance can be used to promote better governance for a state. E-governance uses computers and automation for smooth functioning of public services. ~~to ent~~ For instance the Milt card in Australia is used to pay for any transport services. This ~~cutt~~ cuts down the long lines that are formed to buy tickets for public transport. Thus, it can be said that technology can improve governance which ~~will~~ will directly affect the progress of humanity.

Lastly, technological advancement can help solve the problem of food insecurity. As with help of improved seeds and cultivation processes, ample amount of food can be produced from the least amount of land.

For instance ~~newstand is~~ Ukraine prior to Russian invasion used to provide 30% of world's wheat, even though, it is not a large country. Thus, it can be said that technological advancement can improve food security which directly affects progress of

humanity.

Conclusively, technology's progress cannot be equated as humanity's progress, as humanity's progress is based on various social, economic, political and governance factors; however, technology can play a role of catalyst to speed-up the progress of humanity. Social factors such as, cultural inertia, cultural lag and ethnocentrism are inherent evils which destroy the progress of humanity. However, economical maintainance of status quo hurts ~~democracy~~ progress of humanity, but politically, radical school of thought and polarization vehemently stops the human progress. Reason based and inefficient governance also has their due share in lack of progress of humanity. All these factors cannot be changed with technological advancement. However, technology can help in improving certain things in the society which will help ~~bring a pos.~~ in progression of the ^{humanity} ~~society~~, but this will merely work as a catalyst and not as a factor of progression of humanity.