

Topic: Expanding Information Technology; a curse or a blessing

## Outline

### 1- Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** Information technology can be a blessing or a curse depending on how it is used. In today's era the pros of information technology far outweigh its cons. Some may argue otherwise but the reality is that information technology has been a one in a millenia miracle.

2- Information Technology can be a blessing or a curse

3- One in a millenia blessing  
a- Information technology has made communication easier

b- Information technology has ramp up overall security

c- Information technology has increased job opportunities

d- Information technology has brought religious to

d- Information Technology has brought religious tolerance

e- Information technology has made education easier

4- One in a millenia scourge

~~a-~~ a- Easier communication means swift criminals

b- loopholes in privacy increased

c- Illegal job opportunities have increased

d- Religious extremism has increased

e- Exposure to unethical material has increased

- 5- A Blessing that must be used carefully
- a- Swift security is also present
  - b- Carelessness brings loopholes in non-technological things also
  - c- Awareness about punishments has increased
  - d- Information is in the open, everyone shall judge
  - e- Counseling can increase awareness among people
- 6- Conclusion

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Information technology includes all the technological apparatus and methods through which information or data is transmitted e.g. mobiles, computers, social media apps etc. Information technology has made communication easier. It has ramp up the overall security of mankind. It has led to more peoples being employed contrary to popular belief. It has brought religious harmony among the people. This technology has also made education easier. It has provided a great deal of benefit to the human kind in terms of inter connectivity. Information technology can be a blessing or a curse depending on how it is used. In today's era the pros of information technology far outweigh its cons. Some may argue otherwise but the reality

is information technology has been one in a millenia miracle.

Information technology has been subjected to both beneficial and detrimental uses. For example a study of University of Massachusetts professor **Anthony Harris** found that US murder rates might have been three times higher today were it not for advances in communication and medical technologies. From the point of view of detrimental usage, a report in ~~the~~ New York Times ~~it~~ reveals about new kind of satellites that are being built which have advanced cameras that can watch individual people movements and distinguish the children from the grown adults. Now this is a serious privacy breach which must be

Kept under strict supervision. In reality any pros or cons of information technology depend on how it is used and who are its users.

Information technology has made communication easier many times as compared to the past. Anyone from any corner of the world can connect with any other person in the blink of an eye. Due to this very useful property of information technology its users have boomed all over the world. According to **GSMA** in 2021, there were over **6.6 Billion** mobile subscriptions globally, exceeding the world's population. This clearly showcases the pace at which information technology has been adopted for communication purposes due

to its gargantuan sets of benefits.

Information technology has ramp up <sup>the</sup> overall security of a human life. The alleged

**Killer of four Idaho college students** was tripped up by

security cameras and cell phone data along with familial DNA

matching, despite being a criminology student himself. Some January

**6 US Capitol insurrectionists**

have been caught with the help of their own cell phone

videos and social media apps.

posts. This shows the extent to which information technology

has curbed criminality and

holds power over criminals. It

has ~~an~~ provided us with

a humongous dome of protection

~~for~~ of all human life.

Information & technology has also tremendously increased job opportunities which is quite contrary to popular belief. The popular belief is that technology takes up human jobs and leaves the people in misery. A report by Institute for the future (IITF) estimated that nothing less than 85 percent of the jobs that will exist in 2030 haven't <sup>even</sup> been invented yet.

The future is on its way. Information technology is basically multiplies the one job it has taken with a number and provides it to the masses.

People believe otherwise because the common masses tend to believe on rumours and mostly don't do the research ~~best~~ for proving or disproving the rumours.



Another major upside of information technology is its effect in increasing religious harmony and tolerance among people. People from different religions tend to interact with each other through social media apps and other information technology apparatus. This allows them to view every religion's perspective about life and the worth of the different religions to their respective people.

Let's take ~~an~~ example of **third world** countries. These countries have lower religious harmony and tolerance due to less development in the information technology sector.

On the other hand **first world** countries exhibit a better environment for different religions.

due to their substantial development in the information technology sector.

In the education sector information technology has done wonders for the students and teachers alike. Students get to know their subject more easily through multiple sources around the internet, while the teachers strengthen their grip on their subject by using information technology.

In the **USA**, students with more than 60 minutes per week of device use achieved higher academic results, a metric that varies country to country (**Source: McKinsey**). This shows us all the students that are not using their potential due to less use of information technology.

Information technology also has its fair share of downsides, ~~that are mostly due to its wrong use not and not it being inherently bad itself.~~ Ease in the sector of communication means that now criminals can coordinate their criminal activities with precision. They become much more coordinated in escaping the security institutions. A clear example of this can be **IEDs** (Improvised Explosive Devices) which terrorists use. In this type of attack an explosive device is placed that is later on detonated through a remote controlled ~~device~~. Thus a precisely coordinated attack is used by insurgents throughout the world. This is a basic use, there are far more deadly IT apparatus in use by terrorists e.g. mobile phones

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For large scale ~~communicated~~ physical coordinated attacks.

Privacy of human beings is at an increased risk of being violated. This is due to the advancement in IT sector. A report in **Newyork times** shows us how a new kind of satellites are being developed that have cameras which can do surveillance on people very closely and even distinguish children from the adults. This indeed is a dangerous development underway that poses a serious threat to individual privacy. Advance spy satellites mean that we can even be watched while sitting in our own personal property and God knows which individuals will have access to these satellites.

Use of information technology has also lead to increase in illegal job oppurtunities. The masses are exposed to a plethora of people who are not distinguished to be good or bad. They lure the common masses by showing them the money they can make through these illegal job oppurtunities. These illegal jobs include **call center scamms**, online frauds, illegal trading illegal things on the dark web.

Information technology has lead to a boom in these kind of job oppurtunities. This flaw of IT is almost irrepaikable because of the sheer size of the IT sector i.e. all of the IT sector cannot be regulated due to the lack of sources.

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The boom of Information Technology has also lead to increase in religious extremism. In the pre IT era people were more isolated and didn't know where the sanctity of their religion is being violated. Now with the exposure that IT sector has provided to extremist events leads to almost everyone knowing where ~~it~~ and what religion is being disrespected in the world. For example the **Charlie Hebdo** Islamic cartoons creating an extreme reaction in the whole muslim world. The end result of these ~~ex~~disresptful cartoons ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> the Charlie Hebdo shootings that took place in **Paris** in **2015**. If IT didn't exist, this event could have been avoided.

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Information technology has led to children and young people being exposed to unethical material through the internet that leads to the degradation of their morals and corruption of their innocent minds. Internet is regulated by the relevant authorities but the size of the infrastructure of internet is so big that a significant part of it remains unregulated. Also this unethical material is spread by people that are difficult to get hands onto due to their remoteness. Nowadays mobile phones are teaching children and young people more than the teachers of schools and colleges. If this teaching is of unethical and crude information then this could lead to dire consequences.

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Where Information technology has made criminals swift, it also has toughen up our security systems. IT has made our security systems fast and reliable. A study led by **University of Massachusetts** professor **Anthony Harris** found that US murder rates might have been three times higher today were it not for advances in communication technology. This clearly shows that our smart and swift security systems are stronger than ever. It shows us that despite criminals getting advanced, they could not face the Information Technology sectors backed by gargantuan government budgets.



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Talking about privacy breaches, well carelessness can bring loopholes in non-technological things also. For example if one is ~~is~~ careless about locking <sup>his</sup> bike then it might get stolen. Same is the situation with information technology. Individuals or firms get hit by data breaches because of their carelessness in setting up adequate and advanced security systems. Let's take an example of **politicians**. Their <sup>confidential</sup> **audio** and **videos** get leaked frequently due to lack of knowledge on their part about IT. If they get adequate advising from technological experts then these confidential data breaches can be minimized.

If the number of illegal job opportunities have ~~tom~~ increased due to I.T then the awareness about different ~~to~~ punishments for violating law ~~have~~ <sup>has</sup> also increased. For example through social media we get to know the punishments of cyber-bullying and cyber harrassments. Our exposure to the ~~&~~ consequences of ~~th~~ doing the above acts has led us to be cautionry in these matters. Overall crime punishments awareness has also increased. Another example is the recent crackdown of Punjab **Government** on unlicensed drivers. Their videos have led us to be more cautious in this matter. If social media and T.V. didn't exist the story could have been quite differant.

Some may say that religious extremism is on the rise because of information technology but the reality is quite contrary. The reality is that religions have never been exposed at such a large level. This will lead to truth being revealed and falsehood shall slowly perish. The reason is that all the fraud that happens in the name of religion will get exposed and people shall see what the true face of every religion is. And the religion that will stand this test of truth shall be the only dominating religion in the future. This is the ground reality of effect of IT on religions.

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Another downside of information technology that is frequently mentioned is its effect on children and young people regarding unethical material exposure. Well everything has its downsides, the real thing that we should be doing is minimizing the downsides of IT. We just cannot completely neglect IT in our life because of the humongous benefits it provides to human life. In regards of unethical material what we can do is provide proper counselling to the children and young people, telling them what is bad for them and what will benefit them the most. After all they are the future of humanity.

Information technology is a blessing that must be used carefully. Even when it was in its starting stages in the 2000s, it showed greater upsides than downsides. Its benefits outnumbered its disadvantages even when IT was in its baby crib. This only shows us that the future of humanity is shining bright with the help of information technology. By combining the raw intelligence of a human mind with the precision of information technology we can truly become a harmonious and advanced civilization.