Expanding information technology, a blessing or a curse

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Information technology (IT) has been a blessing for the modern world. It has enhanced productivity of the institutions manifold. Moreover, it has provided easy access to information, opportunities for career growth, and enhanced awareness regarding health. Moreover, it has uplifted the democratic norms around the world. Similarly, uplifting women has also been one of its great blessings. Having said that, some people argue that information technology has contributed in spreading misinformation and has increased cyber-crime. Such arguments are very weak as compared to the blessings of information technology and are overshadowed by the blessings of IT. However, there are some ways and means through which the world can get maximum benefit from the blessings of information technology. These ways out include improving digital literacy and cyber-security. Accordingly, enhanced human productivity, better access to knowledge and increased industrialization manifest that expanding information technology has been a blessing.

Before diving deep into the

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manifestations of the blessings of information technology it is essential to understand what information technology is. According to Oxford "**The study or use of systems (specially computers and telecommunications) for storing, retrieving and sending information is known as information technology.**" So, it is a way to share electronic data around the world through electronic divices. This sharing capability of information through information technology has showered many blessings on humanity, some of which are discussed in upcoming paragraphs.

First and the foremost blessing of IT is that it has enhanced the human productivity. Human is the only animal that has conciousnen and can think and take rational decisions. Moreover, the decisions that one takes are always based on the available information and circumstances. Information technology has introduced humans of 21st century to numerous windows of information. People use information to take wise decisions and enhance their productivity. Ergo, information technology has contributed in the enhancement of

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human productivity.

3) Along with that, information technology has given easy access to information. Before information technology it was very hard to get the information one needs. People had to travel miles to meet the people who knew about the things of their interest or had a book on the required topic. This resulted in a very slow process of research and development. However, the advent of information technology made it way more easier to gain information about anything. Nowadays, almost every information is just one click away. Hence, information technology has made it easy to access information.

4) Additionally, information technology has provide opportunities for career growth. Information technology has opened many doors of opportunity for career growth. Through **increased productivity, targetted marketing and e-commerce**, it has provided career opportunities to an unprecedented level. Furthermore, IT has helped in **economic globalization**. More and more companies are getting globalized creating more and more job opportunities for the people. Therefore,

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providing opportunities for career growth is one of the significant blessings of information technology.

Not only that but increased health awareness is also one of the major contributions of information technology. Before information technology, there was very limited information regarding health. People thought that the pandemics were some sort of a curse of heaven. However, with the advent of information technology, people became aware regarding their health. The myths were busted. Now a days, there are uncountable **blog posts, videos and health care applications** to inform the common people about health. All in all, growing health conciousness is a blessing of information technology.

By the same token, the information technology has uplifted the democratic norms around the world. In ancient times common people were kept unaware of their rights. However, the information technology has sensitized people regarding their rights and responsibilities. People, before voting any party leader, can now get access to his bio-data, previous record and

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political standing. It has given people enough information to choose who or what is best for them. Thus, information technology has uplifted the democratic norms around the world.

In addition to that, women integration and narrowing gender gap is another manifestation of the blessings of information technology. Women, before IT, were kept devoid of education. Rights of women were subjugated. The advent of information technology has changed the scenario. It has given women equal access to information as it has given to men. Women of 21st century are aware of their rights. The gender gap is narrowing in the world and the women are getting more and more opportunities to work side by side with men. Therefore, information technology has played its part in uplifting women.

Similarly, globalization has aggravated manifolds owing to information technology. IT has blurred the virtual boundaries around the world. People now a days can communicate with the citizens of

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on the other sides of the planet. Moreover, any catastrophic events or violation of human rights is spread around the world in no time. Additionally, multinational companies use information technologies to communicate effectively. Therefore, information technology has played a significant role in expanding globalization.

By the same token, enhancement in industrial productivity is also a blessing of information technology. Industrialization in modern world is a make or break element for the growth of ~~countries~~ a country. Information technology has given impetus to the growth of industrialization and industrial productivity through **online marketing, e-commerce and enhanced communication.** IT has resulted in enhanced demand and expanded market. Moreover, it has made communication easier than ever before which is a very important tool for cooperation and improved productivity. Ergo, it is not wrong to say that information technology has played its part in augmenting industrial production.

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Previous paragraphs shed light upon the manifestation of blessings of information technology. Next paragraphs discuss the counter perspective regarding IT as a blessing.

People of the other view opine that the expansion in information technology has resulted in aggrandized misinformation. They argue that because information technology has connected the world, even the misinformation spreads like wild fire. Moreover, they hold IT responsible for mass manipulation and propaganda. However, these arguments can be negated on the footings that misinformation is quickly pointed out with the help of softwares. Furthermore, through visiting official websites and reliable sources the misinformation can be minimized. Hence, the view that opines that IT promotes misinformation can be rebuttled through above mentioned arguments.

In line with it, people argue that information technology has enhanced cyber-crimes. They argue that various scams and frauds circulate on the internet which

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misuse innocent people. Additionally hackers attack the privacy of individuals and blackmail them. In contrast, one can say that scams and frauds are present everywhere and # IT can not be held responsible for it. Moreover, there are different ways through which one can sue the fradulents and hackers. There are different laws to ensure cyber-security. Ergo, the miseries of cyber-crime can be minimized.

Above paragraphs present the counter-perspective about the blessings of information technology. Next paragraphs ~~spell~~ spell-out the ways and means to maximize the blessings of IT.

One of the most significant ways out to maximize the blessings of IT is to improve digital literacy. The modern world is a technological world. No one can survive without getting in touch with technology. So, it is important to make people digitally aware. The government should run programs to educate people about information technology and its pros and cons. People, when become digitally literate, can save

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themselves from scams and hackers. Moreover, through digital awareness, they can take maximum benefit from information technology. Therefore, improving digital literacy is an important way forward in making the most of blessings of information technology.

In addition to that, through ensuring cyber-security, the blessings of IT can be enhanced. Cyber-crime creates a sense of fear among the users of information technology. So, to increase people's trust in technology, it is important to ensure cyber-security. It is rightly said that **"when they trust it, they will use it."** Government should formulate laws and security mechanisms through which the security becomes stronger and the criminals get punished. Resultantly, people will start using IT with more confidence and they will be able to take maximum benefits from the blessings of IT.

Besides that, providing digital signatures can be helpful in curbing misinformation. Misinformation can be taken care of by providing digital signatures.

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It is just like the blue tickmark in "X", previously known as "Twitter", the digital signatures can act as a sign of authenticity. These will differenciate between original videos and deepfakes. With the misinformation curtailed, people can take more benefit from what IT offers. To sum it all up, provision of digital signatures can be helpful in tapping maximum benefits from IT's blessings.

Additionally, making laws to reduce misinformation is another measure to be taken to maximize the benefits of IT. Misinformation brings distress among the users. Therefore it is necessary to formulate laws to punish the propagators of misinformation. Acts should be passed on national and international level to make sure that misinformation is curtailed. This will lessen the fear and of misinformation and will improve public trust over it. Hence, formulating practical laws to reduce misinformation can be a beneficial to make the most of blessings of information technology.

To conclude, there are two _____ — Grady

of thought. One calling information technology a saviot, a massiha, and a blessing. On the other hand, ~~the~~ some people term it disasteous, horrific and curse. However, it can be seen in the manifestations, like uplifted democratic norms, women integration and reduced gender gap and augment -ed industrial production that information technology has indeed been a blessing to the human kind. Further more, enhanced globalization, increased health awareness and aggreavated access to information also spell out its blessings. People, of the other school of thought, opine that IT is a curse on the basis that it has increased misinformation and cyber-crime. However, these arguments can be rebuttled with the over shadowing effect of the blessings of information technology. In line with it, there are ways and means, like improving digital literacy and ensuring cyber-security, through which the blessings of information technology can be tackled in a more efficient way. Hence, the expansion of information technology is a blessing for the world.

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