

The Role of Information networks in shaping Societies:

Outline

1. Introduction:

The information networks play a vital role and multifaceted role in shaping the societies - However, it can be both positive and negative. Several measures can be taken to mitigate the negative impacts of information networks towards society.

2. Debunking the term Information Network

3. Positive Role of Information network in shaping a society:

a) Provides Education and Information to shape educated Societies.

Case in Point: Coursera and Khan academy as platforms of education

b) Information Networks are tools of enhanced social connections.

Case in point: Bridge the gap between people within a society. (study of Oxford University)

c) Reliable Information Networks develop civic engagement within society.

Case in Point: 74% Americans rely on information networks to get updates on current events.
(Pew Research centre)

d) Promotes Social Activism within a society.

Case in point: Information networks create social activism in people (Report by Harvard University)

4.2 Negative Role of Information Network in shaping Society.

a) False Information or Fake news may create disharmony within society.

Case in point: 80% of information websites spread fake information (Karachi University study)

b) Information Networks may spread extremist ideologies within societies.

Case in point: Extremist organizations spread extremist ideologies through facebook, twitter.
(PIDE report).

c) Information networks may instigate violence in society.

Case in point: Misinformation through twitter instigated violence during 2020 US elections.

d) Information networks are used as tools of political propaganda in societies.

Case in point: "Politics through media" by Arsalan Khan explains political parties influence over media in Pakistan.

5. Measures to Mitigate the Negative Impacts of Information Networks on Societies.

a) Ensure accurate and authentic information to promote a harmonious society.

b) Information networks should provide unbiased information and views about societal issues.

6. Conclusion:

Information Networks are key ingredients in the creation of a progressive society, as explained in the book "Making the future" written by "Naom Chomsky". So, it emphasizes the importance of information networks or media in shaping the societies. Information networks are basically the sources, websites, apps or anything through which we get information regarding a subject. These information networks are crucial in shaping the societies in both positive and negative ways. The information networks play a complex and multifaceted role in shaping the societies. They can play several positive roles such as providing education and information, improve social connection, and develops civic engagement among people. They can have several negative impacts in shaping a society such as spreading false or fake information, promoting extremist ideologies and many more. However, several measures can

be taken to mitigate the negative impacts of information networks and help create a progressive society.

Firstly, information networks are corner stones of successful societies. Information networks are the source of education and information. Some educational networks provide quality and free education. For instance, Khan academy and Coursera are free educational platforms that provide quality education to students.

Secondly, several information networks are vital tools of improved social connections among people. Social websites such as Facebook and Instagram help reduce loneliness in young people. In 2022, a study conducted by Oxford university showed that social and information networks make people more socially connected. Therefore, social and information networks are tools to enhance social connections.

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Thirdly, information networks creates civic engagement among people. People are highly dependent on social and information networks for day to day updates on their societal affairs.

A study conducted by Pew Research Centre showed that 74-1.

Americans rely on information networks to get information on current events and then eventually participate in the societal matters.

Thus, information networks play a significant role in developing civic engagement within people of a society.