

The Role of Information Networks in Shaping Societies

Outline:

1) Introduction

Information networks play an essential role in social, political and cultural development of a society. It also poses some threats to the society which can be minimized through some pragmatic measures.

2) The positive role of information technology networks in shaping societies

2.1) They integrate societies by fostering communication and connectivity.

a) communication through platforms like facebook and whatsapp

2.2) They give access to information, that shapes and fosters transparency in a society

a) cVIGIL application, launched by election commission of India, to ensure transparency.

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2.3) Information networks have become tools to give voice to marginalized sect of the society.

a) MeToo movement

2.4) Through information networks, societies can ^{exchange} their cultural values.

a) art and music exchange through youtube.

2.5) Information networks has enhanced the political mobilization in societies

a) study of Pew Research center, 53% of US adults engaged in civic activities online.

2.6) They also improve governance of society.

a) Citizen portal launched by

Government of Pakistan

2.7) They have also driven societies towards e-learning, which provides more learning opportunities.

a) Coursera and Khan Academy

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The negative role of information networks in shaping societies

3.1 They can amplify false information

a) spread of false news

about the ^{rape} ~~raping~~ of girl of Punjab college

3.2 They have exacerbated the digital divide

a) According to OECD, in south Asia 40% of female have access to internet.

3.3) Over-reliance on information networks can lead to social disconnection.

a) Report of American Journal of Preventive medicine

3.4) They can be used for surveillance of masses by

authoritarian regimes.

a) Surveillance of Uyghur Muslims by Chinese government

3.5) Due to information networks, societies are increasingly vulnerable to cyber attacks.

a) US election 2020

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4) Way forward to balance the negative impacts of information networks

4.1) Enhance the cyber capabilities to avoid any cyber attacks

4.2) Strict laws should be made to stop the flow of misinformation

5) Conclusion

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A young boy in a remote village, wanted to learn about astronomy, but his village had no resources to educate him about astronomy. One day, he got access to the internet, where he gathered a wealth of information about astronomy. This shows how information networks can integrate an isolated person in the society.

Information networks have integrated societies by fostering communication, they also give access to information to the citizens and give voice to marginalized sectors of society. Besides, societies can exchange culture, foster political mobilization and improve governance through information networks. They have also driven societies toward e-learning.

However, there are also negative impacts of information technology in shaping societies. They can be

used to amplify fake information, perpetuate digital divide ~~forward~~ and can lead to social disconnection due to over-reliance on them.

Moreover, they can be used for surveillance of citizens and may make societies vulnerable to cyber

attacks. These negative impacts

can be balanced by enhancing cyber capabilities to avoid any cyber attack and laws should

be made to stop the flow of false information. To sum up,

Information networks ~~has~~ play essential role in political, social and cultural development of

a society. It also poses some threats to the society, which can be minimized through

some pragmatic measures.

Information networks play a great role in shaping societies.

They integrate societies by fostering

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Communication and connectivity. With the advent of social media websites, individuals across the globe are now more interconnected than ever before. For instance, platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp allow people to connect with each other regardless of geographical boundaries. These information networks has broken down the physical and social barriers, allowing for the exchange of ideas and resources. As a result societies become more globalized. So, information networks integrate society and make them more globalized by fostering connectivity and communication.

Besides, information networks gives access to information to member of society, that fosters transparency in the society. By giving free access to citizens to information, it ensures

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transparency and meritocracy in the society. The wide spread use of information networks has given access to vast amount of information. For example, The Election Commission of India launched CVIGIL application in the recent election. This application was designed to provide real time update to citizens. This free and easy access to information not only develops a strong bond of citizens with its government but also fosters transparency in the society. Therefore, information networks ensure a just and transparent society.

In addition, information networks have become given voice to the marginalized sect of the society. Information networks can be used by the marginalized sect like, women to raise voice for themselves and demand

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Justice. The voices of the marginalised
sect reach to billions of
people, unlike whose voices are
suppressed by the society. For instance,
In MeToo movement, thousands of
women, who were the victims of
sexual harrasment, shared their stories
on information networks web
application like, Twitter and Facebook.
Such campaigns break the silence
around sensitive issues, challenging
social norm and inspire systematic
change. They also give individuals
courage to speak out and share
their stories. Thus, information
networks act as powerful tools
for marginalized groups to be
heard.