

The Role of Information

Technology in Shaping

Societies

A. Introduction

Information technologies play a vital role in shaping societies. In the contemporary world information technology has profound use and has diverse implications. Thus, efforts are required to minimise its ramifications.

B. Debunking Information Technology and Society

- Technology used to spread information
for instance: Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat
etc
- Society is borned when a group of people live together sharing same norms and values

C- Information Technology Shaping Societies:

1. Shapes political perceptions and private life of people
2. Frame anti-Islam, anti-China and anti-Russia sentiments
3. Aids in propaganda warfare
4. Promotes the concept of LGBTQ-in societies
5. Ignites violence through civil wars
6. Facilitates Capitalism: Encourages maximisation of consumption
7. Provides free education to masses
8. Educates people to conserve climate

D- Ways to Mitigate the Negative Implications of Information Technology:

1. Regulate information technology through laws
2. Monitor content shared on such platforms
3. Educate masses to consume quality content
4. Strengthen ties individuals to their society

at grassroots level

E. Conclusion

Continuous exposure to information results in altering the fabric of a society.

1-1-20

Imagine a society where for the sake of likes and money people deteriorate their self respect. Imagine a society where people identify themselves as a sofa, pizza or a cat. Imagine a young boy listening to some militant group and killing hundreds of people in a mosque. All these are the manifestations of information technology and its negative impacts on a society. Before information technology books, family and schools used to dispense information. Now in the contemporary world access to information is just few clicks away. Individuals are bombarded with all kinds of information. As a result its effects are vivid in their social and private behaviours. Information technology is not just harming the society, in fact it is also providing free education to masses. It enlightens individuals to acknowledge their rights and to conserve climate. It also

encourages people to vote and choose a right leader for them. However, even this personal choice to choose one's own leader is influenced by information technology. The problem is this information can be made and controlled by anybody, which raises concerns. Therefore, its regulations and legislation is of prime importance. Moreover, to mitigate its negative impacts on a society people must be educated to consume quality content and their roots to their society must be strong to minimise its ramifications. Thus, information technology plays a vital role in shaping a society. Its profound usage has diverse implications, hence efforts are required to minimise its implications.

To fully understand the impacts of information and technology on society the key terms must be analysed. The word society means a group of individuals

living in a defined territory having same culture ^{and} norms. and information and technology on the contrary means the sharing of knowledge through technology. Tools used in information technology networks include social media sites, televisions and even emails. Thus, the role of this 'social' information technology on society is analysed.

This information technology helps people elect the right person to rule them. The leader chosen will decide the fate of its people. Individuals will definitely want to elect the person who can rule them effectively. It is a personal choice, but what if information technology alters one's perception? What if whatever ^{one} ~~you~~ thinks is not one's own thoughts? A similar thing happened in - one of the strongest democracy on earth - America.

The Cambridge Analytica reveals that Trump spent millions of dollars to change people's perception about him. As a result he won his first election. For five years Trump ruled them and decided their fates and shaped their societies. Thus, information technology networks even affects societies politically.

Apart from political impacts, great nations use information technology to quench their vicious desires. Western ~~North~~ countries ^{Promotes} use anti-Islam, anti-China and anti-Russia sentiments. Through movies and social media they alter the perception of a common man/woman. They showcase negative image of muslims as: Jihadists and terrorists. They show China and Russia as autocratic regimes and that they are against the prosperity of world. West use 9/11, and Ukraine

war and China's stance on Taiwan as a proof of their point of view. Thus, information technology can easily be used to change people's perceptions about specific people, ~~that~~ hence, impacting their presence and existence in western world.

To conclude, it is viable to state that information technology networks play a vital role in shaping a society. It not just impacts the political but social and economical arena of a society. It changes the perceptions of individuals and alters their actions. It aids in deteriorating the image of one society and helps in uplifting the other. It dispensates free education but also raises questions about the authenticity and credibility of that information. It also educates

people about the hazards of climate change and raises concerns for its mitigation. Moreover, its misuse can create uplifts crisis in societies such as creating identity crisis or igniting a civil war. Therefore, to curb its menace mitigative measures are necessary. Such as legislation and regulations are mandatory to enhance information technology role in shaping societies effectively and productively. As it is said:

"what you think you become"

Buddha