

LIRA TOWN COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ICT

IMPACT OF IT/ICTs ON SOCIETY

ICTs have had both positive and negative contributions to society.

BENEFITS/ADVANTAGES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

- Increased interaction /collaborations through e-mails, chat rooms, video conferencing, etc.
- Increased sharing and access to common databases within and outside organizations through networking.
- Increased access to information through DBMS. Huge amounts of material on all subjects now exist – ease research.
- Increased inventions and innovations.
- More and more technology in management fields.
- Improved and sustained quality goods and services.
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness' leading to increased productivity (hence less wastages & more efficient use of resources).
- Increased investment opportunities in commercial tele-centers, Internet cafes, chart rooms, etc.
- More leisure as people get shorter working hours. Increased use of ICTS implies higher standards of living.
- Highly skilled jobs are being created like programming, systems analysis. Software engineering, etc.
- Many IT products for the disabled.
- Reduced costs of production through less demanding ICTs
- Improved corporate image.

DISADVANTAGES

- Widens the gap between the rich and the poor as the rich producing with the help of ICTs produce faster and flood the markets.
- Isolate older people since it is not very easy for them to cope with the many IT changes.
- Bombards (internet) people with too much information- (good and bad)
- Increased instability as people get compelled to learn new things every now and

then.

- Health problems e.g. eye sight losses, repetitive strain injury, etc

- Moral problem through access of pornographic materials on the net.
- Erosion of individual privacy as more data about people is stored on databases and can be accessed any time.
- Unemployment as less skilled people get retrenched and their roles taken over by more effective ITs.
- Addictions to computer games plus surfing by young people
- Its isolate man and also erode the social aspect of work as some people opt for executing their office duties from their homes.
- Initial, maintenance and on-line IT costs are very high segregative.
- Virus threats make data stored on computers very insecure.
- Increased crime through forgeries, piracy, etc.

AREAS OF APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Education and training.

Many Universities, Colleges, school and public libraries are on line with websites for purposes of making easy access to educational information..

Education references software e.g. the Infopedia, Encarta, etc are programs used for helping people with English usage, data collection and analysis etc

Information plus data storage.

ICTs have got immense internal and external storage devices for storage of huge volumes Data. Hence the common paperless society

Word Processing

Word processor programs e.g. Microsoft word, word star, lotus notes etc are now on market for use to produce professional looking documents like, letters, invoices, orders etc.

They have easy to use document edit, format, table tools etc.

Business

E-Business and **E-commerce** facilitate the buying and selling of goods, services and works on line.

Businesses have got websites and networked computers they use to advertise, processing of orders, receipting of purchased products, etc.

For instance Web sites like: - www. CD-Now for buying music CDs, DVDs & VCDs, and

Interflora.com – for flowers.

Other businesses include;

- Computer Secretarial Bureau.
- Internet cafes.
- Commercial computer schools.
- Online banking

Entertainment and Leisure.

ICTs offers lots of leisure and entertainment activities in form of;

- Computer games
- Computer audio music and video players
- Games on line
- Leisure centers on line.
- Leisure websites

Skynet.com for sports and manu.com, are some of the informative leisure websites.

Health & Medicine.

ICTs are now being used for;

- Medical tests for instance blood, cancer, Brain damage etc.
- Carrying out sensitive operations on sensitive body parts like the brain, heart, kidney, etc.
- Drug mixing and prescriptions.

Transport & communication

ICT is being is also being used for;

- Units of carriage surveyance in logistics management.
- Sending and receiving of messages like sms (E-mail = sms over the internet), and interactive websites.
- Reservations for units of carriage and hotels.
- etc

Accounting and Finance.

Software/programs are now available for producing financial reports like income statements, Balance sheets, and cash flow statements. Such programs aid financial planning plus management, determination of NPV, PBP, IRR, etc

Such application/programs include Pastel, Tally, Sand systems, Excels, etc

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Climate and Weather

Programs have now been developed to accurately predict and report changes in climate and weather to aid travelers and farmers.

Security and military.

Laser guided cameras and satellites are now used for national and domestic security. Business like Banks, supermarkets etc also use cameras for customer monitoring in the business hall.

Information technologies are also used in the military to fly and direct combat planes.

locate enemy positions and hit/shell them with minimal civilian and property losses.

Manufacturing:-

In many large manufacturing and production processes robots are being used to handle tasks, which cannot be efficiently handled by humans.

Computer Aided Design (CAD) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) are also in this category.

Other areas of application include;

- Hotel and Institutional catering.
- **General Management. For instance;** DSS, HRS, ESS, tele-working and tele-commuting.
- Information technology helps in the jurisdiction of cases in courts of laws, sports and games; ITs (video evidence) have been adduced to influence decisions.