NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SILCHAR

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ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT: HS-101

B.TECH. IST YEAR

Submitted To:

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WEEK I- ASSIGNMENT I

Dictionary Entry

1. **Aberration** : A small periodical change of position in era or age.
2. **Agenda** : A temporally organised plan for the matters to be attended to.
3. **Audit** : A judicial examination or an examination in general.
4. **Autonomous** : Self-governing.
5. **Chauvinistic** : Excessively patriotic or heavily biased.
6. **Cognitive** : Relating to the part of mental functions that deals with logic.
7. **Cognizance** : An emblem or badge used as a distinguishing mark by a body.
8. **Credibility** : Reputation impacting one's ability to be believed.
9. **Critique** : The art of criticism.
10. **Erode** : To destroy gradually by an ongoing process.
11. **Erroneous** : Containing an error or derived from an error.
12. **Ethics** : The study of principles relating to right and wrong conducts.
13. **Exacerbate** : To make worse or a bad situation.
14. **Interrogation** : The act of examination by questioning.
15. **Lay-person** : A person without professional or specialized knowledge in a particular subject.
16. **Luddite** : Someone who opposes technological changes.
17. **Manifesto** : A public declaration of policy and aims, especially one issued before an election by a political party or candidate.
18. **Marginalise** : To exclude socially or otherwise.
19. **Paradigm** : A pattern or a way of doing something.
20. **Pejorative** : Expressing contempt or disapproval.
21. **Pertain** : to belong to or to be a part of.
22. **Plurality** : The holding of multiple benefices.
23. **Prominent** : The state of being widely known or eminent.
24. **Prowess** : Skilfulness and manual ability.
25. **Redress** : To put in order again or to revise.
26. **Seamless** : Without interruption.
27. **Sustainability** : The ability to sustain or maintain something in existence.
28. **Swaraj** : Self-government or independence for India.
29. **Unanimous** : Sharing the same views or opinions; based on agreement.
30. **Utilitarian** : Practical and functional.

<u>WEEK I- ASSIGNMENT II</u>

Swaraj In Relation to Science and Technology

The concept of Swaraj was brought up by Mahatma Gandhi when India was still a colony. However, India is not the first country to practice Swaraj. Mahatma Gandhi had already led out a movement for self-independence protecting the rights of the people in South Africa. In general, Swaraj is a world-wide concept and includes every people all over the world and every existent filed of knowledge and belief.

In modern world, the explanation of the standing of the world is tied to science and technology, and with this, the concept of Swaraj is also tied to science and technology. In the beginning, Swaraj may have just emerged out to be about a much smaller cause with a bigger vision, but today, Swaraj means much more than just fighting against colonial rule. It means fighting for justice and for self-preservations. In science, Swaraj will yield justice, sustainability and plurality.

Swaraj is a selfless idea that ensures the well-being of a society. Science and technology have played a crucial role in the development of India; Swaraj has played a crucial role in the development of India. The need for the betterment of self and the society is what Swaraj stands for, and science and technology fulfils for the exact same needs. Swaraj was conceptualised to hold the strengths of people together for a better future, which is being fulfilled today by science and technology.

<u>WEEK II- ASSIGNMENT III</u>

Beware Online 'Filter Bubble'

In a TED lecture video- Beware Online 'Filter Bubble'- the internet activist Eli Pariser coined the term 'filter bubble'. He explained that the term 'filter bubble' is an algorithmic personalisation of what an individual sees in the internet. This happens as the website algorithm selectively guesses what information is relative to an user based on his past searches, and shows only the results that it thinks the user might be interested in, and not what the user actually needs. This is done in order to provide more personalised experience to the user. However, this limits one's intellectual capability to learn new things, as the user will be able to get only the results similar to his past viewpoints. Like Eli Parsier discussed, the algorithms build a separate universe around the user based on his searches and topics-clicked, and limits the user's ability to gain further experience. It encloses the user's interest within a closed circle and plays user within the same circle, never letting them to explore what lies outside that circle.

In simpler terms, the act of sorting any searches the user makes in relevance to his past searches, his present location, device used etc. is referred to as the filter bubble. This forces the user to succumb more into his comfort zone rather than to allow him to open up freely. This allows the AI algorithm to play the user within its grip when it should have been the other way around.

WEEK III- ASSIGNMENT IV

Online Mode of Instruction Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

The online mode of instruction has its own benefits and shortcomings. In regard to the lecture, it will be easier to discuss the topic using McLuhan's tetrad.

Primarily, not everyone is born the same, and hence every people have their own set of abilities, even in respect to the act of gaining knowledge. The online mode of instruction enables a student to pick a right spot and time for acquiring knowledge. This also allows the student to revisit the topics that he fails to understand the first time. Moreover, this enhances community building, as well as the comfort of both the learner and the teacher.

Despite instant-time-screen communication that takes place in online teaching, it is not convenient to explain the problem that the student faces in an elaborated way. The convenience of being at the same place physically is becoming obsolete. The simplicity of teaching to a physical classroom while attending to the Q/A at the same time is replaced by the technical devices, which cannot always be trusted due to the undefinable technical issues that could erupt anytime. Also, it is not possible to conduct debates and discussions in the online mode of teaching.

The online mode of education looks through the culture of database system, i.e., the act of collecting guides and notes. It also retrieves the act of surfing through the books (be it physical or technological) to find more information on a particular topic.

As discussed in the lecture itself, when pushed to its extreme, the online mode of instruction can take a more permanent form of education like the e-school or e-university.

<u>WEEK IV- ASSIGNMENT V</u>

The Impact of Lockdown In Today's Lifestyle- A Reflection

During the time of global pandemic, some people are living in fear, whereas, there are some people who try to forget the global panic with light humours and memes. Some people are trying to enjoy themselves with family games, home-made exotic dishes, watching television shows and movies, playing online games with friends and many more.

The parents are more concerned about their children's health and safety. The working member of the family is still working from home for the earning and there are no major complaints from their side. However, the children feel burdened by the online classes they have to attend in order to keep up with their studies, which they feel is most unnecessary and useless. In their opinion, the scheme of online classes to cover up studies is much overrated when the lives are at stake. We can see the students complaining all over the internet, and being the students ourselves, we share their concern.

The people are learning to be creative. Some people are joking about their lack of hobbies as they do not have anything to do and are left bored. At the same time, youtubers and streamers are joking that the global pandemic have no effect on them as they are doing their full-time work, no matter what. The gamers are encouraging other people to learn to game and enjoy some of their everyday free time in gaming. The artists are making home-made art tutorial videos to those interested individuals who are trying to learn to art. There are people who are learning to play musical instruments, and there are people who are learning to make brilliant home-made dishes by going through food recipes and cooking tutorials to keep themselves entertained and occupied. Some people are joking about their limited food menus in home and are saying that they are sick of eating the same old dishes with limited variety of ingredients.

The most hit hard professions are the business workers and the regular-pay workers. The shop owners have shared their everyday activity by saying that they have to take extreme safety measures while they have to open their shops even during the times of lockdown. There are many countries that have not issued the closure of supermarkets and hence, the regular-pay workers who work in these places are still going to the work with fear and extreme caution.

Of course, comparing the social media feeds, we can see vast difference in the topics before the pandemic and during the pandemic. The times before the pandemic were more fun as the memes took new shapes every day, but today, we see every memes, posts, stories and even the news that are solely related to the pandemic and nothing else.