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Date: February 14, 2023

Midterm Activity 4

1. What are the positive and negative impact of technology on humans?

POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGIES:

- **Speed and easiness of traveling**

The speed and easiness of traveling have been enhanced with the help of advanced technology. The positive impacts of technology on society can be witnessed in various fields, including transportation. From supersonic speeds to self-driving cars, there is an ever-growing list of technological advances that are making life easier for people all around the world. Train systems and air travel know no bounds when it comes to speed; they're able to traverse vast distances in a matter of hours, allowing a person to go from one side of the globe to the other within a day. Automated modes such as Uber and Lyft provide convenience for those who may not have access to public transport or reliable taxi services. Even more impressive is the advent of driverless cars; these vehicles use sensors and software algorithms to navigate roads safely without any human input.

- **Education (EdTech)**

This is an era of immense technological progress, and its positive impacts on society are undeniable. EdTech, or educational technology, has revolutionized the way students learn and engage with their educational materials. Through EdTech, educators can create interactive learning experiences that promote student collaboration and exploration. EdTech provides access to high-quality resources to all students regardless of their geographic location, social status, or economic background. By embracing EdTech in classrooms worldwide, children can gain exposure to different cultures and customs as well as access to valuable knowledge previously unavailable due to financial constraints. Additionally, the increased engagement enabled by EdTech encourages critical thinking skills among learners while providing a more equitable education system for everyone involved.

- **Makes shopping hassle-free, affordable, and quick**

Technology has made huge strides in revolutionizing the way we shop in recent years, making it both affordable and convenient. As a result, shopping has become hassle-free and quick, bringing tremendous positive impacts to our society. The impact of technology on shopping is immense. With just a few clicks on a computer or taps on a smartphone, people can make orders from almost anywhere at any time. No longer do shoppers need to stand in long lines or waste their time hopping from one store to another for the best deals; now they can get what they want with ease through online stores and apps. Moreover, modern technologies enable buyers to compare prices quickly, helping them find the most suitable product with the lowest cost. These impressive advances have



changed day-to-day life for many people by enhancing accessibility and efficiency when it comes to shopping.

- **Safer Management of Money**

One of the positive impacts of technology on society is its role in improving the safety and security of money management. With features like financial tracking tools and cyber security protocols, technology has enabled us to better safeguard monetary transactions. For starters, consumers benefit from digital banking platforms that not only offer convenience but also crucial fraud protection measures such as two-factor authentication services. Moreover, online wallets and payment processors allow people to store their funds in secure virtual accounts without worrying about data breaches or interception by malicious actors. By leveraging advanced encryption techniques, these solutions provide a secure environment for securely transferring money across distances with minimal risk. Overall, technology has allowed us to manage our finances with greater efficiency and confidence than ever before, giving us more control over our assets while eliminating potential sources of financial harm.

- **Equal Opportunities**

By providing us with unprecedented access to resources and information, technology has enabled us to make leaps in progress that were previously unimaginable. Technology has allowed for greater equity amongst people, as it opens doors otherwise closed due to financial or geographical limitations. The rapid rate at which technological advancements have been made over the past decade has resulted in increased equal opportunities for all individuals within a society. Not only do technological advancements provide a platform for better education and communication capabilities, but they also enable greater access to job markets through networking platforms such as LinkedIn or by reducing the cost of business operations with cloud computing applications.

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGIES:

- **Depression and Other Mental Health Issues**

It is no surprise that technology has had a profound effect on society as a whole; however, it can also have an adverse impact on mental health. Particularly, depression and other mental health issues are escalating due to the negative effects that tech can have on people. From increased feelings of social isolation to heightened pressure to succeed in comparison to others online, people are exposed to more stress than ever before. The rise of smartphones and tablets has also made it harder for individuals to find downtime away from their devices and practice self-care techniques like mindfulness or relaxation exercises.

- **Technology leaves us feeling isolated**

One of the most insidious outcomes of modern technology is the way it can lead to feelings of isolation in those who use it. In an era where social media dominates and face-to-face interactions become increasingly rare, people are



finding themselves more disconnected than ever before despite being surrounded by a web of digital contacts. One does not have to look far for evidence that technology is diminishing our capacity for meaningful human relationships. Cyberbullying, social media addiction and other forms of online harassment are all symptoms of a society that is becoming increasingly desensitized to personal connection.

- **Technology is addictive**

Humans have become so enamored with technology that it has become an addiction for many. Technology is seemingly everywhere, from computers to cell phones and tablets, and this fast-paced environment can have a negative effect on society. The overuse of technology not only causes physical changes in the brain but also creates a lack of communication and interpersonal skills, as well as depression. The digital world we live in today has created distractions that can interfere with our daily lives. By spending excessive amounts of time sitting in front of screens, people are missing out on valuable communication experiences that could help them grow emotionally and socially.

- **Privacy and security**

As technology continues to evolve, the negative impacts on society become more and more prevalent. Privacy and security are essential components of our lives that are continuously put at risk as a result of increased tech usage. Whether it's through data breaches or malicious cyberattacks, technology has allowed for easier access to our personal information in negative ways. Unfortunately, the threats posed by hackers and malicious actors have not waned with the rise of digital privacy measures like encryption software. In fact, due to the large number of connected devices used today especially smartphones, cybercrime has only heightened in its reach and impact.

- **Technology promotes a shorter attention span**

Unfortunately, the omnipresence of technology can have a deleterious effect on attention spans, adversely impacting our communities and societies. The proliferation of technology has resulted in an ever-narrowing scope for human attention; as we are bombarded with notifications and alerts from multiple devices, our capacity to focus is significantly diminished. This short-termism has resulted in reduced cognitive acuity among members of society, leading to a cultural shift towards prioritizing instant gratification over long-term planning or meaningful engagement with tasks.



2. Explain why computing and networking access is restricted in some countries.

Political Control:

- **Maintaining power and stability:** Governments may restrict access to information or platforms that they view as threats to their authority or legitimacy. This can include blocking websites critical of the government, censoring news media, and limiting access to social media platforms that could be used to organize protests or dissent.
- **Suppressing opposition:** Governments may use internet censorship to silence critics and opposition groups. This can include blocking access to websites and social media accounts associated with opposition figures or movements.
- **Controlling the narrative:** Governments may use internet censorship to control the flow of information and shape public opinion. This can be done by promoting government-approved content and blocking access to information that contradicts the official narrative.

Social and Moral Concerns:

- **Protecting national culture and values:** Some governments may restrict access to content that they consider harmful to their national culture or values. This can include blocking websites with pornography, gambling, or other content deemed inappropriate.
- **Preventing the spread of harmful content:** Governments may restrict access to content that they consider harmful, such as hate speech, violent content, or extremist propaganda.

Security Concerns:

- **National security:** Governments may restrict access to certain websites or platforms that they believe could be used for terrorist or criminal activity. This can include blocking websites that promote violence or hate speech or blocking access to encryption tools that could be used to hide illegal activity.
- **Protecting critical infrastructure:** Governments may restrict access to certain websites or platforms that they believe could be used to attack critical infrastructure, such as power grids or financial systems.

Economic Concerns:

- **Protecting domestic industries:** Governments may restrict access to foreign websites or platforms that they believe could harm domestic industries. This can include blocking access to websites that offer cheaper or better products or services.



- **Controlling information flow:** Governments may restrict access to certain websites or platforms to control the flow of information, such as financial data or economic news.

Infrastructure and Cost:

- **Limited resources:** Some countries simply lack the infrastructure or resources to provide widespread access to computing and networking. This can be due to poverty, lack of government investment, or geographic challenges.
- **Cost of access:** Even where infrastructure exists, the cost of access can be prohibitive for many people, particularly in developing countries.

3. How information technology changes and affects culture as a whole?

<u>Positive Impacts of Technology on Culture</u>	<u>Negative Impacts of Technology on Culture</u>
1. Access to diverse cultural experiences and perspectives	1. Decreased face-to-face interaction and community building
2. Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage	2. Overreliance on technology and reduced physical engagement with the world
3. Increased creativity and artistic expression through technology	3. Spread of harmful cultural stereotypes and misrepresentations
4. Enhanced cultural exchange and understanding	4. Decreased attention spans and reduced depth of cultural engagement
5. Opportunities for virtual cultural events and gatherings	5. Challenges to traditional cultural industries and business models

In today's society, culture and social values are influenced by technology. Culture is a set of shared beliefs, values, and norms that influence the way we behave. Social values are an individual's personal standards for judging good or bad behavior. For example: if you don't like the idea of someone being rude to you while they're walking down the street (i.e.: talking loudly on their phone), then that would be an example of your personal value system at work.

Technology has changed how we interact with each other, but it has also changed how we interact with our environment and consumerism. These changes have caused some people to become more connected while others stay isolated from society.



4. In what ways has the internet changed the ways of society?

The internet has fundamentally altered the fabric of society in countless ways, influencing everything from communication and commerce to culture and education.

Communication and Connection:

- **Global connectivity:** The internet has broken down geographical barriers, allowing people to connect with anyone across the globe instantly. This has fostered new relationships, collaboration, and knowledge sharing.
- **Rise of social media:** Platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have revolutionized how we interact and share information. They enable instant communication, news sharing, and community building, but also raise concerns about privacy and misinformation.
- **Evolution of news and media:** Traditional news outlets face competition from online sources, leading to a shift in how news is consumed and distributed. News aggregators and social media curate personalized news feeds, influencing public opinion and discourse.

Commerce and Business:

- **E-commerce boom:** Online shopping has surged, offering convenience and wider product selection. This has disrupted traditional retail models and created new business opportunities for small and large enterprises alike.
- **Rise of the gig economy:** Platforms like Uber and Airbnb connect individuals directly for services, bypassing traditional employment structures. This offers flexibility and income opportunities but raises questions about worker rights and benefits.
- **Globalized businesses:** The internet facilitates international trade and collaboration, enabling businesses to reach new markets and expand their operations globally.

Culture and Entertainment:

- **On-demand access:** Streaming services like Netflix and Spotify provide instant access to music, movies, and TV shows, changing how we consume entertainment.
- **Social media as a cultural force:** Social media platforms play a major role in shaping trends, memes, and online communities, influencing everything from fashion to humor to social movements.
- **Democratization of creation:** Platforms like YouTube and TikTok empower individuals to create and share content, leading to a diverse and dynamic online cultural landscape.



Education and Knowledge:

- **Information at your fingertips:** Online resources have democratized access to knowledge, making it easier to learn new skills, research topics, and pursue self-education.
- **Online learning platforms:** Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and other online learning platforms offer flexible and affordable education opportunities, supplementing traditional methods.
- **Collaboration and knowledge sharing:** Online communities and forums enable researchers, academics, and students to connect and share knowledge globally, accelerating scientific progress and innovation.

5. How does technology affect cultural change?

Technology's impact on cultural change is complex and multifaceted, with both positive and negative consequences.

Communication and Collaboration:

- **Spreading cultural products and practices:** Technology facilitates the rapid exchange of ideas, art, music, and traditions across geographic borders. This can lead to increased awareness and appreciation of diverse cultures, but also potential homogenization if dominant cultures overshadow local ones.
- **New forms of artistic expression:** Technology tools offer artists and creators new avenues for expression, like digital art, online music platforms, and social media storytelling. This expands cultural repertoire and opens doors for marginalized voices.
- **Globalization and cultural exchange:** Technologies like social media connect people from different backgrounds, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. This can break down stereotypes and promote collaboration, but also raise concerns about cultural appropriation.

Values and Beliefs:

- **Shifting social norms:** Technology platforms like social media have been linked to changes in social interactions, etiquette, and even family dynamics. This can be seen as both liberating and challenging to traditional values and practices.
- **Accessibility of information:** The internet provides access to diverse viewpoints and information, potentially challenging long-held beliefs and prompting individuals to question established norms. This can be empowering, but also lead to confusion and information overload.
- **Spread of ideologies and movements:** Technology can be used to disseminate information and mobilize support for diverse ideologies, both positive and negative. This can fuel social change and activism, but also facilitate the spread of harmful ideologies and hate speech.



Cultural Preservation and Transmission:

- **Archiving and documentation:** Technological tools like digital libraries and online archives help preserve cultural heritage and traditions, making them accessible to wider audiences. This ensures knowledge transmission across generations and fosters cultural continuity.
- **New storytelling and education methods:** Technology offers interactive and engaging ways to learn about and experience different cultures through virtual museums, simulations, and educational games. This can enhance cultural understanding and appreciation.
- **Challenges to traditional transmission:** Reliance on technology for cultural knowledge can sometimes undermine traditional methods of cultural transmission, like oral storytelling or rituals, potentially leading to their decline.