

Role of ICT in the digital era

In today world ICT has become as an essential tool. Nowadays ICT helps us to have internet, software, social media to communicate between us. Transferring or exchanging data or information between us quicker and efficient resulting in very fast rate of improvement other fields such as education, Agriculture, Medicine, Defence, E-commerce, Banking and Transport. ICT has made ourself even closer and connected to each other. ICT also contributes to managing resources efficiently through out the entire field of communication

Pros and Cons of Information and Communication Technology

ICT has become essential in digital era with many benefits that have change our lives in many different ways such as improving communicate effectiveness, healthcare, education etc. However, like any advancement in any field there is a catch or challenges such as security issue, reduction in job, environmental impact, addiction, health problems, Lack of attention.

Advantages

1. **Access to the Information:** - ICT allows us to have internet, radio and much more communication tools, this opens up a variety of ways to gain and share information between us. People like us no longer needed to go to libraries to get the information that we wanted those are now few click away.
2. 3. Enhanced Productivity

ICT tools have also increased productivity in the workplace by automating repetitive tasks, optimizing workflow, and enhancing collaboration. Computer applications like Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, and project management tools like Trello and Asana enable individuals and teams to coordinate tasks, share documents, and track progress more efficiently. Businesses can streamline operations, reduce manual labor, and produce more consistent outcomes, which equates to higher efficiency and cost savings. In addition, virtual collaboration software like Zoom and Slack allows people to work remotely, guaranteeing productivity outside the workplace.

4. Better Healthcare

ICT has made tremendous strides in transforming healthcare provision. Telemedicine, for example, allows patients to consult with doctors via video calls, making healthcare more accessible, especially for those in rural or under-served areas. Electronic health records allow medical professionals to obtain patient histories quickly and make fully informed decisions. ICT also assists medical research through faster data analysis and global collaboration. Moreover, health tracking apps and wearable devices monitor personal healthcare data, encouraging proactive healthcare and more efficient chronic disease management.

5. Economic Growth

ICT has been a major source of economic growth during the era of the digital economy. It has spawned new industries and business models, with e-commerce, digital marketing, and online services booming due to the wide reach of the internet. Small businesses can now compete globally using online shops on Amazon, eBay, and Shopify. Digital technologies enable firms to gather and analyze consumer information in order to make knowledgeable decisions, customize offerings, and engage with customers in more personalized ways. Additionally, ICT exposes new customers and markets to firms, driving the growth of the world economy.

Disadvantages of ICT:

Digital Divide Digital divide refers to the difference between those who have access to modern information and communication technology (ICT) and those who do not, merely due to geographical location, income, or education. Poor or rural communities may lack access to high-speed internet, computers, or digital devices, limiting their opportunities for education, employment, and personal development. Such a digital divide can strengthen social and economic disparities, making disadvantaged groups lag behind.

Security and Privacy Concerns As more tasks move online, security and privacy have become pressing concerns.

Private business and personal information is generally stored and transmitted online, making it vulnerable to cyberattacks, hacking, and identity theft. Data breaches can lead to financial losses, loss of reputations, and even identity theft. Furthermore, the widespread collection of personal information by companies raises concerns about how the information is used, who has access to it, and how well it is protected against misuse.

Job Loss and Automation One of the main disadvantages of ICT is the automation of many jobs, particularly in areas like manufacturing, retail, and customer services. While automation and AI promote efficiency, they have a tendency to replace work that was previously performed by humans.

For example, robots and computer software are now used to carry out routine tasks, reducing the need for human labor. This has led to the loss of employment and workers' displacement owing to a deficiency of appropriate skills for the workers to transition to new technology-driven jobs. In turn, this has established an increasing need to reskill and retrain employees to align with the changing labor market.