INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

MODULE 3

INTRODUCTION

- **Sociology** also measures the uneven use of **technology** among social groups. **Sociologists** study how **technology** affects cultures, social organizations, and social relationships, but also how individuals, groups, and organizations use and modify **technologies** for their own purposes.

- The **sociology of knowledge** is the study of the relationship between human thought and the social context within which it arises, and of the effects that prevailing ideas have on societies.

-

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

- Computing **technologies**, like most other forms of **technology**, are not socially neutral. They affect and are themselves affected by society. Computers have changed the way people relate to one another and their living environment, as well as how humans organize their work, their communities, and their time.

-

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL CHANGES

- Technology and Social Change
- **Technology** is the application of scientific knowledge to the making of tools to solve specific problems. Technological advances such as automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, cellular phones, computers, modems, and fax machines have brought major advances and changes to the world. Indeed, 20th century technology has completely—and irreversibly—changed the way people meet, interact, learn, work, play, travel, worship, and do business.
- Technological information increases exponentially: The entire database of scientific knowledge doubles every several years. This "technological explosion" is due in part to an "Information explosion," as well as to advances in storage, retrieval, and communication of data. In other words, a cycle occurs: Improvements in technology lead to increases in knowledge and information and, thus, to uncovering the means to create better technology. Consequently, sociologists are concerned with how technological societies will be forced to adapt to the social changes that improvements in technology will continue to bring.
- Computer technology

- In the 1990s, people witnessed an explosion of computer technology—both in America and around the globe, which has in turn led to a change in how and where people work. **Telecommuters** are employees of agencies or business firms who work full-time or part-time at home instead of in the office. They connect to their offices via electronic networking: phone, computer, e-mail, and fax. Telecommuting allows employees to work under supervisors in another state or country. This form of employment especially helps disabled individuals who are unable to leave home or travel to an office, as well as working parents of young children.**The Internet**—the world's largest computer network—has revolutionized electronic networking. The number of people using the Internet continues to double annually, with at least 50 percent of all Americans "online" in 2000.
- The Internet originally developed from a system built by the U.S. Defense Department to permit governmental work in the aftermath of a nuclear attack.

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL CHANGES

- . Although originally only those with governmental or university positions could access the Internet, now virtually any home can purchase World Wide Web service. Net-surfers can telecommute, read articles, check stock prices, conduct research, comparison price, shop from home, meet others in chat rooms or on bulletin boards, take college courses, and even earn an accredited degree.

-

SAME FORMS

- The Internet has certainly provided exciting new possibilities for electronic communication, yet critics argue that a dark side exists to this informational tool. One area of special concern, especially for families with young children, is the ability to access and download. Internet users can download course materials, conversations with a distant "playmate,", they can talk with each other and communicate with each other regarding their school exams etc.

CONCLUSION

- **Technology** affects the way individuals communicate, learn, and think. It **helps society** and determines how people interact with each other on a daily basis. **Technology** plays an important role in **society** today. ... One aspect of **technology** that has had a great impact on **society** is how it affects learning of life.

- Progress in many of the basic computing and information **technologies** has been rapid in recent years, and the committee does not expect the pace of change to slow down in the foreseeable future. While some **technologies** are reaching maturity now, many important **technologies** have enormous future potential.

- **Technology has** made **our society** make it to the point of ignorance to the fact that there might be a day when **our technology** does not work and they cannot, at the moment, **live** without it. We have grown to rely on **our technology** to make **our lives** easier.

-