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EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGY ON ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Technology negatively affects the environment by compromising human health and safety, endanger ecosystems and biodiversity, having a cumulative impact on global system and depleting natural resources. Risk to humans from environmental damage through technology include inhalation of dangerous chemical gases, contamination of water and food sources and risk of infections and diseases. Flora and fauna risk habitat loss or disruption and extraction of species through exposure to dangerous bad technology. Green house gases affect atmosphere and weather systems, causing global warming and that deplete the Earth's Ozone Layer. Technology consumes resources which are not necessarily renewable resources such as forests and population of fish. Although technology damages the environment in many ways, it also has positive impact on environment through the applications of environmental science technique. Technology has the capability to limit or prevent using such environmental technologies as recycling, the exploitation of renewable energy sources such as wind power, solar power etc, the purification of polluted air and water, the treatment of sewage and factory wastes and production of devices that promote energy conservation.

Keywords- *Environment, Technology, Scientific, Impact, Knowledge.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Technology is one of the things that separates humans from animals, and it has increasingly shaped our world. From earliest times, people have applied their knowledge to making tools and machines that serve their purposes - from the wheel to the computer. Some now laud technology as the foundation of all prosperity, and believe that few constraints should be put on its development. Others condemn it as the cause of massive environmental damage²⁻⁴, and call for strict controls. But the truth is that it is both and neither. Technology has both helped bring wealth to much of the world, and been the instrument of much of the harm done to the planet and its life. But in itself it is neutral; its effects, for good or ill, are down to what we make of it¹.

As our scientific knowledge, and our ways of putting it to practical use, rapidly increase, we need to ask two questions. Technology for what? And technology for whom? Everything depends on the answers. It should be used for development, not destruction, it should benefit humanity as a whole rather than just the already wealthy few and rather than be used to promote economic growth at all costs, it must continue to be underpinned by the vital services provided by a healthy planet¹.

One key is to ensure that technology is appropriate empowering to the people that use it, suited to the places where it is applied, and - above all - designed to promote the sustainable development that eliminates poverty while safeguarding the Earth and its natural systems. Another is to ensure that it is widely shared, so that as many people as possible benefit from it. There are many cases where technology has fulfilled both these goals, more often, however, it is not even intended to do so. Our generation must redress the balance and concentrate resources and effort on developing technologies suited to our age, and to our fragile, interdependent world.

Technology is the device by which man progressively masters his natural environment. Since the early age, man has been fascinated with converting nature to our own benefice in order to expand our horizons. Technology today has become an essential part of our day to day lives. This technological based world has created dependence among the countries globally and thus, has created a sort of global unity disregarding individual culture technology also has allowed man to become superior to all the follow creatures.

Our universe is full of planets that are unable to support life, our planet is one of the few lucky planets that support life. There is an anonymous quote that states "We are the architect of our own demise." Technology may ultimately be the cause of our planet's destruction. There are an estimate of 19,000 nuclear devices in the world, 4400 of which are operational. If all active (operational) nuclear weapons (4400) were launched, Nuclear winter would occur for up to one year. Billions of people will die, survivors may be irradiated cancers and other deadly diseases will become more common. Food and water source will become contaminated.

II. Technology In Warfare : The Use Of Chemical And Microorganisms

Technology that was used for warfare brought other detriments that emanated of chemical weapons for mass destruction. Large amount of mercury waste material was said to have been released in the environment at the time when nuclear weapons were being manufactured³. TNT or Trinitrotoluene, is a known environmental hazard²⁻⁴ because of its ability and persistence to seep into the ground. The most frightening of all are the weapons of Biological warfare

which can be used even if there is no wars being waged but simply to sow terror. Infetious microorganism in some form or sustance will be released to cause death by way of diseases that will affect all living things, men, animal and plants.

III. Positive Impact Of Technology On Environment

Envirotech, greentech⁵⁻⁶ or cleantech is the application of one or more of environmental science²⁻⁴, green chemistry, environmental monitoring and electronic devices to monitor model and conserve the natural environment and resources and to curb the negative impact of human involvement. Sustainable development in the core of environmental technologies²⁻⁴ sustainable energy generation technologies such as photovoltaics, wind turbines, bioreactors etc.

In the present globalized world we are living in the era of advanced technology. Every part of our daily life is related to technology in one or other way. When compared with olden days, we are having better facilities and even better luxuries with the help of increased technology. The development of technology is not confined to any one sector and all the industries and different sectors of society are developing now technologies according to their needs and requirement.

IV. Positive Effect Of Technology On Our Lives

There are so many advantages with improved technology in our daily life. With the help of mobile technology we are able to talk to our friends and relatives who are living far from us. With the help of internet we are able to learn new things and online courses, shopping recharging etc. With the help of aviation technology we are able to reach distant places within a hours. Which took years of time to reach in olden days we are using the all natural resources available for making our life better. With the help of social networking we are able to find our childhood friends, relatives etc and important events in their life. With the help of information technology we are able to share information to any part of the world with in milliseconds. With progressive technology in the agriculture field we are able to meet food requirements of people all over the world.

V. Negative Impact Of Technology On Environment

Large technology corporations create nuclear dangers for the environment, animals, wild life in general and especially all human living near the plants that were built. However, this is not the only way technology has had a negative impact and we are not just taking about transportation, even though this is still the most pollution creating one yet. For example, remember how computers were invented and mainstreamed with the purpose of reducing the use of paper? With forest clear cutting on the rise and at the point of being a global crisis, we cannot say that they were really used with that goal in mind. Another perfect example is how we are now manufacturing nature by creating super plants that can withstand extremely powerful chemical pesticides and herbicides which with time, destroy the land, the water and pollute the air we breathe. Now, other areas of technology that willingly or unwillingly contaminate the our planet are

1. Lost of habitat : land clearance for either raw material or space.
2. Disruption of a given habital through building of pipelines which disturb animal migration.
3. Hazardous waste, such as spills, dumping and acidification.
4. Added green house gas emission through manufacturing and transportation of goods.
5. Depletion of the ozon layer by using certain types of chemicals in the manufacturing process.
6. Unsustainable use of a raw material.
7. Using land that could serve for other purpose such as farming or animal habital.

There are quite a lot of variable which affects the environment adversely due to adoption of modern technology. The use of technology is vast, so one can easily say that it will always have an impact on wildlife and the environment in general. Therefore, even if they are made with natural products and avoided use of hazardous chemical as much as possible, the product made still leaves a foot print. However, using resources is not the main problem. What seems to be the issue doday is our dependance on technological devices that are often not truly necessary or that we consumes much more quickly or more often than we need. For instance, how many people have an oven, a microwave, a toaster and a toaster oven? No one really needs all four of these and most could do very well with only one or two of them or if you plan on using all four, plan on keeping them for a very long time. Buy quality that will last and would not need to be replaced every two or three years. Technology is the reason why society today is oriented towards mass consumption of goods. Cell phones, especially smart phone are obsolute after only one year and they almost always end up in landfills. Those who are conscious of the fact that these devices can be harmful keep accumulating them but have a very difficult time. Other example of our dependance is used of washing machine. How many are willing to wash their clothes by hand even the few garments they own that have 'hand wash only' on the tag? It is actually not that hard. Remember, a washing machine only just 'swooshes' your clothes around for about twenty minutes. Putting your cloths in bucket with a bit of detergent and letting it soak for a few hour or overnight and then hanging the clothing outside

during warm weather is a great way to save energy. Many foreigner, even if they own a washing machine will still only put their large items such as bedsheets, in the washer and they dry everything outside.

Further more some will also say that our disconnect with nature due to this overuse of technology is only just increasing from year to year. We lost touch with the very place we are from the earth. We forget that we need it and should be taking care of it. If we abuse it we will eventually lose our right to live here.

VI. Negative Effect Of Technology On Our Lives

On the other hand, there are instances which show the problems with improved and advanced technology or the solution for one problem with the help of technology is giving rise to another problem. Instead of taking care personally we are sending SMS or giving a call on important occasions which were attended personally in olden days with the use of same internet children are getting addicted to online games and their physical activities and exercise are becoming considerably less. The some social network are creating rivalry between best friends and couples are getting divorced. The same aviation technology is giving health problem for their workers and creating serious environmental threats. With the heavy usage of fertilizers, soil is losing its natural fertility and several varieties of plants because extinct. Consider the case study of automobiles regarding technology. Automobile technology was first developed to make the journey of humans more convenient. Now we are facing serious environments pollution issue due to vehicles which are releasing unwanted green house gases into the environment. Now we are trying for more environment friendly automobile technology which will have less impact on environment when compared with the present technology.

VII. Conclusion

Technology is like a coin which has both positive and negative sides. We develop newer and more sophisticated technologies we may in fact be the architect of our own demise. We are the deciders and we have to choose how to use it. The usage of technology for over exploitation of resources should be always avoided. If we use it for positive things it will have positive effect on of our environment and vice-versa. Nobody would oppose the development of technology in any sector but the developments should be in positive way and they should not have any negative impact on present or future generation. So many technologies have the potential for good or for evil. We can only hope that technology will continue to be used to improve our world and not destroy it.

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