

INFORMATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AS A MAJOR ROLE TO PROMOTE SOCIETAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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The basic purpose of human life is to attain a peaceful and a happy life. To achieve this, true and correct information or knowledge is needed. In order to acquire true and correct information from the different sources, we should have a comprehensive picture of the universe. To absorb this we should have a holistic and self-contained view of the life.

Information or knowledge is a major contributor in the socio-economic development of society of the individual, institution and governmental levels. Free and universal access to information is said to be the social right of the individual. Access to information has become fundamental human rights. Information is considered as the fifth need of man after air, water, food and shelter. It enables the individual to secure living conditions and opportunities by improving one capabilities and skills. It also enriches the life of the individual and community. The state has duty to provide conditions for the realization of this right by the individual.

In the present day world situation, there is an ever increasing need to acquire and utilize information in the most effective way. The utilization of information depends on its provision and accessibility to its users. Failure to provide information in time may ultimately cause individuals as well as national waste in many aspects. The availability of information right time and in the desired form is a prime importance in the developmental activities.

Today we are living in the information age. Post-industrial age is called information age. After the Second World War, most of the industrialized countries achieved progress in the field of

science and technology. As a result, we had an incredible growth of literature which eventually caused "Information explosion". The amount of scholarly literature published continues to grow. As a result, we all have become information oriented consciously or unconsciously.

The sudden growth of information technology and communication technology connects to the world at large in many ways, and characteristics of the technology have implications for everyday issues. Understanding social issues strongly connected in information technology issued that relate to information technology, including privacy, encryption, copyright and related concerns are increasingly common today and informed citizens must have a basis for understanding the significance of those issues for making reasoned judgements about them. The technical basis for social concerns about privacy, intellectual property, ownership, security, weak/strong encryption, inferences about personal characteristics based on electronic behaviour such as monitoring websites visited "intiquet" "spamming" and free speech in the internet environment.

Information technology may be defined as a combination of computer and telecommunications technique which makes possible new systems and products to help people at work in education and at home. Information technology is the application of wide variety of electronic technologies to the information handling activities. Information technology playing an increasing important role in the work and personal lives of citizens. Information technology medium helps to bring about remarkable changes and developments in the life of people. The full potential of information technology revolution on human life is beyond our grasp.

The present day society is called paperless society, where the information plays a vital role. The present day need is how speedily and efficiently information could be communicated to the society. Information is a vital component in the development of critical thinking and independent decision-making, and consequently access to the ever-increasing body available information is vital to the developments of individuals.

Information is an important national resource for developing countries like India and other countries. Its sharing is necessary for national development and local development. Knowledge or information is a vital national resource for the growth and development of a nation. All our economic and social progress depends upon the transfer of scientific and technical information. It is very necessary in today's world of mechanization and computerization. It helps in establishing past, present and future aspects of human civilization. It acts as an inputs to activation.

If a nation has to develop information is a very important component. It is basic resource and link between a variety of intellectual and materialistic activity. Information has become an essential part of everyone's daily activities. It is a vital factor to modern research in science and technology. It also plays a major role in the socio-economic progress of a country.

Unless relevant information is available, the decision maker cannot choose the best course of action in development problems. Access to precise and reliable information of the right time can avoid wastage of resources like time, money and labour and one can make some fruitful decisions.

Information or knowledge is the major source on which qualitative and quantitative development of our society is based. Population pressure and social pressures are continuously accelerating the pace of research. Research provides new knowledge and information and add existing knowledge. Research is performed to solve social problems.

Information is an important resource, a valuable input and power for societal development. The present information age is characterized by a society which is conscious of the value of information and its use. The information is the third major force following social and economical revolutions that is shaping the way of living in the civilized world Today, every country is aiming at collecting, organizing and disseminating information to the users for an overall development. It is a well known fact that a country which is rich in information will be a major force in the society to promote social change and development. In this connection, it is gratifying to recall an observation

that "the conviction is that when people know the facts, they remove apt to make a better life for themselves and be easier to live with than when they don't."

Bloss, Meredith, "Responding to Manifest Needa" Library journal Vol.89, No.15 (September 1964, P.3252).

