



Impact of ICT Applications in Daily Life

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Introduction

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technology, which is a technology that allows us to search for information and to communicate with each other. Society has seen the ICT revolution in the leading edge. The new technologies of the digital age have been accessible in our everyday life with the guaranteed benefits so ICT has been encouraged as our great living standards. ICT integrate all communication channels for us to use in our everyday life. ICTs are no longer a luxury for developing countries. We are now actually in the digital age so the numbers of ICT gadgets such as computers, laptops, internet, mobile phones, tablets, etc are available into our lives.

What is ICT?

Information and communications technology (ICT) is often used as an extended synonym for information technology (IT), but is a more specific term that stresses the role of unified communications. ICT provides access to information through telecommunications. It is similar to Information Technology (IT), but concentrates mostly on communication technologies such as the Internet, wireless networks, cell phones, and other communication mediums. ICT includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cell phones, computer, laptops, tablets, and network hardware and software, so on. ICT also provides the various services online and applications associated with them.

THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF ICT

As it is known from time immemorial that everything in life is like the two side of a coin, there is always a positive and negative side of every phenomenon. But whether the effect is positive or negative the effects of Information Communication Technology (ICT) is far reaching and cannot be overemphasized. The Effects of ICT lens looks at how our lives have been changed, for better and for worse, by the impact of ICT. It includes both positive effects and negative effects and looks at how individuals organisations and society are affected.

POSITIVE IMPACTS OF ICT IN DAILY LIFE

Daily routine Management:

We can store and manage our daily schedule information using ICT gadgets. We can also integrate the domestic equipments to use and control together. We can also use net banking, online payments and online trading for purchasing daily needed items. It will save our time to go market and purchase things.

Social Relationship:

ICT provides the facility to make contacts and maintain relationships with people around the world in our daily routine. With the use of Internet and communication channel, we can connect the people via e-mail, social networking websites and cell phones. It saves time and works inexpensive way. There are bulletin boards, discussion groups services are available to communicate with a large number of people at the same time.

Information Sharing:

Now information just right on our fingertips. We can access any information anywhere and anytime. Information, news, views, etc. can be shared by people all around the globe with the use of e-mail, discussion groups on the Internet such as Google Groups, Yahoo! Groups etc. By the sharing of information, it develops global awareness such as cultures, religions, ideologies and lifestyles. These create an environment of openness and increases mutual respect.

Communication:

We can communicate each other without boundaries. It becomes quicker because we can send an instant message in a fraction of time with the low cost which saves costs and man power for delivery. For that E-mail, teleconferencing, and video-conferencing are available. By the use of video conferencing technique, we can get feel to communicate with someone face to face which is benefit for meeting or communicate together.

Usage of Free time:

ICT can be used to access as an entertainment. We can play games, launch of digital TV, Chatting, watch videos, listen songs, watch or listen to the news, pick up on individual news items, and many more.

Children' s Education:

New ways of learning are possible through ICT such as elearning, distance learning, on-line materials, virtual learning and interactive multi-media. Students can be part of these various learning and teaching from all over the world. For the impossible experiments, we can use simulations and virtual reality. If students and teachers logged at same time at the same pace mad the virtual classroom for e-learning. This is a smart investment four our children' s future.

Self Employment:

ICT gadgets are help out us to do our jobs easier. We can create our own business shops without the heavy overheads of place, purchase items and sales in market and make the advertising campaigns use of multimedia application. This increased sales and encourages the small businesses. We can use net banking, online payments as the payment option.

Paperless Environment:

ICT mostly uses its gadgets to store and retrieve information instead of paper. Use of ICT involved less papers, thus it saves the trees and makes our environment healthy.

Developing Health Literacy:

With the immediate feedback from doctors, we becomes well sooner. Health literacy deals with the need for people to access and use high quality information about disease and medicines through internet health care services available in ICT gadgets.

New tools, new opportunities:

The second big effect of ICT is that it gives access to new tools that did not previously exist. ICT can be used to help people overcome disabilities.

Negative Impacts of ICT in Daily life**Reduced face-to-face interaction:**

Now days, people mostly likes online communication rather than real conversations so people tend to become more individualistic and introvert. Other limitation is that we are not able express our feeling or what we are actually want to say by the use of e-mail or social networking sites. Thus we required face to face communication with them to express our real feeling.

Social Disconnect:

Although the internet has reduced physical distances between people, but that doesn' t means they brought all closer together and emotional distance is increased in some aspects. People always busy with their own virtual world and passing a day. They forget the real world with family and friends and they becoming a formality. Children too are spending more time in virtual world and they adopt wrong thoughts thus rising cyber crimes and extra marital affairs with the use of ICT gadgets.

Reduced physical activity/Health Problems:

Users may accept a more sitting lifestyle by the use of ICT gadgets. This can lead to health problems such as headache, fatness, heart disease, diabetes, repetitive strain injury or eyestrain, wrong posture/position, neck pain, physical and mental stress, etc because of continuous use. Children gets stretch by the playing internet games, watching cartoon which may stop them to go outside and they feel afraid to talk with other children. In this kind of lifestyle there is lack of physical exercise, increases our health risk.

Cost:

Many ICT gadgets are expensive. So they are cost effective to purchase and to maintain. Poor students cannot get the benefits of e-learning due to the educational establishments.

Job loss:

One of the largest negative effects of ICT can be the loss of a person's job. This has both economic consequences, loss of income, and social consequences, loss of status and self esteem. Job losses may occur for several reasons, including: Manual operations being replaced by automation.

Security/loss of privacy:

Each ICT gadgets are integrated by specific technology and uses Internet connections. Data must be reserved as secure data so it needs to protect from virus attacks and other forms of malware are released daily. Use of social networking web site risk of personal data loss. When we use Net banking, online payment then there is a risk of losing our money by fraud people. They can transfer our money to their account.

Conclusion

ICTs have an impact on almost everybody that has access to them and that the internet has changed society and how we live. ICT brings people from different parts of the world together to communicate with each other across the world. It gives an opportunity to improving communication, to meet new people online and establish a friendship, to share the personal information online, increasing opportunities for education. Undoubtedly ICT gadgets have really made peoples life simple and entertaining but Information, Media, and Technology Skills are needed for the use of ICT. ICT can have positive impact on our lives but still we have to be careful when using it because we may suffer from some negative impact by using them. We have to be wise in using the ICT gadgets. Thus, ICT is the new technologies of the digital age have been accessible in our everyday life with a confusing blend of guaranteed benefits with some problems.

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