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New Technology: Beneficial or Dangerous?

Introduction

In the world today, new technology has become the order of the day. Almost everything in our lives is becoming reliant on technology, from the food we eat to the work we do. Even the biological processes such as reproduction in humans, animals, and plants are becoming dependent on new technology. Everyday new technology and innovations are invented and adopted by those who have access. It has indeed changed the world and the thinking of the people. According to Bruce and Brooks advancements in technology are always intended to “make things easier, save time, and increase efficiency” (125). However, not all that glitters is gold. These technologies also come with their costs and downsides, which sometimes are overlooked because of the benefits.

Therefore, this brings the issue of whether the new technology is beneficial or dangerous. There have been many debates about the issue, with arguments for and against new technology. This paper, therefore, aims to assess and explain the benefits and disadvantages of new technology and draw a conclusion based on the evidence.

Benefits of New Technology

New technology is an advancement of old technology. It has evolved for years, and each improvement increases our human capabilities. We use technology every day in accomplishing various tasks or interests. It simplifies life, and many people have embraced it for different reasons.

1. Easy and fast access to information

New technology has made it easy for people to access relevant information at any time from any place. According to Ramey Karehka, this has been possible due to “modern technologies such as broadband internet.” The Internet provides a platform where one can get any kind of information from research to entertainment, from the vast resource base available. The search engines on the web such as Google and Bing help people get information on any topic. With smart gadgets such as Galaxy tablets, iPhone, and iPad, users can easily have access to information from anywhere at any time. Therefore, with just a computer, smart gadget, and the internet, one can access so much information.

2. Improvement in Communication

Communication is a crucial aspect of life, and we cannot develop with it. The new technology has brought advanced communication technology tools such as video conferencing, electronic mail, social networks, and instant text messaging applications, among others. All these tools have made it easy to communicate in our daily lives. Also, advanced communication tools have boosted businesses by making it easy for people to communicate and transact business across borders. Gaby and Kenzie, in their video on advantages and disadvantages of technology,

say that “people use technology more for business communication than for any other sector, even more than the face to face communication.”

3. Increased profits and efficiency for organizations

Many organizations have adopted the new technology in their systems and operations. This is due to the advantages that it brings to the organizations which in the end lead to increased profits and success. Bruce and Brooks writes: “One of the main impacts of new technology is that it increases productivity through automation of many tasks, thereby, freeing workers to focus on more important duties” (128). Computers are more accurate and work faster than humans. They offer substantial benefits to organizations regarding data collection, analysis, and storage. According Bruce and Brooks new technology also helps organizations to “reduce expenses since they can work with fewer workers, cut on travel costs due to easy communication, and lower expenses for paperwork and warehousing due to data storage” (129).

4. Promotes innovation and creativity

Technological advances have made it easy to come up with innovations. In fact, many innovations today are reliant on technology and would not be possible without the technology. Ramey Karehka argues that many people with great ideas and creative minds have benefitted from new technology, in particular through funding. Creative people can get funds for their projects through various platforms made possible by the new technology such as crowd-funding. Other platforms encourage creativity and innovations by offering people online market to sell their online works and gain from their creative ideas. Some examples of modern technology platforms which foster innovation and creativity include Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, and Microsoft

5. Convenient Traveling

Transport is critical, both in business and in our daily lives. The new technology has made it easy to travel long distances and within less time. Transportation has evolved over the years, from the slow and expensive means to the fast and cheap means available today. We are no longer living in a period of steam-engine trains but rather electric trains and airplanes which all make traveling easier and faster. Therefore, new technology has increased the convenience of traveling and advancements will only make it more convenient.

6. Promotion of Education

Education is a vital element in our lives and is almost a basic need for every person. The process of learning is part of us at every stage of life, whether as children or adults. In his article on modern technology, Ramey Karehka, writes that “modern technology has made it easy for students to get a decent education from any place through online and mobile education.” Also, students use the advanced technology in their schools and classrooms to learn better. Modern technology has also made access to learning materials easy through online libraries and sharing of materials through the internet.

7. Improvement in healthcare

The new technology has been very significant in the health industry. It has reduced mistakes made by health practitioners and helped improve patient care through electronic medical records. Many hospitals have also implemented the new technology in surgical rooms which has improved surgery success rates. Machines for medical use have been developed with the new technology to increase their effectiveness, efficiency, and accuracy, thereby raising the

quality of healthcare. New technology has also introduced health applications used on computers and smartphones to monitor our health and weight.

8. Improvement in housing and lifestyle

New technology has significantly improved housing and lifestyle. Due to the technology, architectures and engineers have been able to come up with new designs and easier ways to build better structures. The type of housing today is very different from that of years ago due to new architectural technology. We now have glass buildings, floating houses, and fantastic towers, all made possible by the new technology. Also, most items in the houses and homes are automated raising the lifestyle.

Dangers of New Technology

Due to the benefits of technology, it may seem as if it's a misnomer even to mention any risk that comes with technological advances. However, despite how convenient it may make things and how far it has taken us, there are still various disadvantages of the new technology.

1. Dependency

Today, people are overly reliant on technology. The more a society advances technologically, the more the people depend on computers and other technological advances in their everyday activities. As a result, when a machine stops to function or a computer crashes, people become almost disabled and cannot do anything until the problem is resolved. This kind of reliance on technology, therefore, puts humans at a distinct disadvantage since they become less self-dependent.

2. Social isolation

New technology is exciting and addictive. This makes people spend more time on using social networks, learning how to use new technologies, and playing games hence neglect their real lives. According to Gaby and Kenzie, “new technology makes people lazier, and lack the desire to engage in real life.” It has changed a lot of things in people’s lives which have desensitized them from the society. They argue that technology is a privilege to have but it’s important to interact with other people.

3. Loss of Jobs

This is the most adverse effect of technological advances. Ramey Karehka, in his article on modern technology, writes that “modern technology has replaced human labor; robots are undertaking the jobs which were previously done by humans.” For example, packaging functions in firms are done by robots on production lines to increase efficiency and production. Although the use of such new technologies is good for the businesses as it helps them save on costs, increase profits, and work faster, it’s bad news for workers since they end up jobless as machines take their jobs. Burt Sharelle, in an article on the impact of technology on people’s lives, says that research indicates that nearly three out of four workers say that advancement in technology is likely to affect their jobs. Therefore, in the end, new technology increases unemployment rates and joblessness hence decreasing the quality of life for some people. Advancement in technology also reduces performance by employees since some spend more time on smartphones and social networks.

4. World destruction weapons

The new technologies have enabled countries and companies to manufacture deadly weapons that have the capacity to cause massive destructions. Ramey Karehka argues that modern technology has been a major contributor to endless wars. As countries compete for superiority, they use new technology to manufacture superior weapons, which is dangerous considering how much damage these weapons can cause. Also, sometimes such weapons get into the hands of criminals who use them for selfish reasons.

5. Online Fraud

The use of new technology for financial transactions and other business activities exposes the users to online threats. As technology advances, hackers and other online criminals also get better technologies to commit more cybercrimes. Therefore, new technologies lead to exposure to online fraud and risks of theft and hacking of systems.

Conclusion

It is clear that new technology has many benefits in the world today. It has simplified things and made it possible to do more in less time and cost. New technologies and innovations come up every day, and most are meant to make the world a better place. However, the new technology is not without its disadvantages. It leads to loss of jobs, detachment from social life, increased risks of war, and over-dependency on technology. With the current trend in technology, robots, and automated systems will take over the world, and this is a great risk to humans. All in all, technology has more benefits than risks; hence is less of a danger to the world than is beneficial. Therefore, new technology is beneficial, but people should try to limit its negative impacts.

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