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Neutrality of Technology

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Abstract

Technology has been a recepient of blame since years back the way to date from anti-technologists while the pro technlogists safe gurad the notion of technology from the former having put foreward several augurmentative points of worldly instances. The real comprehensive understanding of debate would let us wind it up with a conclusion that it is only the technology that has been allgedly accused, the truthfullness is that malicous exploitaion of technolology alone would be the root cause for this condition. However the negative conviction over the technological upliftment seems barely be eradicated and is likely to continue in future. We can be of linear extrapolation to derive into the fact being technology of not born with irregularities or misconceptions, but the humanistic elements. Nonetheless , being eduactionists it is a great responsibility of every one to dissemnitae the correctful ideology.

Technology, Anti-Technology, Pro-Technology , Neutral

INTRODUCTION

Contemporary technology would embody telecommunication, Computer and Internet, but they alone find thier way towards the attainments of aims; there are additional technologies , to name a few, Mechaniacl, Electronics and many more. Technology is often referred to whatever the technique of carrying out a process in any form of field. I found it to be useful to discuss ideology about technology that has penetrated the mind of the members of the Earth through a research, which would throw out the perception, in the mental frame of the community of experts over the usage of the technological trajectory, unto the general public or rather the laymen or laywomen. This would certainly impact the society. The technology is supposed to have created ethical and philosophical problems.

The application of technology avails in any nook and corner of the world scaling from a simple knife to the nano- scalic surgeries. It is a well-known knowledge that the technology exerts ill and good effects over its users depending upon the circumstances. There are two groups of people namely Pro technologists, who advocates the positivism of technology, and anti-technologists who being quite against the modern technological emergenciesm. A great magnitude of debate is surfacing out across the planet amongst the different categories of human beings, from varied levels of qualifications, in respect of the amount of technologicality being embedded into a place. Some number would come up with the constructive criticism over the technology while some others being of destructive criticism. In view of my interviews I actioned with some experts and respective under graduates, howsoever plus or minus influences of the technological advancement is in the hand of the user; positivistic approach would utilize correctly, in the meantime the negativistic direction possibly take us down the garden.

Research Problem

Is technology really neutral?

Methodology

I did interview two intellectuals namely Prof.A.P.K. De Zoysa and Mr. K. Jayathilaka on Philosophy of Science that too has relevance over to the topic. Further I communicated with forty Engineering Final Year Students about the fact that of the technology being either neutral or non-neutral. My text below would entail the in - depth details that were elaborated during the meeting session with the aforementioned.

ILLOGY (ILLNESS) OF TECHNOLOGY

Anti-technologists expel out issues that underlie much of the fear of technology that would be elaborated in turn, mostly by the anthropologists. They are attacked as false

gods. The considerable growth of technology has created problems in many directions. A polarisation inside the society can be seen toward the negative sphere of the technology.

1. Anti-technology culture, right opposite to technological autonomy while this being non-neutral, is becoming very wide spread, which envisages the technology would leave the working environment dehumanized where the robotic working agents would be employed, risking the state of the youths being just about to be unemployable or rather the redundancy. And also the inventiveness in the field will possibly make substantial production processes that would in turn effect environment pessimistically in terms of rape of nature and eventually rotting of human body health system whereby the virtual distance between the rich and poor would elongate to such a degree that to get some engaged with the initialization of an outraged any form of riot. Thus technology solves some problems with having created a set of problems. Terminologically the ill effect over the societal side is deemed to be Social Cost of Technology which is rather negativistic, observing the dangers and the pitfalls. Some experts accept the critique has some point to make. Professor Rene Dubos, who was considered some time back to be one of the foremost Anti technologists and theorist posited:

"Technology can continue to move forward and to be lastingly successful only to an extent that it confirms to human needs and aspirations, not vice versa. An essential necessity for humanization in any kind of excessive growth, and especially of undisciplined industrial growth." (Prof. Zoysa, 2008)

Technological enhancement has pushed the younger generation to be addicted to different features of the latest arrivals in modernised science viz: advanced computer games, internet social-friendship network et cetra to such a degree that they tend to forget the ethical and philosophical values of life- they don't consider their family members who are home, no societal contribution while always being clung onto the latest technology, this status thereunder would hamper the satisfaction of life and

lead them into psychological trauma or any form of mental sickness or disorders. And we would have heard or read from different sources as to fake relationship on internet get the chatters through the bad line and drop them into the dark well wherefrom they can never even come out. Many are deceptive by the internet online relationships. Perhaps the statistics reflect that the new entrants into the usage of the technology are gravely victimized because of not having proper guidance and not having descent life pattern on both user side as well as guiders side, may be parents. (Nature of Science, 2001)

2. Albert Einstein was the first person to put out a theory to say that mass and energy are interconvertible, out of which some negative thinkers among us invented the atomic bombs to wage wars against their counter parts from other neighbouring or distant countries to enforce territorial integrity and sovereignty of the former, or under the pretext of blooming peace on the earth or some other disguised reasons. (The Self – Organising Universe, 1980)

3. Children are initiated into the subculture at an early stage to develop machine-like patterns of social interactions, for they often times are hooked on to computer related applications such as face book, twitter, on-line chat room and the list would go on endlessly. Since they are very sedentary the bodies of the children who are not quite worked out, would be physically inactive, surprisingly, resulting in less- exercise-rooted diseases such as diabetes at an early age. Not only do children are inactive, but also the modernisation of technology has enabled to automate the majority of the operations that were performed humanly, dragging them into an inert state of affair that they prefer to continue till their death bed. Howsoever, this significant change would probably bring the day of death closer because of the fact that of doing less exercise while being engaged with those passive activities.

The human community is expected to work on automated mechanism on urgencies, not invariable- on contrary the people tend or are very engaged to run them on daily basis some even more frequently than that. The correct purpose of creation of those artefacts

is appreciated to be known, lest certainly the whole world would go down the drain.

4. Radiational effects of operating mobile stations still do remain clearly unanswered. The World Health Organization states that the intensity of radiation that we receive from mobile or other communications is below the recommended guidelines by the researchers, nonetheless which is quite hypothetical – the immense studies are in the process of continuation on a great scale.

5. Having a technology being developed and marketed into a society where noticeable disparity of income exists, would enable a person to question himself/herself as to who will benefit from the technology concerned, which could account for an or many ethical issues. In which way will it influence the society – in an aggressive way or smoother way?

6. The pesticides for cultivation along the running rain water would reach lakes, reservoirs or rivers contaminating the water and possibly would threaten the life cycle of aquatic eco-system. Biodegradable equivalents (the decomposed of biological agents) can replace the pesticides. For instance, marine life in Lake Michigan was on the verge of extinction many years back, it was later restored through vigorous ecological controls.

7. When once large-scale radioactive positioning of the atmosphere happened in United States of America and Soviet Union, mothers were afraid to give milk to their children because of strontium-90 which was in the fallout. (Undergraduates, 2010)

The development of nuclear energy systems raises profound questions of a moral and philosophical nature. The experience of nuclear power that the world has had to date gives reasonable grounds for these moral concerns, I would like to condense these concerns into five prepositions of an ethical nature which I would put forth below. (Design Serving the Needs of Man, 1974)

- Nuclear system threatens the development of political accountability. The larger the nuclear programme, the more vulnerable are the economy and the life processes of the nation to accidents, breakdowns or sabotage.

- Uniqueness in character of radiation puts us to think that the way the costs of nuclear energy are distributed is unjust.

- Nuclear safety can only be attained by infallible and incorruptible human beings. It is a conflict of incompatible paradigms: the problem solving orientation versus the human factor orientation.

- Nuclear systems are irreversible forms of technology and so emit special moral problems.

- Nuclear development will only increase the exploitation and dependency of many third world poor.

8. Some medical treatments do inflict serious side effects over a long term; therefore modern medicine has failed to win the minds of certain groups.

9. The genetic engineering is used by some groups so as to create a specific human society, which can lead to formation of certain imperialism. Through this technology, identical human beings or any form of animal can be replicated. The underworld gangs and terrorists may misuse this immensely in order that they can fulfil their personal agendas. (Limited to Growth, 1972)

Further we can find what are called as GMF, Genetically Modified Foods, to be produced nowadays. By modifying the genetic codes scientist initiate some mutation on foods whereby creating foods of surprisingly larger sizes. However those foods have been banned in the USA. The people from other parts of world should be vigilant on it and be careful on selecting their vegetable or fruit varieties. If you see any one of them unimaginable small or big, never turn a blind eye on it. Those kinds of foods have canceric effects. It is unlike earlier cancer patients are everywhere now, they develop in different organs. Consumptions of these eatable stuffs have created suspicion as to whether they

will affect the eaters into deadly diseases. (Jayathilaka, 2008)

10. Record levels of Ultra Violet (UV) radiation were recorded in town in southern Chile and Argentina on 7th October 2000 as the edge of the Antarctic ozone hole passes overhead. More than 115 000 residents of Punta Arenas in Chile were put on alert and warned not to venture outside without protective creams, clothes and sunglasses. (Prof. Zoysa) People were exposed to around double normal UV levels. This never happened only once, but dozens of times. Exposure to the sun for just seven minutes would have been enough to burn skin. Raised levels of UV can also cause skin cancers and cataracts. What do you think is the reason for eventful situation? Is not it Technology?

Some experts argue that the more complex the technology, the greater its likelihood of being vulnerable to be sabotaged and errored. Every system is as weak as its weakest component.

The technology is mostly turned down by historians, theologists and sociologists. They regard the same to hamper the social value system and technology has the spectre of collapsing the circle of ethical valuism embedded into the societal or communal life. Technology is never used as raw, on contrary it is converted into a cooked form in a social, political and intellectual package.

GOODOLOGY (GOODNESS) OF TECHNOLOGY

It is quite a fallacy to fall into the conception of the technology being negativistically harmful, which would soon be zeroed when we throw light to the following ; pro-technology is in support of this,

1. Technology is an ethically neutral object which can be used for the good or ill. The instruments being used can never be responsible for the misuse, for instance motor cars can be used to kill (bad) or carry patients quickly to the hospital (good). Jerome B.Wiesner, one time president of MIT said instrumentally.

"The fact is that many of the problems the world faces will require substantial doses of new technology if they are to be solved – sensitive relevant technology, conceived and developed with the understanding that technology can create problems too." (Technology, Society and Environment, 1989)

2. In this present world we enjoy to carry out quite a few of our activities online, without physically moving our body which was not the case during the time when Internet of good speed had not been in existence , such as banking transaction, e-channeling, e-marketing, e-learning and so on and so forth- hence it can be generalized to enable e-anything in the years to come in comparison with fast moving pace of technological advancement across the globe, which are the views of some neutralists-which kind of communications have been made possible only because of the communication satellite of that being a limelight.

There is a conception that technology was solely invented by western bourgeoisie societies and the thinking pattern of Science would also be western, which is not necessarily the case; after all we have good Asian intellectual's fodders coming out of the box. This would have been the case some time back. Now it is changing over the period of years. (Prof. Zoysa, 2008)

3. When we are to fly any country, aeroplane would take us there soon enough as compared to naval path. The same airship could be in favour of terrorism to wage war against poor innocent people killing thousand thousand of civilians. Is this disastrous happening due to increased positive changes in the technological sciences or polluted subconscious mentality of the so called human beings?

4. Imagine a time in future when we would be announced of possible strike of a gigantic meteorite onto our Mother Earth, in which state of affair visualise what would our mind be like - apparently we all be apprehensive. Who would think could come forth in order to favour us , it is none other than the Advanced Astronomical Technology that is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other prominent space agencies from Russia or some other . The scientists can think of a way to blast off the

striker by going through complicated evaluative processes taking into accord of the latest developments that have taken place in the aerospace technology.

5. There happened a watershed in the medical history, since when quite a few medicinal valued treatments were -started to be used, while being no health care solutions before. Most died of certain horrible infectious diseases like small pox and some others, for there were no adequate medicinal injections. Later, thanks to the medical technology, that helped out with discovering the antibiotics that overpowered disease vectors. (Prof. Zoysa)

In addition to utilizing nature's designs to construct systems and devices useful to himself, man has been able to assist nature by repairing structures of organisms that have been damaged by disease, misuse, old age, or heredity. Here we refer primarily to and, although the techniques used on man can be used-and have usually been tried first-on animals. Vital organs frequently have their normal functions impaired and death would result if it were not for the technology of man, which is sometimes able to repair or replace the damaged organ or part with an artificial substitute.

6. How dare they blame technology? Most of the human activities responsible for the increase in global nitrogen are local in scale, from the production and the usage of nitrogen fertilizers to the burning of fossil fuels in automobiles, power generation plants, and industries.

Collectivism can be found in different forms namely, collective production and collective consumption, which is more appreciable than individualism. Collective existence in the modern society would need cooperation between men and women. The conflicts between different territories, any other places or between groups of people should be eliminated. This is the way the gender discrimination can be done away. (Prof.Zoysa) Development of communication and computer technology would enable to reach this nature of society. Only the operation of modern technology would create a condition for collectivism, which should be of the correct kind that will bring out the humanness within the society.

CONCLUSIONS

Technology is of something that is not a inavriable need to be the same. It can be falsified by another or even be deveolped further. The technology which was there yesterday would not be there tomorrow. This is the spiritsm of the technologicalism.

Whatever the case may be, if we do away from the fruitfulness of the technology, we all will be alienated. As some degree of solutions, albeit not of hundred percentage, for the debate above would be to properly structuralize humanal participation into the greater comprehensiveness as to the usage of technology, after all Technology could become a monster or slave depending on the structure of the society that makes use of it – what counts is not the technology itself but the way we choose to handle it, Poor workers blame the tools.

Now the deciding factor for each and every activity that a human agent is involved with is THE PROFIT which has a bearing over the socio-economic context concerned. This line of thinking drives masses crazy about monetary value at the expense of being ignorant over the minusism of manipulating technology.

Humanness is of quite a inseparability from technology. The western world cannot afford to be blamed or oppressed solely for this conflict, there are, after all, easterners who ought to be held responsible for. Even so we do have suspicion over effect of radiation that has ourselves exposed to, by minimizing the duration of calls we may lower the likelihood of being negatively influenced by the Electro Magnetic Radiations. Thus the ethical and the philosophical problems generated in the present society are owing entirely not to the western technology, but it is evidently connected as to, in particular how the society uses or not uses technology-though it is revolutionary phenomenon. (Prof. Zoysa)

We can find wide spectrum of benefits from technology for the maintenance of life, as a matter of fact that would be incalculable. By no means can we find a positive correlation between the technology itself and the grave effects of the same. The user is supposed to be enlightened over its utilization rather

than to go into wrongfulness that would sooner or later worsen the existentiality of the living and the non-living environment so that not being entertained by the future generations to rise out. Any technology embodies the values, attitudes and lifestyle of the culture, in which case the transfer from the parental culture to the recipient culture would happen to a good extent. The measure of the extent is in the hand of the operators of the relevant technology. It is a state of idolatry of technology.

On the whole, technology does not constitute amorality and transcendentality. Under no circumstances, can we stagnate us from technology entirely, in spite of its unacceptable moulding at certain places. It can never be expected to bring technologies into reality in light of the unscrupulous ways and means of thinking line inherited to the individuals who are even less less than least concerned over natural balance prevalent across the community. The suggestible road to place a full stop for the practices of the human agents, who gravely are involved with, would be to enlighten them on the relevant topics from their very childhood education through well devised schemes or some other. Here the criticism is disguised to belong to the nature of modern technology rather than the mentality of the general public – it is of correctness to utter that the beliefs that advocated spring in the subconscious mind not on the cold machines or techniques, despite the fact that serious attention ought to be given to the socio-economic nightmares resulting from the improving technology during the passage of the years. Ethical or philosophical problems are not caused by the technology, but the incorrect way of applying the technology where the blame would evidently go to the users.

Technology is the cornerstone of human development, which is the one that drives the survival of worldly matters relating to all the animals from the smallest insect to the biggest blue whale. Had there be no development of Science or rather the technology during course of prehistoric time to this modern information era, we all would have faced many disastrous, catastrophic or detrimental scenarios quite a few times in terms of quite a few factors such as break out of deadly diseases, alarming natural disasters etc., despite the fact that there were reported cases of natural calamity with having been of not signals in advance. Some experts who are quite anti to pro-technologists doctrine to place limitation to knowledge , which should be turned down, while getting hold of the stance to place the society in rightful position enough to comprehend the tackling of technology rather than to implement the former. (Jayathilaka) By looking down the technology there would be a greater likelihood of placing limitations to thinkers of creationism-the creativistic stance would not tend ladder, but rather decline, even amongst the laymen. That would do affect the thinking capacity of the present children who the governors of this globe in future when we are aged. We must motivate them to achieve new heights, theories and products and so on and so forth, but never to discourage them hypnotizing futile thoughts and ideas. Plug only the plus ideas into their mental socket. (Prof. Zoysa)

From the looks in which the world runs, it seems that a monopoly is practised across the technological system, in many different shapes. The monopolistic behaviours ought not to be principled in technology management, in spite of different degrees of subjugations available.

A socio-political system can afford to bring up the modern into the society to make the recipients conscious enough. We all should be teleological enough in regard to grasping the correct position of the technology to be placed down the line. The mistrust over technology could result in correct way of use of the technology, lest it would make us suffer due to many reasons such as not adhering to technology of advanced improvement worsening the situation to be futile. The basic educational system need be institutionalised, in a crusading way, to have future generation to be ascertained with correct notion of technological interference. Thus technology could become a monster or slave depending on the structure of the society that makes use of it, on which sense it is neutral.

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