ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN PROMOTING PEACE

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ABSTRACT

Technology in itself has a very broad meaning. From wheel to the latest launched satellite, all comes under the development of technology for the peace of world. It has tremendous power to revolutionize the whole world and making it peaceful to live in. It has made our lives comfortable and easier in one or the other way by integrating us nationally and internationally. In today's scenario, our lives have become so complicated that we have to take its help in making our lives harmonious. It has wide application in developing peace worldwide. So, it is the duty of every single citizen of the nation to use it in the best possible ways for the betterment of human race. Though, we cannot deny the multiple harms of using technology but still we can try to minimise its affects and can use in the best possible ways for promoting peace. We have discussed 'Role of Technology in promoting peace'. Instead of using Technology for violence, it should be used to promote peace. In this paper it has been discussed that what are the different areas where we can use technology for developing peace? What are the different ways that should be opted for promoting peace through it. ICT acts as an important tool to achieve the aim of developing harmony among individuals as well as with the society.. ICT can be used for identifying various problems related to environment through early warning systems, promoting their peaceful solution, supporting humanitarian actions, including protection of beings and assisting post conflict peace building and reconstruction. This paper is a comprehensive study of the crucial role of technology in developing and promoting peace.

Keywords: Reality, positivity, protection of human rights, disaster management, remedies

INTRODUCTION

Every creature in this world needs peace, i.e., every creature wants to establish harmony with oneself as well as with the environment. It is the adjustment with the internal as well as external. As it is the need of an individual and individual constitutes the society, so, it is also the need of a society. It is needed for a better way of living. There are so many means of developing this peace such as through education, sports, campaigns, media, theatre and other performing arts. Except all these, we cannot deny the role of technology in promoting peace.

Firstly, we need to know what technology actually means.

Technology is derived from two Greek words "techne" and "logia". Techne means art, skill, cunning of hand and logia means collection or set. Thus, technology is the collection of techniques, skills, methods and processes used in the production of goods or services. From simple wheel to the latest launched satellite all comes under technology. ICT, i.e., Information and communication technology as a tool helps people to communication on the world scale. Hence, it supports us in achieving the goal of promoting peace .Technology has tremendous scope of promoting peace from climate change to public health, from food security to sanitation, from disarmament to disaster management etc.

NEED OF TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING PEACE

- Technology is a powerful tool of communication.
- Technology brings together all the people residing in different parts of the world through one or the other medium.
- Digital media tools provide new and creative ways to develop national and international integration. It offers tools for collaborative media creation and dissemination through social media, blogs, wikis, citizen journalism and participatory maps.
- Networking platforms like peer network and discussion forums provide new opportunities to foster positive contact between conflict groups.
- It provides tools which can be used in different fields like social, political, cultural, psychological, defence and economics etc. to resolve the issues and promote peace.

Area where technology can be used to resolve conflict and promote peace

- **Arm Control**
- **Non-Violent Defence**
- **Disaster Management**
- **Human Rights Protection**
- **Global Economy**
- **Medicines**
- **Avoiding Wars**
- **Stopping Terrorism**
- **Sustainable Development**
- **Convergence of Technologies**

ARM CONTROL

When governments enter into treaties or agreements to control their armaments, then, it is a possibility that the other party may cheat. They may use the nuclear power for military purpose instead of civilian purpose. This can be monitored through two ways- direct inspection of the military facilities or by the use of technology.

In case of nuclear testing, many countries try to develop and test it to increase their arsenal power irrespective of its prohibition .This can also be detected with the help of technological devices which may be used to monitor the level of radiation in the atmosphere, sensitive

seismic equipment that can detect vibrations in the earth. Thus, we see that technology is a great help in controlling the destructive use of arms and promoting peace.

NON-VIOLENT DEFENCE

Technology is needed for both violent and non-violent actions. The use of technology in violent actions is well known to us. Now, we will discuss how technology helps in non-violent actions.

- **Communication**

Microphones are used by the speakers in non- violent actions such as speeches, rallies, marches, strikes etc. At the same time it is also used by the police personnel to control the mob and maintain the peace.

Communication is a very natural way of conveying the message of peace among the people and technology gives us tools to communicate and spread the message of love and peace. We can use telephones, fax, short wave radio and electronic mails in effective way in the non-violent struggle. We can also use mass communication media like newspapers, magazines, television etc. to convey the message of peace to the whole nation as well as the world.

- **Survival**

To control the monopoly of any community or country, the basic need of survival can be interrupted. For example, Libya was ruled by Gaddaffi in autocratic manner and to stop this monopoly, the UN countries discontinued supporting Libya in the oil refineries. The economy of Libya is highly based on raw oil production. Under this pressure, government bowed itself and liberated Libya and consequently, the country was declared to be a democracy and followed electoral system. This was possible with the help of technology.

- **Research and Development**

R&D for non-violent defence emphasise on social sciences. Morals, strategies and co-ordination are of great use in any non-violent struggle. In R&D, technology plays an important role as we involve the participation of more and more people and it can be through any medium like mass media, electronic media or any other source of communication. For example if we want to do any research or survey at the mass level, then, we can use technology there. In the same way if we do any testing then again we can take the help of technology. Thus, in research and development technology plays a vital role.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In the age of technology, it has been easier to manage both man-made and natural disasters. We can manage them by using various tools of technology.

Internet, GIS, Remote sensing and Satellite communication etc. can help in the hazard reduction measures. GIS techniques act as a decision support tool. Various departments and agencies are stakeholders in using GIS in the disaster management process. GIS, RS and GPS are useful in disaster management applications and for decision making. GIS is useful for hazard zone mapping and during emergency conditions as it helps in risk reduction. Earthquakes, cyclones, tsunami, floods etc. can be determined earlier with the help of technological devices and rescue measures can be taken accordingly either by avoiding or minimizing the affects of these disasters. Technology also helps in reconstruction process after these disasters.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION

Technology can play an important role in the protection of human rights. It helps in investigations and secures accountability and also insures visibility and mobilizes support to the persons in immediate danger.

Many of the human rights violation takes place because people think that they will not be called upon to justify themselves. But now people have access to the camera in their mobiles and they can record such incidents and share these using different platforms of social media. Many organizations are working in this direction of giving training to share the information in such a way that people violating the rights should punished. Earlier this was done only by the professional or investigators. But nowadays, a common man also possesses knowledge of using such devices in the time of need. CCTV and body worn cameras are also available which insure safely as well as privacy.

Many alert applications are developing nowadays so that the defenders or journalists can use them to send signals in danger. For example, **Amnesty International** has developed a panic button application that allows users to secretly send a message to pre-selected contacts by rapidly pressing the phone's power button. There is also GPS button available which is useful in locating the people in danger or need. Thus, the idea of being recorded by any of the passerby on their mobile phone changes our behaviour.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

The effects of technology on economy are job creation, contribution to GDP growth, emergence of new services and industries, workforce transformation, business innovation etc. ICT sector is one of the largest employers. ICT has positive effect on growth. For example, 10% increase in broadband penetration is associated with 1.4% increase in GDP growth in emerging markets. Numerous Public services have become available online and through mobile phone. ICT has enabled the emergence of a completely new sector i.e. App Industry. Companies like Amazon, IBM and others have developed new micro work platform which help to divide task into small components then that can be outsourced to contract workers. Thus, increasing the jobs opportunities. The internet provides the companies with new ways of reaching to customers. Over the past few years social media has established itself as a powerful marketing tool.

MEDICINES

Technology has made great contribution in the field of medicine. Improvement in technology is providing us with better screening techniques and other tools for diagnosis. The technologies are getting more and more advanced for X-ray, clinical PET scanning, nuclear medicines etc. The revolutionary products for magnetic resonance spectroscopy, high intensity targeted ultra sound detection with MRI technologies etc. are giving life saving result to the patient. With the advancement of technology different kinds of therapies like radiotherapy, access surgeries with minimal cuts, interventional MRI, climbing techniques, photonics and there are many more which are in practice. With the increase in science and technology new researches and development took place and reached to the common people. Many diseases which were incurable in earlier days are now curable, hence, making life easier and more peaceful. Example Tuberculosis and Cancer were earlier incurable but now they are curable (in many cases). With the passage of time, much safer medicines have been developed and researches are on for developing many more.

AVOIDING WARS

Technology offers very powerful communicative tools so by communicating with the people; wars or conflicts can be avoided. We can use T.V, Radio, newspapers internet etc. to give our opinions as well as listen to other's opinions. Websites, peer networking, discussion forums, blogs, twitter , facebook or even many other social platforms can be used to raise the issues or voices. Money can be collected and sent where it is more desperately needed so that the people get satisfied and stop becoming terrorists. The message for giving donations can be conveyed using technology through different media. Technology can be used to avoid internal as well as external wars by conveying the message of love and peace to the people around the world. Countries can mediate between the conflicts prone countries and also help in avoiding war between them and this can be done with the help of technology.

STOPPING TERRORISM

The advancement of technology and arrival of internet have changed the face of terrorism. Technology can be used in both developing terrorism and counter terrorism but the intentions and ways of using technology are different. Government sees technology as powerful tool in the struggle against terrorism. This simply means that the side effects of technology can be overcome by the wise use of technology. Government has to use superior strategy to counter terrorism. There are many helpline services or mobile applications which are launched to locate the place of crime and help the persons in need.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is actually the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs as well.

Resources should be used in such a manner that they should be stored for the future generation as well. Recently, a panel of scientists has reported major global issues - the

provision of sustainable energy, serious climate change, provision of affordable medicines and health delivery system and water scarcity.

The present energy system is mainly based on fossil fuels. The solution is based on development of renewable energy based on sun, wind, biomass and tides etc. Carbon capture and storage is not yet proven feasible but would help to mitigate increasing CO_2 emissions. Agriculture in a sustainable society will provide plenty of food supplies at affordable prices at a level of quality that stop damage to the environment. This requires a thoughtful combination of new technologies and ecological sensitivity.

CONVERGENCE OF TECHNOLOGY

Now, a new field "nanotechnology" has arrived which will replace micro electronics and others fields. It has tremendous application potential in areas of medicine, electronics, and material science.

With combination of Nano technology and ICT integrated silicon electronics, Photonics will be born and with this material convergence combined with biotechnology, intelligent bioscience will emerge, which will help in disease free, happy and more intelligent human beings with longevity and high capabilities.

It is also said that Nano Robots will develop with the convergence of Bio-Nano-Info technology. When Nano robots will be injected into a patient, it will diagnose and deliver the treatment exactly in the affected area and after that, Nano Robots will get digested as they will match with DNA. Thus we see that Researchers are working hard to develop more and more superior quality of technology, with the help of which we can view the dream of happy, healthy and peaceful world, which is filled with positivity.

STRATEGIES FOR PEACE PROMOTION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

- We should be strict, so that nuclear or other weapons could not be used for mass destruction. On this issue we have to unite so that mankind should be protected against the destructive uses of scientific achievement.
- We have to use science and technology in best possible way for promoting peace. For this, out of the box thinking is required.

- Technology needs to be decentralised for this purpose. When any major task is delegated among the smaller agencies or organisations rather than keeping it on the centre and government level, work can be done at the ground level and positive result can be obtained.

- We have made enormous investment to make technology powerful in terms of money, time and labour. So, it is the need to reorient the technology in the direction of promoting peace.

- It is necessary that we find options from the existing technology which can be used for peace development. For example, electronic mail is an excellent means of communication which can be used to communicate with the activists and find out strategies to work for the welfare of society.

- New technologies can be used to promote peace-minded quality education. ICT is integrated with education in the best possible way which is nowadays being implementing.

- Above all, there is a need to spread awareness towards developing and using technology for promoting peace in the society.

CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, we can say that though science and technology has certain limitations, still it has multiple benefits which can be used to the maximum extent. These limitations can be overcome through the use of science and technology itself. If we take the example of kitchen's knife. then, how we use it is up to our choice. Whether we use it for chopping vegetables or for hurting ourselves is totally dependent on us. Thus, with the technology, how we use it, whether for promoting peace or for destruction, it is totally our wisdom.

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