

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

The User base for online services and the Internet is dramatically increasing in number in Indian Society, it is also changing rapidly in so far as its demographic makeup is concerned. Many of these new Users are motivated to come online for different reasons than those who came online before them. Just a few years ago most Users of computer networks were Academics, Hobbyists, "Netheads", and Technophiles - the people the computer industry calls "Early Adopters". In contrast, many Users today in Indian Society are just ordinary people who aren't particularly interested in the technology but who have a job to do and who choose to use computer networks as a tool for doing it. Howard Rheingold writes that, in the late 1980's, "the media myth about people who used computers to communicate was that we were pencil-necked nerds, totally lacking in social skills, whose online communications are robotic and unemotional." Indeed, most computer Users during the 1980's were scientific researchers and hobbyists. Whilst there is nothing at all undesirable about this, many early computer Users were seen by members of mainstream Society as social misfits with different interests than those of their peers. Many of them were also adolescent males. It would seem from media reports and views expressed by several people during interview that this stereotype continues to persist, especially among those who have little or no access to modern personal computers or the Internet. The "socially isolated adolescent nerd" myth is not a fair characterization of computer Users today, who are men and women of all ages and from all walks of life. While computer networks

remain entirely inaccessible to most sections of Society, for some groups and within some communities access to an online service or the Internet is almost as commonplace as having a telephone. Computer mediated communication (CMC) is increasingly being used between members of such communities. It is true that Internet use has diffused from white, young North American men to the rest of the world where gender and age have ceased being barriers. The networks have developed into the core infrastructural component of the information Society and have thereby become technically, economically and politically significant. Correspondingly, these networks, and especially the Internet, have changed the ecology of policy domains and triggered the emergence of an Internet policy domain in its own right. Many new business firms and their interest organizations, new political groups and other actors along with established organizations are convinced that the Internet is the very blood of the information Society, and they are working to accommodate the Internet's institutional environment in order to reap the greatest gains from this network. Although few poor people, less-educated people had also started using the Internet but the digital divide between such groups and traditional Internet Users is still sharp.

But the strong point is that the investment in networking resources in Society ultimately produces a social Cyber power. There are three forms of Cyber power which are emerging in today's Cyber Context which are:

- a. Individual Cyber power that is new human capital
- b. Social Cyber power that is collectives engaged in Cyber organizing

c. Ideological Cyber power that is ideas and policy promoted by individual and social Cyber power

That is Cyber Society is a whole new world emerging at the conclusion of the 20th century. Everyday, the Internet expands by the social, political, and economic activities of people all over the world, and its impact grows exponentially. In this new world there is no geographical separation and there are no borders, and all people are encouraged to participate and contribute drawing on their experiences and resources. In Cyberspace actions and reactions are essentially instantaneous, and this is why the Internet is so gratifying and attractive. people with different demographic characteristics tend to be affected by the Internet differently. For example, the young use the Internet differently than the old and thus experience a different effect. The creation of a whole new type of community, the “virtual community,” has done much to highlight the geographic dispersion of social ties. Yet the study of virtual communities has largely maintained the traditional framing of “community” as something that is physically bounded, but by geographies of bites and bytes rather than by streets and alleyways. Online relationships are treated as entities in themselves as if existing social networks and existing means of communication did not exist. Thus Community is best seen as a network – not as a local group. So today we are not members of a Society, which operates in “little-boxes,” dealing only with fellow members of the few groups to which we belong, at home, in our neighborhood, workplaces, or in Cyberspace. Rather, each person has his/her own “personal community” of kinship, friendship, neighboring and workmate ties. Today People use multiple methods of communication in

maintaining ties with community members, direct in-person contact, telephone, postal mail, and more recently fax, email, chats, and email discussion groups. Thus the Social definition of “community” emphasizes supportive, sociable, relations that provide a sense of belonging rather than a group of people living near to each other. This approach implies that computer-mediated communication (CMC) has not introduced a new geography to community, it has introduced a new means of social contact with the potential to affect many aspects of personal communities. Unlike the almost universal earlier fear that technologies such as the automobile and television would harm community, the debate about the Internet also comes in two flavors. That’s why it has impacted our Society in almost all areas of human endeavor. Among the Respondents it was found that all the Respondents can be broadly divided into three group with differences of opinion about Internet usage, in which the first group is supporter of Internet usage in Society, the second group is very much against the Internet and advocate Internet usage to be demoted in society and the third group is between both the extreme group and are neutral to come out with any conclusion on Impact of Internet on Society. And all these three group of Respondents have strongly defended their group of Internet Enthusiast, Internet Pessimist and Internet Neutralist. The reason for three different group of opinion lies in the fact that the Internet is an ambivalent technology that has both positive and negative influences on human relationships, Social Processes and Social Life. The Internet makes it easier to keep in touch with friends and family and even to encounter new people. On the other hand, Users may spend so much time on the Internet that they have less time for face-to-face communication. Thus Internet Enthusiasts hail the Internet's

potential for making connections without regard to race, creed, gender or geography. As Phil Patton early proclaimed: “Computer-mediated communication will do by way of electronic pathways what cement roads were unable to do, namely connect us rather than atomize us, put us at the controls of a ‘vehicle’ and yet not detach us from the rest of the world.” By contrast, Dystopians suggest that the lure of new communication technologies withdraws people from in-person contact and lures them away from their families and communities. They worry that meaningful contact will wither without the full bandwidth provided by in-person, in-the-flesh contact. As Texas commentator Jim Hightower warned over the ABC radio network: “While all this razzle-dazzle connects us electronically, it disconnects us from each other, having us ‘interfacing’ more with computers and TV screens than looking in the face of our fellow human beings.” Yet, several scenarios are possible. Indeed, each scenario may happen to different people or to the same person at different times. In an “information Society” where work, leisure, and social ties may all be maintained from a “smart home,” people could reject the need for social relationships based on physical location. They might find community online, or not at all, rather than on street corners or while visiting friends and relatives. In such a scenario, new communication technologies may advance the home as a center for services that encourage a shift toward greater home-centeredness and privatization. At the same time the location of the technology inside the home facilitates access to local relationships, suggesting that domestic relations may flourish, possibly at the expense of more distant ties. Thus today Affordances is a term used in the study of human computer interaction

to emphasize the social as well as individual possibilities of computer networks.

Since the Internet technology itself has a complex and contradictory nature, it is not realistic to expect that all the individuals face the same potential effects, positive or negative. For example, younger people face different effects from older people. Full-time employees use the Internet differently than those who are unemployed, and thus have different consequences in terms of social relationships. Thus Most Internet Users web surf. Moreover, Web surfers are spending more time online and using the Internet more often. Despite the newness and excitement surrounding the World Wide Web, the killer application on the Internet is still interpersonal communication. The blossoming of the Internet has affected the ways in which people connect with each other, eliminating the financial cost of long-distance communication, reducing the time and psychological cost of contacting near and far away people. Internet use is becoming increasingly commonplace in homes, schools, and on the job. People of all ages, races, and ethnicities are moving more and more of their activities online. Having access and the ability to use these tools is especially important to members of our community who have difficulties due to physical or mental constraints. The tremendous communications capabilities of the Internet could provide an important tool to help people with disabilities to overcome certain of the challenges they face. Contrary to dystopian predictions, new communication technologies do not disconnect people from communities. Computer-mediated communication reinforces existing communities, establishing contact and encouraging support where none may have existed

before. Any one who uses a computer regularly knows how valuable and harmful these 20th century machines can be. Because for any powerful tool, for the amount of good it can do an equal amount of bad can be done if it falls into the wrong hands. Internet had made the Society technologically very developed and efficient but along with that it has also replaced mutual human interactions and relationships, which would limit the justification making it difficult in absolute term that is productive or non-productive. That is why the modern age is throwing us two-dimensional curve towards both positive as well as negative side. It is true that with the advent of Internet now the world's information is at our eye and finger level. The Users go through the web, direct the mouse and chat to those far from his front door. This is the reason why we are now in Information Postindustrial Society, as thought by Daniel Lerner where the physical barriers do not matters and we say that we are now in global village. But at the same hand Computer and networking like other forms of educational devices, like the television is becoming the means of escaping boredom, fear, reality and responsibility. It has been found that those who are unemployed face a greater risk of becoming addicted to the computer, be it games or the net. If Internet has facilitated the Society and the individual member's academic, social, financial, and occupational life at the same time the use of the Internet can definitely disrupt one's academic, social, financial, and occupational life the same way the other well- documented addiction like pathological gambling, eating disorders and alcoholism Can. Like other addictions, it affects the individual concerned and other people related to him – family, friends and Co-workers. If Internet can help individuals to search for life partners through marriges.com at the same time it can also

separate couples when one of the partners finds someone else on the Internet and Leaves Home. If Internet has facilitated many individuals to unite the hearts of the lovers at the same time it can also be observed that Spouses complain that their beloved neglects them due to Cyber mate, Cyber affairs and Cyber sex. At one hand Internet can be an instrument to save time due to its quick and spontaneous services but at the same time the members of Cyber Society like gamblers can be found compulsively investing time and money without any reason. They fantasize that the next connection they make will solve all their problems. Internet at one hand if is helping the learners with the seas and seas of information available on Internet and the same hand its inappropriate and excessive useless unproductive use results in student's failures and academic dropouts. No doubt Internet helps the family members to reach far off relatives and friends in very easy, quick and cheap way but very many Lawyers are of the opinion that excessive networked computer use can be a major factor in divorce, disturbed or broken family, dissatisfaction and restlessness in individual along with ignorance of duties and responsibility towards the family, the school or the workplace with degradation of moral and ethical values. It is true that 90% respondents concluded that due to Internet people are uniting and integrating globally at the same time it was highlighted by 10% Respondents that those using computer networks do so at a cost to their offline community life. They suggest that by using computer networks Users turn their backs upon friends, family, and colleagues within their local community in favour of communities found entirely online. In fact, present findings also suggests that Users (sampled group) were motivated to use Internet by the need to do research for academic or business purposes and to communicate with others

within their pre-existing offline communities with an exception of 5-10% of Users who really use Internet at the cost of offline relations. So, in this respects data are not suggesting any serious problem in the present study. Although most of the Respondents in the sample were neutral in having any interest, need, or desire to meet new people online, to build new online communities, or to take part in their own social experimentation online. Whilst it can be agreed that there were some 10-15% of the Respondents who use computer networks such as Internet to meet new people and to build new communities online with those they have never met offline. But still based on majority responses the findings suggests that most people who use computer networks today do so to complete specific research or work related tasks and to communicate. When they're done, they log off.

All the Respondents were of the opinion that the genius of the World Wide Web is its open nature, decentralized structure and bottom up authority and these same qualities are its greatest weakness. Like businesses, Governments and individuals, criminal elements are taking advantage of the enormous capabilities of this enabling technology. On one-hand free knowledge libertarians argued that online transactions and Cyber identities should stay beyond the reach of the lawman. On the other, State and Law officials in every country around the world, including ours, view the Internet as a tide that will erode local and regional institutions in Society, with devastating consequences, as more and more of daily life moves from the brickyard mortar world to the ether of Cyberspace. Or perhaps even greater significance is the fact that Internet is relatively new phenomenon and its potential for future growth and adaptation is virtually limitless. The far

reaching, ever –expanding and even more rapid advances in computer and software technology over the last ten years have combined with the explosives growth of the Internet, which had change, the world forever. For the most part, the Internet and other technologies are providing wonderful benefits to our Society, from providing new, high-wage jobs to our economy, to expanding educational opportunities, to improving health care an in countless other ways. Our banking system, the stock market, the electricity and water supply board, telecommunications network and critical government services, such as emergency and national defence services, all rely on computer networks. But at the same time as infrastructure system of the global Society are increasingly dependent on Information technology for their day to day operation, system such as grids, subway trains and air traffic control are also vulnerable to Cyber attacks, possibly putting public safety in serious jeopardy. Along with this the problems related to the anonymous nature of the Internet, there are challenges to investigate and prosecute criminals in an International arena. Since Internet is a global medium that does not recognize physical and jurisdictional boundaries.

Thus there are a number of competing views amongst Respondents with both positive and negative ideology about networking. These competing views can also be seen within general Society. For some, the Internet is a useful resource, an efficient way to communicate, and something without social stigma attached. On the other side are those who feel that computer networks are dangerous places which allow easy access to bomb making instructions and pornography, and which are inhabited by pedophiles and other criminals. Less frequently, negative critiques of computer networks

proclaim that Users are socially isolated misfits. Looking at other negative critiques of the Internet, it is valid to say that the Internet is a dangerous place, but only if we also admit that the library or the streets in front of our homes are at least equally dangerous, and probably more so. Computer networks do allow people to gain access to potentially dangerous information, such as instructions for making homemade fireworks, but this information is also widely available in bookstores and libraries. The chance of children meeting pedophiles online is no higher, and probably much lower, than it is offline. Even if a child were to meet a pedophile online, they could only be physically abused by then meeting them offline. The point is that children probably shouldn't be left alone while they use Internet, just as they shouldn't be left alone to watch late night television or allowed to play outside without supervision. Dangers exist everywhere, but there is nothing about computer networks which makes them inherently more dangerous than anywhere offline. Whilst concerns about potentially dangerous information and other dangers on computer networks are valid, the same information and dangers have always existed offline. What is surprising is that certain sections of the mass media fail to take this into consideration and blame the technologies, not people, for the problems of Society. Some extreme critics of the impact of the Internet on community propose laws and regulations to strengthen the elements they consider important to community. For example, in order to "conserve cultural space for face-to-face social engagement, traditional forms of community life, off-screen leisure activities, and time spent in nature," Sclove and Scheuer suggest regulations to manipulate rates to discourage use of the Net one evening a week. They suggest taxing online shopping and consumer services to subsidize local community activities."

Technological developments do not in themselves provide widespread social benefits. Another explanation for possible negative effects of Internet use is that the Internet consumes enormous amounts of time. Time for face-to-face communication is displaced by other activities on the Internet. If family members spend substantial amount of time in front of a computer, face-to-face communications with other family members can decrease. Identity confusion is another possibility. Sometimes a User will make up an identity or even multiple identities that do not necessarily comply with the person's real life. This may even render virtual space more preferable than one's everyday physical reality. But the more one feels comfortable in the virtual world, the more depressed he or she can be in the real. Both technology and social benefits are shaped by social forces that operate on a much broader level. Thus at one extreme are the Internet enthusiasts who view Internet use as the panacea for all that plagues Society, including inadequacies in the educational system. At the other extreme are the Internet alarmists who view Internet use as undermining the very fabric of Society, including the healthy development of its children. Most people fall somewhere between these extremes. In fact the present study suggests that definitely Influence of Internet on Society both positive as well as negative is immense but in many ways the Internet seems to have created a new way of doing old things, rather than being a technology that changes the manner in which people live their lives. As a consequence, the policy implications of increasing Internet use may be less than is often believed. But this is a well-established fact that with the Internet, information can be transmitted and received with ease at any time of the day to and from any number of friends. In addition, the Internet is a common space to encounter new friends. Users have the

potential to “meet” a virtually unlimited number of people through chat rooms, bulletin boards, and other services. Ongoing online relationships can then be formed. Consequently, one’s “social circle” can be considerably expanded. Thus the Internet’s effects are too heterogeneous and very from individual to individual. The analysis also shows that the Internet’s effects appear to be marginal at first sight, but, in fact, are simply heterogeneous, contingent and complex.

Thus based on all the above discussion it can be concluded that the qualitative positive impact of Internet on society are as follows:

- a. Internet increases the quantity and accessibility of information for every member in Society
- b. Internet accelerates the gathering, distribution and storing of information in Society, thereby diminishing the constraints of time and space (and facilitating both "community without propinquity" and the much less desirable "propinquity without community").
- c. Internet enables through its information resources exert control over the sender and the receiver of the information which is nothing but social empowerment in other words.
- d. □ They enable "narrow casting" as well as broadcasting on the part of the sender of information.
- e. Internet enables decentralization.
- f. □ They enable interaction between amongst all the members of society
- g. The Internet has also opened up new avenues of social activism called as "cyber activism". Electronic mail, for instance, is well suited for the quick and effective mobilization of large numbers of sympathizers. It can be used for electronic contract , interaction, Process, petitions etc

which can be signed by a simple mouse-click, and, with massive e-mail

- h.** Internet is making the whole society renamed as global village/ Global Community and Global society by making Oisal interaction possible between individual across the globe irrespective of time and Space making whole networked societies an interated whole.
- i.** Ease in doing any Social activity be it Political, Economic, Religious, Legal, Educational, Administrative etc. without making any extra physical efforts.

Thus based on all the above discussion it can be concluded that the qualitative negative impact of Internet on society are as follows:

- i. Engagement of social members in Internet activities to experience pleasure, gratification or relief.
- ii. Manifest dysphoric symptoms, such as restlessness, irritability, sleep disturbances, increased anxiety, depression or hostility when not engaged in online activities.
- iii. Feel preoccupied with virtual reality by thinking about the experience, planning a return to the computer or buying the newest and latest hardware or software.
- iv. Need to spend more and more time or money on Internet activities in order to change moods.
- v. Neglect social, familial, educational or work obligations.
- vi. Lie to family members, co-workers, fellow-students, therapists and others about the amount of time spent online.

- vii. Risk loss of significant personal relationships, career access and advancement opportunities, financial stability and educational accomplishments.
- viii. Fail at repeated efforts to control Internet activities.
- ix. Show physical signs, such as carpal tunnel syndrome, backaches, dry eyes, neglect of personal hygiene or eating irregularities.

WHAT MAKES THE INTERNET PROBLEM FILLED?

Due to excessive Internet usage some Internet users may develop an emotional attachment to on-line friends and activities they create on their computer screens. Internet users may enjoy aspects of the Internet that allow them to meet, socialize and exchange ideas through the use of chat rooms or "virtual communities". These communities allow the person the means to escape from reality and seek out means to fulfill unmet emotional and psychological needs, which are more intimate and less threatening than real life relationships. Some Internet addicts may also create on-line personas where they are able to alter their identities and pretend to be someone other than himself or herself. The highest risk for creation of a secret life are those who suffer from low self esteem, feelings of inadequacy, and fear of disapproval from others. Such negative self-concepts lead to clinical problems of depression and anxiety. Persons with excessive Internet usage habits usually turn to the Internet in an attempt to change moods, overcome anxiety, deal with depression, reduce isolation or loneliness, or distract them from overwhelming problems. The elderly, as well as children and adolescents, are particularly vulnerable because they may not realize the extent of their dependency. In many instances, individuals with Internet

addiction often will seek help for another condition, such as depression, phobias or other addictions. Oftentimes, it is through the evaluation of the primary diagnosis that a diagnosis of Internet addiction is rendered. Patients will gradually spend less time with people in their lives in exchange for solitary time in front of a computer. Addicted online users tend to use the Internet as an excuse to avoid needed but reluctantly performed daily chores such as doing the laundry, cutting the lawn, or going grocery shopping.¹ To accommodate such excessive use, sleep patterns are typically disrupted due to late night log-ins. In extreme cases, caffeine pills, cigarettes, tea or coffee are used to facilitate longer Internet sessions. Such sleep deprivation causes excessive fatigue, often making academic or occupational functioning impaired, and may decrease one's immune system, leaving the patient vulnerable to disease. Additionally, the sedentary act of prolonged online usage may result in a lack of proper exercise and lead to an increased risk for carpal tunnel syndrome, back strain, or eyestrain. While the physical side effects of utilizing the Internet are mild compared to chemical dependency, addictive use of the Internet will result in similar familial, academic, and occupational impairment

Similar to alcoholics who will try to hide their addiction. These same characteristics create distrust and will hurt the quality of once stable relationships over time. Hence there is a need to identify this fresh and serious problem, which is rapidly entering in Society and is going to disturb social life and relationships. Hence it is the need of the time to isolate, identify and diagnose this giant before it starts its ill effects on individual, his family and Society as a whole.

222 Anuradha Parasar, *Impact of Internet on Society*, Aavishkar Publishers, Jaipur, 2006 (ISBN: 81-7910-170-3)

Thus all the above facts point out the exponential increasing use of internet in daily life with various and diversified influences on each and every member of Society presenting not only the Policy Makers and Government perplexed with these emerging issues but the whole society is in front of a host of complex new issues over the last few years, from encryption to broadband access. One of the most vexing problems however is not a new issue, but an age-old legal control. This is true that the Internet and computers have brought tremendous benefits to our society, including greater freedom of expressions and economic growth. But we must also recognize that as a result of our society's increasing reliance on technology, investigators and prosecutors at all levels- International, Federal, State, and Local are encountering unique challenges. These challenges can be generally divided into three categories²:

- a. Technological Challenges, which hinders Law enforcement ability to find and prosecute criminals operating online.
- b. Legal Challenges resulting from laws and legal tools needed to investigate Cyber crime lagging behind technological structural and social changes.
- c. Resource challenge to ensure we have satisfied critical investigative and prosecutorial needs at all levels of Government.

QUALITATIVE IMPACT OF INTERNET ON SOCIETY

Lets document the current situation of Internet usage in Society so as to know the quality of the work done. Thus to qualify the impact of Internet on society it is essential to understand the Internet's place in Society as

.

223 Anuradha Parasar, Impact of Internet on Society, Aavishkar Publishers, Jaipur, 2006 (ISBN: 81-7910-170-3)

would help to understand exactly how it is being used. The present research findings indicates that Internet is being used in the following manner:

- E-mail is by far the most common Internet activity as all Users claimed to be e-mailers.
- The Internet today is a giant public library with a decidedly commercial tilt. The most widespread use of the Internet today is as an information search utility for products, travel, hobbies, and general information. Virtually all Users interviewed responded that they engaged in multiple information-gathering activities.
- A little over a third of all Internet Users report using the web to engage in entertainment such as computer games (such as online chess, role games, Counter Strike and the like). Thus the current Internet is also emerging as an entertainment utility.
- All the Respondents claimed to have used chat rooms. And the chatters report that the overwhelming portion of their chat room interaction is with anonymous others whose identities remain unknown.
- Consumer to Business transactional activity-- purchasing, stock trading, online auctions, and e-banking--are engaged in by much smaller fractions of Internet Users, with only a few respondents reported that they had made purchases online and other transactional activities. Thus despite all of the sound and fury, business to consumer commercial online transactions are but in their earliest stages.
- The Internet User reports engaging in on an average in at least 5 different types of activities with a combination of different types of

- information searches, entertainment and games, and some commercial transactional activity.
- The digital divide is real. (But in near future will be diminishing for people). With the increasing Internet penetration in India it is most likely that the demographic characteristics of the Internet population will rapidly become similar to the characteristics of the general population.
 - Rather than weakening community, the Internet supplements existing face-to-face and telephone contact. Heavy Internet Users have a greater overall volume of contact with community members.
 - Frequent Users of the Internet have a more positive sense of online community with friends and family. However, frequent Internet Users have neither a higher nor a lower sense of overall community.

Thus whether the Internet has positive or negative social impact, however depend upon the quality of people's online activities and what they give up to spend time online. Thus the statistical analysis of the quality of online activity is showing healthy usage by majority of the Youth in particular and Indian Society in general with few exceptions. Thus quality wise Internet usage is not showing any negative consequences amongst the majority users where as a few exception 5-7% are still there where they are showing negative dimension of Internet Usage.

Thus Qualitatively the Impact of Internet on Society can be seen in three basic ways, which has been discussed below:

1. **The Internet decreases Society:** The Internet through its entertainment and information capabilities draws people away from family and friends. Further, by facilitating global communication and involvement, it reduces interest in the local community and its politics.

2. **The Internet transforms Society:** The Internet provides the means for inexpensive and convenient communication with far-flung communities of shared interest. Through its low costs and asynchronous nature it increases communication among friends and family, especially contact with those who are far away.

3. **The Internet supplements Society:** The third perspective sees the Internet as another means of communication to facilitate existing social relationships and follow patterns of civic engagement and socialization. The Internet blends into people's life. People use the Internet to maintain existing social contacts by adding electronic contact on to telephone and face-to-face contact. Further, they continue their hobbies and political interests online.

Thus the impact of Internet on Society in these three basic form that is to Decrease Society or Transform Society or Supplement Society or all the three Combined is resulting into the following over all Qualitative impact on Social Structure, Social Function, Social pathology, Social Dynamics and Social Evolutionary:

a. The impact of Internet on Social Structure- The structure of Society due to increasing Internet usage is under Cyber influence. All the constituent unit of Society is being influenced, moulded and changed by Internet usage. All the institutions of the Society whether it is Political, Social, Cultural, Legal, Religious Recreational, Educational, Administrative and all other aspects and Spheres of Society has not been left untouched by Internet. So the present social structure of Society is moving towards Cyber structure as Cyber relations are evolving and growing at exponential rate changing the Postindustrial Postmodernist social matrix into Cyber matrix. The Cyber relations are not today that intact as the notion of social relationship a traditional Society has. But may be in future they will be valued equally. Even the territory of Cyber Society is difficult to define, as Cyber Society is boundryless, limitless and global in nature. Under cyber influence even the definition of community needs to be redefined because the traditional definition of community and Society do not fits into the new paradigm of emerging Cyber Society and community hence there is the need to restructure the dimensions of Society and Community because the nature of sociability through Internet is different.

b. The impact of Internet on Social Function – Internet has influenced the functioning of Society through its instant, prompt, quick and always on services. Thus implications of Internet on the functioning of Society is enormous. Due to the values system which the Internet has i.e. the Physical values such as speed, timeliness, efficiency and productivity, Organizational values such as standardization, systemization, coordination, integration and communication and Psychological values such as equality of access, public

service and empowerment of the individual. All these values of Internet is ultimately becoming the functional Characteristics of Society. That is due to Internet usage now the Society is working very effectively, quickly, Promptly, with always on tendency supplemented with standardization, co-ordination, Integration and communication along with equality of access, public Services and empowerment of each and every individual in the Networked society with loads of Information changing the overall functioning of Society.

c. The impact of Internet on Social Dynamics - The Society today is changing very fast at the click of mouse. The institutions, grouping, associations, community etc under Society are in state of revamping under Internet influence and are moving instantaneously towards Cyber relations. The Society is in flux due to exposure to different cultural patterns across the globe. Thus the social process of acculturation, enculturation, accommodation, integration, contravention, conflict etc are going on at an instant speed due to Internet influences. The mode of interaction and relationship is moving in present Society towards Cyber dimension, which is very dynamic. This dynamic nature of Cyber world is also always in flux due to tremendous changes at every moment. Thus now we are moving toward a very dynamic Society with very instantaneous and tremendous changes in all spheres of Society.

d. The impact of Internet on Social Pathology – The impact of Internet usage is adding new dimension to social pathology. There are different types of ailments in the Society due to Internet usage like- Internet addiction,

Cyber sex, Virtuality considered as reality, Avoidance of face to face relationship, paleness about the real world, More importance to virtual world, Short cut routes from daily activities, Cyber crime, Online gambling, Online shopping, Online Chatting, waste of time, Lots of obscene material resulting into loose morality and value system thus weakening the social institutions like – family, marriage along with attacks from Hackers, Virus writers, Criminal Groups, Denial of service attack, Cyber Terrorists, Cyber War, Sensitive intrusions, Information warfare etc all these are emerging social problems in Society use to Internet usage.

e. The impact of Internet on Social Evolution- Due to Internet usage Society is evolving towards Personalized network and networked individualism at the same time strengthening online and off line relations in which an individual identity can be found related with other individual without any idea of location of space and psychic intimacy. So it is quiet possible that the future course of Social Evolution may be from closely-knit web to the loosely boned network.

QUANTITATIVE IMPACT OF INTERNET ON SOCIETY

The quality wise analysis of Impact of Internet on society is incomplete unless it is further supplemented with quantitative analysis. Hence now lets quantitatively summarize all the empirical findings and responses collectively so as to represent the Impact of Internet on Society taking the help of two-dimensional scale. Till now the discussions and debate were quantitatively tripolar. Hence we will classify collected data into three

different categories that is Positive, Negative and Neutral on account of the following four very important impact related issues which are as follows:

- a. Whether Life is possible without Internet
- b. Whether Internet is Social Facilitator or Inhibitor
- c. Whether Internet is Good or Bad
- d. Whether Internet Usage should be promoted or demoted in Society

Responses to the above queries are as Follows:

- a. Possibility of Life without Internet

Yes	No	Neutral
29%	62%	9%

- b. Internet as Social Facilitator or Inhibitor

Facilitator	Inhibitor	Neutral
83%	5%	12%

- c. All in all Internet is Good or Bad

Good	Bad	Neutral
71%	4%	25%

- d. Internet Usage should be promoted or demoted in Society

Promoted	Demoted	Neutral
87%	2%	11%

Now summing up cumulatively all the responses in the three Categories of – Positive, Negative and Neutral we get the following Outcome:

Positive responses = $62+83+71+87 = 303$

Average of Positive Responses = $303 / 4 = 75.75\%$

Negative Responses = $29+5+4+2 = 40$

Average of Negative Responses = $40 / 4 = 10\%$

Neutral Responses = $9+12+25+11 = 57$

Average of Neutral Responses = $57 / 4 = 14.25\%$

So cumulatively on average in the three different categories of Responses we get 75.75% Positive Responses, 10% Negative Responses and 14.25% Neutral Responses. Since we need to conclude whether impact is positive or negative, we will divide equally the neutral responses into two half and each of the equal half will be added to Positive Response as well as Negative responses so as to represent the impact on two dimensional scale. Because neutral means that they are in both the areas that is positive as well as negative and they cannot decide. So this is the best way that equal half weight age from neutral responses should be added to both positive as well as negative dimension. So the half of Neutral Response is as follows

Neutral Responses = $14.25 / 2 = 7.125\%$

Now lets add 7.125% of Neutral Responses to both Positive as well as Negative Responses. Doing so we get the following results which is Total positive as well as Total negative responses

Thus,

Total Positive Responses = $75.75 + 7.125 = 82.875\%$

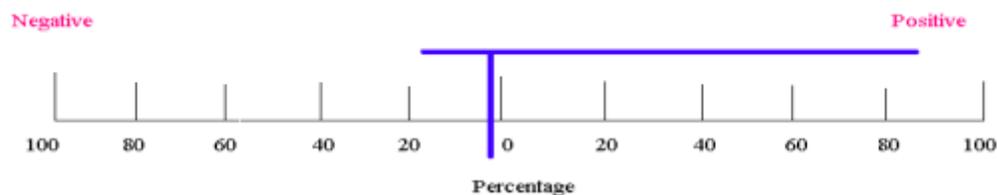
Total Negative Responses = $10 + 7.125 = 17.125\%$

Thus in total we got

Positive Impact Supporters = 83%

Negative Impact supporters = 17%

Thus at the end of the whole we get 83% of the total youth population stating that impact of Internet on Society is Positive and 17% responses stating that Impact of Internet on Society is Negative. Now representing the impact as per the idea stated in the methodology of the present study (Chapter 1) i.e. the impact should be better represented or measured along a two dimensional scale representing jointly positive and negative dimension. We get the following two-dimensional scale



Thus the present thesis concludes that in Indian Society Impact of Internet on Youth till recent past is 83% positive and 17% Negative. Thus the present study concludes that till today that online activities performed by majority of the

Youth in particular and Indian Society in general is healthy with a few exceptions. As Internet Like any other tool, has the potential to help and to harm, depending on how, and by whom, it is used. And it also not possible to be idealist and to think that there should be absolute positive impact because with good comes that bad which is Nature's Law. But Positive influences can be maximized by making Parents, Teachers, other Adults, Family members, Friends and Co-workers responsible to carefully monitor Internet Users in their close ties so that the Internet usage experience can be both meaningful and safer to the individual and Society at large. But the ignorance of 17% impact in the negative direction is too much to create chaos in Society. Hence before negative impact of Internet on Society starts getting further solidified grounding and fruiting increasing the dimension of the scale towards the negative side there is the need to come out with effective efforts to identify, isolate, diagnose and treat all the negative influences so that it may not assume the giant shape of social problems and contributes to dysfunction the state of Society like other problems. Thus till date Cyber Society in India is safe to walk in but if misuse of Internet goes on without check and balances then that day is also not far that with increasing online population in India the positive impact may decrease and negative impact may increase because if Internet can do good to Society easily and quickly at the same time it can also harm Society in the same speed if gone in the wrong hands. Infact the fact remains that that impact of Internet on society is resulting multidimensional socio-cultural changes which in Indian context till today is 83% Positive and 17% Negative. It is all because computer network is a tool, an arena and, as with most tools, it will only be valuable if the tool is used wisely and safely.. And it also not possible to be idealist and to think that there should be absolute positive impact without any negative

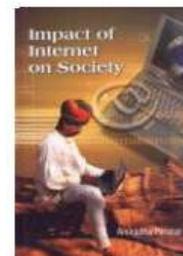
implications because every coin has two faces. But Positive influences needs to be maximized as much as is possible by effective Cyber Socialization, introducing users with Cyber Morality, Socio- Cyber Policies, Cyber Law and Legal Interventions. Thus a proper treatment is needed through the process of Internet socialization in family where the parents can also talk about obscenity and addictive nature of Internet so as to keep a check on the deviance in youth. Also Laws needs to be strengthened so as to avoid cyber misuse and all lacunas in IT Law should be filled so as to get a competent law and investigators to combat cyber Law and Criminals in Society. Thus efforts should be made to nip the problems due to Internet usage in the bud itself which can done by intervention from various agencies of Society like- Policy Makers, NGO's, Government, Legal and Judicial Intervention etc along with awareness, Prevention and precautionary measures education in the masses so as to come out with positive impact as much as we can achieve. Thus the future of community based on on-line networks will be determined by the manner in which these networks are organized and by the selection of technical interfaces through which these networks will be accessed by the common individual member of the society. Ultimately in the end it can be concluded that the Internet has and will pervade all spaces and activities in Indian Society with its ambivalent effect which till today in the context of Indian Youth is 83% positive and Productive and 17% negative and Unproductive as Internet is ambivalent technology with extreme dipolar impact. Thus the average Impact of Internet (with few exception) on Indian Society in General till today is like a Facilitator, Helper, Instructor and updated interactive multimedia oriented information device.

Impact of Internet on Society

Anuradha Parasar, Aavishkar Pub, 2006, viii, 264 p, figs, ISBN : 8179101703,

Contents: Preface. 1. Prologue. 2. Internet - the social technology and social network. 3. Internet usage and social change. 4. Positive impact of internet on society. 5. Negative impact of internet on society. 6. Internet and pressing social issues. 7. Epilogue. Bibliography. Glossary of internet terms.

"For elucidating the impact of internet on society this book has been written with an intention to know the real effect of internet usage on Indian youth thereby to come out with an over all impact of internet on society taking inductive approach with the assumption that internet as a tool will be used in the same way by the people belonging to different caste and class. In this book both the positive and negative impact of internet usage has been analysed qualitatively as well as quantitatively along a two dimensional scale highlighting the impact of internet on Indian youth in particular and Indian Society in general. This book also raises many issues for concern about cyber world." (jacket)



Impact of Internet on Society

(ISBN 10: [8179101703](#) / ISBN 13: [9788179101704](#))

[Anuradha Parasar](#)

- **Bookseller:** Vedams eBooks (P) Ltd (New Delhi, Delhi, India)

