

GROWTH OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY **AND** **COMMUNICATION**

One of the factors that triggered globalization was the IT Revolution and since reforms there has been no turning back. Use of Information technology has taken over manufacturing and services sectors all over the world. It has provided employment to millions of people in tertiary sector. Outsourcing and BPOs have been responsible for a rapid rise in the annual domestic product of the country. In 2011 annual revenues from the BPO sector is estimated to have aggregated revenues of over 88 billion U.S.Dollars.

Bengaluru, also known as India's Silicon Valley, continues to be home to several of India's flourishing IT Companies including Infosys and Wipro. The top seven cities that account for almost 90 % of the exports in the IT sector are Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Delhi and Kolkata. Because of these companies India is fast gaining recognition as a knowledge economy.

This sector is responsible for generating direct employment to the tune of 2.3 million in 2009-10 and is estimated to reach nearly 2.5 million by the end of the year 2010-19.

The communication sector or the Telecom industry is growing at a dizzying pace. Use of internet , Global Positioning System, telephones, mobile phone, fax, video conferencing has brought all the countries closer and turned the world into a 'global village'. India had the fourth largest number of internet users of around 100 million in 2010. There were as many as 826.93 million total wireless subscribers in the country by the end of April 2019. It is projected that wireless communication will continue to fuel growth in the telecom sector increasing the subscription base to 9.159 billion by 2013.

Among leading mobile operators in India are Bharti Telecom, followed by Reliance, Vodafone, idea and then the state-owned BSNL.

9.5 IMPACT OF IT AND COMMUNICATION

Positive impact:

The IT sector has truly achieved global integration through increased connectivity. It has cut across linguistic and geographical barriers making it possible for persons in distant nations to easily communicate with one another.

It has enabled inter-mingling of cultures, exchange of opinions and ideas thereby creating strong bonds and reducing prejudices.

Use of wireless phones and internet has made communication speedier, environment-friendly as it is paper-free and cheaper. Video conferencing makes it possible for people however far apart to engage in a direct interaction. This has enabled people to work from home, meetings to take place among many individuals even if they are in different parts of the world, etc.

E-mails can be checked on phone; financial transactions can be carried out over phone; social networking sites are linked to phone to keep oneself updated with the events in the lives of our friends and relatives; all this has made communication devices an indispensable part of our lives.

The benefits of Information Technology and communication facilities have spilled into various areas of business, health care, defense, environment and so on. The quick access to information has removed time lags in decision-making, increased productivity and cut costs effectively. It has made work less strenuous and salaries more lucrative.

Technology has made it possible to buy and sell anytime from any place and have the goods delivered at one's doorstep. Electronically markets can operate day and night because of the internet.

A lot of new jobs have been created especially in the IT sector. For ex. Software programmers, Hardware developers, Systems analysts, Web designers and so on.

Remote Sensing Satellites are used for various purposes such as land use mapping, drought and flood mapping, forest cover mapping etc. to study the impact of industrial activities, mining on environment.

Negative Impact:

Increased computerization has led to overmanning and with efforts at cost cutting to streamline business processes a lot of jobs have been made redundant. This has aggravated the unemployment problem. Mobile phone have made people accessible at all times encroaching into their personal time with friends and family.

Technology is dynamic and keeps changing on a daily basis which makes it impertinent for professionals in this field to upgrade their skills and knowledge regularly. Otherwise they face the risk of losing their jobs. Hence there is no job security.

There are new forms of offences such as cyber crime and hacking which threaten to compromise the privacy of individuals.

Exposure to western influences have led to certain cultures being imbibed and their lifestyles, language, dress and behavior being imitated. However, while some changes may be positive, this also brought in consumerism and reckless spending habits which are corroding the traditional value systems.