Societal impact through Technological Development: A study of Dimapur Town

Lamkhotinthang Chongloi

Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
St. John College Dimapur, Nagaland, India

Abstract: **Technological development has brought a dramatic shift in the society. Nagaland is also one of the most transparent states toward technology in NE India. One of the most commonly used and abused means of internet in Nagaland today are social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, where the majority of the populace spend their productive hours in socializing. When we look at the present development sets of globalization, human beings have transmitted more in its negative path since it leads to increase a gap between the rich and poor, mentally and spiritually within societies. However, accepting modernity through technological development is not bad, but it would be better if we use positively and limitedly.**

Index Terms: **Dimapur, Internet, Mobile Phone, Modernity, Nagaland, Technology, Transmission.**
_____

I. INTRODUCTION

Nagaland is a state in the far north-eastern part of India which borders the state of Assam to the west, Arunachal Pradesh and part of Assam to the north, Burma to the east and Manipur to the south. The state capital is Kohima, and the largest city is Dimapur. The state of Nagaland has an area of 16,579 km2 with a population of 1,980,602 as per the 2011 census making it one of the smallest states of India. It is a largely mountainous state where griculture is the most important economic activity in Nagaland. Principal crops include rice, corn, millets, pulses, tobacco, oilseeds, sugarcane, potatoes and fibres. Other economy boosters are forestry, cottage industries, insurance, real estate and tourism. Dimapur district was inaugurated as the eighth district of Nagaland in December, 1997 with a population of 3,78811 according to 2011 census. Earlier it was a sub-division under Kohima district. Besides being referred to as a gateway of Nagaland and Manipur, main commercial activities of the State, is centered on Dimapur the district headquarter. Dimapur district in Nagaland is bounded by Kohima district on the south and east, Karbi Anglong district of Assam on the West, the Karbi Anglong and stretch of Golaghat District of Assam, in the west and the north. The only railhead and airport of the State is located in Dimapur, the district headquarter. The National Highway 39 connects the State capital kohima and also connects the neighbouring States of Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram. The district headquarter is distinct in its character where all the different communities have congregated, portraying a mini India. The development of technology has made this city more convenient and modern.

II. TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Nagaland has been ranked top among states in the North East region when it comes to internet readiness. In a report titled 'Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States' published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Nielsen, Nagaland topped the list among the North East states. It was followed by Manipur and Tripura. However the overall ranks of the North East states were significantly low in terms of overall internet readiness. Internet readiness index is a composite benchmark of four components, i.e, e-infrastructure, e-participation, IT Environment and government e-services. All four components have been given equal weightage in the model. Nagaland also leads in terms of IT environment and performs moderately well in other categories to get to the top. Significantly, even within smaller states, the northeastern states ranked low in terms of overall Internet readiness. It may be noted that Nagaland was also recently awarded the CSI- Nihilent e-Governance Award by the Computer Society of India for the year 2015-16 for outstanding performance in e-Governance. Nagaland was the first state in the country to commission the pilot project for National Information Infrastructure (NII) on January 6, 2017 by the Chief Minister in presence of Joint Secretary, MeitY, Government of India. Nagaland also has the largest BPO (Call Centre) in the North Eastern Region with 400 seats and the first phase was commissioned on January 27, 2017. It was also the first state to take over State Portal and State Services Delivery Gateway (SP&SSDG) core infrastructure project, where the State IT Department is running the State Data Centre without engaging private Data Centre Operator where the State is acting as Service Centre Agency without engaging private companies for running Common Service Centre and the first state in NE to implement Aadhar based Biometric Attendance System in Nagaland Civil Secretariat. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology Secretary Aruna Sundararajan said while releasing the report "The combination of various indigenous digital platforms along with innovative and disruptive startups holds the greatest scope for digital transformation in India. The country today has 3 million point of sale (POS) as compared to 1.5 lakhs POS earlier which is clearly a transformation," added Sundararajan. He further stated that Niti Aayog and other ministries of the government are increasingly trying to see that which states are leading in best practices.

III. FLUIDITY OF INTERNET

One of the most commonly used and abused means of internet in Nagaland today are social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat, where majority of the youths populace spend their productive hours in socialising. Accessing social networks in Dimapur through the internet is not a new thing, it had a humble origin when Yahoo! Messenger was launched in the city.This revolutionised communicating around the world, and Dimapur town was not behind in catching up with the new fever. These social networking sites fuelled the internet engine and kept it running till Facebook came into the scene and took over as the new king of social networking. Studies reveal that today, 2.4 billion people or roughly 37.3% of the world's total population uses the internet; 70% of which uses the internet every day and 8 new people are introduced to the internet every second. It is estimated that the internet usage has increased by 566% since 2000. This huge upsurge in internet usage can be attributed to mobile devices that an individual possess, serving both as the essential means of communication and also a symbol of status for some. However, religious grounding often continues to be important identities which constitute the social maps for regulating public social relations and provide the means for copying the inner world. When we look at the present development sets of globalization, human beings have transmitted more in its negative path since it leads to increase a gap between the rich and poor, mentally and spiritually within societies. Therefore, *should moral be core for identities at all?* Identity should be well integrative and instinct towards individual, because it can persuade in various way and set apart one's own traditions through a series of development especially via, Computer, Mobile Phone, Internet and so on towards modernity.

Transmission of identity is highly associated with personal experience which is mostly non-verbalized and even via consciousness. However, religious rooted identities would thus be mutually acknowledged by others. Interaction between modernity and culture may also easily produce tensions which can leads to serious conflicts in one's life, since *Modernity* literally implies internal attitudes and not external. So, to avoid those conflicts, we have to learn how to deal and live with those close to us. One-sidedly jumping on the band-wagon of anti-globalization is not a helpful attitude if we want to transform the conflicts and find a solution or else we should use technology objectively and wisely, because technological progress in the early civilization aims to protect the environment and the life of human beings. However, human beings tend to pursue external modernity in life to their own advantage. This tendency leads to an imbalance between human being needs and the spiritual values through excessive embrace of technology from a spiritual vantage point.

Now, let's remember that the whole world is *one-web* of consciousness. It is a relationship between me and you, my thought and your thought, between all of us and all of your ways of thinking. So if our consciousness be transformed in such a way that we want to devote ourselves to each other positively and always enrich our religious identity, then technological development and globalization will spread with good seeds. So let's accept globalization positively which can bring the whole world as *one family* of love and peace rather than accepting anti-globalization especially the Technological Development via Phones, Mass Medias, Internets and so on. Freed from this 'tradition-bound' mind-set an individual has to 'reconstruct' the mindset or self-identity from a plurality of roles. Let's all remember that, using excess of *Internet* can lose our faith, physical and mental ability as well change the mode of relationship in a society. Back in 1990, about 8 percent of the U.S. population had no religious preference and by 2010 this percentage had more than a doubled to 18 percent which leads to lose their religion because of excessively embracing internet which is the world strongest tool of media.

IV. IMPACT OF INTERNET

The biggest negative impact of Internet is the 'Internet Addiction Disorder'Teens can develop Internet addiction due to various reasons like trying to escape loneliness and depression, social anxiety, and intense desire to search for knowledge. More recently, Montag et al published their study titled, 'The Role of the CHRNA4 Gene in Internet Addiction: A Case-control Study', in the Journal of Addiction Medicine. According to this study, the rs1044396 polymorphism on the CHRNA4 gene exerts "pleiotropic effects on a vast range of behaviours, including cognition, emotion, and addiction." Individuals with this polymorphism may be predisposed to Internet addiction.

Anxiety, sadness and depression: Teens who spend most of their time in the virtual world gradually move away from the real world and start living in a world of fantasy. After a certain period, they become dependent on the Internet to feel upbeat. And, when they are unable to access the Internet, they start experiencing anxiety, sadness and depression.

Unable to keep schedules: Teens use the Internet to do a lot of things like looking for information, corresponding, paying bills, and doing financial transactions. However, in the case of Internet addicts, they spend most of their time engaged in browsing, chatting or gaming, instead of doing what they are actually supposed to do. Also, they are unable to keep track of the time they spend in doing such activities. As a result, they are not able to keep up with their schedules.

Sleep deprivation: Most teens nowadays own smartphones and/or tablets, which they carry with them wherever they go, even to the bed. They also use these devices to hook on to the Internet before going to sleep to catch up on what's happening around them. While normal teens may log off after a while, those addicted to the Internet keep browsing for long hours. As a result, they suffer sleep-related issues like late sleep time, insufficient or restless sleep, and late waking time. This sleep deprivation/disturbance can also worsen or magnify symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Social isolation: Those who spend a lot of time on the Internet tend to become a part of one or several online communities. They end up developing close friendships or intimate relationships with a lot of individuals. To remain connected with these individuals, Internet addicts stay online for long hours. Owing to such behaviour, Internet addicts often end up isolating themselves from their families and peers.

Dishonesty and lying: Almost all Internet addicts understand that they have a problem. However, when confronted or questioned by family members, friends or employers, they try to conceal their habit. They try to do this by either lying or being dishonest about the time they spend on the Internet.

Mood changes: Internet addicts use the Internet to reduce their stress and boost their mood. They feel happy or euphoric when they are connected to the Internet. However, if they have to stop using the Internet or are unable to access it, they become gloomy or irritated and angry.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion accepting modernity through technological development is not bad, but it would be better if we use positively and limitedly. So, if we let spiritual value creates a circle of positive relationships then awakening of our inner values will be reflected around and then after, accepting the world will mean working for peace. And thereafter religiously rooted social identities would thus be mutually acknowledged by others than simply eyeing on modernity. I believe that we cannot live better than seeking to become better so let's welcome change as to rule but not as our ruler which can change our internal identity flame for better future in Dimapur Nagaland.

REFERENCES

[1] Mayer E, Richard, "The Cambridge Handbook of Multimedia Learning" pp. 10-30, 2014

[2] Hwei Hsu and Debjani Mitra, " Analog & digital communication" pp 25-57, 2017

[3] B.P. Lathi, Zhi Ding, "Modern Digital and Analog Communication Systems"

[4] Nagalandstat.com

[5] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320735394, Nagaland-At, a Glance

[6] Parsons, Talcott, "Sociological theory and Modern Society" New York, Free Press, pp-25-85, 1967