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Technology: Boon or Bane (An Essay in 500 words)

Technology is the application of scientific knowledge into practical life. Technology has grown as an extraordinary power to us. Technology is an implementation of knowledge creatively to make human life easier. The advancement of new technology has brought a revolution in the 21st century to make it the “Era of Data, Science and Technology”. Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, Mr Bill Gates said “The advance of technology is based on making it fit in so that you don't really even notice it, so it's part of everyday life.”

In the 17th century, the term ‘technology’ was used in discussions on applied arts. The word ‘technology’ is developed in a combination of two Greek words: ‘techne’, which means art or craft and ‘logos’, which means word or speech. The technological revolution is categorised into three levels of Relation Revolution, Sectoral Revolution and Universal Revolution. These revolutions have advanced the major fields of applications in the human era like medical applications, scientific explorations, communication, construction techniques, energy generation, food production, education system, manufacturing industries, military applications, etc.

Science has contributed technology in at least four ways:

1. Exploration of new ideas and knowledge for new technological exploration and possibilities
2. Invention of new tools and techniques to make engineering knowledge more efficient for valuation of the feasibility of designs
3. Practicing technology in the field of research to develop new human skills and extend capabilities
4. Innovative knowledge base for implementation in research applications and developments to refine technology in a newer way.

These contributions of science enable technology to advance mankind through ease of access to information, time-saving facility, ease of mobility, better communication infrastructure, cost efficiency, better learning techniques, improved economical structure and last but not the least, implementation of artificial intelligence.

But there is another side of the coin too. Technology innovation has brought not only benediction to mankind but also condemnation. Excessive use of modern technology in terms of the mobile, personal computer is creating multi-faced mental disorders like causing distraction in the human mind, lack of concentration in study, social isolation, health problems, etc. Besides, Technological advancement in the forms of industrialization, the establishment of infrastructures are inflicting gruesome damages to natural habitats of animals, environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, etc.

Today, technology is a part and parcel of human life. But the reality could be harsh unless we learn to use it very carefully. The Earth is the primary home of mankind and several lives and generations ahead and we must care for our home and other habitats. Human needs to be self-critical to make the technology a blessing, by using it through proper innovation and spirit of overall well being of all living beings in the planet. But the technology could be a curse for the planet if we do not advocate for responsible use of technology.