

**“SCIENCE HAS PREVENTED THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF HUMAN RELATIONS. WITH THE ADVENT OF INVENTIONS SUCH AS THE INTERNET, TELEVISION AND COMPUTER GAMES, WE ARE NOW WITH A LIFELESS COLLECTION OF MICROCHIPS, NOT EACH OTHER.”**

#### ADDICTED TO TECHNOLOGY

Gone are the days of writing letters, of gathering together with friends every evening to play games. Gone are the days when people used to get together and talk with each other or have discussions and debates over cups of tea. In today's world, people have been substituted by the Internet, the television and computer games.

Nowadays, we no longer receive letters handwritten by our loved ones. Instead, messages are conveyed in short, abbreviated words through mobiles or e-mails. The computer has become the playground for the children of today. Here, they press a few keys and control the lifeless robots on the screen. There is no spirit of cooperation or sportsmanship. People sit glued to their television sets. They feel irritated if someone comes to visit them while they are watching their favourite serials. Computer, Internet, and television are the new drugs to which people have become addicted. Is this what we want?

We have befriended the unfeeling things and alienated ourselves from society and life. The aim of science is to make people's lives easier, not lifeless and mechanical.

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#### ONE SIDE OF THE COIN

No! I don't agree with the above proposition. It is only one side of the coin. The other side of the coin is, they can be put to good use also. Although inventions like Television, Internet and Computer Games have reduced our socialization, their various applications like Tele Conferencing,



Video Conferencing, Internet, Intranet, mobile telephony with its various applications like taking videos, recording conversations, in additions to phone conversations are helping keep in touch with all our friends, office personnel and relations wherever they are; thus improving our communications, business, knowledge, security, and entertainment.

Many modern advances such as new medicines, vaccines, MRI scans, Colonoscopy, Endoscopy/surgery, Laproscopy/surgery, Laser Therapy, Nanotechnology etc. have made us healthier and increased our longevity. Home appliances like refrigerators, coolers, vacuum cleaners mixies etc. have made things easier for people in general and housewives in particular-by reason of

which we have more time on our hands. Of course, we shouldn't use this time glued to our TV sets and Internet or in playing computer games hours on end. At least half of this time, we should constructively use in socializing with others and reaching out to them in times of their genuine needs; besides playing outdoor games like cricket, badminton, football, tennis etc make us physically and mentally stronger.

Ms. Nirmala P. Rao

#### COMMUNING WITH MICRO CHIPS

Over the years, more and more scientific discoveries in the world of



miniaturization have led to humans communing with micro-chips, capable of creating an animated and exclusive world of his own before him. Man has not looked back since, as the larger human relations have increasingly got perverted by these 'Toms and Jerrys' of science.  
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#### HELPING RELAX

The world has become globalised today. Now with the help of the Internet we

can do almost every important work related to study, research and office. Television is a great source of entertainment. It also helps people living in remote areas of the world to bring about changes in their lifestyle. Computer games help the children to relax thus reducing the burden of studies.

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#### ESSENTIAL FOR TRUE PROGRESS

It is absolutely wrong to say that that science has perverted the fundamental basis of human relations. Rather, science has made it possible to communicate with our relatives at any distance and at any point of time through Internet, mobiles, etc. Science has even made it possible to reach news to any part of the globe through television, radio, etc. Today, in this fast growing urban world, where we lack green fields, science has given back our recreation in the form of computer games. It has made possible to store a huge amount of information in just a microchip. Thus, science is for our benefit and is essential for the foundation of true progress.

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**HUMANS FIRST NOT HUMANOIDS**

Humans are social animals. The most basic character is their interaction with each other and understanding themselves very well is the fundamental basis of human relations. With their superb thinking power and creativity they have now developed a world totally based on technology. Unlike earlier, humans have now developed technology to communicate with each other. The invention of the Internet, TV and computers has taken us to another world where Artificial Intelligence is everything. We are now less communing with each other in leisure, instead are busy with computer games, TV and web browsing. These lifeless collections of microchips have almost replaced humans.

Nowadays people communicate using the virtual world created on the net. This trend needs to be checked. The new technologies are meant to help humans, not to replace them. Interaction with each other instead through these chips will increase our skill in every aspect of life. Playing computer games cannot help us face life as interacting with people around us can.

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**LOST IN A SEA OF LIFELESS MICROCHIPS**

Communication, as the name suggests, is the exchange of ideas between two or more than two persons in a meaningful way. Today, the ideas are here, the exchange is here but the process of

communication is highly distorted—for it is acutely devoid of human touch and more to the point of increasingly becoming an exchange between a person and a machine wherein the machine is stepping into a human's shoes. Our expressions of self, of our individuality are getting lost in a sea of lifeless microchips.

In pain, in gain, for tuition, for advice, from entertainment to each and every aspect of life, we, the human beings have only one shoulder to cry on, to share and to laugh, and that is the computer and Internet. We have replacement for each and every thing in the form of "e-x", x being books, media, mails etc. No doubt, soon we would be having "e-parents/friend/teacher/".

The latest form of bond between friends is through social networking sites like Orkut and Facebook. From top to bottom, you click like or dislike or at the most leave a comment on someone's status. The word 'endangered' today applies to the lost human emotions in the crowd of electronic gadgets.

Gone are the days, when the idea of a cricket bat as a birthday gift was good enough to bring a smile on a kid's face, when, the entire vacation meant spending time at grandparents' place. On the contrary, today one wouldn't like to spend his/her vacation at grandparents' place for fear of losing "CONNECTIVITY." Microchips have emerged as the single largest substitute for a healthy vacation, outdoor games etc. and hence the sole reason for increasing the

communication gap within generations.

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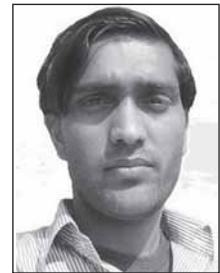
**HUMAN RELATIONS MOST IMPORTANT**

Science has indeed mechanised our lifestyle today. In the process of turning scientific equipments into slaves man has today become a slaves of science. People no longer want to visit their near and dear ones. This is due to the availability of modern technologies such as internet. The urge to socialize with each other has been lost amidst televisions, computer games, internet, etc. The concept of communal life has been totally altered. There is no space for heart to heart relations between people today. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to be logical in the use of scientific appliances and not destroy human relations.

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**INCREASE SOCIALIZING**

There are two sides to the coin. On the one hand, technology has subverted us to a great extent, so much so that for many of us, our lifestyle has become sedentary giving rise to many diseases. On the other hand, there are social networking sites that have certainly made it more convenient to get in touch with people with whom we have lost contact. They have also helped business, especially small businesses. They can be helpful in networking for employment purposes also.



Of course, the decrease in face-to-face communication is often listed as the most significant con, and it certainly is one; but I have also encountered several situations where people have initiated contact with others through social networking sites because they provide privacy and opportunity that would normally be unavailable to them.

Science has given us many sophisticated gadgets and tools. It depends on us how we are going to use them. We can enjoy social life if we minimize the time spent on net for social networking and try to socialize with friends and neighbours.

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**HUMANS RESPONSIBLE**

"Science has perverted the fundamental basis of human relations"- this statement is true but science cannot be blamed for this. Rather it is we humans that have allowed science to control our life to such an extent that today we are more connected to microchips than to people we have relationships with. Scientific inventions such as the Internet, television and computer games are also very useful. The

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

Internet helps us to stay connected to our friends and relatives all the time. We can access a world of information through the net. The television nowadays has become such an integral part of life that children as well as adults cannot think of their lives without the television.

Nowadays with rapid urbanization, industrialization and rapid growth in population land has become very scarce. Due to this scarcity of land playgrounds and parks for children are disappearing. When they find no open place for playing they turn towards computer games to satisfy their thirst for playing. So we are responsible for the children's growing attraction towards computer games.

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### WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

Throughout the ages, science has profoundly affected humans. However, the last few decades have witnessed an exponential growth with breakthroughs in the field of microchips, Internet, etc. Despite the spectacular achievements there is a growing realization, as well as concern, that we are becoming increasingly dependent on e-gadgets and human interaction is steadily declining. In the future, robots will play a more dominant role and humans will rely on them for their daily chores. The ubiquitous microchip will have more relevance to

humans than human themselves. Undoubtedly, the various discoveries have made serious inroads in human relations. Should we not pause and ponder on where we are heading?  
Dr Shiv Kumar, Jaipur

### FROM SOCIAL PLEASURE TO SOLITARY STATUS

Science has not perverted anything; it is we who are extracting the scientific essence every moment for our materialistic and sensual pleasure. Discoveries and inventions have contributed towards the progress of the society as well as the civilization. But there are merits and demerits. For instance, discovery of the energy mass transformation theorem ( $E=mc^2$ ) and testing of the same on innocent people applying human jealousy. Then, in the high tech era of cell phones, people talk on cell phones even on roads and while driving causing everyday chaos. And computer games have become the added pleasure in microfamilies.

Today life has changed from the earlier pure pleasure with family members, localities, books etc to indifferent solitary status belonging to lifeless collection of microchips in various forms.

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### COMMUNICATE WITH HUMANS

The fundamental basis of human relations is communication between them. These days this communication has

drastically diminished. People remain busy with computer games, watching movies etc and have no time to communicate with each other. Microchips have become our biggest friends. But they are lifeless and can't communicate with us. So, we should come out of the world of microchips & televisions and move on the earlier path where we communicated with other human beings.

Enamul Hassan  
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### HUMAN RELATIONS LOST

The Noble Laureate Richard Feynman had very rightly remarked, 'the difficulty with science is often not with the new ideas, but in escaping the old ones. A certain amount of irreverence is essential for creative pursuit in science.'

It is true that with the advent of inventions like the Internet, television and computer games, we are now communing with a lifeless collection of microchips and in turn have perverted the fundamental basis of human relations. A few years ago, the Silicon Valley used to be a place run by scientists and engineers, people like Robert Noyce, the physicist who helped invent the integrated circuit and co-founded Intel. In those days, the Silicon Valley was focused on making semiconductors and computers and software. But, these days we have Facebook, Twitter, and Zynga. Facebook keeps us in touch with our friends; and has been

bombarding its 500 million members with advertisements earning huge amounts of money. Twitter is a noisy circus of spats and celebrity watching, and its founders still can't figure out how to make money. Zynga generates still higher amount of money this year by getting people addicted to cheesy games like Farmville and Mafia Wars, then selling "virtual goods" for the use of the games.

Meanwhile, among some longtime techies, there's a sense that something important such as human relations has been lost. At the same time, we have already fallen behind in scientific areas like alternative energy, batteries, and nanotechnology. Experts say that instead of racing to catch up on scientific pursuits, which are the fundamental necessities of human beings, we are buying seeds and garden gnomes on Facebook. And if this continues too long this won't end well.

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### NO, WE HAVE BECOME MORE SOCIAL

Not at all. Science has brought people together by means of transport, communications etc. The social networking sites that have millions of members are good examples to show that human beings are becoming more social.

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*Now write in your thoughts on this topic:*

**“Corporal punishment should be allowed in schools.”**

*Be short, crisp and logical. Send in your photo, if you like.*