

Knowledge, Technology and Empowerment in Contemporary Scenario

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Abstract : This paper investigates the relationship among knowledge, technology, and empowerment. In Physics power is defined as rate of doing work. In everyday use, the meaning of the word power is related to the capacity to bring change of value in the world. It appears that the popular aphorism “Knowledge is power” should be revisited in the context of contemporary states of affairs. For instance, classical mechanics is a system of knowledge, so also thermodynamics. But neither of them, per se, is sufficient to produce automobiles. Boolean algebra, the logical foundation of digital electronic computers, was introduced by George Boole in 1847. But that knowledge was practically useless for almost one hundred years until digital electronics was developed in early twentieth century, which eventually led to invention of digital electronic computers. Empowerment of women is a burning issue in the arena of social justice. However, if we carefully analyze the functional elements of women’s empowerment, we find them to be highly technology driven as well as technology dependent in real life. On the other hand, technology has empowered modern states to maintain social order and promote democracy in an effective manner. This paper includes a few case studies to establish the close correspondence between knowledge, especially scientific knowledge, technology, and empowerment. It appears that in contemporary scenario, “Technology is power” is a more appropriate statement than the traditional aphorism “Knowledge is power”.

Keywords : knowledge, science, technology, empowerment, change, social justice

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