

Information Society: Concepts And Definitions

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ABSTRACT:

The current article deals with the concepts and definitions of the information society. The article considers the concept and formation of the information society. The main features of the information society are identified and studied. The role of the state in the formation of the information society is also considered.

Açar sözlər: informasiya cəmiyyəti, post-sənaye cəmiyyəti, informasiyalaşdırma, informasiya texnologiyaları, ictimai informasiya, İKT, informasiya siyasəti.

Annotasiya:

Bu məqalədə informasiya cəmiyyətinin konsepsiyaları və anlayışları nəzərdən keçirilir. Məqalədə informasiya cəmiyyətinin konsepsiyası və formalaşması nəzərdən keçirilir. İnformasiya cəmiyyətinin əsas xüsusiyyətləri müəyyənləşdirilib və öyrənilir. İnformasiya cəmiyyətinin formalaşmasında dövlətin rolu da nəzərə alınır.

Ключевые слова: информационное общество, постиндустриальное общество, информатизация, информационные технологии, общественная информация, ИКТ, информационная политика.

Аннотация:

Настоящая статья затрагивает понятия и определения информационного общества. В статье рассматривается концепция и формирование информационного общества. Определены и изучены основные особенности информационного общества. Рассматривается также роль государства в формировании информационного общества.

Information society-the concept of a post-industrial society; a new historical phase of the development of civilization, in which the main products of production are information and knowledge.

The concept of the information society is a kind of theory of post-industrial society, based on Z. Brzezinski, E. Toffler and other Western futurologists. Thus, the information society is, first of all, a sociological and futurological concept, which believes that the main factor of social development is the production and use of scientific, technical and other information (1).

“Post-industrial society,” Z. Brzezinski asserts, becomes a technotronic society-a society that, in cultural, psychological, social and economic relations, is formed under the influence of technology and electronics, especially developed in the field of computers and communications. “The technocratism of the development of our civilization influences the nature of the perception of reality by the individual, it destroys the traditional ties within the family and between generations; social life, despite the growing trends towards global integration, is increasingly fragmented (3). It is this paradox, according to Z. Brzezinski, contributes to the collapse of the old foundations for the community of people and forms a new global

vision of the world.

Considering social development as a “change of stages”, supporters of the theory of the information society associate its formation with the dominance of the “fourth”, information sector of the economy that follows agriculture, industry and economy of services. It is argued that capital and labor as the basis of an industrial society give way to information and knowledge in the information society. The revolutionary effect of information technology leads to the fact that in the information society classes are replaced by socially undifferentiated “information communities” (1).

The authors of the concept of “information (post-industrial) society” never came to a common opinion about what is primary - the spiritual or material sphere. For example, K. Jaspers and E. Toffler considered the moment of the new “wave” the changed existence of man and his environment. M. McLuhan paid more attention to the media and counted the starting point of Gutenberg’s printing. “Only in the conditions of the mass distribution of printed words, private entrepreneurship, and the democratization of society on the basis of suffrage, are possible, since it is the word printed, not oral and not even written, that the initial element is formed, and the central agent of such a social system is an atomized, individuality (2).

However, with the diversity of views of different authors on the course of historical development, they all note that:

1) History is divided into three main global stages, which can be conditionally called “agricultural”, “industrial” and “postindustrial”;

2) The distinction between the stages is based on the production relations or the interaction of man with nature (through tools, through machinery or technology, through information);

3) The transition to the next stage is carried out through a scientific and technological revolution, during which the habitat changes, which, in turn, leads to transformations in the minds of people;

4) The final historical stage, which, according to some philosophers, has already come and, in the opinion of others, comes in the near future, is the “information society”, and for culture the post-modern era is coming.

Unfortunately, the authors of the concepts of the “information society” (with the exception, perhaps, of Toffler) did not give enough space to consider the question of what consequences its offensive will bring for the cultural life of mankind. A.I. Rakitov divided the process of formation of the information society into five stages (information revolutions):

I. The first is the spread of the language.

II. The second is the appearance of writing.

III. The third is mass printing.

IV. The fourth - the information revolution - consists in the use of electrical communication (telephone, telegraph, radio and television), which immediately grows into the fifth.

V. The fifth stage is distinguished by the use of computers, the use of databases, local and global computer networks. At this stage, technological changes accompanying information revolutions are integrated. In this connection A.I. Rakitov emphasizes that in the near future this will have a huge impact on all civilizational and cultural processes on a global scale. J.-F. Lyotard believes that “as society enters an era that is called post-industrial, and culture - in the era of postmodernity, the status of knowledge changes -” knowledge is already and will be the most important, and perhaps the most significant, stake in world rivalry for power “.

The distinctive features of the information society are:

□ increase the role of information and knowledge in the life of society;

□ an increase in the share of information communications, products and services in the gross domestic product;

□ creation of a global information space that provides:

□ effective informational interaction of people, their access to world information resources and

□ satisfaction of their needs in information products and services.

Criteria for the transition of society to the postindustrial and information stages of its development (according to IV Sokolova): socio-economic (employment criteria of the population); technical; space (4).

The socio-economic criterion is estimated by the percentage of the population en-

gaged in the service sector: if in a society more than 50% of the population is employed in the service sector, there has come a post-industrial phase of its development; if in a society more than 50% of the population is engaged in the field of information and intellectual services, the society becomes informational.

By this criterion, the United States entered the post-industrial period of its development in 1956-1960. (California - "Silicon or Silicon Valley" - overcame this boundary in 1910), and the information society of the United States became in 1974.

Technical criterion assesses information weapons.

The early phase of informatization of society occurs when the specific information armament is reached, which corresponds to the deployment of a sufficiently reliable long-distance telephone network. The concluding phase corresponds to the achievement of problem-free satisfaction of any information needs of each person at any time of the day and in any point of space (5).

The space criterion makes it possible to note the possibilities of real observation of mankind from outer space, since informatization has led to the fact that the radio emission levels of the Sun and the Earth have become closer in certain parts of the radio range.

Additional criteria of the transition of society to the information stage of its development: a society is considered informational if: any individual, group of persons or organization anywhere in the country and at any time can receive any information and knowledge necessary for their vital activity for a fee or free of charge on the basis of automated access; in society, modern information technology is produced and available to any individual, group or organization; there are developed infrastructures that ensure the creation of national information resources in a volume corresponding to ever-accelerating scientific, technological and socio-historical progress; there is a process of accelerated automation and robotization of all spheres and branches of production and management; there are radical changes in social structures, as a result of which there is an expansion of the scope of information activities and services (6).

The information society differs from a society dominated by traditional industry and

services by the fact that information, knowledge, information services, and all industries related to their production (telecommunications, computer, television) are growing at a faster pace, are a source of new jobs. That is, the information industry dominates in economic development.

There is no single definition of the information industry. However, developed countries have accumulated certain experience in the statistical measurement of the information industry. For example, in Canada, a new classification is proposed in the section "Information Technology and Telecommunications" (ITT), which combines telecommunications, mass broadcasting and computer services (7).

Regardless of the statistics, it is clear that the dynamism of technological modernization of modern society poses two main questions for society: Will people be able to adapt to change? Will new technologies generate a new differentiation of society?

The most significant threat of the transition period to the information society is the division of people into those who have information, who are able to handle information technologies, and who do not possess such skills. If new information technologies remain at the disposal of a small social group, the stratification of society is inevitable.

Despite the dangers of information technology: expand the rights of citizens by providing instant access to a variety of information; increase the ability of people to participate in the political decision-making process and monitor the actions of governments; provide an opportunity to actively produce information, and not just to consume it; provide means of protecting privacy and anonymity of personal messages and communications (8).

The development of information technology affects all aspects of society: the economy; politics, science, culture, education. However, the most important impact is on civil society and public administration. The potential for citizens to directly influence governments raises the question of transforming existing democratic structures. With the help of new communication technologies, it becomes possible to implement "referendum democracy implemented through a referendum. Referendum (from the Latin referendum - what should be reported) or plebiscite - in state law, the

adoption by the electoral body of a decision on constitutional, legislative or other domestic and foreign policy issues. “

On the other hand, the infiltration of information technology into the privacy of people can threaten the privacy of citizens. The price for convenience, the speed of transmission and receiving information, a variety of information services - a person must constantly report personal information to other information systems - the loss of anonymity (9).

In connection with the special sensitivity to the collection of personal information in the documents of the European Community, the following recommendations are proposed: collection and storage of the identifiable information should be minimal; the decision to open or close information must be left to the people themselves; when designing information systems, it is necessary to take into account the need to protect personal information; citizens should have access to the latest technologies to protect their privacy; protection of personal information and personal life should become the central point of the policy ensuring the right to anonymity of citizens in information systems.

Intensive introduction of information technologies in state bodies enables: bring them closer to citizens, improve and expand services to the public; increase internal efficiency and reduce costs for the public sector; to stimulate the creation of new information equipment, products and services by the private sector through an adequate state policy.

The following principles should be applied to access to public information: information should be open to all; basic information should be free of charge. Reasonable price should be assigned if additional processing is required, bearing in mind the cost of preparing and transmitting information, plus a small profit; continuity: information must be provided continuously, and should be of the same quality.

As a rule, the reason for failures in the implementation of projects for introducing information technologies both at the level of enterprises and the state is the inability to combine technological innovations with organizational innovations.

The rapid development of ICT, the convergence of computer systems, communications of various types, the entertainment in-

dustry, consumer electronics industries lead to the need to revise the notion of the information industry, its role and place in society. Many countries are now adopting new laws, restructure the activities of state bodies responsible for the formation and conduct of information and telecommunications policies (7).

State information policy is the regulating activity of state bodies aimed at the development of the information sphere of the society, which encompasses not only telecommunications, information systems or mass media, but the whole set of industries and relations related to the creation, storage, processing, demonstration, transmission of information in all its types - business, entertainment, scientific and educational, news, etc.

Such an extensive interpretation of the information policy seems to be justified today, as the digitalization of information and the latest telecommunications and computer technologies are intensively blurring the barriers between the various sectors of the information industry.

Comprehensive consideration of the processes taking place in the information sphere of society, modern methods of its state regulation is very important. The existing attempts to write the concepts of the information space only partially solve the problem, since the space itself is formed not so much by the state as by the market and new commercial structures. Analysis of foreign practice of regulating the information sphere of society allows us to identify a number of areas, including: encouraging competition, combating monopolism (control over the concentration of property in the media, issuing permits for mergers, solutions for the disintegration of large monopoly companies); ensuring the right and technical opportunities for access to information and information resources for the entire population; observance of freedom of speech; protection of interests of national minorities, the younger generation in the information sphere; protection of the national cultural heritage, language, opposition to cultural expansion of other countries; ensuring information security; protection of intellectual property, combating piracy; the fight against computer and high-tech crimes; control over the use of information and telecommunications technologies in public institutions; censorship in global

computer networks (9).

The most significant trends in the foreign information industry in recent years include the revision of the previously established rules for its regulation: the deregulation of the telecommunications market, which allows cable, telephone, cellular, satellite and other companies to compete in each other's markets; weakening control over the concentration of property in various media. As a result, both vertical and horizontal integration of information markets and the means of its transmission takes place.

The development of the information industry and new information relations is largely stimulated by world processes in this area - the deregulation of the telecommunications market, the privatization of state-owned telecom operators, the creation of new information conglomerates that include both information delivery (cable and telephone networks, satellites, computer systems, etc.), as well as content producers - television and film studios, publishing houses, news agencies (4).

At the moment, there is a wave of mergers of the world's largest information companies into large associations that will monitor the market for the creation and dissemination of mass information in the next century. These transformations are the response of leading information companies to the opportunities created by new technologies and changes in the regulation system of the information industry.

The persistence of competition, the fight against the monopoly of individual producers or firms providing services is the cornerstone of state regulation. In the field of telecommunications, associations of various companies at the national and interstate levels occur necessarily with the permission of the relevant authorities, in the United States it is the Federal Communications Commission and the Ministry of Justice that determine whether the merger of two or more companies will lead to the emergence of a monopoly that will eliminate competition and, as a consequence, with In the course of time, it will reduce the quality and variety of services provided to the business world and the population, leading to higher prices. All major American companies, such as AT & T, Microsoft, IBM, television companies that are currently looking for partners in their own and foreign markets, are under the

scrutiny of these bodies (5).

We can draw the following conclusions:

Information society is one of the theoretical models used to describe a qualitatively new stage of social development, in which developed countries entered with the beginning of the information and computer revolution. The technological basis of the society is not industrial, but information and telecommunication technologies.

Information society is a society in which:

1. Information becomes the main economic resource, and the information sector takes the first place in terms of the rate of development, the number of employees, the share of investment, the share of GDP. ITTs are becoming the main means of increasing production efficiency, strengthening competitiveness in both the domestic and global markets.

2. There is a developed infrastructure that ensures the creation of sufficient information resources. This is primarily a system of education and science. There is a redistribution of resources in favor of science and education. In the US, the so-called accumulated human capital is three times larger than the assets of all US corporations. The main form of ownership is intellectual property. In the competition for the world championship there is a new factor - the level of development of information infrastructure and industry.

3. Information becomes the subject of mass consumption. Information society provides any individual with access to any source of information. This is guaranteed by law (military and state secrets are also determined by law) and technical capabilities. There are new criteria for assessing the level of development of society - the number of computers, the number of connections to the Internet, the number of mobile and fixed phones, etc. The legal basis of the information society is being developed.

4. A unified integrated information system is formed on the basis of technological convergence (the merger of telecommunications, computer-electronic, audio-visual equipment). Unified national information systems are being created (in the USA - in the 1980s, in Western Europe - in the 1990s).

5. The information society is formed as a global one. It includes: world "information

economy”; a unified world information space; global information infrastructure; forming the world legal and legal system.

In the information society, business activity flows into the information and communication environment. Forming a virtual economy, a virtual financial system, etc., which poses the most difficult questions about the mechanisms of their regulation and connection with the real, “physical” economy.

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