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Information Society Development Trends: Philosophical Analysis of Basic Concepts

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Abstract: Philosophical analysis of the basic concepts of the information society involves the disclosure of its essence, understanding the roles and meanings of general information flows, in which a person is included as a part of nature and an element of the universe, determines promising directions. Moreover, each concept has its own approach to the study of the information society and, ultimately, considers its individual aspects using its own research methods.

Keywords: Philosophical analysis, research methods, human civilization

Recently, in connection with the civilizational and ideological attitudes of the current state of human civilization, interest in the problems and prospects of the information society - a society whose level is decisively determined the quantity and quality of accumulated information, optimization of conditions to meet information needs based on the formation and use of information resources.

Philosophical analysis of the basic concepts of the information society involves the disclosure of its essence, understanding the roles and meanings of general information flows, in which a person is included as a part of nature and an element of the universe, determines promising directions. Moreover, each concept has its own approach to the study of the information society and, ultimately, considers its individual aspects using its own research methods.

D. Bell is one of the founders of the concept of the information society, the scientist defines it through a set of strategic resources such as theoretical knowledge and information.

Science and modern technology have become turning points in modern history, which open up prospects for achieving high results, raising production at a qualitative level, increasing material wealth and are reflected in social relations.

The information society, according to D. Bell, has a centralization of theoretical knowledge, creates intelligent technologies, changes the nature of human labor activity (including expanding the possibility of using female labor), interacts with production and mechanisms of social regulation. “The dominant role of theoretical knowledge, the domination of theories over empiricism and codification of knowledge into abstract systems of symbols that can be applied to a variety of very different situations ”[1].

D. Bell considers the existence of a classless society with existing local professional groups, in which the level of knowledge and qualifications are the main criteria for competitiveness, is another essential feature of the information society.

The material and spiritual spheres in the information society develop according to different laws and to some extent oppose each other; they have different orientations and have their own attitudes. In this, D. Bell sees the threat of a rupture of cultural and social life of the information society.

Thus, in the concept of D. Bell, a special role is played by the analysis of the ongoing changes in the methods of organizing and processing information, in which the computer plays a central role. Aspects that need to be considered as conditions for the existence and development of the information society: transition to a “society of mutual services”; the need for codified theoretical knowledge for implementation technological developments and innovations; transformation of the new "smart technology" into a special tool for systems analysis and decision-making theory.

The concept of E. Toffler, who also studied the phenomenon of the information society, suggests a "wave" development of society. The scientist does not give a direct definition of the information society, but reveals its main features.

[1] Bell D. The Coming Post-Industrial Society: experience of social forecasting. - M .: Academy, 1999.p. 5.

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Qualitative changes in industrial production are taking on new forms; technologies involve the development of various types of equipment, goods and services. In this regard, there is a fragmentation of the specialization of labor; organizational forms of management are expanding. This process entails behind itself the need for a new technology leading to the renewal of social relations and to the creation of a super-industrial civilization. One of the important indicators is the ongoing changes in the structure of power associated with the special role of knowledge, the priority of mental abilities. Knowledge acts as a factor production, and economic success depends on the ability to use valuable information. Human labor activity, according to E. Toffler, turns in the process of the influence of people on each other with the help of information, having a feedback reaction of the impact of information on people.

A special place in the concept of E. Toffler is occupied by the problem of unemployment, which he sees not in quantitative, but in qualitative characteristics. In this case, it is necessary note the inconsistency of the problem: on the one hand, it may be the result of the development of technology; on the other hand, the development of technology can contribute to the creation of new jobs. In this case, there is a need to rethink the terms "work", "employment", unemployment ".

Along with other researchers of the information society, E. Toffler addresses the problems occurring in the systems "man-nature", "society-nature" and the global problem of war and peace, noting their inevitability as a result of the development process. “Humanity may not perish from the fact that the pantry of the earth will be exhausted, nuclear energy will get out of control or the tormented nature will perish. People will die out because they cannot withstand psychological stress ”[2].

Thus, E. Toffler integrated ideas and facts from various fields of knowledge: economics, politics and law, sociology, technical sciences, psychology, cultural studies, etc. In the concept of E. Toffler there is a general scheme of understanding

of all processes taking place in society, and also determines the direction of transformation of some social institutions. Aspects of human existence are being transformed; The computer, high technology and knowledge are becoming symbols of the information society.

Another researcher A. Touraine discusses the phenomenon of "programmable society" and defines it as an advanced stage of modernity, in which a special role occupies the ability to create models of management and production, organization, distribution and consumption. The mechanisms of society functioning work not according to natural laws, but are the result of the influence of society on itself. "Acting person" has the ability to directly influence development economy and society; obtaining and using knowledge and information as a special kind of resources.

In T. Stonier's research, the information society is defined through the concept of "information". According to the author, it represents capital that can be accumulated, stored and used. In this case, information resources become the main economic value. The use of information leads to an increase in human knowledge, and exchange promotes cooperation in society. "Industry in the new society in terms of general indicators of employment and its share in the national product will give way to the service sector, which will be mainly collection, processing and various types of provision of the required information"[3].

The famous American futurist G. Kahn analyzes the concepts of "information" and "intelligence", thereby clearly distinguishing between the spiritual and material spheres of society. Intelligence is knowledge (in the broadest sense of the word) and has non-standard and specificity. Information has a material basis, formal character and is accessible to a wide range of people.

Despite the fact that G. Kahn in his concept seeks to separate these concepts - "information" and "intelligence", human progress is impossible without their combination. “It is difficult to make the distinction between intelligence and information clearer, but when intelligence is introduced into the system, this happens to a lesser extent due to the accidental (or planned) presence of the right people, in the right place, at the right time "[4].

[2] Toffler E. Shock of the future. - M .: OOO "AST Publishing House", 2002. pp. 5.
[3] ... Stonier T. Information Wealth: Profile postindustrial economy // New technocratic wave in the West. - M., 1986.pp. 335.
[4] Kan G. Coming rise: economic, political, social // New technocratic wave in the West. - M., 1986.pp. 195.

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A philosophical analysis of the basic concepts of the information society led the author to the following conclusion. Researchers focus on the essential important aspects of the information society, so they complement each other, contributing to the development of a deeper and more complete understanding of it.

The information society accelerates information flows and transforms the structure of information, influencing the daily life of a person. It provides powerful communication tools for people to interact in an intelligent environment. In the information society, there are two types of relationships: real and virtual (alienated), each of which develops according to its own rules.

Trends in the development of the information society suggest: the priority role of information in comparison with other resources; changes in the nature of production, transformation of needs and value systems; special attention is paid to the storage, processing and use of knowledge using the latest technologies; obtaining and competent use of all types and forms of information, which are the determining factor in successful self-development in the information society; information technologies are acquiring a global character, information unity is being formed based on the principle of its accessibility.

It is necessary to note a number of problems arising in the information society: fundamental uncertainty of the essence of information; the problem of selecting high-quality, reliable information; the problem of adaptation to the information environment.

The solution to such problems of the information society is possible, and consists in the following aspects: support for scientific research and development in the field of information and communication technologies, as well as their timely introduction and ensuring the availability of information for every person; ensuring information security of a person and creating an effective system for ensuring his rights (protection of personal data, prohibition of the dissemination of illegal information, copyright, etc.); training in the ability to receive, process, store and effectively use information, both quantitatively and qualitatively; detailed study information culture (network principle, virtual character, change in the meaning and role of personality), since it determines the socio-cultural life of a person and his material being. Thus, an integrated approach to the study of the problems of the information society will allow solve a number of problems and, as a result, will affect the improvement of the quality of life in general.

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