TECHNOLOGY IN MEXICO

Social classes have a great influence on almost all aspects of life in Mexico. The social class where you reside affects enormously how you live, at least in Mexico. There is a wide gap between the low and middle class. Above the gap, technology is up to date with the rest of the world. Technology in Mexico, technically, is on par with the leading powers of the planet. Mexico has countless of technological advances that can be found in any developed country. Modern computers, smartphones, tablets, irrigation systems, modern infrastructure and many other technological advances are common through Mexico. However, below the gap, technology is scarce and below the accepted standard. The social class of any individual can define how much access to technology he has. Mexico’s top technology can compete with almost any other worldwide, but the problem is, it is only available to around 40% of the population.

Mexico has had a handful of scientists that have contributed enormously to technology and science throughout history. For instance, Guillermo González created the first color television (television showing images and video in color) in 1939. In 1951, Luis Ernesto Miramontes was the first to synthesize norethisterone, which is a basic component of modern contraceptive pills. As well, in 1904, Everardo Rodriguez and Luis Romero invented the “Tortilla Machine” which drastically improved the production of tortillas throughout the world, especially in Mexico. Its significance is immense, as tortilla is the basic alimentary unit in the diet of the average Mexican. Mexican inventors and scientist have contributed in a small scale compared to other countries, but technological advances are happening and technology is progressing every day.

Mexico’s technology ranges from electronic devices to specialized biomedical technology. However, Mexico’s technology is not the best regarding the military. Neither
chemical nor nuclear weapons are currently used within Mexico Army’s ranks. Mexico does have the capability of producing nuclear weapons, as nuclear facilities are quite common throughout Mexico, but they have pledged to not construct nuclear weapons. Mexico accepted and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In addition, drones are still not used in Mexico’s military. As of 2013, programs have emerged to develop and maintain drones inside the ranks of the army. Still, no actual drones have been produced nor used, as the programs are still in development. Drones from the United States have been active in Mexican territory to help Mexico deal with the drug dealing cartels. Moreover, Mexico has had few problems regarding international affairs. Mostly, Mexico’s problems are within the inside, dealing with poverty, inequality and drug dealing cartels. Mexico’s technology within armed forces has been used almost exclusively inside the country, as the war on drug dealing, continues.

The internet is one of the best technological advancements in the last millennium. The internet, has allowed information, regarding almost all topics, easy to access and of a very low price. As well communications are extremely simpler, efficient and easier with the internet. The World Wide Web has become an enormous “library” of information and one of the most used forms of communication. It is no wonder why internet is being implemented in education and used by more people as each day passes by. According to INEGI, in Mexico, around 41% of the population has declared themselves as “internet users.” This number has increased from 11% in 2002, to 41% in 2012. The other 60% don’t use the internet for a variety of reasons. The main one being that the people can’t afford entering the World Wide Web. Sixty percent of non-users don’t access the internet due to lack of resources. Another 22% don’t, because of “no need of using it,” 8% for no proper hardware and/ or software, 2% for disinterest, and 9% for other
reasons. A low of 26% of households in Mexico have access to the internet from the respective home. This 26% compares to the 97% of South Korea, and 72% of United States.

Problems have risen due to the constant and extremely fast development of technology. Cyber security has become an important issue. Nowadays, a computer hacker can cause severe damage to an individual or an institution. Personal and important information can be leaked through the internet, as websites and databases gather information of millions of people. An efficient hacker could easily steal the information of any individual or an important corporation. There have been several cases where this has happened in Mexico. For instance, in September of 2012 several hackers took over 10 government websites in protest of the elections of the same year. The government was able to regain those websites in the following weeks. Moreover, studies show that Mexico is amongst the countries that are more often threatened by hackers in Latin America. Regardless of all the cybernetic safety issues, the government does little about them. They will only act if the security of the government or government officials is threatened. The government has laws that protect rights of privacy on the internet but they are ignored and not properly enforced.

Mexico has technological advances that can be compared with any other country in the world. Mexico is becoming more modern with time, but this lead to good and bad consequences. Modernity leads to better technology and its application, which gives more efficient and effective artifacts that make daily life easier and more pleasurable. However, this technology is widening the gap between the low and middle economic classes. Unfortunately, the lower class represents almost 60% of the population. The influence of technology is causing even more inequality in Mexico. There is no doubt that technological and scientific advancements have positive effects on countries but, it can also have negative effects on them.