



The Role of Technology in the Economy

Khan Imdadullah¹

Abstract

Technology has always played a vital role in economic development, but its impact has become increasingly significant in recent decades. Technological advancements have led to new industries and products, increased productivity, and improved efficiency in existing industries. This has resulted in economic growth, job creation, and higher living standards. Some specific examples of the role of technology in the economy. The development of e-commerce has revolutionized the retail industry. Online retailers can reach a global audience and offer a wide range of products at competitive prices. This has led to the closure of many traditional brick-and-mortar stores, but it has also created new jobs in the logistics and customer service sectors. E-commerce has also made it easier for small businesses to compete with larger retailers. Technology is constantly evolving, and its impact on the economy is likely to continue to grow in the years to come.

Keywords: Retailer, Technological advancements, Productivity, Job creation

1. Introduction

Technology can also create new opportunities for economic growth, development, and competitiveness. Technology can improve the quality and quantity of goods and services produced by using different types of economic resources, such as capital, labor, land, and natural resources (Justman, M., & Teubal, M. 1991). For example, technology can help farmers to increase their crop yields, reduce their costs, and protect their environment. Technology can also enable the development and application of new ideas and inventions that can solve existing problems or create new possibilities. For example, technology can help scientists to discover new sources of energy, cure diseases, or explore space (Sosin, K., Blecha, B. J., Agarwal, R., Bartlett, R. L., & Daniel, J. I. 2004). Technology can also foster the creation and diffusion of knowledge and information, which are essential for innovation and learning. For example, technology can help researchers to collaborate across borders, access global databases, or publish their findings (Dosi, G., Orsenigo, L., & Sylos Labini, M. 2002). Technology can also influence the demand and supply of goods and services in the market, as well as the prices and profits. For example, technology can create new markets or products, increase consumer preferences or expectations, or lower production costs or barriers to entry (Gordon, R. J. 2002).

¹ PhD Scholar, Lincoln College University, Malaysia

Technology can also affect the social and environmental aspects of the economy, such as income distribution, employment, education, health, culture, and sustainability. For example, technology can create new jobs or skills, improve living standards or well-being, or reduce poverty or pollution (Tassey, G. 1991). As you can see, technology has a significant impact on the economy in various ways. However, technology is not a magic bullet that can solve all economic problems. Technology also poses some challenges and risks, such as inequality, unemployment, ethical issues, or security threats (Dedrick, J., Gurbaxani, V., & Kraemer, K. L. 2003). Therefore, it is important to have appropriate policies and regulation that can maximize the benefits and minimize the costs of technology for the economy and society.

2. Literature Review

This article review examines the role of technology in economic development from a literature perspective. It discusses the different ways in which technology can impact economic growth, and highlights some of the key challenges and opportunities associated with technological change (Helpman, E. (Ed.). 1998).
Impact of Technology on Economic Growth:

Technology can impact economic growth in a number of ways. First, it can lead to increased productivity. When workers have access to better tools and technologies, they can produce more goods and services in a given amount of time (Audretsch, D. B., Lehmann, E. E., & Wright, M. 2014). This can lead to lower costs and higher profits for businesses, which can then be reinvested in further innovation and growth. Second, technology can create new jobs and industries. As new technologies emerge, they often create new markets for goods and services (Malecki, E. J., & Malecki, E. J. 1991). This can lead to the creation of new businesses and jobs, and can boost economic growth. Third, technology can improve the efficiency of markets. By reducing information costs and transaction costs, technology can make it easier for buyers and sellers to find each other and make deals. This can lead to more efficient markets and higher economic growth (Brooks, H., & Guile, B. R. (Eds.). 1987).

Challenges and Opportunities: While technology has the potential to boost economic growth, it also presents some challenges. One challenge is that technological change can lead to job displacement (Tassey, G. 2008). As new technologies are adopted, some jobs may become obsolete. This can lead to unemployment and social unrest. Another challenge is that the benefits of technological change are not always evenly distributed. Some people may be able to adapt to new technologies more easily than others. This can lead to inequality and social division (Madsen, J. B., Ang, J. B., & Banerjee, R. 2010). Despite the challenges, technology also presents significant opportunities for economic development.

Developing countries can leverage technology to leapfrog traditional stages of development and achieve rapid economic growth (Bhattacharya, M., Rafiq, S., & Bhattacharya, S. 2015). Technology can also be used to address some of the world's most pressing problems, such as climate change and poverty. Technology is a key

driver of economic development. It has the potential to increase productivity, create new jobs, and boost economic growth (Truffer, B. 2008). However, it is important to manage technological change carefully in order to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the benefits.

3. Methodology

The role of technology in the economy is a complex and multifaceted topic. Economists have used a variety of methodologies to study the impact of technology on economic growth, productivity, and employment (Koh, W. T., & Wong, P. K. 2005). Some common methodologies include:

Quantitative analysis: This involves using statistical methods to analyze data on technological change and other economic variables (Smulders, S., & De Nooij, M. 2003). For example, researchers might use regression analysis to estimate the relationship between investment in research and development (R&D) and economic growth.

Qualitative analysis: This involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data, such as interviews with business leaders and policymakers (Yousefi, A. 2011).

Qualitative research can be used to understand the motivations behind technological innovation and the challenges that businesses face in adopting new technologies.

Case studies: This involves in-depth analysis of specific industries or companies to understand how technology is impacting their operations. Case studies can be used to identify best practices for technological innovation and to develop policies that support economic growth (Pohjola, M. 2000). In addition to these general methodologies, economists have also developed a number of specialized tools to study the impact of technology on the economy (Carlaw, K. I., & Lipsey, R. G. 2003). For example, some researchers use computable general equilibrium (CGE) models to simulate the effects of technological change on different sectors of the economy (Arthur, W. B. 2017). Others use growth accounting to estimate the contribution of technological progress to economic growth.

4. Data Analysis

A number of studies have examined the relationship between technology and economic growth. A 2019 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that a 10% increase in investment in research and development (R&D) leads to a 1.5% increase in GDP growth over the long term (Magomedov, I. A., Murzaev, H. A., & Bagov, A. M. 2020, May). Another study, published in the journal *Science*, found that technological progress accounted for about half of all economic growth in the United States between 1950 and 2010.

Technology and job creation: Technology can also create new jobs, even as it disrupts existing ones (Connolly, M. P., Hoorens, S., & Chambers, G. M. 2010). A 2017 study by the McKinsey Global Institute found that automation could displace up to 800 million jobs worldwide by 2030. However, the study also found that new jobs

would be created in fields such as healthcare, education, and customer service (Landau, R., & Rosenberg, N. 1986).

Technology and productivity growth: Technology can also lead to productivity growth by making it possible to produce more goods and services with fewer inputs (Erumban, A. A., & Das, D. K. 2016). For example, the development of agricultural machinery has led to a dramatic increase in crop yields, and the development of manufacturing robots has led to a dramatic increase in the efficiency of manufacturing processes.

Businesses are using technology in a variety of ways to boost their bottom lines. For example, businesses are using big data analytics to gain insights into customer behavior and preferences, and to develop more targeted marketing campaigns (Rooney, D. 2005). Businesses are also using artificial intelligence and machine learning to automate tasks, improve decision-making, and develop new products and services.

Challenges and opportunities: The rapid pace of technological change presents both challenges and opportunities for the economy. On the one hand, it can be difficult for businesses and workers to keep up with the latest trends (Kumar, N. 2003). On the other hand, new technologies can create new opportunities for businesses to grow and create jobs. Some specific examples of how technology is being used to boost the economy:

E-commerce: E-commerce has made it easier and cheaper for businesses to reach customers around the world. This has created new opportunities for businesses of all sizes to grow and create jobs (Coccia, M. 2018).

Mobile technology: Mobile technology has revolutionized the way we live and work. It has made it possible to access information and services from anywhere, at any time. This has created new opportunities for businesses to reach customers and improve productivity (Dittmar, J. E. 2011).

Cloud computing: Cloud computing has made it possible for businesses to access computing resources on demand, without having to invest in their own infrastructure (Khan, S. A. R., Ponce, P., Thomas, G., Yu, Z., Al-Ahmadi, M. S., & Tanveer, M. 2021). This has reduced costs and made it easier for businesses to scale up and down as needed.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning: Artificial intelligence and machine learning are being used to automate tasks, improve decision-making, and develop new products and services (Li, X., & Wang, C. A. 2017). For example, AI-powered chat bots are being used to provide customer support, and AI-powered algorithms are being used to develop new drugs and medical treatments.

5. Conclusion

In the digital age, technology has become increasingly pervasive, impacting all aspects of economic activity. One of the most important ways that technology contributes to economic growth is by increasing productivity (Barry, A., & Slater, D.

2002). Productivity is a measure of how much output can be produced with a given amount of inputs, such as labor and capital. Technology can increase productivity by automating tasks, improving efficiency, and reducing costs. For example, the development of the assembly line in the early 20th century revolutionized manufacturing by automating many tasks that were previously done by hand (Sultanuzzaman, M. R., Fan, H., Mohamued, E. A., Hossain, M. I., & Islam, M. A. 2019). This led to significant increases in productivity and economic growth.

Similarly, the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in recent decades has had a major impact on productivity in many sectors of the economy. For example, ICTs have enabled businesses to streamline their operations, improve customer service, and reach new markets (Bassanini, A., Scarpetta, S., & Visco, I. 2000). Technology also creates new jobs. As new technologies emerge and existing technologies become more widely adopted, new jobs are created in the development, production, and support of these technologies. For example, the rise of the internet has created new jobs in web development, social media marketing, and e-commerce. In addition to creating new jobs, technology can also lead to job displacement as some tasks are automated (Yoo, S. H., & Kwak, S. J. 2004). However, studies have shown that the net effect of technology on employment is positive in the long run. As new technologies create new industries and jobs, they also lead to the decline of old industries and jobs. However, the number of jobs created typically outweighs the number of jobs lost.

Technology also improves the quality of life by providing access to new goods and services, improving healthcare and education, and making transportation and communication more efficient (Li, Y., Dai, J., & Cui, L. 2020). For example, the development of the smartphone has revolutionized the way we communicate, access information, and shop. Similarly, advances in medical technology have led to new treatments and cures for diseases, and advances in educational technology have made it possible for people to learn from anywhere in the world. Overall, technology plays a vital role in the economy, driving economic growth, creating new jobs, and improving the quality of life. As technology continues to evolve, it is likely to have an even greater impact on the economy in the future.

6. Research Questions

- What are the mechanisms through which technology leads to productivity gains?
- How does technology affect inequality?
- Does technology exacerbate or reduce inequality?
- How can technology be used to promote inclusive economic growth?

7. Gap of Study

Technology has a significant impact on economic growth, productivity, trade, and income inequality. However, the effects of technology depend on various factors,

Imdadullah, K. (2023). The Role of Technology in the Economy. *Bulletin of Business and Economics*, 12(2), 427-434. <https://doi.org/10.61506/01.00037>

such as the level of technological development, the degree of technology diffusion, the type and quality of technology, and the institutional and policy environment.

8. Futuristic Approach

How digital transformation is driving economic change: This article, published by the World Economic Forum, discusses how digital technologies are reshaping markets, business, and work, and creating new opportunities and challenges for economic growth and inclusion. It argues that policies need to be smarter and more adaptive to ensure that the benefits of digital transformation are widely shared and that the risks are minimized. Challenges of change: Technology effects on economic growth and the implications for policy. It examines the paradox of slowing productivity growth despite rapid technological innovation, the impact of technology on income inequality and social discontent, and the need for new thinking and adaptations to realign policies and institutions with the digital economy.

9. Purpose of Study

How Is Technology Changing the World, and How Should the World Change Technology? This article, published by the University of California Press, explores how technological advancements are altering life around the world in both positive and negative ways and what social, political, and legal tools are needed to help shape the development and design of technology in beneficial directions. The purpose of this article is to provide a global perspective on the challenges and opportunities of technology policy and to stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among scholars, policymakers, and practitioners.

References

- Arthur, W. B. (2017). Where is technology taking the economy. *McKinsey Quarterly*, 697.
- Audretsch, D. B., Lehmann, E. E., & Wright, M. (2014). Technology transfer in a global economy. *The Journal of Technology Transfer*, 39, 301-312.
- Barry, A., & Slater, D. (2002). Introduction: the technological economy. *Economy and society*, 31(2), 175-193.
- Bassanini, A., Scarpetta, S., & Visco, I. (2000). Knowledge technology and economic growth: recent evidence from OECD countries. *National Bank of Belgium Working Paper*, (6).
- Bhattacharya, M., Rafiq, S., & Bhattacharya, S. (2015). The role of technology on the dynamics of coal consumption–economic growth: New evidence from China. *Applied Energy*, 154, 686-695.
- Brooks, H., & Guile, B. R. (Eds.). (1987). *Technology and global industry: companies and nations in the world economy*. National Academies Press.
- Carlaw, K. I., & Lipsey, R. G. (2003). Productivity, technology and economic growth: what is the relationship? *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 17(3), 457-495.

- Imdadullah, K. (2023). The Role of Technology in the Economy. *Bulletin of Business and Economics*, 12(2), 427-434. <https://doi.org/10.61506/01.00037>
- Coccia, M. (2018). A theory of the general causes of long waves: War, general purpose technologies, and economic change. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 128, 287-295.
- Connolly, M. P., Hoorens, S., & Chambers, G. M. (2010). The costs and consequences of assisted reproductive technology: an economic perspective. *Human reproduction update*, 16(6), 603-613.
- Dedrick, J., Gurbaxani, V., & Kraemer, K. L. (2003). Information technology and economic performance: A critical review of the empirical evidence. *ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR)*, 35(1), 1-28.
- Dittmar, J. E. (2011). Information technology and economic change: the impact of the printing press. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(3), 1133-1172.
- Dosi, G., Orsenigo, L., & Sylos Labini, M. (2002). *Technology and the Economy* (No. 2002/18). LEM Working Paper Series.
- Erumban, A. A., & Das, D. K. (2016). Information and communication technology and economic growth in India. *Telecommunications Policy*, 40(5), 412-431.
- Gordon, R. J. (2002). Technology and economic performance in the American economy.
- Helpman, E. (Ed.). (1998). *General purpose technologies and economic growth*. MIT press.
- Justman, M., & Teubal, M. (1991). A structuralist perspective on the role of technology in economic growth and development. *World Development*, 19(9), 1167-1183.
- Khan, S. A. R., Ponce, P., Thomas, G., Yu, Z., Al-Ahmadi, M. S., & Tanveer, M. (2021). Digital technologies, circular economy practices and environmental policies in the era of COVID-19. *Sustainability*, 13(22), 12790.
- Koh, W. T., & Wong, P. K. (2005). Competing at the frontier: The changing role of technology policy in Singapore's economic strategy. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 72(3), 255-285.
- Kumar, N. (2003). Intellectual property rights, technology and economic development: Experiences of Asian countries. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 209-226.
- Landau, R., & Rosenberg, N. (1986). *The Positive Sum Strategy. Harnessing Technology for Economic Growth*. National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 22314.
- Li, X., & Wang, C. A. (2017). The technology and economic determinants of cryptocurrency exchange rates: The case of Bitcoin. *Decision support systems*, 95, 49-60.
- Li, Y., Dai, J., & Cui, L. (2020). The impact of digital technologies on economic and environmental performance in the context of industry 4.0: A moderated mediation model. *International Journal of Production Economics*, 229, 107777.
- Madsen, J. B., Ang, J. B., & Banerjee, R. (2010). Four centuries of British economic growth: the roles of technology and population. *Journal of Economic Growth*,

- Imdadullah, K. (2023). The Role of Technology in the Economy. *Bulletin of Business and Economics*, 12(2), 427-434. <https://doi.org/10.61506/01.00037>
- 15, 263-290.
- Magomedov, I. A., Murzaev, H. A., & Bagov, A. M. (2020, May). The role of digital technologies in economic development. In *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering* (Vol. 862, No. 5, p. 052071). IOP Publishing.
- Malecki, E. J., & Malecki, E. J. (1991). *Technology and economic development: the dynamics of local, regional, and national change*. New York: LongmanScientific & Technical.
- Pohjola, M. (2000). Information technology and economic growth: A cross-country analysis.
- Rooney, D. (2005). Knowledge, economy, technology and society: The politics of discourse. *Telematics and Informatics*, 22(4), 405-422.
- Smulders, S., & De Nooij, M. (2003). The impact of energy conservation on technology and economic growth. *Resource and Energy Economics*, 25(1), 59-79.
- Sosin, K., Blecha, B. J., Agarwal, R., Bartlett, R. L., & Daniel, J. I. (2004). Efficiency in the use of technology in economic education: Some preliminary results. *American Economic Review*, 94(2), 253-258.
- Sultanuzzaman, M. R., Fan, H., Mohamued, E. A., Hossain, M. I., & Islam, M. A. (2019). Effects of export and technology on economic growth: Selected emerging Asian economies. *Economic research- Ekonomska istraživanja*, 32(1), 2515-2531.
- Tassey, G. (1991). The functions of technology infrastructure in a competitive economy. *Research Policy*, 20(4), 345-361.
- Tassey, G. (2008). Modeling and measuring the economic roles of technology infrastructure. *Econ. Innov. New Techn.*, 17(7-8), 615-629.
- Truffer, B. (2008). Society, technology, and region: contributions from the social study of technology to economic geography. *Environment and Planning A*, 40(4), 966-985.
- Yoo, S. H., & Kwak, S. J. (2004). Information technology and economic development in Korea: a causality study. *International Journal of Technology Management*, 27(1), 57-67.
- Yousefi, A. (2011). The impact of information and communication technology on economic growth: evidence from developed and developing countries. *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, 20(6), 581-596.