

COMMUNITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY [CST]: FROM MEANING TO POSSIBLE AREAS AND FACET AT A GLANCE

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ABSTRACT

Community Science and Technology [CST] is an important practice and facet for complete societal development. Fundamentally Community Science and Technology may be referred as knowledge structures that deal with community and societal aspects and facets. CST may be defined as application and utilization of Sciences, Technology and Engineering fundamentals to the community and societal development. There are so many sciences and technology areas are already utilized in the community and societal development, but there are relatively less popular as 'Community Science' due to less awareness; these subjects are Food Science, Home Science, Rural Development, Agricultural Science, Horticultural Science, Renewal Energy Science, Fisheries and so on. This paper illustrated so many area and aspect of CST; including meaning, definition, role, values, emerging and possible area of CST and so on.

INTRODUCTION

CST or Community Science and Technology is an important Applied Science domain responsible for societal, community development through the proper utilization of Science and Technological tools. Though it is important to note that, CST as an individual course or dedicated course is not so much popular or not available. Usually community refers to settlement larger than a small village that share common value, thus CST may be defined as a subject responsible and dedicated to a group of community or group of societal people.

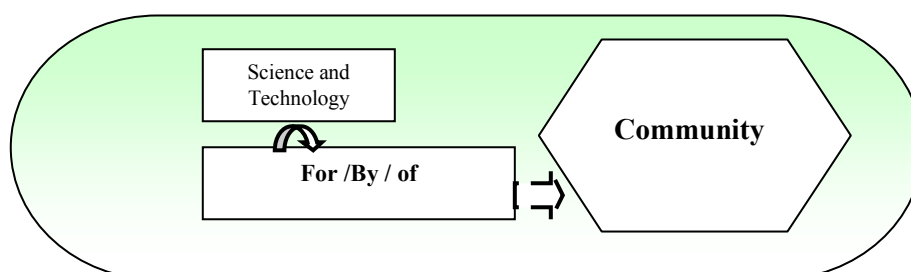


Fig 1. The Root of Community Science and Technology

Today information and communication technology play a valuable role for complete societal development and helping in proper communication among the community. Virtual community is an important significant gradient for building healthy and sophisticated community. Virtually, science and technology are the prime mover of society; thus we need to develop the concept and utilization of community science and technology for further development.

OBJECTIVE

The main aim and objective of this study is includes:-

- To learn about community and community science and technology;
- To know about the general characteristics and areas;
- To learn about the emerging area of community science and technology;
- To know about future potential of CST including its role for community and society development;
- To draw an exact picture for development through CST

Community Science and Technology [CST]: Meaning

CST or Community Science and Technology is an interdisciplinary knowledge facet and field of fields which deal with Community, Society, Science, Technology related facet. Practically CST is responsible for healthy interaction between community or society or common mass with science and technology and advance engineering fundamentals. CST may be defined as more accurately as an interdisciplinary subject responsible for settlement larger than a small village that store common values. This field as academic programme like, MSc-Community Science and Technology or similar is still not so much available in universities or academic institutions. Though indirectly so many subjects are offered by universities and institutions around the world. These programmes are Food Science, Home Science, Rural Development, Agricultural Science, Horticultural Science, Renewal Energy Science, Fisheries and so on.

Community Science and Technology [CST]: General Areas

Community Science and Technology / CST normally is treated as the subject like human development, family relations, food science, family resource management, textile and clothing, mass communication, microbiology, rural development, environment science, sustainable development, communication, ecology, population studies, area and strategic studies, food technology. The general CST subjects are basically offered at science, humanities and applied science department at most of the universities around the world. The general community science and technology [CST] programmes are offered as both Bachelor and Masters Degree.

CST: Emerging and Future Fields

Recently community science and technology gains popularity as a full fledge educational programme not only in abroad but also in Indian universities. Such programmes are offered

as Bachelor Degree like BSc-Family and Community Science, offered by MS University of Baroda, Gujarat and through its affiliated colleges.

Some flavor or specializations are also available in some CST programes like CST with Food Science , such programmes comes with nomenclature like BSc/MSc-CST [Food Science]/ [Home Science]/ [Environmental Science] and so on.

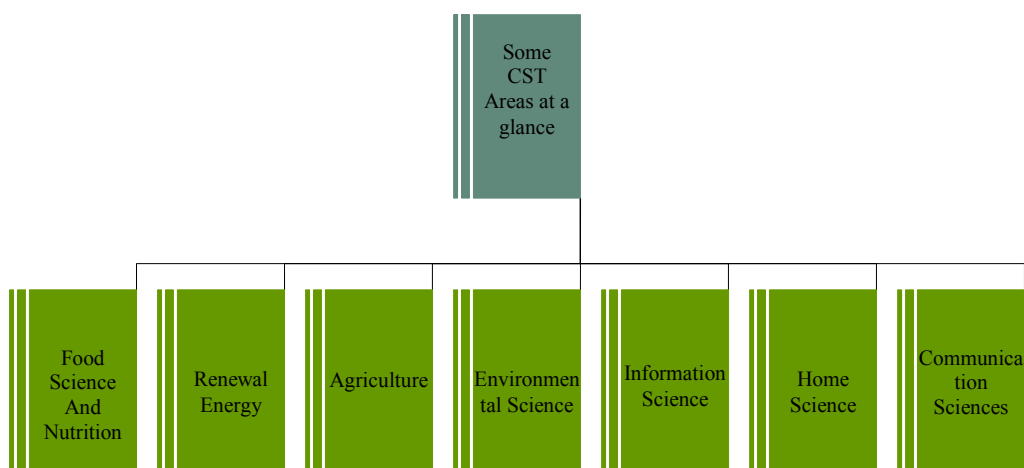


Fig 2. Showing the figures of CST related domain

In India CMS College, Kottayam offers Bachelor of Science in Family and Community Science.

Still Degrees on full fledge CST is very much minimum and rare. The common and emerging trends in Community Science and Technology [CST] may come with a specialization. The probable nomenclature is possible with—

- BSc/MSc— CST [Home Science];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Nutrition Science];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Food Science];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Textile Science];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Renewal Energy];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Agricultural];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Environmental Science] and so on.

Though apart from BSc/MSc some CST Programme are also possible to offer with BTech/MTech nomenclature , the programmes may come with BTech/MTech— CST [Community Informatics]; BTech/MTech— CST [Food Sciences] and so on.

Some more service sciences dedicated to the community development may also enter or available with CST as specialization these are—

- BSc/MSc— CST [Community Computing];

- BSc/MSc— CST [Social Computing];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Community Informatics];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Communication Science];
- BSc/MSc— CST [Information Science] and similar one.

Fundamentally apart from these educational programmes, CST is also possible to offer as Research Programmes with Degrees and Project work. The CST has so many opportunities and possibilities as it is divorcing in nature and based on interdisciplinary Knowledge cluster. Virtually CST Research activities may provide a healthy research environment and science, humanities, engineering and technology may involve together for community natural development in true sense.

Community Science and Technology [CST] and Development

As Community Science and Technology [CST] is an emerging domain and area dedicated to social and community development thus virtually it is play an important role for complete sustainable development. The area like Food Science, Nutrition, and Home Science may be helpful to the common masses regarding their root level application and benefit. Ultimately habit and changing mentality promote the situation; be it Social or Economical. Some community related subjects such as Information Sciences, Information Science and Technology, Social and Community Computing directly and indirectly help in better Information transfer thus; it provides the opportunity of social and economical development.

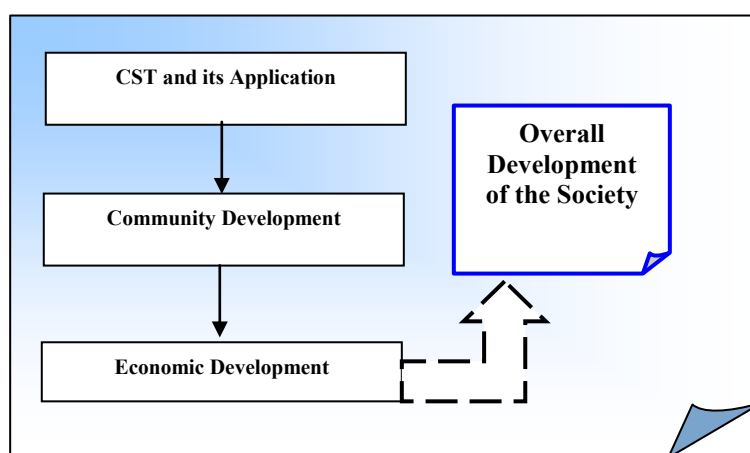


Fig 3. CST the root of societal development

From community development to wider circle which includes societal development, natural and regional development may depend on community science and technology and similar academics by healthy interdisciplinary research to encourage better understating of community related environmental issues.

FINDINGS

- Community Science and Technology as CST is not so much popular in academic and practicing community;
- Community Science and Technology is an interdisciplinary emerging domain incorporated with humanities, sciences, engineering and technological sciences; dedicated to the community and rural development;
- CST may be offer as BSc/MSc or in some cases BTech/MTech nomenclature with full fledge gradients on CST or with specialization depending upon social and community need;
- Still awareness on CST and its benefit for all-round development is minimum in the country like India;
- It is better to offer partial specialization with CST nomenclature for job ready professional development.

CONCLUSION

Community is one of the important names to us. This is the settlement of larger than a small village that share common useless. Thus it includes science, technology and management principles, tools; techniques promote better community interaction and complete development. Community Science and Technology gain some awareness regarding its benefit from both community [Humanities] and science/technology professional as an academic specialization and thrust research area. India needs solid preparation for all round development of CST for Science and Technology.

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