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O 16. THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE ENVIRONMENT: A DISCOURSE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

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ABSTRACT: This paper as a philosophical study critically accessed the paradoxical ideology that while the impact of technology on the environment has been vastly negative, the same technology has been claimed to save our planet. This idea is maintained by WWF, who echoed the same sentiments that though the technology is a solution enabler it is also part of the problem. The term 'technology' itself refers to man's use and application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, as well as the devices and the machinery developed as its result. Our current age termed 'technological age' which began in the mid-20th century is a period of rapid change, where technological developments are revolutionising the way we live, at the same time leading us further into the depths of catastrophe in the form of climate change and resource scarcity. It has been agreed among many authors that it is almost impossible for man to live without technology. From an ethical point of view, this work investigates the worldview and perceptions of people towards technological use. This work identifies the two-emerging worldview: the anthropocentric and non-anthropocentric worldview that drives technological initiation, development, and use. Against the popular notion that the non-anthropocentric worldview will help humans practically solved environmental issues. This work argues that both anthropocentric and non-anthropocentric worldviews are only within theoretical pursue with little practical relevance. This work argues in favour of 'anthropoholism' which is a fusion between the two worldviews for solution the environmental degradation and technological use.

Keywords: Environment, Environmental Ethics, Anthropocentrism, Anthropoholism.