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Effect of Mobile Phone Technology on Moral Development of University Students

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Abstract. The study was conducted to investigate effects of increasing mobile phone usage on moral development of university students. The study was conducted through a questionnaire. The study concluded that students purchase mobile phones for making good social relations and for making an easy contact with teachers and class fellows to deal with their academic issues. However other enticements gradually force young users to spend more time in futile stuff. They also keep unethical material causing decline in moral values. Significant number of participants agreed that mobile phone is causing decline in moral values of students.
Keywords: Effect; Mobile Phone; Technology; Moral Development University Students.

Introduction

Technology is the usage of tools and skills to solve problems and to extend human capacities. Technology is changing rapidly and it has some positive and negative impacts on society. There is no doubt that technological change brings about social change. Industrial revolution, economical progress, development in banking and finance is due to the technology explosion. On the other hand, the technology revolution results in social injustice. Due to less education and requirement of less men power, a higher level unemployment factor is existing in the society that results in depression psychologically. Technology can be dangerous because it occasionally puts great power in one's hand that one cannot ethically and sensibly use such as weapons.

Mobile phone is one of the most commonly used communication medium now days. The main feature of mobile phones is the "Instant access" which makes them the most exclusive device for communication (Norris, 2001).

As modern technology, a mobile phone allows its user not only to make and receive telephone calls but also supports many additional services and accessories, such as; SMS (or text) messages,

Email, internet access, gaming, Bluetooth, infrared, camera, MMS messaging, MP3 player, radio, GPRS and much more (Chiluwa, 2007).

Use of mobile phone has become an integral part of everyday life (Haris, 2009). This technology has some psychological and social impacts also. Socially one can be in touch with family, friends, and colleagues in every time. Mobile phones are lessening the pressure of business and educational work too, so this gives relief psychologically (Gillani, 2007).

On the other hand, people are isolated from social activities and rely only on communication through mobile phones. Psychologically it creates tension and depression when one is unable to make a contact. Not only social and psychological but health problems also have been identified in result of mobile phone use. Cancer, Insomnia and hormonal problems are some of the examples of mobile phone's bad effects on health.

Among others, Students are also using mobile phones to call, text, take pictures and even browse the internet. This advanced technology may show an increasing effect on user's moral development.

Young generation especially the university students are giving more priority to the fashion of using mobile phones(which are only mechanical devices) rather than their education and moral development without knowing the effects of this phenomenon. To much distances among the fellows and unavoidable circumstances are due but the cell phone usage just for the entertainment, time pass, fun, fake calls, etc through jokes and rumors, MMS, music and radio listening, etc is not a healthy practice as this practice spoils the innocent minds adversely.

Methodology
This was a descriptive research study and was approached quantitatively.

Population and Sample Size:
University Students was the concerned population for generalization of results. Total sample of the study was consisted of 200 University students, and it was taken from diverse departments of the selected university.

Tool of the Research
In order to collect the data a close ended Questionnaire as an instrument was developed to explore the effects of mobile phone technology on the moral development of the students. The questionnaire was self designed by researcher on the basis of reviewed literature and personal knowledge about topic. Questionnaire was consisted of 24 items, and each statement will require an evaluation on a five point answering likert scale, with scale points ranging from:

Strongly Disagree   =1
Disagree   =2
No Opinion   =3
Agree   =4
Strongly agree   =5

Data Analysis
The collected data was analyzed statistically using the (SPSS) Statistical package. The collected data was analyzed and presented in the forms of table.

Table :1

Sr. No.	STATEMENT	SCALE (%)				
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
1.	Mobile phone helps to connect students with their teachers and class fellows to deal with their academic issues.	7	12	0.5	55	25.5
2.	Students use unfair means to fulfill their mobile expenses	7.5	29	17.5	33.5	12.5
3.	Mobile phones are promoting the habit of telling lie.	5	18	10	40	27
4.	Night time free packages have a bad effect on student's moral development.	10	5	1	30	54
5.	Student use mobile phones for making good social relations.	8.5	17	13.5	47	14
6.	Show off through expensive mobile by the students is creating inferiority complexes among poor students.	5.5	11.5	7	42	33.5
7.	Due to the mobile phone usage there is a decline in social and moral values.	6.5	19.5	11.5	46	16.5
8.	Excessive use of mobile phones is giving rise to the street crimes.	5	13.5	10.5	47	24
9.	Use of mobile phone is one of the reasons behind the wastage of time.	3	10	7.5	39	40.5
10.	Mobile phone usage creates disturbance during the class.	4	8.5	9	46	32.5
11.	Student use mobile phones to share some good stuff (Quranic verses, Hadiths, Quotations etc)	5.5	18	6.5	54.5	15.5
12.	Students ignore their parents while using mobile phones.	5.5	15	8	43	28.5
13.	Students use unethical language with their friends during calls.	6.5	18	13.5	43.5	18
14.	Students use mobile phones for gossips.	5	5.5	8	58.5	23

15.	Students use unethical language with their friends during SMS.	3	16.5	10.5	42.5	27.5
16.	Mobile phones are providing acceptance to the immoral activities in the society (such as Jokes on teachers, Politicians and other personalities)	5	8	9	47	31
17.	Increased mobile usages are one of the reasons behind wastage of money.	2.5	12.5	10.5	45.5	29
18.	Advancement in mobile phone technology is setting positive values in society.	9.5	19	20.5	41.5	9.5
19.	Students use mobile phone for cheating in exams.	17.5	26	15	31.5	10
20.	Students use mobile blue tooth in bad ways.	9.5	17	15	37	21.5
21.	Students keep cheap stuff in their mobile phones.	4.5	15	15.5	42.5	22
22.	Students do immoral conversation on mobile phones.	9.5	17.5	15.5	41	16.5
23.	Students use mobile camera in bad ways.	6.5	14.5	12.5	38.5	28
24.	Advancement in mobile phone technology is setting negative values in society.	7.5	17.5	18.5	36	20.5

Result and discussion

The research was conducted to find out the effects of mobile phone technology on the moral development of the university. For this purpose, the related literature consisted of books, articles, journals and thesis was reviewed and a questionnaire was prepared as a tool of research consisting of 24 items about the effects of mobile phone technology on students' moral development. Overall research analysis showed that like other technologies, mobile phone also posses advantages and disadvantages. However a bad impact of this technology was recorded to be increasing on their young users. Especially night time free packages are becoming a big reason of an increase in decline in social and moral values. About 54% participants strongly agreed to this statement. More than 50% participants also agreed that excessive use of mobile phone in university students is increasing wastage of time. A good number of participants also agreed that young mobile users keep cheep stuff in their mobiles and this is becoming another reason behind decline in social and moral values (Table: 1).

Students gave a mixed opinion about using unfair means for fulfilling their mobile expenses and regarding the usage of mobile phones for cheating in examination. Also a mixed opinion was recorded about the statement that mobile phones are setting positive values in society.

Rich Ling (2001) has analyzed in his article named "Adolescent Girls and young adult men: Two sub-cultures of the mobile telephone". The writer has analyzed that adolescent boys and girls use mobile phone for social networking and most of them use "SMS" activity in order to maintain their social interaction. This effect of mobile phone can be taken both in negative and positive way.

Vershinskaya (2002), in his article "Mobile communication: use of mobile phones as a social phenomenon-The Russian experience" has defined some advantages and disadvantages of cell phones. According to the Russian youth, the advantages of mobile phones are expansive, source of disturbance of public places, unreliable and a source of illegal transmission of videos and images.

Andrew Trotter (2003) examined mobile-phone use and their effects in Educational settings, school going children and university students. The usefulness of mobile phones in educational settings has been mentioned that is: Mobile phones connect students with teachers and other students and help them deal with class attendance issues, rearrange meetings, retrieve schedule and assignment data, discuss assignments, coordinate study. Administrators can delegate many time consuming, repetitive tasks to mobile-phones.

Based on major findings and conclusions of the study we can make some recommendations. Harmful effects of mobile phone technology on moral development of students should be controlled by arranging programs, lectures and seminars in institutions. Electronic and print media can play a great role to get rid of disadvantages of mobile phone technology for students' character building. Parents and teachers should be informed about the positive and negative effects of mobile phone technology and its explosion. Teachers should play a vital role in this regard and should explain positive roles of mobile phones rather than negative roles. Teachers can give projects and assignments on this topic to aware the students about the ethical problems caused by mobile phone technology.

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