

The study of the threats and consequences of the cell phones student of Payame Noor University of Torbat-e-Heydarie in 2015

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ABSTRACT

One of the communication devices which has become very popular nowadays is the cell-phone. Communications, as a cornerstone for culture and civilization of human being, and also one of the elements of life, cause the development of the mankind. The process of communication change from the invention of the handwriting, publication, radio and TV, has moved forward up to where the cell phone, as a communicative device in the developed society, changed people's communication from a connection via wires to a connection via waves, and put a step forward in interpersonal communication. The aim of the present study is to investigate the threats and consequences of the cell phones on the society in general and on youths in particular. This survey used a questionnaire which was distributed among 100 students from distance university of Torbat-e-Heydarie, Khorasan Razavi, Iran. The hypothesis of this study was analyzed by Pearson product coefficient. The findings revealed that individual dependency on cell phone is the main reason for overusing this device which has decreased face-to-face interaction in many cases.

Keywords: Cell phone, threats, consequences, students

Introduction

The everyday development of communications and modern communicative technologies had a considerable impact on human and social connections and revolutionized the cultural disciplines. Information and thought exchange among people are necessary conditions of social life. Mankind has always used a device for communication to transfer his message to others

during the history^[1].

Communications, as a cornerstone for culture and civilization of human being, and also one of the elements of life, cause the development of the mankind. By the emergence of new technologies in information and communication, nowadays, many problems have been erased and this made it so easy to access the latest news and information, cell phones, in comparison to computers and internet applications, are used by so many people all around the world, so it affects the social life, life style and consumer behavior more than other communication devices. A cell phone is a device which can send and receive different types of messages in the format of voice and text, with largest facility in the shortest time and lowest cost, in any conditions. Beside all the merits of a cell phone, it has potential dangers for its users and any type of negative effect of using cell phone stems from the culture.

Statement of the problem

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Wide spreading the modern technologies in the society had motivated some of the researchers to consider the development of comparatively old technologies like telegraph, telephone, radio and TV and studied the reactions of the society when they first came. The findings revealed that there were many similar reactions between the emergence of old technologies and the new ones. The mankind has had worries and has been hopeful while facing with new technologies. When the telephone was invented, some were talking about its plentiful merits and knew it a move for people from their social solitary to having connections with others and relatives who were not available because of the far distance. In this regard, the cell phones were invented with the progress of science and technology in the world to communicate quickly between people and facilitate human life which, nowadays, has become a universal means most people need to feel ownership. These communication and multimedia industries, as the same as its ancestors, landlines, is the most important in attractive communication in destroy in which both the sender and recipient are active. And at the same time as the face-to-face interaction, and in the process the difference between the transmitter and receiver is eradicated. (Ameli, 2008)

With mobile technologies and its gradual evolution, some critics have referred to this device as an annoying and dangerous means and warn that this could provide the formation of a new crime problem at the community level. The theorist, Fisher, in his study about the usage of the early telephones during 1900 to 1920 found that many of the calls that were exchanged between people at that time had a romantic theme and now after several years of wide spread mobile off err hypocrisy, short message sex changed between individuals, similarly associated with events that human society seen with the phone. (Shykhavandy & Davar, 2005)

Today, this means of communication has an important and unique place in the lives of many people. Mobile phones are as small computers, by connecting them to the Internet and to receive and send emails, its role becomes clearer. What is important is its undeniable impact on all aspects of our lives. The fact is that mobile phones not only affect our thoughts and emotions but it also has a significant impact on our social behavior [2]. Mobile phones one of these new technologies which is considered as the new emerging phenomenon on in electronic agendas specially in recent decades, it has strongly found its place among families and especially young people, and the number of its users is already increasing, children and adolescents, day by day as well as the independence on the technology is still rising. (Hamidiyan & Frod, 2008)

Research in this case shows that a third of mobile phone users are interested in their own mobile phones and move more than 90 times a day to their phone, these people are mentally in trouble in the short term, hence they become depressed. These teens, compared to the users who used their phones 70 times a day suffer more from depression and are more discontent. The results of some research also introduce that overusing mobile phones for the users who are under 20 years is one of the causes of serious injury in the brain related to auditory and visual. In the field of mobile phone use among young people, there are opportunities and threats that opportunities are as the following: Fun and games with mobile phone, all owing for

individual creativity, facilitate and accelerate business communications, storage of personal information. And threats include: taking the opportunity of contemplation, inner-patience, mental conflict, mental disorders, dependency and addiction to mobile. Balouri (2011) in his research entitled: "The impact of the Internet and mobile phones on the mental health of high school students" came to the conclusion that overusing internet and mobile phones can cause mental damages, sleep disorders, and the inability of the society to control students. Another case that excessive use of the Internet and mobile phones can cause is students' aggression.

Sadeghi Aram (2010) in his paper entitled: "Mobile phone, culture and identity" found that various functions of a technology such as mobile is flexible and changeable which means that a society can direct a technology development. Nava bakhsh (2010) conducted a project entitled: "the study of the impact of internet and mobile in identity change of 15-29 young people in Mazandaran". The findings revealed that mobile had a significant effect on the youth's identity change. Due to the variety of individual character is traits and differences in human behavior this communication medium can influence greatly on people's individual life. The most important change is in identity so that the type of mobile, choosing its color, pictures and even its contacts show the individual's identity. (Motamednejad & Kazem, 1992)

Sherry et al. (2008) in his research entitled: "reflects of a qualitative relationship between young Australians and their mobile phone" claimed that in Australia, youths use mobiles more. However, this short survey studies this phenomenon. The analysis of statistical data insists on the use of mobile recognition psychological benefits. Mobile phones provide many benefits for users which form the main part of these young people's lives. This article focuses on some of these young people, many cell phone users, along with signs of behavioral addiction. This paper presents a solid foundation for further research on addictive repetitive patterns of mobile phone use among young people. (Affonosob. University of Nevada, Reno 1999)

Chen (2007) has conducted a research entitled: "Driver personality characteristics related to self-reported accident involvement and mobile phone use while driving. The results show that drivers who drive at high speed are more at the risk of accident than those who drive more slowly and use the cell phone while driving. (Heydari charvadeh, salehi fedardi, 2010)

Heavy use of mobile phones while driving as a result less driving visibly among men who have high speed are more prone to accidents. The findings of this study suggest that there is a risk that drivers do is a kind of inattention but it is an important factor about the use of mobile phone and driver safety therefore it is difficult to identify the drivers who are at risk of accident or not. (Nelson, Joel, I., 2007)

Babran and Sadat Akhvan conducted a research entitled: "The study of the impact of mobile phone use on girl's high school student". The results of this research revealed that using this communication device ended in school failure and decreasing in family relationship. (Alan bryman and Duncan Cramer, 1992)

Batvaz, Faraji, Aslani, and Panahi came to the conclusion in their research entitled: "dependency on mobile phones, mental and social damages among students" that students used mobile applications to fill their spare time and connecting with their friends. The content of most of the sent and received sms was jokes and fun. Most of Bluetooth transfers

included music and picture exchange. Pearson product coefficient revealed that there is a significant relationship between mobile phone use and school failure and unsafe connections. (Duncan cramer ,1994)

Regarding the negative, perplex and widespread effects of new technologies, especially communication technologies, it seems that this issue has come to a great significance.(Durkheim & Emil ,1951)

It is an essential to conduct more research about this phenomenon and its consequences to inform people about its appropriate use. Considering the title of this research, the main question for the researchers is that “Does overusing mobile phones have any negative threats and consequences?

Research Hypotheses

- 1- Using mobile phones causes dependency to it.
- 2- Using mobile phones reduces social interactions.
- 3- There is a significant relationship between using mobile phone and its disturbance.
- 4- There is a significant relationship between using mobile phone and threatening people’s privacy.
- 5- There is a significant relationship between using mobile phone and mental engagements.

Method

This research has a survey design. The main aim of this paper is to study the dependent and variables and find the significant difference between the mean scores of the independent variables. The population of this study was the whole students of distant university of Torbat -e-Heydarie in 2014-2015. Considering the great number of students of this university, COCORAN formula for sampling method was used and 100 questionnaires were distributed among 100 participants.

In order to choose participants for this study, random sampling was used. The main reason for using such a method was that the whole populations have a chance for choosing as a participant. The instrument for gathering data was a questionnaire. The questionnaire has open-ended and short answer questions considering the research questions, hypotheses, variables, literature, and the interview with the participants.

For the questionnaire to be valid, comments and suggestions of the sociology department of Mashhad distant university were used to make sure that the questions have the ability of measuring the content and specifications of the research. To calculate the reliability of the questionnaire based on a pilot study, 25 questionnaires were distributed among the students, and gathered data were analyzed by SPSS. Cronbach Alpha revealed that all the questions have the accepted reliability index.

Table 1. Cronbach Alpha

Variable name	Number of item	The alpha
Threats and Implications of mobile phone	18	%71

Research Findings

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to age

Item	Average	Median	Mode	Amplitude	Upper control limit	Lower control limit
Age of respondents	23.15	23	24	14	32	18

As shown in Table2, the mean of the respondents’ age is 23.15, the median is 23, and the mode is 24, the domain is 14, the upper level is 32, and the lower level is 18.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to gender

No	Classes	Frequency	Percent
1	Female	52	%52
2	Man	48	%48
3	Sum	100	%100

According to Table3, 52 percent of the respondents were female and 48 percent were male.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to marital status

No	Classes	Frequency	Percent
1	Wifeless	85	%85
2	Married	15	%15
3	Total	100	%100

As shown in Table 4, 85 percent of the respondents were single and 15 percent were married.

Table 5. Study of using mobile phone and its dependency

Variable	Using a mobile phone	Significance Level
Dependency	0/248	0/019
Social interaction	-0/239	0/021
Thrill – seeking pathological	0/165	0/115
Private security threat	0/190	0/063
Mental engagement	-0/170	0/098

As Table5 reveals, there is a significant relationship between using mobile phone and its dependency regarding Pearson product coefficient. But, there is a reverse relationship between using mobile phone and social interactions, and there is no significant relationship with other variables.

Discussion and Conclusions

Having access to mobile phones for the majority of people is one of the challenges and predicaments of these days. This has ended to overusing mobile phone as a communication device for younger people which not only caused turmoil in families, but also involved the authorities’ minds. The reality is that this challenge happens mostly for the families who have teenagers at home, and based on their confessions, they feel it dangerous that they have lower control over their children. Having not enough basic skills in using new technologies in such countries,

the society is facing new form of communications, but the proper use of these technologies has not been taught yet. To import any technologies, first the structures of that society must be studied, but nowadays, we first import the technology then we study the problems and difficulties. This cannot be justified logically. Technology is the reality of world today and the civilization accepts it, so we cannot ignore it easily. In fact, it is possible to avoid causing problems by studying and paying attention to the significance of gaining skills in using communication tools such as mobile phones, sms, and Bluetooth. How to use a technology has a positive and a negative aspect and people choose one of them based on the way they have been taught. But it happens unconsciously or because of the family effect for emotional discharge. The present study entitled: "The Study of the Threats and Consequences of the Mobile Phones of distance university of Torbat-e Heydarieh" seeks to answer this question that what elements affect overusing this communication tool and what negative consequences are the main reasons for this malfunctions. The findings of this study among the students of distant university of Torbat-e Heydarieh in descriptive statistics section reveals that 100 respondents have mobile phones, and the upper level of their age is 32, the lower age level is 18, while 52% of the respondents were female and 48% were male. The findings showed that 58% of the respondents were the members of the social networks such as Viber, Line, WhatsApp, Telegram, and 24% just talk with their mobile phones. The findings of the Comprehensive analysis section of this research show a significant relationship between the dependency to mobile and it's overusing according to dependency theory. This means that the more people use mobile phones to be more dependent on it. According to the obtained results, there is a significant and reverse relationship between social interaction and using mobile phones. This means that more people are using mobiles, their social interaction with family, friends and generally society reduces. A significant relationship between these variables was not found in other hypothesis of the study. But this cannot be a reason for the lack of relationship between them (according to the size of the population).

Guidelines and suggestions

According to the obtained results from the descriptive and inferential statistics section of this study, the following strategies

can be used to control the use of mobile phones as a specific and general communication device:

1. Informing families about the damages and dangers of overusing mobile phone and its dependency.
2. Parents and families' exact (correct) control and supervision about children's use of mobile as an inclusive communication tool.
3. Being at the service (having access to) of this communicative tool for children when they have a correct understanding of the type of using mobile.

4. Correct use of mobile facilities (applications) instead of abnormal use of this means of communication by adolescents and young adults.
5. Managing the time of using mobile by teenagers and young adults to the extent that mobile use does not lead to dependency.
6. Paying attention (considering) to this fact that using mobile doesn't cause (lead) tarnishing of family relationships and reducing the interaction of the members with family and society.
7. Encouraging teens and young adults to read and beneficial use of their spare time.
8. Providing safe entertainments in cities by the state and municipalities and advising and encouraging young people to exercise.
9. Teaching the correct use of mobile and virtual networks by the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

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