

Mobil Phone and Its Impact on the Performance of University Students

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Abstract

Mobile phone is an important innovation of the present period. Mobile phone is commonly used in Pakistan in new millennium. Moreover, it has reduced the distance among individuals and made social interaction often fast. It is one of the greatest technologies of the 21st century. Mobile phone has become a phenomenon and an addiction: to own at least one cell phone. It has now become a part of daily life and without mobile phones; people would be lost in this high-tech world. The Present study was designed to investigate the impacts of mobile on the performance of the students. The overall objective of the study is to explore the impacts of mobile on the academic performance of the students.

The universe of the present study consisted of Government College, Faisalabad. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 120 respondents i.e. 60 male students and 60 female students consisting of two departments, Sociology and Chemistry Departments. The interviewing schedule was used as appropriate tool to get the required information. Tool was developed in the light of the objectives of the study; using English Language, the second language.

Mobile phone usage reduced the face-to-face interaction. The respondents said that the usage of mobile phone was satisfactory technology because mobile phone gave more information regarding their study and duration of exams. Majority of the respondents said that the usage of mobile phone did not affect much on the academic performance because they turned off their mobile phone during the examination period.

Key Words: Interaction, Mobile phone, Phenomenon, Performance

Introduction

Mobile phone is an important innovation of the present period. Mobile phone is commonly used in Pakistan in new millennium. Moreover, it has reduced the distance among individuals and made social interaction often fast. It is one of the greatest technologies of the 21st century. Mobile phone has become a phenomenon and an addiction to own at least one cell phone. It has now become a part of our daily life and without mobile phones; we would be lost in this high tech world (Mustafa, 2007).

The use of cell phone among young people has been on the increase since the late 1990s. The Internet research study found that about 33% of teens had a mobile phone in 2005. Almost 64% said that they sent text messages as a routine work. Moreover, the young people including boys and girls use cell phones to text their acquaintances. Youngsters having age below twenty-use cell phone more than the aged or adults do. Still European young generation is more inclined to use cell phone than Americans do (Lenhart et al., 2005). Mobile phones are getting popularity day by day in our society. There is another trend and that is using disposable cell phones. Those are easy to handle and treat. These are very thin and slim, having three credit cards, made of paper mainly.

Such phones are cheap also i.e. costing a dollar or less than it does, with the airtime for educational uses likely subsidized by carriers and others (Stone, 2004).

Nearly ninety-six percent of the mobile users use internet on their cell phones sitting in their homes and schools or offices. Thirty seven percent of the mobile credit consumers use

monthly internet packages at public places. Researchers prove that Pakistanis are more inclined to use new and novel technologies on the cell phones. Using video, audio services, exploring new things and adventures is Pakistanis' favorite hobby. They spend lot of time in doing such activities. They use internet on T.V and Phone lines also. Cell phones also provide them mini t.v, laptops, iPod, iPad, tabs etc. This study shows that 48% of consumers do not use any wireless data on their mobile phones because of lack of suitable content. 45% of those surveyed population said mobile internet does not provide them information or value (Bilal, 2008).

Youngs (2001) stated that communication between people and people are easier and fast through mobile phone technology. However, using cell phones also have disadvantages. Like wasting of time, surfing illegal sites, spending time on watching and opening nude sites and immoral materials. It also causes health deficit. Radiation and wave linking is also produced by cell phones and its putting under the pillow. Headache, and faults in hearing and listening skill is also given by cell phones and its use. Problems regarding health are still under observation; experts are creating and trying evidences for and against the phenomenon. Cell phone users are strictly advised not to use cell excessively and over whelmingly. They are also advised to reduce the cell phone addiction. That has become social problem. Mobile phones addiction is a big social problem. Psychiatrists believe that Mobile phone addiction is becoming the biggest non-addiction in the 21st century.

Taylor and Harper (2001) state that cell phones and its use have special place and impact in students' life and their academic performances specially. Reports say that they use cell phones to send text message, to call, to interact with their friends. They text their friends to extend them their best wishes on special days and celebrations. Some teachers reported that students use cell phones even in classroom as well. They are so much so addicted that they are not ready to leave it even for the sake of their studies.

On the other hand, some teachers and researchers report that students use cell phones to take assistance from their friends about their studies, and their academic affairs. In Addition, cell phones help them a lot in pursuing the study matters. Cell phones assist them in building social

relations: relations with their friends, colleagues, teachers, seniors, juniors, and experts of their respective fields. Male youngsters and mature men are more inclined towards cell phones and its other accessories than the girls are and mature women are. They said the men reported to begin spending more time in their late adolescence and reached on peaks in their mid-20s. An adjunct research associate of Clarity Innovations Inc. reported that cell phone has challenged the techniques to prevent cheating in the classroom and exams. It has brought arrogance among the students, which forbids them to respect and follow their teachers. It can help them in cheating through text messages, voice message, pictures, and phone calls. Classroom discipline is another problem, which is raised by cell phones. Teachers say that students take pictures and browse internet while sitting in the classroom.

Motlik (2008) researched and came to find that role of mobile phones is increasing day by day in the sector of education. He further stated that developing countries are more in grasp of cell phones as compared to developed countries. Researchers also state that there is need to minimize the role and use of mobile phones in the studies and academic affairs. As students themselves accept that, they rely on cell phones more than they do on other ways of exploring things. The excessive use of mobile phones have compelled authorities to launch policies that may forbid students to use cell phones in classroom and even in the institutions, if not totally banned, to large extent. Teachers also try to enforce no use of cell phones in the institutions and many teachers have to tally banned cell phones in the academic scenario.

Parents and teachers and academic authorizes are equally influenced by the use of cell phones. They all are perturbed that if students' self-control ability is not enhanced they would be more inclined to cell phones. At the same time, it may be too costly. Adopting the cell phone usage equally effects the attitudinal level of users. Thus, early adopters show higher subjective involvements with the new technology by asserting that they cannot imagine life without cell phone handsets and that they consider it as an essential part of their "style of life," or that cell phone communication has improved substantially their social life. In contrast to the behavioral and social aspects, both genders are similarly affected by such psychological correlates.

Statement of the Problem

Mobile phone and its impact on the performance of university students.

Hypotheses

Following hypotheses were constructed to show the relationship between independent (Mobile phone and its use) and dependent (Students' studies and academic performances) variables.

- Mobile phone and its use are essential for students' study affairs.
- Extra use of mobile phone affects the studies and academic performances of the students.

Objectives of the Study

- To investigate the influence of mobile phone on student's educational performance.
- To find out that Mobile phone and its use are essential for students' study affairs.
- To investigate that extra use of mobile phone affects the studies and academic performances of the students.

Methodology

The methodological techniques and ways of analyzing the observations play a significant role in social research. Social scientists now use the sophisticated methodological tools and techniques in social research. Therefore, methodology is a frame for researcher. "The methodology is a system of explicit rules and procedures upon which research is based and against which the claims for knowledge are evaluated (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1992)".

The present research was conducted in Government College University, Faisalabad. The universe of the present study consisted of Government College, Faisalabad. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to draw the sample (Nachmias and Nachmias, 1992). At first stage, two faculties were selected out of four faculties randomly. At the second stage, two departments namely Department of Sociology from Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Department of Chemistry from faculty of Science and Technology were selected randomly. At third stage, a sample of 120 respondents was selected from these two departments i.e. 60 from each by using simple random sampling technique. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 120 respondents i.e. 60 male students and 60 female students consisting of two departments, Sociology and Chemistry Departments. The interviewing schedule was used as appropriate tool

to get the required information. It was developed in the light of the objectives of the study. Simple Percentage and Chi-square test were applied to check the central tendency and to ascertain association between independent and dependent variables. The test-statistic to use is as follows:

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(\text{Observed frequencies} - \text{Expected frequencies})^2}{\text{Expected Frequencies}}$$

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

O = Observed value/frequency

E = Expected Value/frequency

∑ = Total sum

Data Presentation and Analysis

Item No. 1 Mobile phone and its use are essential for students' study affairs.

| Education | Mobile phone and its use are essential for students' study affairs. | | | Total |
|--------------|---|-----------------|------------|-------|
| | To some extent | To great extent | Not at all | |
| BS/BSC | 36 | 20 | 8 | 64 |
| MA/MSC | 10 | 21 | 8 | 39 |
| MS/M.Phil. | 5 | 4 | 8 | 17 |
| Total | 51 | 45 | 24 | 120 |

Chi – Square = 18.499

Significant = .001

d.f. = 4

The chi-square value (18.499) showed a significant association ($P = .001$) between the independent variable mobile phones and their use and the dependent variable students' study affairs. So the hypothesis "Mobile phone and its use are essential for students' study affairs" is accepted because significance value is smaller than 0.05.

Item No. 2 Extra use of mobile phone affects the studies and academic performances of the students.

| Education | Extra use of mobile phone affects the studies and academic performances of the students. | | Total |
|-------------------|--|----|--------------|
| | Yes | No | Yes |
| BS/BSC | 58 | 6 | 64 |
| MA/MS | 31 | 8 | 39 |
| MS/M.Phil. | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| Total | 100 | 20 | 120 |

Chi – Square = 7.112 Significant = .029 d.f. = 2

The chi-square value (7.112) showed a significant association ($P = .029$) between the independent variable extra use of mobile phones and the dependent variable academic performances of the students. So the hypothesis "Extra use of mobile phone affects the studies and academic performances of the students" is rejected because significance value is larger than 0.05.

Results & Discussions

Analysis and interpretation of data are the most important steps for conducting scientific social research. Without these steps, generalization and prediction cannot be achieved which is the basic need in social research. The main indicators i.e. level of education; much usage of mobile phone and the opinion that much usage of cell phone affects the study were used as main variables to measure the impact of mobile phone on the performance of students in the present

study.

Conclusions

The current research study and its findings show that students give lot of importance to mobile phones and its use. Literature is abound with the study that they spend more of their time in using mobile for making gossips to their friends, watching videos and playing games. They do text messages, use various mobile apps and internet accesses to find and get their desired things. Study also shows that more than half of the students agree that mobile phone is important to greater extent for them. In addition, mobile phones and use affects their studies. Students of B.A./ B.Sc. are more conscious than that of M.A. or M.S. and same opinion they showed about the importance and significance of the mobile phones for their studies. They use mobile phones to assist themselves and their friends in the matters of the studies.

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