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A study on usage of mobile phone by adolescents

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Abstract

The present study was conducted on usage of mobile phones by adolescents. The sample consisted of 200 adolescents from different professional and non professional colleges of Hyderabad. Questionnaire was developed by the researcher to on usage of mobile phone was administered. The results revealed that majority of the adolescents using mobile phones more for texting and talking with their friends

Keywords: Mobile phone, adolescents

1. Introduction

A mobile phone is considered to be one of the greatest and most important inventions of all times, because it enabled people to communicate without wires and connected people from all continents into one global community. Mobile phones have changed the life of people considerably, as it enables one to communicate any time and from any place. Mobile phones serves as a multi-purpose device, for example for downloading videos and music, surfing the Internet and taking pictures (Grant, 2007) [2]. Mobile phone and Internet as a tool for daily life, including searching for business and job opportunities, news, and entertainment (music downloads). One of the groups in which the increase in mobile-phone use has been the most significant is adolescents, not only because virtually all adolescents have one of these devices but also because the mobile phone acquires much greater relevance in adolescence than it does in other developmental stages (namely youth adulthood or older age). The mobile phone has many attributes and characteristics that make it especially attractive to adolescents and that encourage its use among members of this group. Indeed, possession and use of a mobile phone by adolescents has several functions.

1.1 Objective

The present study was undertaken to study the adolescent usage of mobile phone and internet.

2. Materials & Methods

Exploratory research design was used for the present study. The study was carried out in Hyderabad city.

2.1 Selection of sample

- Purposive sampling procedure was used to select sample for the present study.
- Sample comprised of 200 adolescents with equal number of boys and girls

2.2 Sampling procedure: Criteria for sample selection are:

1. Age range of adolescents should be between 18-22 years
2. Students doing graduation from professional and non-professional colleges.

2.3 Measurement Tool: A Questionnaire was developed for the study which includes the general information of respondents. Questionnaire covers questions on pattern of use of mobile phone in a day

The data was analyzed using frequencies, percentages and t test to study the differences.

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3. Results & Discussion

Equal number (50) of respondents who completed 18 years, 19 years 20 years and 21 years of age formed the sample for the study. Similarly, the sample was distributed across 100 boys and 100 girls doing graduation programme.

One hundred graduate students are doing professional courses like Agriculture, MBBS, B-Pharmacy, B-Tech, B.Sc. Home science and another hundred graduate students are doing non-professional courses like B.A, B.com, B.Sc. Mathematics and Science were included as sample.

Table 1: Profile of the sample N=200

Age	Boys		Girls		Total
	Graduate students of Professional Courses	Graduate students of non-professional courses	Graduate students of professional courses	Graduate students of non-professional courses	
18 years	12	13	10	15	50
19 years	12	13	14	11	50
20 years	13	12	14	11	50
21 years	16	9	12	13	50
Total	53	47	50	50	200

Table 2: Distribution of sample on usage of mobile phone in a day N=200

S. No	Usage score	18-19 years				20-21 years				Total	
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls			
	Category details	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Less than 3(Low usage)	14	28	12	24	7	14	14	28	47	23
2.	3-6(Medium usage)	27	54	28	56	33	66	27	54	115	58
3.	6-10(High usage)	9	18	10	20	10	20	9	18	38	19
Total		50		50		50		50		200	

From the above table, it is clearly indicated that nearly 54 percent of the boys and 56 percent of the girls belonging to the lower age group fell under the score range between 3-6 which means that they were using the mobile phone under medium range. Sixty six percent of the boys and 54 percent of the girls belonging to the higher age group also fell under the score range between 3-6 which indicates that slightly higher percent

of boys in senior age group were using the mobile phone on a medium range.

However, on an average 58 percent of students expressed that they were using the mobile phone in medium range and only 19 percent reported that they were using mobile phone at a higher range.

Table 3: Distribution of sample on reasons for using mobile phone N=200

S. No	Reasons for using mobile phone	18-19 years				20-21 years				Total	
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls			
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	It is enjoyable	13	26	5	10	11	22	10	20	39	19
2.	It is easier to communicate with others	10	26	5	10	11	22	10	20	39	19
3.	It helps to reach people	12	24	8	16	3	6	7	14	30	15
4.	It gives free and specific information	7	14	2	4	5	10	6	12	20	10
5.	It has become a habit to use mobile phone	8	16	5	10	5	10	2	4	20	10
Total		50		50		50		50		200	

The above table reveals that higher percent (60%) of adolescents in 18-19 years age group stated that the mobile phone is used to easily communicate with people. Whereas more boys mentioned that the mobile phone gives enjoyment. But least percent of boys and girls (10%) mentioned that it has become a habit.

In the age group of 20-21 years, both boys and girls mentioned that it was used for easy communication and only 19 percent

stated that mobile phone gives enjoyment. On the whole 45 percent sample stated that mobile phone was used to easily communicate with people. Whereas equal but less percent (10%) stated that mobile phone gives free and specific information.

Shari *et al.*, (2008) [5] reported that mobile phone use was believed to provide numerous benefits to users and is an intrinsic part of most young people's lives.

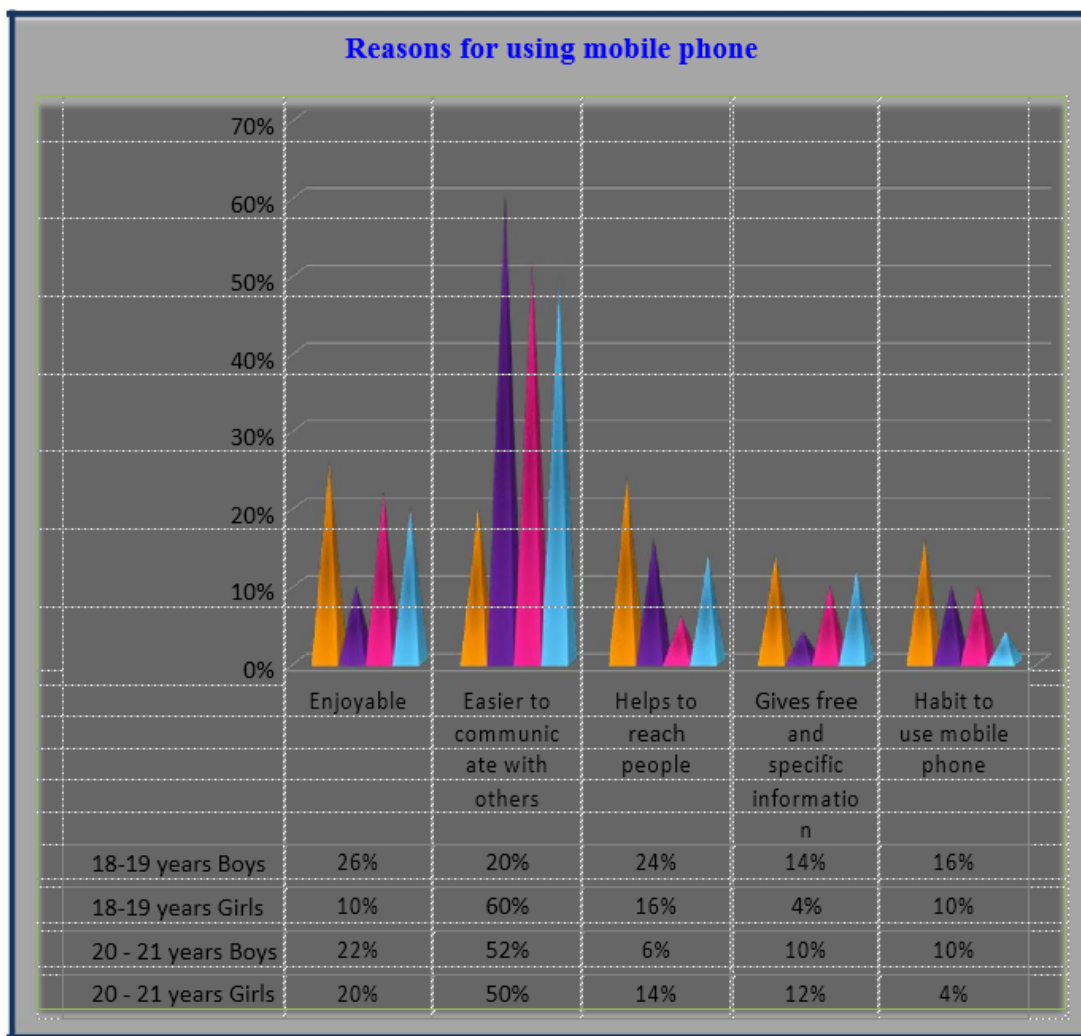


Fig 1: Reasons for using mobile phone

The figure 1 also exhibit the result that fifty percent of adolescent revealed that mobile phone helps in easier communication with others. Adolescents might be using mobile phones mostly to communicate with others for their enjoyment due to free offers like messages, internet services and talk time validity.

Bryant *et al.*, (2006) [1] study also supported the present results that the adolescents are using mobile phones to enhance their communication; it has become a highly popular choice among adolescent mobile phone users. Kamibeppu and Sugiura (2005) [3] revealed that sociable students estimated that their own mobile phone was useful for maintaining friendship.

Table 4: Distribution of sample on time spent in talking N=200

S. No	Time spent in Talking	18-19 years				20-21 years				Total	
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		No	%
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
1.	Few minutes	6	12	6	12	19	38	20	40	51	25
2.	Less than 1 hour	10	20	17	34	4	8	4	8	35	17
3.	1 to 2 hours	12	24	6	12	21	42	24	48	63	31
4.	More than 2 Hours	22	44	21	42	6	12	2	4	51	25
	Total	50		50		50		50		200	

The above table reveals that the higher percent of boys (44%) of 18-19 years age group stated that they spend more than 2 hours talking on the mobile phone. But least percent (12%) mentioned that they spend only few minutes speaking on mobile phone. The girls belonging to 20-21 years stated that 48 percent of them spend nearly 1-2 hours speaking on mobile phone. The total percent of both the age groups indicate that 31 percent spend 1-2 hours speaking on the mobile phone and

equal percent (25%) either spend few minutes or more than two hours on the mobile phone. Younger age group students were spending more than 2 hours on mobile phone irrespective of gender. Whereas in higher age group 48 percent girls were spending 1-2 hours (Fig-4.2). No student was willing or able to mention the actual time spent on mobile phone. Most of the students were involved in messaging to others than attending the calls due to fear of their parents

Table 5: Distribution of sample on time spent in games on mobile phone N=200

S. No	Time spent in Games	18-19 years				20-21 years				Total	
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		No	%
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
1.	Few minutes	10	20	23	46	16	32	18	36	67	33
2.	Less than one hour	14	28	14	28	18	36	15	30	61	30
3.	One to 2 hours	13	26	10	20	9	18	11	22	43	21
4.	More than 2 hours	13	26	3	6	7	14	6	12	29	14
	Total	50		50		50		50		200	

From the above table it can be read that equal (28%) percent of boys and girls of lower age group stated that they spend nearly less than one hour for games. About 36 percent of boys of higher age group also spend on mobile phone less than one hour for games. Whereas same percent (36%) of girls spend few minutes in playing games on the mobile phone. It is obvious from the table that young students were spending more time compared to older students and girls were spending less time in comparison to boys. Adolescents spent less time

on playing games may be because they spend most of their time on other activities.

Lenhart *et al.*, (2001) [4] study also support the present results that the most of the adolescents notably boys tend to focus on the technology itself and information gathering, entertainment functions (e.g., video or computer games, surfing on the web for information), girls appear more interested in the interactive possibilities of new technology (e.g., email and online chat).

Table 6: Distribution of sample on persons they speak to most often N=200

S. No	Persons they speak to most often	18-19 years				20-21 years				Total	
		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		No	%
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%		
1.	Parents	13	26	9	18	13	26	24	48	59	29
2.	Siblings	4	8	2	4	4	8	5	10	15	7
3.	Friends	27	54	28	56	32	64	19	38	106	53
4.	Relatives	6	12	4	8	1	2	2	4	13	6
5.	Grand parents	0	0	7	14	0	0	0	0	7	3
	Total	50		50		50		50		200	

It is interesting to note from the above table that nearly 54 percent of students of 18-19 years said that they speak most often with the friends. The next preference was parents and surprisingly 14 percent girls mentioned that they speak to grandparents which is missing with boys. In the higher age group, 48 percent of girls speak with parents and 64 percent boys speak with friends. In this age group the gender difference was very clear that boys speak to friends and girls speak to parents.

When both the groups are clubbed, it is clearly evident that 53 percent students use mobile to speak to friends, then 29 percent of students use mobile phone to speak to parents and least percent (3%) students use mobile to speak to grandparents. From the findings of the above study, it can be inferred that most of the adolescents were using mobile phones mainly to share their feelings, emotions, to maintain their relationship and also for their enjoyment with friends than compared to their siblings and parents. These reasons obviously coincide with the results of many studies which revealed that the adolescents' use mobile phone to communicate with friends.

4. Conclusion

The study concludes that the usage of mobile phones was found to be high among the adolescents. Among the reasons for using mobile phone adolescent perceive it as entertainment tool and easy of communication. Habituated use of mobile phones was also found in adolescents. The study also reveals that minimum of 2hours per day are spent by adolescents with their mobiles and it is their friends with whom they like to talk on their mobile and spend more time on this.

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