

Mobile Phone Usage Pattern among Secondary School Children in Some Selected Rural Schools.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Mobile phones are an integral part of our modern life. The use of mobile phone for various purposes (including educational) has increased in recent few years in Bangladesh. The aim of the study was to explore the mobile phone usage pattern among secondary school children in rural schools of Bangladesh.

Materials and Methods: This descriptive type cross sectional study was carried among 295 secondary school children by purposive sampling technique from 1st to 31st December, 2019 in different villages of Dhamrai Upazilla, Dhaka. Data were collected by duly pretested a semi-structured questionnaire through face to face interview.

Results: The study revealed that, most of the respondents were in class X (36.61%) with female predominance (56.94%). Among them, 63.72% were from nuclear family & majority 56.61% of the respondents had family monthly income BDT >20000 taka. 73% respondents were used smart phone. All respondents (100%) were used mobile phone for communicating with relatives & most of the cases (82.37%) reason was kill spare time. Frequently used social media sites was a Messenger (71.52%) followed by You Tube (68.13%) & Facebook (67.11%). 81.35% respondents were using mobile phones at home and 52.88% had no specific time for using a mobile phone. About 82.71% respondents were found monthly expenditure on mobile phone <200 taka.

Conclusion: The study findings demand an intensified effort should be made towards creating awareness about the use of mobile phone. The pattern of use revealed extensively on internet browsing. In fact, the usage of mobile phone for educational purpose is quite low and most of them used mobile phone for communicating with relatives. In spite of its various advantages it has some disadvantages also. Misusing of mobile phone increases the disadvantages of this device day by day.

Keywords: Mobile phone, Communication device, Misuse.

Introduction

In the 21st century the Mobile phone is an integral part of everyone's regular life. The spread of mobile phones affects people's lives and relationships and affects how people interact when face to face or, rather and increasingly, face-to-face-to-mobile-phone-face, since people are ever more likely to incorporate the mobile phone as a participant in what would preferably be a face-to-face dyad¹. During this era of globalization, a world of modern communications system is incredibly much important. Mobile phones are especially important given their standing as a tool

of communication. It promotes the availability, frequency and rapidness of our communication surrounding the globe. It facilitates fast, modern globalization. It becomes an inevitable part of our everyday lives².

Mobile wireless, cellular phones, cell phones or hand phones, etc. are names of Mobile phones. It is a brief range, portable, electronic device. It is used for mobile voice or electronic communication over a network of specialized base station referred to as cell sites. It provides the standard voice function of a

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telephone. Current mobile phones may support many additional services and accessories like S.M.S. (Short messaging service) for text messaging, email, packet switching for access to internet and M.M.S (Multimedia messaging) for sending and receiving photos and videos. It is linked to music (MP3) playback, menu recording, instant messaging inbuilt camera and ring tones, games, radio, push to speak, infrared and Bluetooth connectivity, call registers. It's also helpful to look at streaming video or download video for later viewing video calling and serve as a wireless modern and serve as a console of sorts to online games and other prime quality games. It connects to a cellular network of base stations (cell sites) which successively interconnected to the general public switched telephone network (PSTN)³.

The mobile phone is a name of a silent revolution in Bangladesh. As the telecommunication industry in Bangladesh is growing fast, the amount of mobile phone users is additionally increasing rapidly. The younger generation, especially students, is that the prime customer of mobile phone. To the students, mobile phone could be a part of their way of life. They use it for various purposes along with for personal and private communication. The mobile phone is contributing active role in receiving and sending information. It makes communication easier in urban with rural people⁴. Bangladesh enters into the mobile world through the CityCell Company in 1993. Later GrameenPhone, Aktel, Banglalink, TeleTalk and Warid Telecom got license from the government⁵. The rapid growth and availability of network and technology have made mobile phone access to everyone⁶. The mobile phone is known to be very popular among students. Now it has to realize that there is horrible need for integrating mobile technology within the modern education. Mobile technology and therefore the concept of m-learning could be a growing trend in modern education. With the most recent improvement within the mobile technology, possibilities are emerging to produce educational services via mobile devices like Mobile phones. It embraces the thought of anytime, anywhere, and anybody learning⁷. Mobile phone increasing their social inclusion and connectedness

similarly as providing a way of security as they'll contact others in times of distress or emergency situation⁸. Although there are many benefits of employing a mobile phone, there may be negative effects on the users and education. Lectures and classes are disrupted when mobile phones are used at inappropriate times. Students showed signs of cognitive salience, whereby students consider their phones once they are not using them, similarly as behavioral salience, whereby the students constantly check their mobile phones for missed calls or messages⁹. Other negative consequences of mobile phone use include addiction, over dependency, which might cause problems like emotional stress, damaged relationships, and falling literacy⁸. That's why the purpose of study is to determine the usage pattern of mobile phone among secondary school children in rural schools of Bangladesh.

General Objective

To describe the mobile phone usage pattern among secondary school children in rural schools of Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives

1. To find out socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.
2. To determine the reasons of mobile phone use among secondary school children
3. To explore usages pattern of mobile phone among respondents.

Methodology:

This was a descriptive cross sectional study carried out among 295 students residing in different villages (Kumrail, Taltola, Islampur, Ambagan, Hazipur, Chobipara and Ponchas) of Dhamrai Upazilla during the period 1st to 31st December, 2019. Respondents were selected by a purposive sampling technique where data were collected in a pretested semi-structured questionnaire by a face to face interview with verbal consent. Then the data were entered into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) statistical software version 20 for the analysis and presented in the form of tables and graphs accordingly.

Results

Table I: Distribution of respondents by socio-demographic characteristics n=295

Variables	Sub-variables	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Age	11-12 year	92	31.18
	13-14 year	95	32.20
	>14 year	108	36.61
Educational level	Class VIII	98	33.22
	Class IX	89	30.16
	Class X	108	36.61
Sex	Male	127	43.05
	Female	168	56.94
Family type	Nuclear	188	63.72
	Joint	107	36.27

About 36.61% respondents were found in the age of >14 year. The majority (36.61%) were at Class X. About 56.94% were female and 63.72% were from nuclear families (Table I).

Figure 01: Bar Diagram showing distribution of respondents by Monthly income by family n=295

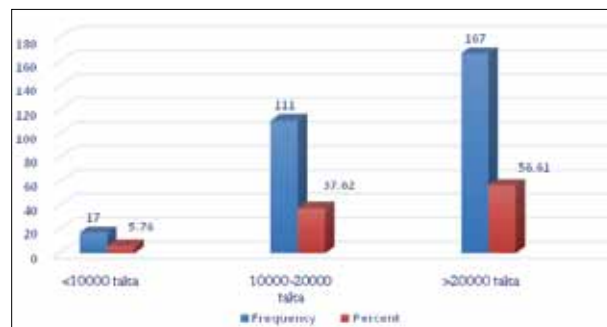


Figure 01 showing 56.61% respondents were found family monthly income >20000 taka whereas only 5.7% respondents were found <10000 taka.

Figure 02: Pie Diagram showing distribution of respondents by Type of device n=295

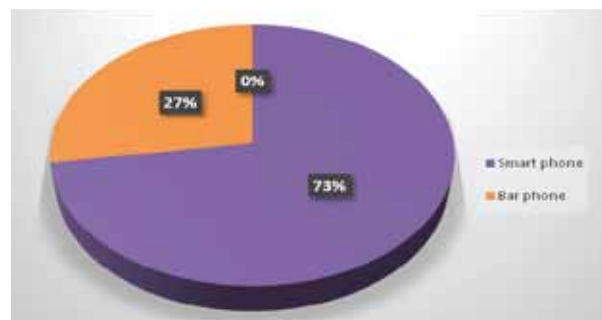


Figure 02 showing 73% were using smart phones and rest 27% were using bar phone.

Table II: Distribution of respondents by reasons of using mobile phone n=295

Variables	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
For knowledge and education	134	45.42
Study together in groups	03	1.01
News	212	71.86
Communication with relatives	295	100
Avoid stress and boring	46	15.59
Kill spare time	243	82.37
Fashion and styles	32	10.84
Sports	26	8.81
Online shopping	06	2.03
Chatting	207	70.16

(NB: Multiple response)

All respondents (100%) were used mobile phone for communicating with relatives followed by 82.37% for killing spare time. About 71.86% and 70.16% respondents for news and chatting. Only 1.01% respondents were used for studying together in groups (Table II).

Table III: Distribution of respondents by usages pattern of mobile phone n=295

Variables	Sub-variables	Number of respondents	Percentage (%)
Time spent on mobile phone per day	Less than 2 times/day	93	31.52
	2 to 4 times/day	159	53.89
	More than 4 times/day	43	14.57
Number of times of use of mobile phone per day	Less than 1 hour	182	61.69
	1 hour to 3 hour	72	24.40
	More than 3 hour	41	13.89
Since when using mobile phone	Less than 3 year	176	59.66
	3 years to 5 years	46	15.59
	More than 5 years	73	24.74
Frequently used social media sites on mobile phone	Facebook	198	67.11
	Messenger	211	71.52
	WhatsApp	43	14.57
	Viber	21	7.11
Prepared place of online activity	You Tube	201	68.13
	We Chat	02	0.677
	Twitter	01	0.338
	Instagram	203	68.81
Prepared time of online activity	Skype	06	2.033
	Others	107	36.27
	Home	240	81.35
	Educational institute	42	14.23
Prepared time of online activity	Others	13	4.40
	No specific time	156	52.88
	Leisure time	23	7.79
	When feel bore	12	4.06

About 53.89% respondents spent time on a mobile phone at 2 to 4 times/day, 61.69% respondents used mobile phone less than 1 hour per day and 59.66% respondents using mobile phone less than 3 years. Majority respondents (71.52%) used social media sites Messenger on mobile phone followed by 68% used YouTube and Instagram. However, 81.35% respondents were using mobile phones at home and 52.88% had no specific time for using a mobile phone. About 82.71% respondents were found monthly expenditure on mobile phone <200 taka (Table III).

Discussion

The study reveals that about 36.61% respondents were found in the age of >14 year and they were at Class X. Majority of the respondents, about 56.94% were female which is almost similar to another study (73.7%)¹⁰. Regarding family type, 63.72% were from nuclear families. However, about 56.61% respondents had family monthly income >20000 BDT. About 73% respondents were used smart phone.

All respondents (100%) were used mobile phone for communicating with relatives which is similar to another study (99.5%)¹¹ followed by 82.37% for killing spare time. About 71.86% and 70.16% respondents for news and chatting. Only 1.01% respondents were used for studying together in groups which is similar to another study (1%)⁴.

About 53.89% respondents spent time on a mobile phone at 2 to 4 times/day, 61.69% respondents used mobile phone less than 1 hour per day, which is quite high in relation to another study (37%)⁷ and 59.66% respondents using mobile phone less than 3 years. Majority respondents (71.52%) used social media sites Messenger on mobile phone followed by 68% used YouTube and Instagram which is almost similar to another study (75%)¹². However, 81.35% respondents were using mobile phones at home and 52.88% had no specific time for using a mobile phone. About 82.71% respondents were found monthly expenditure on mobile phone <200 taka.

Conclusion

The study findings revealed higher users of mobile phone were among female students than that of male students. In fact, the usage of mobile phone for educational purpose is quite low and most of them

used mobile phone for communicating with relatives. However, the pattern of use revealed extensively on internet browsing that needs to be addressed through motivational approach involving parents and teachers. The findings have the scope for intensified efforts on mass awareness among secondary students. In general, the mobile phone technology in the future is like a canal and its functions and application is like an ocean. The mobile phone has a significant influence on the young generation which leads to create a networked society. Among the developing countries mobile technologies are developing comparatively rapidly in Bangladesh, whereas, the country has lagged behind using other technologies.

Recommendations

Considering the findings of present study, the recommendations are as follows:

1. Students' motivation involving parents and teachers are to be considered adequately.
2. Emphasis should be given to the impact of mobile phone abuses on health and education among female students in particular.
3. A large scale study of secondary school students can be conducted with due emphasis on the factors involved with extensive internet uses.

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Conflict of Interest: None.

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