

Vol 5 Issue 6 March 2016

ISSN No : 2249-894X

*Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

*Review Of
Research Journal*

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

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Review of Research

International Online Multidisciplinary Journal

ISSN: 2249-894X

Impact Factor : 3.1402(UIF)

Volume - 5 | Issue - 6 | March - 2016



USE OF MOBILE PHONE BY STUDENTS: PRACTICES & ATTITUDE



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ABSTRACT:

Now mobile becomes an integral part of everybody's life. A large mass of students are using mobile phone. Mobile are providing so many facilities that is why is becomes more popular day by day. Mobile is facilitating learning among students. Mobile with several facilities like internet, music, social networking, dictionary etc. is increasing opportunities for learning. Keeping this fact in mind, with the help of a sample of 90 students were surveyed. A self-made questionnaire was used for collecting data. Data revealed a helicopter vies that all most students are using smart phone for accessing internet. Most of the students considered mobile as a tool for learning. It is essential to increase speed of internet on wireless devices.

KEYWORDS: Mobile, Attitude, practices.

1. INTRODUCTION:

“Mobile phone is a medium for the assertion of its own identity and autonomy.”
(Srivastava, 2004).

Mobile may be considered as most amazing and versatile device of Information and Communication Technology. Versatility and sophisticated technology makes mobile phone very attractive and useful. Mobile is fascinating product of ICT revolution which is reducing the distance among people. Mobile phones have not only re-defined communications but have also re-shaped the space in which the interaction takes place. In this book, the author expands the notion of public and private spaces that were discussed in sections 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 “As long as people participate in the shared communications of the group, they seem to be considered by others to be present” (Rheingold, 2002). Mobile technologies are playing a vital role in college students' academic activities. Devices such as smartphones, tablets, and e-book readers connect users to the world instantly, heightening access to information and enabling interactivity with others. Now in India a large population of students are using mobile in their daily life for different needs. Mobile becomes a tool of learning so a new terminology appears in educational setting namely m-learning means mobile learning. There are some controversy among academicians and stakeholders for using mobile in educational learning. However, many researches fortifying the use of mobile in class with their research findings. But on other hand, there are many cynics. Some believes that use of mobile is not appropriate because it don't have any systematic theory of learning.

Mobile Learning is the use of mobile or wireless technology and devices for learning at anytime, anyplace and anywhere (Quinn, 2000). Also a study by Kajumbula (2006) in Makerere University found that mobiles phones were used by students for learning and teaching; for example students can know whether their marks are missing, dates for tutorials, venues and meeting times with research supervisors. Mobile devices whether they are mobile phones, Smartphones, i-Pads, or similar “always-connected” devices are doorways to the content and social tapestries of the network connectivity, and they function or work with just a touch (Ericsson-Jamaica, 2012). Valk et al., (2010), reviews evidence of the role mobile phone-facilitated Mobile Learning (M-Learning) is contributing to improved educational outcomes in the developing countries of Asia. This was done by exploring the results of six M-Learning. Aamri, A. & Suleiman, K. (2011) found that students use mobile phone in learning, but in a very limited way. The results of Utulu, S.C. & Alonge, A. (2012) showed that a significant percentage of the students studied had mobile phones and that they used their mobile phones for communication, interactions, getting information, browsing the Internet, and sharing knowledge anytime they were involved in PBL. It was also revealed that mobiles phones can be used to strengthen PBL in higher institutions and can be used to implement information services provided for students in their university. A study in Sweden revealed that frequent use of mobile phones leads to spending more time in face-to-face interaction and travel (outside home environment) which means that there is a complementary relationship between various modes of communication. The findings also revealed that less frequent users spend relatively less time in interaction and are mostly homebound using internet for chatting with friends (Thulin & Vilhelmson, 2007). The study done by UNESCO, (2012) has shown that mobile learning projects in South Africa have been used to improve teaching system especially teaching biology subjects. Furthermore the study conducted by Utulu (2012) in Nigeria revealed that mobiles phones were used by students for communicating with lecturer in charge of the course, collect data (recordings), sending emails to lecturers, access Online Public Access Catalogue and share knowledge. However, mobile phone uses for teaching and learning purposes in primary, secondary and tertiary education in Tanzania is highly limited (Nihukia, 2011). Kafyulilo, (2012) adds

that, although mobiles phones are the most accessible technological tools in schools and colleges their use in teaching and learning is among the lowest both in Tanzania.

Mobile becomes an essential part of today's student. They always carry mobile everywhere. In India use of mobile in education is in transitional stage. This investigation is focused on general attitude and uses of mobile by students.

Statement of Problem

Use of mobile phone by students: Practices & Attitude

Objectives

- To find out the practices of students in using mobile phone.
- To find out the attitude of students towards using mobile phone.

2. Research Methodology

Method & Technique

Descriptive survey method was used in this investigation and descriptive analysis technique applied for meaningful presentation.

Population & Sample

In this study all students studied in different course i.e. M.Ed., B.Ed. and Polytechnic at Darbhanga off campus of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad were considered as population. Keeping equal representation of course, only 30 students from each three course identified as sample by using random sampling method. In this entire population i.e. 90, there were 66 male and 24 female students.

Tool

A self-made questionnaire were prepared for the investigation after consultation with experts and colleagues.

3. Analysis & Interpretation

After collecting data following statistics were derived.

Table 1. Uses on the basis of types of mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
phone with Internet	25 (37.87%)	10 (41.66%)	09 (30%)	16 (53.33%)	10 (33.33%)
Smart Phone	40 (60.60%)	13 (54.16%)	20 (66.66%)	14 (46.66%)	19 (63.33%)
e-Book Reader	0	0	0	0	0
Tablet	1 (1.51%)	1 (4.16%)	1 (3.33%)	0	1 (3.33%)

Table 1 clearly shows that maximum students having smart phone. Students having simple phone with internet facility is on second number, very few students are having Tablet but it is quite amazing that not a single student is having e-book reader.

Table 2. Uses on the basis of operating system of mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
Android	30 (45.45%)	14 (58.33%)	16 (53.33%)	12 (40.00%)	16 (53.33%)
Apple ios	0	0	0	0	0
Windows	08 (12.12%)	0	04 (13.33%)	02 (6.66%)	02 (6.66%)
Other	28 (42.42%)	10 (41.66%)	10 (33.33%)	16 (53.33%)	12 (40.00%)

By observing Table 2 it is clear that most of students are using android type operation system in their phone or device. Window based phones are also being used by students but Apple ios operating system is not used by any students. It may be because android based phone is cheap in comparatively to Apple ios based phone.

Table 3. Uses of different functions of mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
e-mail	02 (03.03%)	0	0	01 (3.33%)	01 (3.33%)
SMS	08 (12.12%)	03 (12.55%)	02 (6.66%)	07 (23.33%)	02 (6.66%)
Camera	08 (12.12%)	08 (33.33%)	01 (3.33%)	09 (30.00%)	06 (20.00%)
Internet	48 (72.72%)	13 (54.16%)	27 (90.00%)	13 (43.33%)	21 (70.00%)

It is clear by Table 3 that most of male are using their phone for Internet. Half population of female is also using phone for Internet. Camera was the second most used function of mobile phone among student. If observes on the basis of course, 90 % M.Ed. students is using Internet on their phone and 70 % is using in Polytechnic but only 43.33% B.Ed. students are using Internet on their mobiles.

Table 4. Daily frequency of using Internet on mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
1-2 times	24 (30.36%)	11 (45.83%)	07 (23.33%)	15 (50.00%)	13 (43.33%)
3-4 times	22 (33.33%)	05 (20.83%)	06 (20.00%)	06 (20.00%)	14 (46.66%)
5-6 times	08 (12.12%)	02 (8.33%)	09 (30.00%)	0	01 (3.33%)
More than 6 times	12 (18.18%)	06 (25.00%)	08 (26.66%)	09 (30.00%)	02 (6.66%)

About the daily internet using frequency it can be infer with the help of Table 4 that all students access internet through their mobile phones. Male students are using more time internet on mobile in comparison to female students. M.Ed. students stands on top on the basis of using internet on mobile.

Table 5. Different purpose of using Internet on mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
Social Networking	22 (33.33%)	05 (20.83%)	07 (23.33%)	12 (40.00%)	08 (26.00%)
	11 (16.66%)	03 (12.50%)	01 (3.33%)	04 (15.33%)	09 (30.00%)
Search engine	22 (33.33%)	11 (45.83%)	19 (63.33%)	06 (20.00%)	08 (26.66%)
All of above	11 (16.66%)	05 (20.83%)	03 (10.00%)	08 (26.66%)	05 (15.66%)

Glimpses of Table 5 shows that maximum male students use internet for social networking and maximum female students use internet for search engine for searching anything which they desire. On the basis of course most of M.Ed. students uses internet for Search engine, B.Ed. students uses internet for social networking and Polytechnic students uses for online dictionary.

Table 6. Views on the cost of Internet using on mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
Very costly	15 (22.72%)	08 (33.33%)	03 (10.00%)	11 (36.66%)	09 (30.00%)
Costly	23 (34.84%)	04 (16.66%)	10 (33.33%)	06 (20.00%)	11 (36.66%)
Average	22 (33.33%)	11 (45.83%)	15 (30.00%)	11 (36.66%)	07 (23.33%)
Cheap	06 (9.09%)	01 (4.16%)	02 (6.66%)	02 (6.66%)	03 (10.00%)

Table 6 shows that maximum male students admitted that using internet on mobile is a costly affair. 46% female admitted it is average. But overall population is agree that cost of using internet on mobile is average.

Table 7. Mobile phones or device increases interest in study

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
Always	36 (54.54%)	12 (50.00%)	15 (50.00%)	22 (73.33%)	11 (36.66%)
Never	13 (19.69%)	03 (12.50%)	03 (12.50%)	04 (13.33%)	09 (30.00%)
Sometimes	16 (24.24%)	09 (37.50%)	11 (36.66%)	04 (13.33%)	10 (33.33%)
Can't say	01 (1.51%)	0	01 (3.33%)	0	0

According to statistics of Table 7, 54% male believes that mobile always increases interest in study, 50% females also believes that mobile increase their interest in study. 50% M.Ed., 36% Polytechnic students admitted that mobile increases interest in their study. 73% B.Ed. students believes such fact.

Table 8. Mobile phones or device could be tool of learning.

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
Always	54 (81.81%)	21 (87.50%)	23 (76.66%)	29 (96.66%)	23 (76.66%)
Sometimes	05 (7.57%)	01 (4.16%)	04 (13.33%)	0	02 (6.66%)
Can't say	04 (6.06%)	02 (8.33%)	03 (10.00%)	0	03 (10.00%)
Never	03 (4.54%)	0	0	01 (3.33%)	02 (6.66%)

Table 8 explored that 54 out of 66 male students and 21 out 24 female students believes that mobile could be a tool of learning. This situation also exists among students studying in different courses.

Table 9. Internet speed on mobile phone or device

Variable	Male N= 66	Female N=24	M.Ed. N=30	B.Ed. N=30	Polytechnic N=30
Very fast	05 (7.57%)	0	01 (3.33%)	02 (6.66%)	02 (6.66%)
Fast	12 (18.18%)	12 (50.00%)	05 (16.66%)	06 (20%)	13 (43.33%)
Average	39 (59.09%)	11 (45.83%)	21 (70.00%)	17 (56.66%)	12 (40.00%)
Slow	10 (15.15%)	01 (4.16%)	03 (10.00%)	05 (16.66%)	03 (10.00%)

Table 9 is showing data about the speed of internet on mobile. All most students shows that speed of internet on mobile is average.

4. Findings & Discussion

However, this investigation gives a helicopter view about the attitudes and practices of students of using mobile phone for academic purpose. But some interesting findings are there. Approximately all students were using mobile phone for internet. Maximum were using android based mobile phone because these operation system is very common and cheap in comparison to other operation system. E-book reader is not popular among students. Not a single student was using e-book reader. Reason behind this may be that Indian students believes in traditional book reading because its cheapness and versatility. Main application of mobile uses by students is Internet surfing. Social networking via Internet also was a major application used by students. A major portion of population believes that mobile could be used as a learning tool for increasing interest in educational settings. Cost of using internet and speed of browsing internet was average according to maximum students.

Acknowledgement-

Investigator is thankful to Mr. Seraj Alam, alumni of MANNU, College of Teacher Education, Darbhanga for his efforts in collecting data and other helps.

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