A STUDY OF THE AWARENESS OF THE POSITIVE USAGE OF MOBILE PHONES IN EDUCATION AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN GREATER MUMBAI

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Introduction

It is impossible not to notice that almost everyone owns a mobile phone today. Without a doubt, these devices have completely changed the way of living and interact, giving a convenient means of calling, sending text messages, reading emails, playing games as well as reading and editing documents on the go. In the past, it was a task to fit a digital camera, mp3 player, GPS and a phone all in one's pocket at the same time. However, this is no longer a problem thanks to today's mobile phones. With their applications, they have made people's lives easier with just a single device. Moreover, these devices are of immense educational value as they offer applications to study different subjects, read eBooks, convert currencies, make payments etc. Due to these reasons, it is necessary to consider the positive usage of mobile phones in modern lives today.

But Mobile phone use inbysecondary school students has become a controversial topic debated by parents and teachers. Parents who support the use of cell phones believe that these phones are essential for safety by allowing children to communicate with their parents and guardians. Opponents of students using mobile phones during school believe that mobile phones cause disruption and may be used inappropriately such as by cheating on tests, taking inappropriate photographs, and playing mobile games. Rather than paying attention to teachers, students are spending more time distracted by their phones. The software can be used in order to monitor and restrict phone usage to reduce distractions and prevent unproductive use. It further investigates the awareness of the positive usage of mobile phones among secondary students in Greater Mumbai. It is an attempt to accomplish an overall

favorable awareness of the positive usage among mobile phones among the youth.

Need of the Study

The researcher was of the opinion that most parents and society view the mobile phone as a device which distracts students away from their studies. While this could be happening (and in many ways would depend on the willpower of students and discipline provided by parents), the researcher opined that one cannot generalize that mobile phones are a bane. With an abundance of applications on play-store and apple-store the researcher was of the view that one needs to consider how this technological instrument is paving the way for a brighter future for students right from their schooling to their higher studies and in their day to day lives.

Significance of the Study

The study will be of immensely beneficial to the different stakeholders in education.

Head of the Institutions

The findings of the study will benefit the heads of the institutions because it will successfully create awareness about how to handle the students with the value of usage of mobile phones. Students will have to possess a positive attitude towards the usage of mobile phones and understand its utilitarian value.

Teachers

The study will be immensely beneficial to the professional teachers who are the key drivers for educational delivery. How well this value of positive usage of mobile phones which will improve the body, mind and spirit of the students will be inculcated in the grass root level can be observed from these findings.

Society

The findings of the study will be an eye opener to the Indian society and parents. It will be immensely beneficial to the present generation to know and analyze their attitude towards use of mobile phones exclusively for educational purpose. The entire programme is expected to change the behavioral pattern of young individuals towards understanding of good use of mobile phones and other electronic gadgets.

Hence the Researcher selected the above area of study.

Statement of the Problem

A study of the awareness of the positive usage of mobile phones among secondary students in Greater Mumbai.

Objectives of the study

1. To obtain a deeper insight into the nature of student's use of smartphones.
2. To study the effect of mobile phones on student's academic performance.
3. To study the effect of mobile phones on student's relationships.
4. To study the willingness among students to use their mobile phones for their betterment.
5. To bring about awareness among students of the many undiscovered uses of their smartphones.

Literature Review:

A)Researches on Mobile Learning done in India

A study was conducted to find out student's experiences of mobile learning by Bansal, T. & Joshi, D in 2014. The main objectives of the research were to find outthe attitude of students towards WhatsApp mobile learning. To study educational benefits of WhatsApp mobile learning and to explore collaborative learning in WhatsApp mobile learning atmosphere. The results revealed that students preferred WhatsApp mobile learning over traditional classroomlearning and were willing to continue using WhatsApp in future for teaching learning. When educational benefits were concerned, students found it beneficial as it provided them with immediate feedback to the problem; an opportunity to learn on the move; deeper clarity on issues through discussions; revision of previously learned topics; learning from others problems and availability of learning material all the time. Overall students' shows a favourable attitude towards WhatsApp m learning.

A study was conducted on developing a mobile courseware for ICT students by Shanmugapriya, M. &Tamilarasi, A. (2013)using Problem Based Learning Approach. The main objective of the research was to evaluate the feasibility of adopting problem-based learning pedagogies in a mobile learning environment for ICT students. The results revealed that the problem-based learning approach enhances the problem-solving skills, provides a unique approach for solving the same program differently by individuals, enhances the communication, group discussion and collaborative learning skills of the students.

A study was conducted on reviewing the impact of smartphone usage on academic performance among students of higher learning by Dr.K.Sumathi, Mrs.N.Selva Lakshmi and Ms.S.Kundhavai in 2018. The main aim of the study was to find out the relationship between smartphone usage and academic performance among students of higher learning. The study involved data collation based on description of the phone usage habit such as browsing frequency, information sourced, sites visited, and examining the effect of smartphones on

students' academic related activities. The results revealed that smartphones have a tremendous impact on their higher education, especially with easy internet access and high-speed browsing as it saves time and money rather than going to cybercafé/college library.

A study was conducted onhigher education through mobile learning: an analysis of students from Kolkata by Banerjee, J. & Bose, I. 2011. The main aim of the study was to find the reasons for preference of mobile based education compared to traditional method. The results revealed that 78% of the respondents are willing to opt for Mobile learning courses. Further, the study found that the number of people willing to take courses through M-learning mode is quite high.

A study was conducted to find out theviewpoint and attitudes of students towards thefuture of mobile learning in theeducationIndustry of India by Saxena, A. &Saxena, A in 2015. The main aim of the research was to study the general attitude of student's towards future of mobile learning in education industry of India. The results revealed that students see a bright side of mobile learning and see its positive consideration as a good vehicle for learning. Majority of the students showed positive attitudes towards mobile leaning.

B)Researches on Mobile Learning done in Abroad

A study was conducted on mobile learning and educational environments by Sarrab, M. Elgamel, L. &Aldabbas, H. in 2012. The main aim of the study was to highlight the benefits and future challenges of mobile learning in educational environments. The results revealed that mobile learning makes the merge and connection between technology and education possible. It provides a platform for teachers and students to interact with each other which facilitates the teaching learning process. Lastly, it was found that mobile learning can be used to complement the learning process in our schools and universities.

A study was conducted on mobile learning: how students use mobile devices to support learning by Foti, K.M. & Mendez, J. in 2014. The main aim of the study was toinvestigate whether mobile devices are currently used to enhance orsupport learningin order to facilitate student achievement. The results revealed that 45 of the 46 student participants reported using their mobile devices for academic purposes.The findings indicate that students have employed various strategies to ensure their academic success. This helps them to support their learning outside the classroom.

A study was conducted on the pedagogy of mobile learning in supporting distance learners by Makoe, M. 2012. The main aim of the study was to investigate the pedagogic approach that best support effective use of cell phones in the distance education context. The results revealed that different cell phones applications are harnessed for teaching and learning.

Further, students are encouraged to use cell phone social networks such as MXit, WhatsUp, BBM to form study groups and work collaboratively on projects. It found that cell phone based self-assessment quizzes and audio have potential to guide students through the maze of learning material while assisting them to pace themselves.

A study was conducted on deploying an Interactive Mobile Learning System (IMLS) in the classroom by Boyinbode, O. &Fasunon, D. in 2015. The main aim of the study was to enable studentsto informally use their handheld devices for educational purposes and in the process, create an interactive classroom learning environment resulting in better student engagement and academic performance. The analysis showed that that if IMLS is implemented, it will make classroom learning more interactive, relieve lecturer fatigue, improve student engagement and their literacy skills.

A study was conducted on mobile learning and English Language Learners (ELL): acase Study of using iPod touch as a teaching and learning Tool by Liu, Navarrete, M. Maradiegue, C.C. E. &Wivagg, J. in 2014. The main aim of the study was to examine how ELL teachers and their students (at two middle schools) used iPods to support their teaching and learning and explored the potential benefits of using such mobile devices as a teaching and learning tool. The results revealed that the convenience, individual guidance, and educational play made available through the device encouraged ELL students and teachers to access information for educational purposes which has led to an overall positive outlook towards the use of mobile devices in traditional school environments.

Research Method for the present study

Sample:

In the present study the positive usage of mobile phones by the secondary school students have been examined. As the data has been collected through survey, descriptive survey of method is employed in the present study. Pupils from 9th standard class of a CBSE school situated in Mumbai was selected on random basis as sample of the study. Their age ranged from thirteen to fourteen.The size of the sample is 100 students of 9th standard class in CBSE school in greater Mumbai.

Area wise distribution of the sample

Zone	Area	Sample Size
North Mumbai	Ryan C.B.S.E School, Kandivili	20
South Mumbai	Queen Mary School, Charni Road	20

Central Mumbai	Shishuvan School, Matunga	20
East Mumbai	North Bombay Welfare Society School, Ghatkopar	20
West Mumbai	Podar CBSE School, Bandra	20

Tools for Research:

For each and every type of research we need certain instruments to gather new facts or to explore new fields. The instruments thus employed as means for collecting data are called tools.

The selection of suitable instruments or tools is of vital importance for successful research. Different tools are suitable for collecting various kinds of information for various purposes.

The major tools of research in education can be classified broadly into the following categories.

Inquiry forms-

Questionnaire-

Checklist
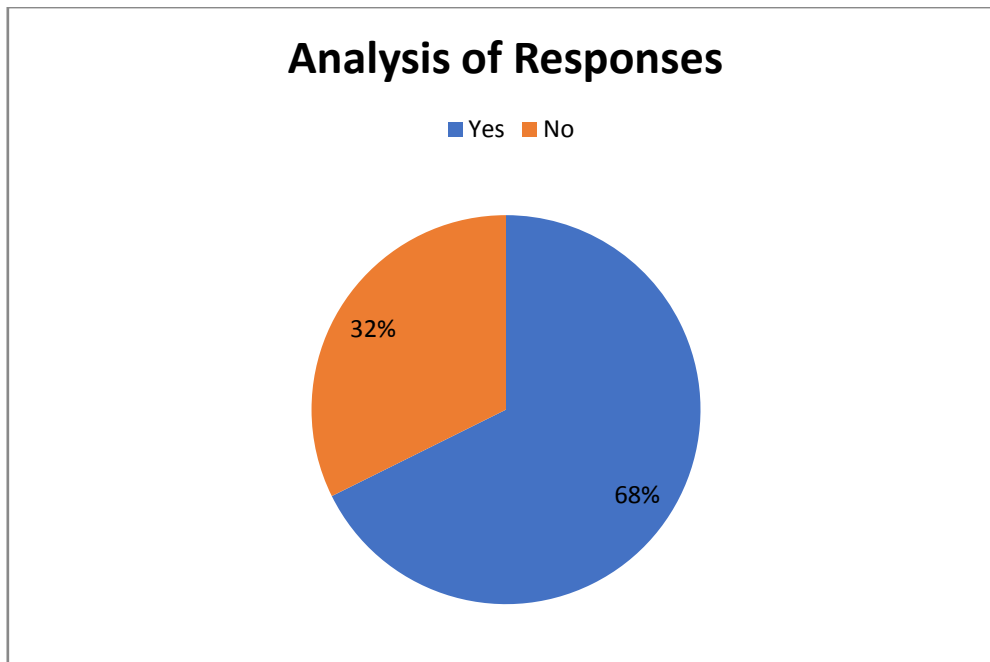
Score card

Schedule

Rating scale

Opinionative

Attitude scale

Tools used in the present study:

For the present study researcher made tools have been used. The questionnaire has yes and No type of questions and open ended questions.

The Findings:

The **quantitative findings** revealed that out of the total sample of 100 students, 68% are aware of the various positive uses of mobile phones and 32% are yet to discover positive uses of various applications. The averages can be graphically represented as follows;

Analysis of Responses

Yes ■ No

32%

68%

The **qualitative analysis** had some very interesting findings;

1)Students used many educational applications which were new to the researcher. The apps used most frequently by the students included; Byjus, Meritnation (science), Photomath, NCERT app, Robomate+, Career launcher, Khan Academy, TOPPR, My CBSE, 3D anatomy learning for science, Economic Times application, vocabulary builder, learn World History, Maps of our World.

2) **94 % students** agreed that social media applications can be used for educational purposes. The reasons sighted were; sharing educational insights makes everyone aware of the happenings around the world, notes can be uploaded daily on WhatsApp, it helps all students keep in touch and share information as and when required, school projects are communicated effectively, many news updates are available on social media, social media applications can be used to grow one's business.

However, **6 % students** were of the opinion that social media applications cannot be used for educational purposes as they are a distraction and are mainly used to get updates about the daily lives of others.

3) **82% students** opined that having government officials accessible through social media is good as they can become aware of the issues of citizens which in turn makes the system of law and order transparent, citizens can get updated on various policies and programmes of the government, it has the potential to reduce cyber-crime to an extent, tweets can reach officials quickly as Twitter provides an open platform for common people to express their opinions

and suggestions, they become aware of existing malpractices, transparency in governance allows the citizens to hold officials accountable for their actions because they are accessible.

18% students were neutral and felt that while having government officials on social media may prove useful in cyber-crimes, it invades the privacy of citizens.

4) When asked about which application they would design and why, the students had very creative ideas which could actually be of use to their fellow students as well as society. Some of their innovative applications were as follows; an app to click clear and accurate pics of celestial bodies, an app to deliver food to all who are needy with the government's help, an app for children who are home schooled, a social app for people on the verge of depression or in trauma, apps to help learn languages like Marathi and Sanskrit easily, an interactive app for first time learners of English, apps to help study history dates through songs, an app which helps senior citizens report their cases to the police so that they can fight a court case, a game which is adventurous, knowledgeable and interesting, apps which shows recorded lectures of schools etc. This showed that students have innovative ideas for the improvement and betterment of the future generations and one cannot deny the fact that with continuous improvement in technology, the future generations will enjoy its benefits.

Implications/ Reflections:

The researcher was of the opinion that majority of researches still focus on the ill effects of mobile phone usage and very few researches study about the positive use of mobile phones on students. The results of this research however, revealed that majority of students use different applications to study various subjects. This indicates that mobile phones have the capacity to be a boon for students, it just depends on the way in which mobile phones are used.

In a world where technology plays a very important role and where i-pads and laptops are given to students in schools, one cannot shun away from its usage, instead students and teachers must learn to adapt to technology in a positive manner.

Conclusion

Mobile phones are most valuable one in today's world even for the secondary students. It is of great help in Education.In olden days if they had any doubts about their studies they should seek library or friends home. But now they can get answers to their questions from Internet through mobile phones. The only needed things are mobile phones and data. It really saves their time and makes them read more things and attain more marks.

In the present world of science and technology it is difficult to imagine schools and colleges without computers and internet. It is a big reality that students take a lot of help from internet nowadays. The use of computer and internet has led to a huge change in the lifestyle and attitude towards studies. Internet is not only a medium of entertainment; it is also used for learning new ideas and information that a student cannot get only from reading books. Students not only get knowledge related to their course but also related to other spheres of life. Different educational websites provide required information to the students helping them in their exams, assignments, projects, etc. Internet also helps in creating interest in learning a subject by providing various resources like videos, images and audio files from reliable sources.

Internet is very useful for those who wants to learn but are unable to attend regular classes due to some reasons. These students go for online courses and gather information and study from them to prepare themselves for competitions. Many video tutorials and lectures from famous faculties can also be downloaded and students watch them and learn from them in a very easy and cheap way. Many websites also provide facility to students to ask questions and clear their doubt which leads to effective learning. There are a lot of discussion forums on the internet where people having similar interests can discuss over the problems and provide solutions for them.

Students enhance their general knowledge by referring to different websites that provide news on the current affairs of the world or any specific region. Information related to history, geography, science, researches, new innovations etc. can also be collected easily from internet.

Students also share their work with their friends or any professors for their assistance or to appreciation. Students use internet to apply to colleges or institutes easily by uploading their work and qualifications on the concerned websites. In many institutions the student's performance results are displayed on the websites and they don't have to stand in queue to look for the same.

One of the important benefits of internet is that students also earn from internet through bloggers by sharing their knowledge. It provides a great source for income for a student and also improves his/her own skills.

The student who are shy and are not able to raise their questions in their class rooms get their doubts cleared online. They also get chance to see questions asked by other students and learn effectively.

If a student wants to learn something extra, other than the normal curriculum, he can refer the online resources and expertise in the desired area and stay ahead in this competent world.

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