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**A STUDY OF AWARENESS OF THE EDUCATIONAL USES OF MOBILE PHONES AMONG POST GRADUATE STUDENTS OF KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY, KURUKSHETRA**

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**ABSTRACT**

**WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR MOBILE PHONE, YOU LOSE PART OF YOUR IDEAL BRAIN**

Cell phones are not just communication devices, sparking new modalities of interaction between people, they are also particularly useful computers that fit in your pocket, always with you and always on. Students can learn a lot many things from mobile phones such as languages, poetry, literature, public-speaking, writing, story-telling, mathematics, etc. Cell phone delivered lectures are also very much beneficial especially for the students learning through distance education mode. Present study aims to know about the awareness of the educational uses of the mobile phones in different ways among students and the impact of these uses on the academic achievement of students.

**INTRODUCTION**

Mobile phone was born in 1983 in U.S.A. It has celebrated its SILVER JUBILEE in 2008. Today's young people – DIGITAL NATIVE GENERATION – have in an incredibly short time, adopted these TINY COMPUTERS in their pockets, purses and backpacks as their primary means of communication. They are using their cell phones for communicating by voice, text and increasingly, digital photographs and videos. Students around the world increasingly carry these miniature COMPUTING / COMUNICATING DEVICES, almost exclusively for their personal purposes.

**JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

There are many instruments based on different technologies for the purpose of communication. These are postcard, registered letters, couriers, telegraph, landline phone, mobile phone, radio, T.V., etc. Some among these are one way and rest are two way and more than two ways communication devices. Mobile phone is the best among all these being two or more than two ways. One of the most important function of mobile phone is that it performs the duties of an ideal security guard and an ideal personal assistant on 24x7 basis(24 hours a day and 7 days in a week) at a nominal cost. At times it acts as a safety instrument to prevent bad elements. It helps in saving time also. It serves the duties of best friend and best partner. Students can learn a lot of things from mobile phones such as languages, poetry, literature, public speaking, writing, story-telling, mathematics, etc. Cell phone delivered lectures are also very much beneficial especially for the students learning through distance education mode. Researches conducted by Mohanasundaram & Gershom in 2007, Wu et. al. in 2012, Kuznekoff & Titsworth in 2013, Tessier in 2013 and Thomas & Munoz in 2016 highlighted the impact of cell phone based learning and the perception of students regarding its educational relevance. Present study aims to know about the awareness of the educational uses of mobile phones in different ways among students and the impact of these uses on the academic achievement of students. If students use this device in appropriate manner, they can increase their efficiency and due to increased efficiency, their knowledge and understanding level will also increase manifold. Once the cell phone-based learning is on the right way, the "WORLD MIND" of both educators and students will take it in a MILLION USEFUL AND UNEXPECTED DIRECTIONS.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To find out the awareness among students about the benefits of mobile phones in their study.
2. To find out the awareness among students about the impact of mobile phone on their health.

## **SAMPLE**

In the present study, the sample consists of 60 post graduate students of Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

## **TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION**

A structured questionnaire (self-prepared) was used to collect the necessary data. A structured questionnaire is the one in which the questions to be asked and the responses permitted are completely predetermined.

## **ADMINISTRATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

There are two ways of getting the questionnaires filled by the respondents. A questionnaire is either administered personally to a group of individuals or it is mailed to them. In the former situation, the person administering the tools has an opportunity to establish rapport with the respondents and to explain the purpose of the study to the respondents. A mailed questionnaire lacks the personal introduction by the investigator. Sometimes, the mailed questionnaires are not returned to the researcher in time. In the present research, the questionnaires were distributed personally to the respondents. The questionnaire was thoroughly discussed with the respondents to clarify doubts if any, required for the study.

## **SCORING OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

After the collection of data, scoring was done. There were three options of questions in the questionnaire: Always, Sometimes and Never. Tallies were marked for responses of each item of questionnaire.

## **STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USED FOR DATA ANALYSES**

Percentages were calculated for analyses and interpretation of data.

## **MAIN FINDINGS**

1. Very few students (28.33 %) use the game facility for playing educational games such as Crosswords, Word Puzzles and SUDOKU.

These games are very much beneficial for learning of languages, mathematics and increase the concentration power of students.

2. 85% respondents feel that the mobile phone is an economical service provider as compared to traditional modes of communication.

3. Only 26.67 % students listen to educational programmes on mobile phones.

Educational Programmes by eminent educationists, description about the latest developments in a particular field, special information, songs (very much beneficial especially for music students), sports information and agricultural programmes etc. can be heard. For mass

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education, it can be utilised effectively.

4. 75% students feel that the mobile phone always provides security. Secret information can be shared with full security.

5. 37% respondents use data services for viewing of news on various news channels.

6. 45% students use Reminder facility for important chores.

7. Only 36.67% students are aware that the mobile phone should be switched off in the premises of filling station (Petrol Pump) for safety purpose.

8. Only 10% students use Stopwatch facility while preparing for competitive exams.

## **EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Educational Implications for Students**

Dictionary function in mobile phones is very much helpful for appropriate learning of languages. A student with good vocabulary can express his views in a very effective and impressive way. Mobile phone should be used as reminder for important chores like a reminder to remind them the date of depositing examination fees. Game facility on mobile phones can be used as a tension reliever. Language games such as crosswords and word puzzles are also very much beneficial for learning of languages. These educational games refresh the students and increase their concentration power. Important formulas and key points can be saved in mobile phones and students can revise these in their spare time such as travelling in bus or train. Students must remember to switch off their mobile phones in the premises of filling station. Stopwatch facility is very much useful for students. e. g. Students who are preparing for various competitive exams can note the exact time taken for solving each question while practice and thus they can improve their speed.

### **Educational Implications for Teachers**

Teachers should acquaint their students with educational uses of mobile phones. They should motivate the students to use the mobile phones for constructive purposes such as learning of languages, poetry, literature, public-speaking, writing, story-telling, mathematics etc. They should encourage the students to play educational games on mobile phones to enhance their learning and to increase their concentration power.

## **CONCLUSION**

The cell-phone based learning is the need of the time especially for the learners who are getting education through distance mode. If this powerful mode of learning is used in a constructive manner, it can prove to be a boon for the students and they can excel in their related fields.

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