



## 2. Cell Phones and Social Interactions: A Complex Relationship

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### ABSTRACT

*In today's world, when asked about the technology that people use the most, the answer is likely to be mobile technology. Mobile phones have become an integral part of human life. It is considered as a necessity rather than a convenience. People use mobile phones for various purposes such as chatting, gaming, calling, dating, social media, and business. The process of adopting mobile phones has impacted the behaviour as well as the attitude of users. This study aims to examine these changes. The study seeks to identify the procedure of how mobile technology has influential for our culture and the ways in which we perceive socially acceptable communication. In conclusion, this technology has significantly impacted our lives, and this study aims to provide insight into the extent of this impact.*

**Keywords:** Mobile Technology, Cell Phones, Culture, Communication

### Introduction:

The mobile phone is one of the most technologically pervasive influence over the past decade. Mobile phone emerged as one of the defining technologies of our time (Rainie and Keeter, 2006). It has an impact on society in terms of forming an instructive, associated, innovative in terms of culture, participative, converging society and users in many ways including time use, privacy issues, emancipation, safety, individuality, status and confidence on their personal life, deftness in communications and connectedness, captivating, confidentialness, planned life, time management (Rainie and Keeter, 2006; Fortunati, 2002). The mobile phone has rapidly become an integral part and an essential communication tool that is being used worldwide.

Nowadays the global cellular phone market estimates that there were 363.2 million subscribers in 2016 and this became 477 million in 2017 (ID & statista, 2016). Though Information Communication Technology (ICT), internet and outsourcing have changed the way every business is arranged by providing capabilities and it has helped small or large organizations to ever-changing situations,



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mobile technology is going to alter the paths business is conducted. The biggest challenge is that for an enterprise to adopt mobile technology to create competitive edge, enhances productivity and profitability. The introduction of smart phones has provided additional motivation for the industry to grow further. Smart phones allow users to surf internet, download music and other data services as well as make calls and send text messages. As described by the Economist, (2017) the market for smart phones is expected to grow from 2500 million in 2017 by that time they make up nearly half of the market by value of handsets.

Despite drawbacks in technology upgradation, mobile usage continues to rise for a diverse of reasons depending on age group (Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, 2012). Although the most vibrant market of mobile phones for the years below 25, its usance is welcomed by all sections of the population such as old age to office executives, homemaker sand students (Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, 2012). A quarter of the population aged 18 - 24 are claiming that mobile phones are more important than TV, MP3 player and games console (Heeks, 2008) while under-25s are seen to use their mobile phones mostly to keep in touch with their parents, associates. They use their mobile phones to keep account on their children, grandparents use theirs phones to be connected with their relatives, with their grandchildren and working people use it to commensurate office work from home (Kushchu, 2007). It seems accurate to analyse mobile phone usage with spunk comparable to that which is given to the internet. In Ghana there is little, almost no documented evidence of the social impact of mobile phone on social interactions and business. As mobile communication is important, the study seeks to fill the void by seeking to find answers to the following question: what is influence of mobile phone on our social relationship and its impact on people. The objective of the study is to provide empirical evidence of the influences on mobile phone adoption as well as positive and negative effects of mobile phone technology on everyday life of the population, Ghanaian people using Kumasi Polytechnic as a case study in the Kumasi metropolis, Ashanti Region of Ghana. The outcome of the study will be informing policy intervention in the areas of investment in mobile telecommunication and further armour the positive outcomes for economic growth. The results of the study will bring forth the various negative aspects of mobile phone usage in the metropolis which will serve as basis for instituting interventions to assuage them and also serve as a basis for further study in future.

**Objectives:**

The primary objectives of the study are to search for the current Mobile users in India, to realize the benefit and disadvantage of using mobile phones at the same time to find out social impact of mobile.

The Secondary Objectives is to detect the impact of mobile on the world.



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**History:**

Mobile phones have changed the way of how we live our lives and to many, the anticipation of a world without voice calling, text messaging and Internet access is an unsettling one as we all know, mobile phones didn't just ensue overnight.

Mobile phones evolved over five different generations just like us human beings, the latest of which is still being rolled out and adopted by consumers. No need to worry— by the time most of us will have switched to 4G there will be yet another standard to aspire to indisputably.

**Pre-Standardisation or '0G'**

One of the first to commercialize mobile telecommunication is AT&T in 1947. The service simply known as “Mobile Telephone Service” (MTS) expand to more than a hundred towns and highway paths by the end of the year. The service relied on tranter to connect both incoming and outgoing calls. The telephones, used earlier were not particularly portable and used a half-duplex “press to speak” system where the caller would have to release the button to communicate with the other person. Two Bell Labs engineers proposed the foundations for the modern cellular network in the very same year. At that time the plans were daring, and it took till the 1960s for the plans to be redacted and even longer to come to market. MTS was used in North America until the 1980s, despite AT&T's introduction of the aptly named Improves Mobile Telephone Service (IMTS) in 1965. The new service induced user dialling, removed the need for tranter forwarding at the same time used additional radio channels which increased the number of possible subscribers and calls, as well as area coverage.

However, in its infancy IMTS was still mobile telephony and was limited to 40,000 subscribers nationwide. In New York City, 2,000 customers shared 12 radio channels which approximately took 30 minutes to place a call.

Another solution designed to compete with AT&T's MTS and IMTS systems is Radio Common Carriers (RCCs). Not only were the units huge but standards varied widely. Some phones were half-duplex “push to talk”. Some were full duplex much like a wired telephone.

Some lucky customers even carried around briefcase-sized full duplex devices, though RCC units were mainly limited to cars.

The world's first fully automated mobile telephone was introduced in Sweden in 1960. The system allowed for automatic connection from a rotary handset (that's the circular dialling knob to me and you) mounted within a car but required an operator to forward calls. The system was known as Mobile Telephone system A (MTA) and it was replaced by MTB two years later.



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There were several other solutions including the arrival of Motorola on the scene in 1959 and Bulgarian and Russian (thenUSSR) solutions sprouted up too in this intermediate period. It wasn't until 1971 when the ARP network was introduced to Finland that the world's first successful commercial network was launched. The system relied on cars, began as half-duplex but soon evolved and had over 35,000 subscribers by the year 1986.

A Motorola researcher and executive Dr Martin Cooper made the first phone call from a handheld mobile phone on April 3, 1973. This brought in a new dawn of communication.

### **Analog Cellular Networks or "1G"**

The first generation of cellular networks paved the way to the networks we know and use today. In 1977 in Chicago use of multiple cell tower sites, each connected through a network, allowed users to travel and travel built on existing, analog technology with the first being built.

The Analog Mobile Phone System (AMPS) was built by AT&T and it took the FCC 11 years to approve AT&T's initial proposal in 1971 before they were assigned the 824-894MHz range on which to operate AMPS.

Hot on the heels of the western researchers were Japanese telecommunications company NTT built their own network in 1979. Five years later it was the first 1G network which covered an entire country. Then came the Nordic Mobile Telephone (NMT) network in 1981. It was the first to feature international roaming, operating in Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

### **Digital Cellular Networks or "2G":**

Mobile phones picked up the pace as technological advancement did. The years in 1990s saw the arrival of two new digital technologies – one is the European GSM standard and the second is known as North American CDMA standard. Demand grew as well as more and more cell tower sites were built. Additionally, technological improvements in batteries and internal components, this allowed for much smaller mobile devices. Another advancement made possible by 2G was the introduction of SMS messaging, with the first computer generated SMS sent in 1992 in the UK.

A year later, the first person-to-person SMS was delivered using GSM technology in Finland. As popularity grew, pre-paid mobile phones and plans emerged in the late 1990s which further popularized SMS amongst all ages. The very first download services were also introduced using 2G technology and it enabled users to download ringtones. Mobile phones also saw use as another method of payment for services like car parking in Finland and vending machines.



**Mobile Broadband or '3G'** - The first mobile Internet service in Japan in 1999 on existing 2G technologies was pioneered by NTT DoCoMo, but it was soon replaced with their launch of the world's first 3G network in October 2001. Many countries followed suit in the following years including South Korea, the US and the first European 3G networks which sprang up in the UK and Italy in 2003. A number of "2.5G" services appeared in an attempt to bring older technologies up to speed while 3G was still being developed.

Unfortunately, speed was the lacking factor, and technologies like GPRS and EDGE provided improvements over standard 2G. They did not match the speed of existing 3G technologies.

3G transformed the mobile phone industry and enabled widespread mobile Internet and the transmission services like TV and Radio for the very first time. Handset manufacturers jumped on the bandwagon and smartphone use took off. By around 2005 3G had evolved a step further, leading many to coin the terms "3.5G" "turbo 3G" and "3G+" in reference to HSPDA (High Speed Downlink Packet Access), HSPA and HSPA+.

**Native IP or "4G"** - While no official standards exist for 4G, a few technologies have laid claim to the title. The first was WiMAX, offered by Sprint in the US but perhaps the most successful has been LTE, which is popular also in North America but non-existent in some territories such as Australia. 4G marks the switch to native IP networks, bringing mobile Internet more in-line with wired home Internet connections.

With potential advancements of ten times over 3G rates speed is of course the big advantage. The fourth generation of mobile communication is still evolving, and we're bound to see new standards, speed increases and coverage benefits in the next few years. For a better understanding of 3G and 4G mobile Internet.

Based on a study titled 'Internet in India' by ICUBE in 2021, over 50% of the 692 million active Internet users in India reside in rural areas.

### **5G Technology -**

The 5th generation mobile network, or the latest global wireless standard succeeding the 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G networks is 5G. 5G high speed, low latency, and massive capacity could pave the way for a new era of connectivity, unlocking new possibilities for the Internet of Things (IoT). Its design is to connect machines, objects, devices, and virtually everyone and everything together. This new type of network is intended to deliver higher peak data speeds of multiple gigabits per second, with ultra-low latency, increased reliability, massive network capacity, higher availability, and a more consistent

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user experience to a larger number of users. The advanced execution and improved efficiency provided allow for new user experiences and opportunities for various industries to connect.

Nokia has predicted that the number of 5G subscribers in India will exceed 150 million by 2024, with a significant increase expected in the second half of this year. Currently, India has over 20 million 5G customers, but if Reliance Jio achieves its goal of having 100 million 5G customers by the end of FY24, Nokia's projection could be exceeded. The report, The India Mobile Broadband Index for 2023, also predicts that the combined 4G and 5G subscriber base will reach 990 million by 2024, and that the number of 2G customers will decline from 350 million to around 150 million by 2024. Nokia expects 5G smartphone shipments to surpass 4G smartphone shipments by the end of 2023, with cumulative 5G smartphone shipments crossing 100 million by Q2FY23. The report notes that the availability of 5G services will increase the adoption of 5G smartphones, and it forecasts that there will be more than 2,400 sites for private wireless networks, most of which will be on 5G, in India by 2027.

#### **A Look at Mobile Phone Technology:**

Some of the major uses of mobile phones will be described below in the following section:

- Voice.
- Short message service (SMS).
- Internet.
- Data transfer.
- Mobile instant messaging (MIM).

**Voice** – A user can speak with user one person or many people at the same time by a mobile phone.

An advantage of voice on mobile phones over that of the landlines is that people can be contacted almost anywhere at any time. However, there are concerns when it comes to a person being constantly available. A topic which is discussed later, concerns speaking on mobile phones in public, among other things.

**Short message service (SMS)** - As the name suggests, this service allows individuals to send short messages, with a maximum of 160 characters, to other individuals or groups. One of the reasons for its popularity is due to it being seen as a cheaper method of communicating than that of a telephone (Reid and Reid, 2007:424).



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**Internet** - Previously, if you were traveling abroad, you had to find an Internet café to be able to browse the Web. In recent years, the Internet has extended its reach to include mobile phones. By using mobile phones, it is possible to get access to different social spaces wherever you are (Lu et al., 2003:206). However, there are concerns when it comes to privacy and security that will be addressed in a later section.

**Data transfer** - Bluetooth enables people to share data, such as music, videos and images wirelessly via their mobile phones, among other devices (Erasala and Yen, 2002:193). Teenagers, for instance, use Bluetooth to get music from their friends without the need to pay (Slade, 2005:3). This could have dire consequences for music companies as this brings a new way of piracy to life. Security concerns are discussed under the heading, "Concerning mobile phones".

**Mobile Instant Messaging (MIM)** - A large number of people, especially teenagers prefer instant messaging (IM) to that of other electronic communication methods, such as e-mail (Marshall, 2003). One of the attractive aspects of IM is the momentary transfer of messages between individuals as well as groups. New friendships and communities have arisen by mobile instant messaging. 2 examples of a popular South African MIM service is MXit (Francke and Weideman's, 2007:4, 6). MXit only charges for data transfer which makes it even cheaper than SMS, which has given rise to its popularity (Country Monitor, 2007). It is previously indicated that mobile phones have given rise to certain concerns, which will be discussed next.

**Uses of Mobile in India:**

According to collected data by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai), India's total number of internet users grew by 4.3% YoY in CY2021 to reach 829.3 million. This growth rate has slowed down compared to the steady double-digit growth witnessed during 2015-20, which can be attributed to the rising prices of entry-level smartphones that have slowed down the conversion from 2G to 4G.

<b>Highlights of Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2022</b>			
<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Wireless</b>	<b>Wireline</b>	<b>Total</b> (Wireless+ Wireline)
<b>Total Telephone Subscribers</b> (Million)	<b>1148.03</b>	<b>25.63</b>	<b>1173.66</b>
Net Addition in July, 2022 (Million)	0.64	0.06	0.70
Monthly Growth Rate	0.06%	0.24%	0.06%
<b>Urban Telephone Subscribers</b> (Million)	<b>626.74</b>	<b>23.66</b>	<b>650.40</b>
Net Addition in July, 2022 (Million)	1.25	0.06	1.31
Monthly Growth Rate	0.20%	0.25%	0.20%
<b>Rural Telephone Subscribers</b> (Million)	<b>521.29</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>523.26</b>
Net Addition in July, 2022 (Million)	-0.61	0.002	-0.61
Monthly Growth Rate	-0.12%	0.11%	-0.12%
<b>Overall Tele-density*(%)</b>	<b>83.25%</b>	<b>1.86%</b>	<b>85.11%</b>
Urban Tele-density*(%)	129.88%	4.90%	134.78%
Rural Tele-density*(%)	58.15%	0.22%	58.37%
Share of Urban Subscribers	54.59%	92.31%	55.42%
Share of Rural Subscribers	45.41%	7.69%	44.58%
<b>Broadband Subscribers</b> (Million)	<b>777.95</b>	<b>29.47</b>	<b>807.42</b>

Figure 1 Uses of Mobile in India (Press Release No.63/2022, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).

**Mobile Phone and Social Interaction:**

Eventually cell phones have become an integral part of our daily lives, and they have significantly impacted our social interactions and communication patterns. One of the most significant ways cell phones have changed us socially is through constant connectivity. With the ability to call or message anyone anytime, anywhere, cell phones have created a culture of constant connectivity, which makes it challenging to disconnect and can lead to feelings of isolation when we are not connected to others.

Furthermore, cell phones have changed the way we communicate with each other. Texting has become a popular mode of communication, and it has led to the development of a new language that includes abbreviations and emojis. In addition, social media platforms have revolutionized the way we share information and interact with others. The use of hashtags and mentions in social media can allow people to join conversations and connect with others on a larger scale.

While cell phones have made communication easier, they have also made it easier for us to be distracted from the people around us. Many people check their phones during conversations or social events, which can be seen as rude and disengaging. This increased distraction can lead to a reduction in the quality of our social interactions and can negatively affect our ability to connect with others.





Our social lives are impacted by the cell phone use as it reduced in face-to-face interactions. People may like to communicate via text or social media rather than meeting in person, which can lead to a decrease in social skills and the ability to read nonverbal cues. This can lead to difficulties in building and maintaining relationships and can cause feelings of loneliness and disconnection.

Lastly, cell phones have influenced social norms and what is considered acceptable behaviour in social settings. For example, it may be more socially acceptable to use your phone during a meal or social event than it was in the past. These new norms can affect our behaviour and the way we interact with others.

Overall, cell phones have created new social norms and expectations and have significantly changed the way we interact with others. While they have many benefits, we must be mindful of their use to avoid negative impacts on our social lives.

The mobile phone has rapidly spread into our daily lives in recent years. Both positive and negative aspects come with this technology. Mobilephones represent a major transformation in the way society is functioning. The ubiquity of mobile phones and the popularity of this device are signifiers of a new social order in which anyone can almost make their presence known, by sending messages, photos, and videos that potentially can be accessed by a huge number of people. Mobile phones can be a positive technological tool. Yet if used in the wrong way, it can become quite a problem today.

Common things that people do not consider of thinking about such as misinterpreting the meaning of a text message, texting or playing games on your phone during a math lecture, getting frequent headaches, or even calling someone while driving, ultimately it could have a negative impact on one's daily life. Here I am discussing some major impacts of mobile phone on society.

**1. The Mobile Phone used as an Object of Communication:** Mobile phones have been diffusing worldwide at an astonishing rate. They provide individuals with wonderful connectivity to information and inter-personal interaction. Communication has become easier by the use of mobile phones. It is easy to sending any data or mail to anyone in the world via internet on mobile phone. If we generally observe the functions of mobile phones, we can find that mobile phone is performing voice calling, video calling, messaging, multimedia messaging, emailing via internet at the same time can transfer any type of data. Mobile phones facilitate communication to the population and give people greater flexibility to keep in contact. Compared with traditional phones, mobile phones are more succeeded in reaching the person required. There is no need to be based in a particular location with mobile phones, e.g., office or home. Mobile phones make it possible to have direct contact with whoever needed, whenever needed and to use one's time more efficiently that is mobile phones serve as a tool for social connection.

**2. As an Object of Identity, Self-esteem and Symbols the Mobile Phone:** To new communication identity is central, for it is a common trope of the literature that new media bring about fundamental transformations in the way sense of our self is developed and in the role as identity plays in social interactions and social situations. The mobile phone is a critical accessory in the materialization of personal identity for us human beings and mobile phone is a medium for the assertion of its own identity and autonomy. The possibility to maintain intense and informal social networks through mobile phones is the main force for teens to stay connected with this device. It not only provides social interaction but also provides the individual with a sense of self. Therefore, mobile phones have become a symbol of identity as well as a symbol of status to explore their possible selves and to cultivate a private self. Self-identity and individuality, the distinctive features of adolescence, could be the key reasons of triggering teens to possess a mobile phone. The selection of the phone, the presentation of a mascot and strap, the display and storage of the phone, the sharing of public space during calls, and the gestural language created around its use all symbolize personal identity, values, and the group with whom the user identifies. According to Hurrelmann, adolescents have a strong inclination for "conspicuous consumption", by using various material objects as status symbols or as indicators of group belongingness. Thus, they imbibe the mobile as an object of style: profiled by trendy forms and colours, ring tones and accessories that express the special self-identity of each respective user. As a consequence, ownership and usage of mobile phones cannot be reduced to personal needs (instrumental or socio-emotional), because they are additionally fuelled by such symbolic considerations.

**3. Mobile Phone and Memory Storage:** The collection of house, and protect two kinds of memory is done by the mobile phone. The first is the practical memory of numbers, addresses, dates, and stored messages all supporting the rational needs of everyday communication. Secondly the romantic memory of experiences, personal identities, and special people – all supporting the emotional needs of social life. This romantic memory is supported by mascots, images of loved ones in battery compartments, stickers, custom rings assigned to friends, personalized home screens, and stored images and messages.

**4. Role-integrative Functions of Mobile Phone:** Georg Simmel modern stated that societies are characterized by individuals who combine a multitude of different roles, and individualization grows to the degree that each person realizes his own idiosyncratic role set and his specific trajectory of role shifts over time. In so far as each role demands one's physical presence at a specific place (workplace, private apartment, church, school etc.), reconciling different roles usually means sequencing role involvements diachronically and taking the burden of frequent time-consuming locomotion. By providing the opportunity for flexible role switching without changing location, mobile phones

facilitate the harmonization of different role duties, because diachronic role change can be substituted by (almost) synchronous roles involvements, and because frictional costs associated with time consuming loco motional activities can be ignored. Thus, women can engage in “remotemothering” at work or “remote work” at home: The mobile phone permits them to exist in their domestic and work worlds simultaneously women are now working “parallel shifts” rather than what has been described as the “double shift”. Paradoxically, the mobile phone could make it easier to perpetuate (rather than to eliminate) traditional forms of labour division between the genders, because the husbands of successful “remote mothers” may feel more legitimated to evade family duties. Mobile phones can be instrumentalized for preserving diffuse, pervasive roles which demand that the incumbent is available almost all the time, because such encompassing availability can be upheld even at times individuals are highly mobile and involved in other social or private activities. Thus, mothers can use mobile phones as “umbilical cords” to their children, so that they are in contact with them the whole day even when they are at work or on travel.

**5. Mobile Phone as an Object of Leisure and Entertainment:** We can play games, listen to music, download a picture, movie, chatting with our friends, to view our favourite social networking site such as Face book, Myspace, Twitter, or YouTube with a Mobile phone in our hand.

We always pass our leisure time by playing games or watching video songs and movies on our cell phones etc. so that we don’t need a TV or PC to get entertained. It is all in upgraded latest phone.

**6. The Mobile Phone and Emotion:** Mobile phone is a tool for communication, as well as a tool for emotional contact among people. Emotion and the mobile phone are inextricably linked through the interacting human user, but it is the emotion rather than the technological interface that takes place in the communication. The mobile phone acts as the conduit for sensible activity between people who already have some form of relationship, and especially those who are close to each other because of this that the device enables people to feel the presence of others, no matter how distant.

Mobile phone is an almost indispensable tool when managing close family relationships. The mobile phone makes you feel close to loved ones but then there is a disadvantage of feeling that you might miss a vital call, or of having to take a call or read a text when you are driving or in a public place with no opportunity for privacy.

**7. Usage of Mobile Phone during the Elections:** Candidates and their supporters preferred to use more traditional ways of courting peoples. Votes, such as face- to-face meetings and political rallies. In coordinating the movements of candidates and their supporters as well as keeping a close watch on the activities of opposition members the mobile phone was important. Events such as weddings, baptisms, burials, and senior citizens meetings always draw large crowds and candidates made sure

that they were present. The mobile phone played an important role in keeping track of these activities and in passing on the information to relevant parties. micro coordination is involved since these occasions draw their crowds in sporadic ways. Candidates had to be aware of when to turn up to ensure maximum exposure to potential voters and to avoid a possible confrontation with rivals. Since provincial and national elections were also taking place, candidates used the mobile phone to keep in touch with party headquarters to arrange local visits for national politicians.

**8. Mobile phones as Tools for Social Change:** The growing number of people using mobile phones has led to optimism and speculation regarding its effect on economic and social development. Adela Rodrigomobile stated that phones can play a part in social change, however not in the sense of creating new spaces for economic growth but actually mobile phones can play a part in creating a space for youths to engage in issues that affect their lives.

This will lead to empowerment. In this regard organizations can trigger social change. Mobile phones are already reshaping social and economic relations and have already delivered remarkable benefits in poor countries, in terms of economic growth and personal empowerment and may even enable poor countries to leapfrog some of the traditional stages of the development process.

**9. Mobile Banking and Mobile Payment:** Mobile phones are used to provide mobile banking services in many countries, which may include the ability to transfer cash payments by secure SMS text message. Some mobile phone can make mobile payments via direct mobile billing schemes or through contactless payments if the phone and point of sale support near field communication (NFC). This requires the cooperation of manufacturers, network operators and retail merchants to enable contactless payments through NFC-equipped mobile phones.

#### **Advantages of Mobile Phones:**

- 1. Easy Communication:** Most of the people have at least a simple, if not sophisticated, mobile phone. These devices are convenient to carry around and someone can use them on the go as long as there is network coverage wherever the person is. Many parents allow their kids to own mobile phone because they feel secure in the knowledge that they can reach their kids wherever they are and at any time. Mobile phones have clearly made it easier to communicate.
- 2. Connectedness for Always:** With the upgrades made year in, year out, mobile phones are becoming more like computers with the added benefit of portability. One can receive and send emails, browse websites, download games and videos, book flight tickets, money transfer to banks and even chat with friends by using a mobile phone. In a mobile phone, you are connected to the internet throughout, you

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can search for places and directions for places that you are not familiar with, you can check out what your friends are up to on social media, and you can even access your work PC remotely.

3. Multiple Uses: Mobile phones are convenient devices that can be used for a variety of tasks. Someone can listen to music, watch movies, play games, browse, store notes, make videocalls, and also set an alarm for his or her waking up.

People can even use some phones to control their TV. Mobile phones have become the modern-day personal assistant for the human population.

4. Emergency Situations: Although the mobile phone doesn't guarantee safety, you can use it to make calls whenever there is an emergency. Travelling with your phone is very important. In case you have an accident, you can always contact someone who will help you.

#### **Disadvantages of Mobile Phones:**

1. Constant Interruption: We're always connected when we have our mobile phone, it becomes harder to ignore interruptions. People are always on their phones receiving calls, checking out their friends on Facebook, chatting on WhatsApp, checking emails and listening to music. It has become virtually impossible to avoid unneeded obstacle. If you're unable to control yourself, this can become a problem as you won't have time to get anything important done. Furthermore, you can't avoid work related emails and phone calls when you're at home with your family or on vacation.

2. Possibility of Privacy Leak: Having all the information on your device is very convenient. However, it's also dangerous because there's a possibility of someone else accessing your phone. Mobile phone theft is quite common, and it could leave you exposed. It is therefore important to secure the phone from unauthorized access.

You should also avoid storing sensitive data such as bank and credit card details. It is also possible for someone to hijack the email and social media accounts using your phone for malicious reasons.

3. Distraction: Because of using mobile phones when driving causes the accidents is innumerable. The temptation to pick an important call when driving is huge. While you may have done it successfully in the past, it is not a good idea. The distraction could easily cause you to lose control of the car and consequently cause an accident. While it is possible to put your phone on handsfree mode, it is usually best to wait until you reach your destination or even pull over in order to pick the call. The mobile phone can also disrupt a meeting or class if proper etiquette is not followed. The phone ringing during a class or meeting can distract the attendees and waste precious time. Always put the phone in silent mode in such a circumstance.



4. Affect Real Interaction: Today, socializing, involving real interaction is very rare. People have been reduced to interacting on social platforms such as Face book and Twitter, or chat applications such as Viber and WhatsApp. While there's nothing expressively wrong to chat with your friends on these platforms, it can be a problem if it is done at the expense of face-to-face interaction. It can easily take someone being away from the real-life activities and the person will find it hard interacting with real people. Where every family member has a mobile phone in a family and uses it every time when they are together, it might cause breakdown of relationships and families.

5. Addiction: Mobile phone addiction is a real issue. It can be a problem if it gets out of hand. People can become so connected to their phones that they are unable to put them down even for a minute. This can interfere with work and social life, as they will always be on their phone. Addiction can also affect one's mental health, leading to issues like anxiety and depression. It's important to set limits on phone usage and try to have other activities that do not involve the phone.

6. Advantages: Despite the negative effects, mobile phones have several advantages. They have made communication easier, especially in emergency situations. Mobile phones have also made it possible to access information from anywhere at any time. It has made online shopping, online banking, and other activities more accessible. Mobile phones have also apprised new avenues for entertainment and have made it possible to work remotely.

In conclusion, mobile phones have greatly impacted social interaction in both positive and negative ways. While it has made communication easier and more accessible, constant interruptions and distractions can lead to reduced productivity and safety hazards. Additionally, the convenience of having all personal information on a mobile device can lead to privacy concerns and potential leaks of sensitive data. The over-reliance on mobile phones for socializing can also have a negative impact on real-life interactions and relationships. Therefore, it is important to use mobile phones in a responsible and considerate manner to strike a balance between convenience and negative impacts on social interaction.

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