

# Degradation of Moral Values in Relation to Excessive Use of Mobile Phone

## Abstract

Modernization and globalization due to technological expansion have been notably successful in shrinking the world into a global village. One of such developments is quite evident in the field of electronic gadgets and recognition and efficiency in uniting the world into a single unit. Because of that there has been a sharp fall in the moral values of the adolescents, there is a stereotypical belief that the mobile has the bulk of the blame for such derailment and decline. The survival and progress of a country to a reasonable extent depends on the youths. Against this backdrop, one wonders how and to what extent the mobile phone has contributed to the derailment and degradation of the rectitude of morality among the present younger generation. Students use the mobile to meet the spiritual needs for entertainment, but may lead to willpower fade, criminal breeding, twisted and twisted moral personality. Hence the present study aims at focusing mobile phone addiction as a cause to degradation of morality among the young population.

**Keywords:** Modernization, Globalization, Degradation, Criminal Breeding, Twisted Moral Personality.

## Introduction

Technology is the energy that acts as the driving force to drive or to run our lives. It is nothing but the results of the innovations and creativity of human beings. It converts the natural resources into consumer goods which are used by the society and human beings. It has brought the automation level to such a height that human effort and time has been saved to a great extent. Due to this, access to information has now become easier and the distant locations are getting closer. Information Technology and Communication system has provided such facilities that the world is now feeling like a small globe virtually. However not all technology has been used for peaceful purposes. The development of weapons of mass destruction has created serious threat to society throughout history. Worldwide technology and its changes play a key role in every individual's life. The current trend of the society is to adopt every change in the field of communication technology.

The mobile phone is a boon of this century. Mobile phone is considered as an important communication tool and became the integral part of the society, it is not only a communication device but it also a necessary social accessory. People are increasingly using mobile phones rather than the fixed telephones or landlines which has become extinct nowadays. The cell phone today is a lifeline for many. It is estimated that around 4.5 billion people use the cell phone worldwide. And it comes as no surprise that a huge chunk of this quantity consists of the youth. The cell phone has become more of a necessity for them than a luxury. Umpteen number of surveys conducted on the youth worldwide have figured out that they consider cell phones an integral part of survival and some have even gone to the extent of saying that they would rather go without food for a day than without their cell phones. With constant texting, calling, listening to music, playing phone games or simply fiddling with the phone being such an integral part of their lifestyles, it is little wonder that not having it around strikes them with paranoia (Vandana Goswami, Dr. Divya Rani Singh 2015). Motorola, Nokia, Samsung, Sony Ericsson etc. are the popular mobile phone brands in Indian market luring their customers by introducing latest mobile phones at regular intervals (Singla, 2010). There has been quite an enormous amount of popularity of cellular phones in younger generation within a short span of time (Hakoama & Hakoyama, 2011). Youth is more inclined towards using mobile phones for activities other than communication than older generation (Mackay & Weidlich, 2007) because in adolescence stage, people are more

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susceptible to changing fashion trends and style, building them more Tech savvy which creates certain behavioural disorders. On the contrary, administrators and teachers frequently consider the use of cell phones by students at schools, restraining them from their education and this arises as hurdles in their education (Johnson & Kritsonis, 2007). Moreover, mobile phones have aided in smoothening the progress of social release of youngsters from parental authority (Ling, 2004). But, their parents often have more sense of security when their children travel independently outside their home along with their phones (Baron, 2010).

The world that we live in today is a world full of technological wonder. Everywhere and every aspect of our lives has been affected and influenced by the plethora of gadgets and applications that have come up at an astonishing pace to overwhelm and renovate the economic, political, social and psychological dimensions of our everyday lives. There is hardly an aspect of our lives and environment that technology has not touched and transformed. It is there in almost everything that we do in our daily life, the way we work and how we communicate with each other. For many of us it would be unfathomable to function without the conveniences that technology has brought about into our everyday lives. It is observed that the youth especially the college going students are the predominant users of mobile phones. They are usually the ones who are always curious and inquisitive about the latest developments in communication technology. They try to find out the different applications and features of a new technical invention. College students are at that age where they feel that they need to keep in touch with their friends every second, every minute and every hour. They want to know about the latest happening in their friends' life as well as share theirs. Mobile phones allow for easy, fast and convenient way to keep in touch with their friends and family. It enables them to keep in touch with their family and friends anywhere and anytime of the day ( Talukdar Rita Rani & .Das Joysree 2013)

Be that there has been a sharp decline in the moral values of the adolescents as there is a stereotype that the mobile has the bulk of the blame for such derailment. The survival and progress of a country to a reasonable extent depends on the youths. Against this backdrop, one wonders how and to what extent the mobile phone has contributed to the derailment and degradation of the rectitude of morality among the younger generation. Students use the mobile to meet the spiritual needs of entertainment, but may lead to willpower fade, criminal breeding and twisted moral personality.

#### **Statement of the Problem-**

To study the Degradation of moral values in relation to excessive use of mobile phone.

#### **Review of Literature**

Reviews were collected from different books, articles, journals and thesis depicting the affect of mobile phone addiction on ones ethical conduct. Following are some of those.

Kaushik Bhakta ,Nabanita Dutta (2017) did a systematic study on degradation of moral and ethical values among Indian youths. The main objective is to know the importance,causes,consequences and remedies of moral degradation among Indian youths.

Deb Kumar Bhakta (2017) conducted a study on Degradation of Moral Values among Young Generation. Its objective is to know the factors, consequences and remedies of degradation of moral values among Indian young generation. Morality is the most deterring factor of crime, antisocial behaviour, terrorism, assault, cyber crime, corruption etc. It is imperative to realize the potential perpetuating threat of decrease of morality in the society. Moral orientation of youths needs to be strengthened to build up a moral and harmonious society. So there is a set of need of moral principles and values to be imparted in children to make them a better and responsible citizen.

Pallab Jyoti Boruah (2017) did a descriptive research on Degradation of moral values of among young generation in India- an emerging issue. This paper highlights here adolescents are the future of tomorrow. Moreover, youth power is the driving force of a nation. But, now a day's youth is adversely diverted through different immoral activities. Therefore, it is duty to everybody to find out the solution of this crucial problem to establish India in the world of peace and harmony that is very much depends over the hand of young generation. moral orientation of youths needs to be strengthened to build up a moral and harmonious society. It is very much required to make and implement some constructive approaches for the youth on which the country's present and future depends; otherwise it will be too difficult to make positive and harmonic atmosphere of morality and humanity.

Muhammad Ahsan Ul Haqi, Irum Sajjad Dar (2014) tried to assess the Impact of Increased Cell phone Usage in Youth. The study explores usage of cell phone among university students. Results showed that Male students spend more time on dialing and receiving calls than females, also both spend a lot of but equal time on sending and receiving SMS. Students' live in hostel use cell phone more than day-scholars. Significant association exists between family monthly income and average expenses of cell phone usage. As cell phone is necessary for students but also become a cause of disturbance in the class. There is also significant association between service packages with average monthly expenses of cell phone and subscription of low rate packages. Association exists between use of late night call packages and adverse effects. Late night call packages' lacks mental freshness, consistently usage of phone effects on health by playing games on cell phone damages our eyesight. There is also an association exist between traffic accidents and disobeys the traffic rule during driving by using cell phone.

Rana Khan Abdul Majid, Parveen Uzma( 2014) conducted a study on Effect of Mobile Phone Technology on Moral Development of University Students. The study concluded that students

purchase mobile phones for making good social relations and for making an easy contact with teachers and class fellows to deal with their academic issues. However other enticements gradually force young users to spend more time in futile stuff. They also keep unethical material causing decline in moral values. Significant number of participants agreed that mobile phone is causing decline in moral values of students.

Anita (2014) Degradation of Moral Values among Indian Youth. The paper highlights here the causes, consequences along with few remedies to encounter the problem. There is a considerable shift in the Indian society with regard to the moral values. Today youths are in a great dilemma; they face enormous challenges. Today, things are not what they use to be in terms of discipline, respect for elders and constituted authority, humility, hard work, honesty, faithfulness and love for others. Morality is the most deterring factor of crime, antisocial behaviour, terrorism, assault, cyber crime, corruption etc. It is imperative to realize the potential perpetuating threat of decrease of morality in the society Moral orientation of youths needs to be strengthened to build up a moral and harmonious society. It is very much required to make and implement some constructive approaches for the youth on which the country's present and future depends; otherwise it will be too difficult to make a positive and harmonic atmosphere of mortality and humanity.

Subhrajit Chatterjee (2014) Mobile phones have become the most important and integral part of today's lifestyle and mobile handset has become a widely recognized consumer artefact. Where the mobile phones have great and huge merits there are also demerits as well. There are also gender differences in mobile phone usage. The primary objective of this article is to show the effect of mobile phones on society and this article clearly show that the mobile phone has a huge effect on people and the way they interact with others

#### Rationale of the study

Mobile phone overuse or problem mobile phone use is a dependence syndrome seen among certain mobile phone users. Some mobile phone users exhibit problematic behaviours related to substance use disorders also. Degradation of moral values among young generation is an important contemporary issue in India. Morality helps one to make right moral judgment and thus present morally acceptable behaviour. Young generation is the driving force of a nation. But now a day youth is adversely diverted through different immoral activities like smoking, drinking, delivering abusing words, quarrelling, sex abuse etc. today's youth generation would be future citizen of India The influence of the declining social abilities due to excessive phone use has also an impact on ethical behaviour of people too. Proper investigation of this issue may help to find some solution to this problem of excessive use of mobile phone and degradation of moral values among young generation

#### Objectives of the Study

1. To highlight the Degradation of moral values among young generation
2. To investigate the effects of increasing mobile phone usage on moral development

#### Hypotheses

There will be no significant decline in moral values among young generation

There will be no significant effects of increasing mobile phone usage on moral development

#### Methodology

This study is qualitative in nature. It is a documentary study .Here the investigator collected the data from different research journals, books, websites etc.

#### Moral Degradation

Morality originating from the Latin word 'moralitas' refers to "manner, character, proper behaviour" which differentiates intentions, decisions, and actions between those that are good and bad. They are acceptable standard of general conduct or behaviour when judged by an average person or the society at large. Morality plays a healthy synthesis between people, co-operate each other in a harmonic manner, understand the right or wrong differentiation makes a value based society. Moral values reduce social problems like unrest, social erosion, crime, separatism, class conflict, isolation, lack of well being and after all collective distance (Anita 2017). Morality is a concept that defies a universally accepted definition because what is considered morally right may be the opposite within another cultural setting. By degradation, it means that morals have been overrated, it is now seen as outdated, worthless, valueless, a cliché and as old school. Morality is now seen as a feature of the old world because in the new world, anything happens is fair. There was a world that frowned at immorality but the present world has canonized immorality under the guise of civilization. Moral degradation is a phenomenon where a major degradation or complete loss of moral values takes place within a particular society. The abruptness of such kind of degradation may vary depending on the situation and the events that take place within the given society over a certain period of time. Moral Breakdown or downfall may be caused by the changes in the political and/or cultural changes of the society, conflict or a natural disaster. Moral degradation of youth is an important problem of our country. Morality is about the appropriateness of goodness of what a person does, think or feel. Morality helps one to make right moral judgment and thus present the morally acceptable behaviour. Youth power is the driving force of a nation; if it moves in right direction. But nowadays youth is adversely diverted through different immoral activities which not only influence the present Indian society but also it stimulates the future generation of our civilization. Therefore, it is imperative and a duty of everybody to find out the solution of this crucial problem to establish India in the world of peace and harmony that is very much depends over the hand of youth generation (Anita 2017)

Intensive cell phone use was associated with female sex, rural school location, good family economy, smoking tobacco, excessive alcohol consumption, depression, cell phone dependence, and school failure (Sanchez-Martinez M., Otero A 2009). Young generation especially the university students are giving more priority to the fashion of using mobile phones(which are only mechanical devices) rather than their education and moral development without knowing the effects of this phenomenon. Too much distances among the fellows and unavoidable circumstances are due but the cell phone usage just for the entertainment, time pass, fun, fake calls, etc through jokes and rumours, MMS, music and radio listening, etc is not a healthy practice as this practice spoils the innocent minds adversely (Abdul Majid Khan Rana,Uzma Perveen 2014)

#### **Mobile Phone Overuse**

Mobile phone overuse (or problem mobile phone use) is a dependence syndrome seen among certain mobile phone users. Some mobile phone users exhibit problematic behaviours related to substance use disorders. These behaviours can include preoccupation with mobile communication, excessive money or time spent on mobile phones, use of mobile phones in socially or physically inappropriate situations such as driving or riding. Increased use can also lead to increased time on mobile communication, adverse effects on relationships, and anxiety if separated from a mobile phone or sufficient signal.. Cell phone addiction, sometimes referred to as problematic mobile phone use, is a behavioural addiction thought to be similar to that of an Internet, gambling, shopping, or video game addiction and leads to severe impairment or distress in one's life. Literature has provided in-depth evidence of the uses, advantages, disadvantages, impact, consequences and concerns about the use of mobile phones. Why teenagers fancy this device, is an interesting observation where the experts attach its significance to teenagers' identity factor. The usage of mobile phones has re-shaped, re-organised and altered several social facets. Particularly focussing on teenagers' mobile phone usage, literature has provided evidence of them being used for both positive purposes and negative reasons.

#### **Moral Degradation in Relation to Excessive Use of Mobile Phone**

There is a large amount of research on mobile phone use, and its positive and negative influence on the human's psychological mind and social communication. Referring to the possible negative outcomes of mobile phone use, users may encounter stress, sleep disturbances and symptoms of depression, especially in young adults. Consistent phone use can cause a chain reaction, affecting one aspect of a user's life and expanding to contaminate the rest. There are concerns that some mobile phone users incur considerable debt, and that mobile phones are being used to violate privacy and harass others.( Bianchi, Adriana; Phillips, James G. 2005) .In particular, there is increasing evidence that mobile phones are being used as a tool by children to bully other children. Mobile phones are also used for

kidnapping and blackmailing, capturing blue films, images and capturing porn images. Mobile phones with camera functions are causing privacy problems. This is because many people have misused the usage on the camera phones such as using it as a hidden camera to take photos which are private. The spreading on computer viruses is also a problem for this new technology. Just like computer viruses, these viruses will affect the normal usage on mobile phones making them to malfunction and causing destruction. The use of a mobile phone while driving translates into a significantly increased risk of a traffic accident. With public invasion which means that you are invading into other's personal spaces by talking out loud about your own personal spaces coming off as inconsiderate and/or rude and links to isolation of oneself and this has several repercussions. In answering the ringing mobile phone, the individual who is presently being conversed with, has described feeling a sense of being left alone, which can cause social anxiety, as well as bitterness/annoyance towards the individual who answered the phone call.( Subhrajit Chatterjee 2014)

The influence of the declining social abilities due to excessive phone use has also an impact on ethical behaviour of people too. The increased lack of face to face communication abilities makes even daily real communication vague and lacking accepted social norms and ethical values. Next to that comes the problem of over-simplification of communication. As the line communication over the phone loose half of the communication as well as sometimes there are quality of voice over the network interferences. People are doing their best to simplify the communication by using short command like phrases and talking in a slang.

Degradation of moral values among young generation are an important contemporary issue in India. Morality is about the appropriateness of goodness of what a person does, think or feel. Morality helps one to make right moral judgment and thus present morally acceptable behaviour. Young generation is the driving force of a nation. But now a day youth is adversely diverted through different immoral activities like smoking, drinking, delivering abusing words, quarrelling, sex abuse etc. today's youth generation would be future citizen of India (Deb Kumar Bhakta 2017). Morals are influenced by family, society, culture and social values etc. The agents of education such as the family, school, teachers, church and the society are to play a role in ensuring that moral values are passed on to the child as he/she comes in contact with them. The child fulfils the expected norms of the society depends on the way as he/she has been brought up by his first point of contact (the parents) with the world. Unfortunately, due to several social and economic factors, many families are disoriented, disorganized and confused and therefore have failed woefully to play this vital role. In past social organization of the society played responsible role in framing and implementing value based moral responsibilities. But society at present has been experiencing conflict regarding value-based moral degradation particularly of youth and in reality it

cannot be denied that there is no ideology in the society which can bring them a value-based livelihood and vision. The youths of today have been fascinated by youthful lusts, pride, arrogance, disrespect, disobedience and indiscipline; these are traits that can only grow out of habits for 'thoughts bring forth acts, acts produce habits, while habits become character'. The changes in the family structure, advent of westernization, the media revolution, dirty politics etc. are speculated to have played a determining role in redefining the value systems in the Indian society. This has directly been bringing both moral degradation of youth and social deteriorate as well. Today's youths have to face a lot of problems. There are violence, exploitation, corruption in public life, terrorism, political corruption are increasing day by day. Man has been transformed to a mechanical machine due to application of scientific and technological inventions which adds comforts to their life, resulting in degradation of the moral value system (Kaushik Bhakta, Nabanita Dutta 2017). Unethical practices are rapidly increasing and their impact is also becoming far reaching. Moral orientation in the Indian youth is facing a notable shift that needs to be thought upon and worked upon seriously.

#### **Conclusion**

There is a considerable shift in the Indian society with regard to the moral values. Today youths are in a great dilemma and as they have to encounter enormous challenges in their life. Today, things are not what they used to be in terms of discipline, respect for elders and constituted authority, humility, hard work, honesty, faithfulness and love for others. Morality is the most deterring factor of crime, antisocial behaviour, terrorism, assault, cyber crime, corruption etc. It is necessary to realize the potential perpetuating threat of decrease of morality in the society. Moral orientation of youths needs to be strengthened in order to build up a moral and harmonious society. The excessive and overindulgence of mobile phone needs to be curbed by parents, teachers or elders which becomes a breeding ground for many unethical and delinquent behaviour. It is very much required to make and implement some constructive approaches for the youth on which the country's present and future depends; otherwise it will be too difficult to make a positive and harmonic atmosphere of mortality and humanity. Today we have entered into 21st century and our country is somewhere lost under the influence of western culture. Knowledge without moral values is not only useless but is also dangerous too for the society. That's why our young generations are in a great dilemma as they face so many life challenges. So there is a need of moral principles and values to be imparted in children to make them a better and responsible citizen.

#### **Suggestions**

Based on major findings and conclusions of the study we can make some Suggestions/recommendations.

1. Harmful effects of mobile phone technology on moral development of students should be

controlled by arranging programs, lectures and seminars in Institutions.

2. Social organizations should concentrate on value based moral character of the society and accordingly steps have to be taken to organize program for common people irrespective of age.
3. The educational system should provide compulsory moral and ethnic classes to all students.
4. The government should legislate against media operators who circulate indecent action in the websites. This is to ensure that only appropriate type of information and medias be circulated and eventually reduces the stress of moral decay.
5. Parents and teachers should be informed about the positive and negative effects of mobile phone technology and its explosion.
6. Teachers should play a vital role in this regard and should explain positive roles of mobile phones rather than negative roles.
7. Teachers can give projects and assignments on this topic to make aware the students about the ethical problems caused by mobile phone technology.
8. Besides teachers, parents and communities should be aware of the fact that youths should not indulge in antisocial activities. They should stay away from all sorts of evil effects of the society which may prevent them to fulfil their vision.

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