



**International Research Journal of Human Resources and Social Sciences**

ISSN(O): (2349-4085) ISSN(P): (2394-4218)

**Impact Factor-** 5.414, Volume 5, Issue 04, April 2018

**Website-** [www.aarf.asia](http://www.aarf.asia), **Email :** [editor@aarf.asia](mailto:editor@aarf.asia) , [editoraarf@gmail.com](mailto:editoraarf@gmail.com)

---

## **INDIAN YOUTHS SURGICALLY ATTACHED TO SMARTPHONE: HELPING OR HARMING**

**Alok Kumar Mathur**

Associate Professor, IIHMR University, Jaipur

In India it is a common sight to observe youths simultaneously doing many things while, engaged with their smart phones. Without any expert help they have learnt themselves each feature of it through hit and trial method. Almost all youths unlike adults can use maximum features given in their smart phones. Thanks to peer pressure, peer learning, patience and perseverance of these youths.

One cannot deny the role of giant internet providers, who provide it for minimal cost or sometimes it is almost free hence majority of youths are using because of its affordability. Critiques says it is not youth who are using internet, but it is internet which is using them. This may be debatable, who is using and who is being used. The reality remains, which is, that there are many risks and rewards of using smartphones.

The smartphone industry in India is growing by leaps and bounds. The flaunting features and affordable costs of smart phones are tantalizing the current simple mobile users to make a shift to smartphones. According to an estimate<sup>1</sup> more than one third of all Indian and half of mobile users worldwide will purchase smartphone by 2018. In India because of the availability of internet at every nook and corner, through various service providers, the school and college going adolescents and young adults are adopting it. According to International

Telecommunication Union, USA about 830 million<sup>2</sup> young people are online, representing 80 per cent of the youth population in 104 countries. Amazingly about two fifth belong to only two countries India and China. The estimate is that 53% of all internet ad spend will go to ads viewed on mobile devices in 2017 and forecast that proportion to rise to 59% in 2018 and 62% in 2019<sup>4</sup>.

Globally now there is marginal difference of about 6 per cent between women and men using internet. In 2017, the global Internet penetration rate for men stands at 50.9% compared to 44.9% for women<sup>3</sup>. The gender gap has reduced significantly. Youth irrespective of their gender is using internet. This also shows that at least generation Y is enjoying the liberty of technology. Whether generation X like it or not smart phone use has become an inseparable part of generation Y. To sustain in today's World, one must accept the reality. The reality is that till 80's people were dividing the world in literate and illiterate, then in 90's as computer literate and illiterate and now in 2010 onwards smart phone literate and illiterate. More than a status symbol smart phones have become essential part of life it is adding an extra zing and facilitating the life of youth in India and rest of the world. Now a-days in India one cannot fill various application forms and cannot log into different websites if they don't have a mobile phone.

Manan class XII student was asked to prepare a project on environment by his school teacher he just browsed through the internet on smart phone and found the required description on one webpage, he copied and pasted the same and the project was over. He then engaged himself in sending chatting and SMS to his friend. Teacher and taught both were happy but does learning took place? Students do it without realizing that in future they will have to do many such projects by themselves using their own creativity and thinking.

Mother of Neha asked her to help in preparing the dining table, but she was busy in chatting with her friends over new smartphone. She doesn't think that helping mother is more important for her own life than chatting over smartphone. Mother did not force her as she was emotional with the thought that her daughter will have to do it all her life so why not to let her enjoy these years.

Mathur family went to attend a social gathering. Instead of talking with cousins Kashish was busy over smartphone in making call to his friends. Saransh was answering the messages received on his face-book account. Both were physically attending the ceremony but mentally somewhere else. What kind of socialization is taking place? You are not talking to the people who are physically present and engaged in answering to those who are far away. Sometimes youths live

in the illusion that they are connected to all relatives and friends sitting at a distance but in effect they forgot that it is leading to a disconnect with real life. What about people who are around them at that very moment.

Aarushi and Aausi while answering the SMS were crossing the busy street, God bless the Car driver who applied full brakes to avoid an accident because both were looking at mobile and not at the traffic. At the top of it they did not feel sorry about the incident, instead waved at car driver with a pleasant smile. Denying the importance of following the basic traffic rules, they were again engaged in their mobile phone. They do not recognize the importance of life.

This is only one side of the coin where one can see that how today's youth is over using smartphone but there is also a flip side of it. Where one can see how today's young generation is becoming self-reliant. They have the arsenal of smartphone and internet through which they can accomplish most of the tasks without bewilderment and struggle.

Arpit was pre-occupied in his office work and could not send the money to his parents in time who were living in another city. As soon as he received a call from his father he realized his mistake and transferred the money through mobile phone in a wink of an eye through netbanking. Wow; great things can also be done through smart phone.

A newlywed couple Chakshu and Ashima were supposed to shift to Delhi from Rajasthan. While sitting in Jaipur, they found decent 2 BHK, by using skype on smart phone they discussed everything with the owner of flat, paid advance through net banking, and moved into dream home without any hassle. Again, after few months when it was last date to deposit the electricity bill and Chakshu was on tour, his wife Ashima reminded him and in no-time he deposited the electricity bill through his smart phone. Thanks to Government of India for promoting e-payments from anywhere.

Joanie a MPH student from a Canadian University was eager to do her internship with an Indian University Professor. After winning queen Elizabeth II scholarship she obtained her VISA, booked her flight tickets to India, cheapest hotels and cab all through smartphone. She downloaded google map of Jaipur, India in her smartphone and reached to Indian University without asking for any help from anybody. Students have become independent. One can still argue what is good independence or interdependence.

These are some of the examples you can see around yourself. One can get irritated when you find youths hooked up on smartphones. But for the youths, it is their lifeline. Sometimes even more. In this era, it is true.

In India we can see the impact of demographic dividend on the purchase and use of internet on smart phone. Higher number of youths and higher purchases and use of smartphone and internet. At least in the case of smartphone the urban rural phenomenon has shown a reverse trend. Irrespective of rural and urban literacy rate the growth rate and growth potential in rural India is much higher than urban. In urban India, communication, social networking and entertainment (videos, songs etc.) are the top usages of mobile internet, while in rural India, entertainment rules the roost with social networking and communication being the other services in order of preference<sup>5</sup>.

In nutshell although the smartphone is a gadget that if wisely used will facilitate as an assistant for generation Y and Z. At the same time mindless over use will lead to slavery of technology and will lead to various diseases like increasing headache and insomnia, nomophobia, text neck, pain in the wrist, numbness in fingers, deafness, irritation in eyes etc.

The question is who is going to draw the line and on what basis, who will take the initiative - Generation X or Y or Z, do we have to think of limiting our time on gadgets, do we have to use internet stingily? This is the high time when we need to address these questions for the health and wellbeing of youth of India.

## References

1. <http://www.statista.com>
2. <http://www.news.itu.int>
3. <https://www.currentaffairs.gktoday.in/tags/ict-facts-and-figures-2017>
4. <http://www.zenithmedia.com>
5. <http://www.Firstpost.com>