

IMPACT OF MOBILE PHONE ON PERSONALITY OF ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract

Technology has become increasingly important in the lives of adolescents. One influence that has proven to have a considerable effect on adolescents is the media. The media consists of the mobile phone, internet, television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books and broadcasting. Media is plays a significant role in today's adolescents life. Thus, keeping all this in view, the objectives of the present study were designed to see the impact of mobile phone on personality of adolescents. The study was conducted on 600 first year students using co-relational design in four Rajasthan University affiliated colleges. Two scales were administrated on the subjects- self prepared Mobile Phone Inventory and Big Five Personality Factors developed by J.M. Digman (1990). After data collection Mean, Standard Deviation and Co-relation were computed. Results revealed that girls use the mobile phone more than boys. Girls again score high on openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, neuroticism and extraversion but gender differences are not significant.

Keywords:Media;Mobile phone; Personality;Conscientiousness;Neuroticism.

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1. Introduction

Adolescents are exposed to technology more than any other age group. During this stage, outside influences are particularly capable of affecting adolescents' thoughts and behaviors. One influence that has proven to have a considerable effect on adolescents is the media. The media consists of the mobile phone, internet television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books etc.

Mobile Phone and Adolescents

The mobile phone is significantly more influential than any other media. The mobile phone is the most prominent kind of information and communication technology. Adolescents, who should invest their time with their family, playing outdoors, exercising, engaging in social activities and reading good books, today spend their maximum time glued to the Mobile Phone. They prefer to spend their time in chatting with friends, surfing on internet, listening to music, watching videos or movies, playing mobile games etc.

Adolescents use mobile phones, text messaging, and instant messaging to reinforce and communicate with existing relationships- family and friends. Using the mobile phone to keep in touch with friends is a departure from the early days of the Internet, when contact with strangers was more frequent. But the trend is not surprising given that youth are more likely to find their friends and family online or with mobile phones today than they were even five or ten years ago [1]. Excess use of Mobile phone affects the personality of children directly and indirectly in various ways.

Personality Traits

Personality trait is the combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individuals' distinctive character. Psychologists determined that there are five major personality traits and that everyone falls into at least one of them. Literature suggests that the personality traits are five empirically supported dimensions of personality being used to describe personality which are; Openness, Conscientiousness, Extroversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism (OCEAN) or (CANOE) if arranged differently [2],[3],[4].

The Big Five are so universal that they show up when people are asked to describe themselves [5] and they are associated with predictable patterns of behavior and social outcomes [6]. The Big Five traits are also known as the Five Factor Model (FFM) [7] which was first presented by the president of the American Psychological Association [8].

In order to evaluate the impact of media on personality of adolescent girls and boys; the present study was undertaken with the following **objectives**:

- 1) To find out the Mobile Phone Usage in adolescent girls and boys.
- 2) To find out the Personality traits in adolescent girls and boys.
- 3) To find out the relationship amongst dimensions of Mobile Phone Usage and Personality Traits.
- 4) To find out the gender differences in Mobile Phone and Personality.

2. Research Method

Four colleges of affiliated to University of Rajasthan, Jaipur were selected randomly. The sample for the present study comprised of 600 first year science students of which 300 girls were taken from two girls' colleges and 300 boys were taken from two boys' colleges. 150 students from each college were taken. The age range was 16-19 years. The data was collected through questionnaire method. The variable of the study were measured with the help of following standardized devices-

S. No.	Variables	Device
1.	Mobile Phone Usage	Mobile Phone Inventory (MPI) by Investigator (2013)
2.	Personality	Big Five Personality Factors by J.M. Digman (1990)

For analysis of data Mean, Standard Deviation and Karl Pearsons' Co-efficient Co-relation were computed.

3. Results and Analysis

Result 1: The descriptive statistics of variables under study.

Table no. 1: Means and Standard Deviations of dimensions of Mobile Phone Usage among Adolescent Girls and Boys

S. No.	Variables		Mean	S.D.
1.	Acquisition	Girls	30.44	6.25
		Boys	25.85	3.21
2.	Status Symbol	Girls	6.62	1.65
		Boys	5.67	1.51
3.	Socialization	Girls	6.77	1.94
		Boys	6.16	1.29
4.	General Usage	Girls	47.37	5.15
		Boys	51.91	7.87
5.	Communication	Girls	22.49	4.19
		Boys	22.22	2.74
6.	Ownership	Girls	19.48	3.51
		Boys	17.81	2.65
7.	Accessibility	Girls	38.73	4.23
		Boys	42.39	5.74
8.	Jurisdiction	Girls	33.17	5.23
		Boys	30.89	3.06

Table no. 1 shows that the adolescent girls use Mobile Phone more for acquisition, status symbol, socialization, communication, ownership and jurisdiction and less use for General Usage and accessibility than boys.

Table no. 2: Means and Standard Deviations of dimensions of Personality among Adolescent Girls and Boys

S. No.	Variables		Mean	S.D.
1.	Openness	Girls	15.11	2.89
		Boys	15.05	2.66
2.	Conscientiousness	Girls	16.15	2.64
		Boys	15.73	2.63

3.	Agreeableness	Girls	15.95	2.63
		Boys	15.65	2.28
4.	Neuroticism	Girls	16.58	2.8
		Boys	15.6	2.64
5.	Extraversion	Girls	16.21	2.85
		Boys	15.73	2.65

As can be seen from the table no. 3, adolescent girls are high on all the variables of Personality e.g. Openness, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Neuroticism, and Extraversion. This study is supported by the findings of [9]. Women reported themselves to be higher in Neuroticism, Agreeableness and Openness. Scores of Extraversion and Conscientiousness among females in some researches were significantly higher [10], [11].

Result 2: The scores obtained on personality were analyzed in term of adolescent girls and boys separately.

Table no.3: Correlations between the dimensions of Mobile Phone Usage and Personality (Girls)

		Personality				
		Openness	Conscientiousness	Agreeableness	Neuroticism	Extra version
Mobile Phone	Acquisition	-.170**	.137*	.010	.095	.177**
	Status Symbol	-.058	.002	.015	.051	-.117*
	Socialization	-.038	-.003	-.034	-.068	.124*
	General Usage	.190**	-.044	-.024	-.052	.136*
	Communication	.103	.150**	.076	.043	-.007
	Ownership	.114*	.077	-.002	.016	.113*
	Accessibility	.119*	.044	-.057	-.063	.166**

	Jurisdiction	.094	.161**	.035	-.061	-.093
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** 0.01 level of significance

* 0.05 level of significance

Table no. 3 shows co-relations among dimensions of Mobile Phone and Personality. Acquisition is negatively correlated with openness ($r = -.170$, $P = <0.01$) but positively correlated with conscientiousness ($r = .137$, $P = <0.05$) and extraversion ($r = .177$, $P = <0.01$). It means that adolescent girls who use their Mobile Phone for acquisition are not independent and imaginative but rather they are conscientious and social. Status symbol has shown negative co-relation with extraversion ($r = -.117$, $P = <0.05$). It indicates that adolescent girls who use their Mobile Phone as a status symbol are not extrovert or social. Socialization is positively correlated with extraversion ($r = .124$, $P = <0.05$). It means that adolescent girls, who use their Mobile Phone for socialization, maintain their relations and connect with family and friends.

General Usage is positively correlated with openness ($r = .190$, $P = <0.01$) and extraversion ($r = .136$, $P = <0.05$). It suggests that adolescent girls who are using their Mobile Phone for General Usage are imaginative, creative and social. Communication has shown positive co-relation with conscientiousness ($r = .150$, $P = <0.01$). It means that adolescent girls whose Mobile Phone usage are affected by some communication factors like cost, topic of conversation and nature of relations tend to show self discipline and dutiful. Ownership has shown positive co-relation with openness ($r = .114$, $P = <0.05$) and extraversion ($r = .113$, $P = <0.05$). It indicates that adolescent girls who use their Mobile Phone for ownership, are intellectual, curious, creative and social. [12] & [13] found that the Big Five Personality dimensions are related to the application of smart phone technology. Extraverts were found to be more likely to own a smart phone and they report a greater importance on the texting function of smart phones. Extraverts are outgoing and sociable and have a strong desire to communicate with others.

Accessibility is positively correlated with openness ($r = .119$, $P = <0.05$) and extraversion ($r = .166$, $P = <0.01$). It means that adolescent girls, who are using their Mobile Phone for accessibility are intellectual curious, creative and social and they have positive emotionality. Jurisdiction has shown positive co-relation with conscientiousness ($r = .161$, $P = <0.01$). It

indicates that adolescent girls who are using their Mobile Phone under the supervision and limits are conscientious, pious and sincere.

Rest of the co-relations were found to be non-significant.

Table no. 4: Co-relations between the dimensions of Mobile Phone Usage and Personality (Boys)

		Personality				
		Openness	Conscientiousness	Agreeableness	Neuroticism	Extraversion
Mobile Phone	Acquisition	-.159**	.002	-.092	-.057	.054
	Status Symbol	-.066	-.083	-.055	-.120*	-.009
	Socialization	-.056	.032	.145*	.009	.123*
	General Usage	-.057	.015	-.021	.206**	.078
	Communication	-.059	-.028	.011	-.034	-.126*
	Ownership	.008	.015	.136*	-.093	-.071
	Accessibility	.050	.029	.051	-.098	-.059
	Jurisdiction	-.031	-.009	-.016	.045	-.037

** 0.01 level of significance

* 0.05 level of significance

Table no. 4 shows co-relations between Mobile Phone Usage and Personality dimensions. Very few correlations are found significant. Acquisition is negatively correlated with openness ($r = -.159$, $P < 0.01$). It means that adolescent boys who are using their Mobile Phone for acquisition are not open minded and frank. Status symbol is negatively correlated with neuroticism ($r = -.120$, $P < 0.05$). It means that adolescent boys who are using their Mobile Phone as a status symbol are not neurotic and vice-versa.

Socialization is positively correlated with agreeableness ($r = .145$, $P = 0.05$) and extraversion ($r = .123$, $P < 0.05$). It indicates that adolescent boys, who are using their Mobile Phone for socialization, are agreeable, altruistic, extrovert and social. General Usage is positively

correlated with neuroticism ($r = .206$, $P = <0.01$). It means that adolescent boys using their Mobile Phone for general usage, are neurotic and they feeling anxious and nervous. This can be supported by a study of Ehrenberg et al. (2008) that neurotic individuals spent more time text messaging and reported stronger Mobile Phone addictive tendencies. Communication is negatively correlated with extraversion ($r = -.126$, $P = <0.05$). It means that adolescent boys whose Mobile Phone usage are affected by some communication factors like cost, topic of conversation and nature of relations, are not friendly and not interested in talking with people, because they use mobile phone only for urgent or emergency calls or cases. Ownership is positively correlated with agreeableness ($r = .136$, $P = <0.05$). It indicates that adolescent boys who are using their Mobile Phone for ownership are agreeable, compromising and flexible. Rest of the co-relations were found to be non-significant.

4. Conclusion

To conclude we noted that adolescent girls are scoring high in Mobile Phone Usage and Personality rather than adolescent boys. A little bit differences are observed between them. Thus, we can say that we found a significant impact of Mobile Phone Usage on Personality of adolescent girls and boys.

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