Impact of Smart Phones on Pakistani Youth

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Today people of the world have a new addiction. This new addiction known as the smartphone. The smartphones of today have so many features that the owners of them can hardly seem to put them down just for a second. These smartphones not only offer some of the same features that a personal computer would, but they also provide a very high level of entertainment. Even with all the capabilities that smartphones offer they still require and great level of understanding and responsibility. The purpose of this paper is to help others understand the direction of smartphone technology, the ways smartphone technology changes society, understand the impact of change and manner in which we live our lives, and how smartphones could potentially create hazardous situations.

People tend to have a busy life in these days due to job, school and personal issues. Therefore, they prefer to have a mobile device, which satisfies their needs to stay in touch and be reachable at any time. Smart phone is one of those mobile devices, which allow its users to be able to communicate and exchange information such as text, document, picture, and video through internet or mobile networks. Smart phones have brought a completely new meaning to the term multitasking. Before, it was impossible to keep connected with co-workers in your office while you were at the grocery store picking up some necessary items. You could never have had a three-way business conference while you were preparing dinner or been able to deal with a business client from home while caring for a sick child. Smart phones have enabled us to do various tasks at the same time. Because of its portable, people seems to be more comfortable using smart phone as a primary communication device than desktop or home phone. Furthermore, it is an efficient and discreet way to communicate with friends and family members. However, not only these smart phones have positive impacts on our society, but it also carries negative impacts as well; and mobile phone radiation is one of its examples.
In assessing the positive impact of smart phones on our society, there are two major areas, which have vastly affected by smart phones, and they are business and socialization. Over the past, couple of years, the number who use smart phones has been increased rapidly. According to one research company’s longitudinal surveys, “about 42 percent of Americans owned smart phones in December 2009” (mobilehealthnews, 2010). In addition, it will continue to grow in the next decade as Cody Barbieri has mentioned in his article, “Smart phones are one of the hottest growth sectors in our economy right now. Usage continues to grow, even after significant growth over the past two years” (Cody Barbieri, 2010). With huge powerful applications, smart phones allow its users to stay in touch with their work and extend their social connection in many ways. Many of the smart phones applications available today will not influence a majority of people’s lives; but it does affect groups of people who take advantage of it, included businesspersons. Because of the requirement of the economy, many executives prefer to have a smart phone, which allows them to keep connect with their business clients, checking e-mail, texting or browsing web while they are on the road. In reality, because of its portable, smart phones lets more people contact their office under many circumstances. It has enabled users to keep connect to anyone at any time from almost anywhere. Based on the survey by Harris Interactive website: “60 percent of workers contact the office with a smart phone or mobile device while on vacation” (Dennis McCafferty, 2010). In addition, “62 percent of workers use these devices to attend to business matters during a meal” (Dennis McCafferty, 2010). On the other hand, workers are more comfortable to communicate and access to the internet by using smart phones than any primary computing device while they are not in the office.

As a slogan for all smart phones users ‘your life is in your pocket’, more people are attracted to these devices, which own many useful features. Further than that, the latest generation of smart phones have provided more great social applications and powerful entertaining function to anyone who love social network. In fact, today
more people like to be able to connect to their friends through social networks. These social networks are a new trend in online communication. Therefore, Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter apps have become a standard requirement for people who would like to own a smart phone and teenager are among those people. According to the Harris Interactive study, “second to clothing, teens say a smart phone tells the most about a person's social status or popularity, outranking jewellery, watches and shoes” (Wirelessandmobilenews, 2010). Based on the study above, smart phones are becoming a social necessity, which teens cannot be without. On the other hand, a majority group of teens views their smart phone as the key to their social life. From texting to talking, and logging on to social networking sites, teens carry smart phones to have access to friends, family and current events.

That is the reason why broadband connections, web browsers, e-book readers, office apps, maps of the world, motion sensors, HD video cameras, GPS are the most great features which all smart phones bring it to users. Imagine the time before the appearance of the smart phone; it was impossible to shop online during lunchtime without a PC or laptop. However, with the support of smart phones, shopping online in these days is as easy as making a phone call. In addition, real-time video calls empower people to not only talk to each other while on the move, but also see what each other means through their facial expressions. Therefore, smart phone is an important device, which people cannot leave home without it. In my opinion, smart phone with useful applications will replace the PC as primary connected-computing device in next decade.

There is no little doubt that smart phones have definitely made our lives much more convenient in many ways. However, smart phones have also changed the way that people interact with each other. Smart phones allow its users to be in a conversation without showing their personal expressions. Unlike a face-to-face conversation where one requires direct eye
contact, smart phones enables user to “say things through instant messaging that you wouldn’t dare say in face-to-face contact or even on the telephone where you can hear each other’s voice” (Harmon, 2003). That is the reason why people use smart phones for discussion, which they prefer not to have in person. As a result, we are beginning to lose the face-to-face contact that was such an important part of our lives in the past. The contact with real-time voice call is being replaced by multimedia messages application of smart phones. Not only change the way that people contact each other, but smart phones also emit radiation which some believe may be harmful to human health. The emission of radiation from mobile phone may cause serious damages to human in long-term since it uses electromagnetic radiation in the microwave range. That is the reason why mobile phone are often prohibited in hospitals and on airplanes, as the radiofrequency signals may interfere with medical devices and navigation systems.

As a useful mobile device for modern society, smart phone is the most productive technology that I have ever seen. Not only provides many powerful features, but smart phone is also an important mobile device which a group of people cannot leave home without it. However, smart phones also have some negative impacts as well. Therefore, people should consider before own it.