Smart phones and their impact on society

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Abstract

The elegant devices we all know so well, and can't live without. In the contemporary scientific era changes in society are taking place somewhere gradually and some were very abruptly. The main aim of this paper is to find out the impact of Smartphone's on various elements of society. The intention of this paper is to understand the positive as well as negative impacts of Smartphone's on society. Moreover, the paper will recommend some ethical suggestions in order to reduce the negative impacts of Smartphone's and realize more beneficial utility of this existing technology.

Key words: *Smartphone, Android,Apps,PDA (Personal Digital Assistance), IOS, Phablets.*

INTRODUCTION

In a general perspective Smart phones are really smart gifts of existing scientific technology. Smartphone is a kind of mobile phone consists of multi featured applications having different functions. There is a great revolution in the field of IT so as mobile phones. First there were simple and big mobile phones which a human use only for text sending and receiving and for simple phone calls but with the passage of time this technology developed and now there are really tiny mobile phones which contain our private and important data such as presentations, photos, e-mails etc. and these such small mobile phones called Smart Phones. These smart phones have features like computers and laptops where we can check our

mails, save our documents and also can use for the entertainment purposes. These smart phones today can do almost everything. Faster networking systems, attractive and powerful applications and the technology literate users are making these smart phones are very powerful in these days. Huge markets are adopting the smart phones due to their flexibility, more productive features and better connectivity to the world in terms of internet. Along with many benefits, smart phones are increasing the value of the wireless technology, including the mobile phones, wireless tablets and the notebook computers. Smart phone is a mobile phone which offers advanced technologies with functionality similar as a personal computer. While offering a standardized platform for application developers a smart phone performs as complete operating system software. There are also very advanced features in smart phones such as internet, instant messenger and e-mail and also

built-in keyboard are very typical. Because of these reasons we can say a smart phone a miniature computer with the similarities of a simple phone. Analyst house Gartner gives the definition of a smart phone as: "A large-screen, data-centric, handheld device designed to offer complete phone functions whilst simultaneously functioning as a personal digital assistant (PDA)."[1] With the growing speed of technological advancement, Smart phones are now an essential part of our daily life routine. When we go for our convenience we also look for those devices which contain multiple features such as office work, mobility, networking and entertainment. As the world is getting advance our needs become sophisticated. Where we need quality, effectiveness and performance we also ask for these all in one single pocket device so we can take that to anywhere with us. One of the main characteristics of Smartphone is their screen. It usually fills virtually almost the entire phone

surface (about 70%); screen size usually defines the size of a smart phone. Usually have aspect ratio 4:3 or 16:9.

CIO Jury member Nic Evans, European IT director of Key Equipment Finance, recently said: "The smart phone is a management, support and security nightmare. There's the cost of media messages and 3G, the waste of time with Palmistas trying to get their PDAs to sync with their laptops, the security risk from carrying corporate databases around on a fashion accessory that screams 'steal me'." [2]

History

Devices that combined telephony and computing were first conceptualized by Theodore Paraskevakosin 1971 and patented in 1974, and were offered for sale beginning in 1993. He was the first to introduce the concepts of intelligence, data processing and visual display screens into telephones which gave rise to the "Smartphone." In 1971, Paraskevakos,

working with Boeing inHuntsville, Alabama demonstrated a transmitter and receiver that provided additional ways to communicate with remote equipment; however, it did not yet have general purpose PDA applications in a wireless device typical of smart phones. They were installed at Peoples' Telephone Company in Leesburg Alabama and were demonstrated to several telephone companies. The original and historic working models are still in the possession of Paraskevakos. The first mobile phone to incorporate PDA features was an IBM prototype developed in 1992 and demonstrated that year at the COMDEX computer industry trade show. A refined version of the product was marketed to consumers in 1994 by Bellsouth under the name Simon personal communicator. The Simon was the first cellular device that can be properly referred to as a "Smartphone", although it was not called that in 1994.[3] In addition to its ability to make and receive cellular phone calls, Simon was able to

send and receive faxes and emails and included several other apps like address book, calendar, appointment scheduler, calculator, world time clock, and note pad through its touch screen display. Simon is the first Smartphone to be incorporated with the features of a PDA.[4]

The term "smart phone" first appeared in print in 1995, for describing AT&T's "Phone Writer Communicator" as a "smart phone".[5] The second phase of Smartphone era started with the advent of iPhone, Apple launched its first smart phone in 2007. This was the time when first time ever industry introduced the Smartphone for general consumers' market.[6] End of 2007 Google unveiled its Android Operating System with the intention to approach the consumer Smartphone market. The emphasis during this time period was to introduce features that the general consumer requires and at the same time keep the cost at lower side to attract more and more customers. Feature like, email, social website integration,

audio/video, internet access, chatting along with general features of the phone were part of these entire phone.[7] Third phase of Smartphone was mainly closing the gap between enterprise centric and general consumer centric Smartphone and improvement the display quality, display technology and on top of that also aiming to stabile the mobile operating system, introduce more powerful batteries and enhance the user interface and many more features within these smart devices. This phase started in 2008 with the upgrades in the mobile operating system and within last five years there have been several upgrades in Apple iOS, Android and Blackberry OS. The most popular mobile Operating systems (iOS, Android, Blackberry OS, Windows Mobile) and key Smartphone vendors (Apple, Samsung, HTC, Motorola, Nokia, LG, Sony etc.) are concentrating to bring features both in operating systems and devices which will provide exciting feature to enterprise and

general consumers. The role of Android has been tremendous during this time period as it provided a great opportunity to all vendors to build devices using the great open source Android technology.[8]

Users of Smart phone:

All over the world usage of smart phones are rapidly increasing day by day. A statistical detail of world smart phone users is given in general and smart phone users in India are given in particular. The total number of Smartphone users over the world has risen from 1.31 billion in 2013 to 1.63 billion by the end of 2014 which is a growth rate of 32.4%. The number of Smartphone users is expected to swell to 1.91 billion by the end of the next year and 2 billion user landmarks will be surpassed in CY2016.[9]At the end of 2017, the number of Smartphone users in India is estimated to reach 299.24 million, with the number of Smartphone users worldwide forecast to exceed 2.3 billion users by that time.

Impact of Smart phone on various elements of society:

Almost all sides of human life are influenced by smart phones. The prominent areas where impacts of smart phone are seen include business, education, health and social life. Mobile technology has hugely changed the cultural norms and behavior of individuals. At one end smartphones are enabling people to create their own micro cultures and engage into activities considered dangerous of society and on the other end smartphones enabling people to remain connected all the time.[10]The impact of smart phones on society is seen both positively as well as negatively.

Positive Impacts:

Business:

Smartphone has created new dimensions for business. It is not only the Smartphone vendors enjoying the business but it also created a new domain for mobile application developing

companies, Internet services provider and other sectors of life to utilize the Smartphone to gain competitive advantages.[11] Every single day something new is happening somewhere, and thus the dynamic nature of technology continues to progress. And especially smart phones have become almost a symbol of modern identity. Due to the rapid demand of smart phones its business market are day by day increasing. Thus almost all the business men have developed their business to a large extent. Moreoversmart phones are containing various business applications which attracted the people to purchase their products online. In this respect it saves our time which is an elegant benefit.

Education:

Another great positive impact of the smart phones is that, these devices have turned many people into avid readers. No longer do we require carrying all those bundles of magazines and books, or 'stay tuned' to catch the latest headlines, we can easily read them all on our

devices. SIM-powered tablets and phablets are still better, allowing us more screen area to read our stuff. These devices contain various education related apps like dictionaries, references, novels etc. which one can easily read both online as well as offline. Thus the growing internet connectivity of smart phones has helped us to keep in touch with the most recent updates regarding almost every sphere or field of education.

Health:

Today Smartphone are the most commonly used devices for information and communication. There are a huge number of mobile applications to facilitate the users to manage prescriptions, promote alternative treatment options, provide price comparisons and validate prescriptions. In near future we see a breed of mobile applications, which enables doctors and parents to monitor a patient/child blood glucose levels at any point during the day. Even today several apps are available to

track exercise, diet and blood pressure. This in turn enables the Smartphone's to play a key role in health sector.[12] Today one can easily check the health related instructions on smart phones as it contains relevant apps.

Social life:

Society is a web of social interactions. People live together in society and share their ideas to each other up to a short limit. Technology has bestowed us a valuable gift in the form of smart phone devices which are in general the backbone of present communicationera.The smart phones have made it easy accessible to communicate, to share, to enquire, to search for new friends to a large extent in our day to day life.In the present technological era where timeis meant priceless, smart phones are called the sociological gateways through which not only communication, we also develop our social strategies. The smart phone contains various social apps which provide us a platform to discuss social issues. One can easily say that smart phones have easily revolutionized our social life.

Negative impacts

Health:

Growing levels of anxiety and mental problems, physical ailments due to long hours of exposure to high levels of radiation (especially so in the case of devices with harmful SAR values). Electromagnetic waves alter [electric activity of the brain] and cause disturbance in sleep[13]; cause difficulty in concentration, fatigue, and headache; and increase reaction time in a time-dependent manner. They increase the resting blood pressure and reduce the production of melatonin.

Education:

Of course the advent of smart phones has revolutionized the field of education in the current scientific era, but there are several demerits of smart phones laid in the field of education. Students are not using their libraries,

encyclopedias, books, references and dictionaries are not used because they have built-in dictionaries and instant access to internet.These smart phones contain the facility of text messaging; word pads, play online games etc. This is one of the sources of distraction. This is not only distracting for the student, but it can also become distracting for other students around them and even sometimes for whole class. students are not willing to use notebooks and pencils which damaged their handwritings. It reduces the eye contact of teacher student as well. It provides a full chance of cheating in examination halls.

Social life:

Day by day the usage of Smart phones is increasing and peopleare very addictive of smart phones which have influenced their social life. These smart phones are containing some apps which are very harmful for social life. Smart phones contain various social networking sites like facebook, twitter, whats app. etc.

which are misused by people for various social threats. False comments, horrible rumors, cyber crimes, pornography are common actions done by people with the help of these smart phones and social life to a large extent is being damaged.

Ethical Suggestions:

Smart phone devices are the precious gifts of scientific technology. These devices are the best tool for future development if we use them properly. Some key suggestions are given below for proper usage of smart phones.

➢ Always follow the privacy policy provided by legal authorities.

➢ Always keep security alerts, so that no one can misuse our devices.

➢ Avoid misusing these technology gifts.

➢ Install only useful apps to your devices.

➢ Don't use these devices in class rooms, offices for entertainments.

➢ "Respect others you will be respected." Follow this statement.

➢ Always be sound both morally as well as socially.

➢ Always maintain social behavior.

So technological revolution must be accompanied by social justice so that it remains a precious technology, otherwise it is a black figure for our society.

Conclusion

Today life is so busy and everyone is trying to complete his own needs. No one has such time to look around him and think for a while to what he/she wants. The economies are becoming stable and unstable sometimes. To overcome the needs of consumers of bigger digital devices, smart phones are solving the issues. We can use smart phones for a lot of purposes of routine life and because of this we don't have to carry heavy weight laptops and digital dairies, we can save anything in our smart phone so we can get benefits of this anywhere anytime. It is acknowledgeable that smart phone has sizeable impact on society and other aspects of social life. Various changes are occurred in society by the influence of smart phones. Smart Phones are highly advanced and are good in multitasking, provides us different type of facilities of our daily use. These devices are making us capable of doing more things every day. Booking an air-ticket is no longer a problem when you've your Smartphone with you. Remote databases and growing digitization of various departments and elements of modern life have eased this process, thanks to smart phone networking technology. And this networking benefit is multiplied several times because of mobile internet connectivity. Mobile TVs, mobile hotel-booking services, mobile newsreaders, mobile dictionaries and mobile encyclopedias, we have everything today. It is also true thatthese devices are changing our lives in a negative way. People do not

communicate as much orally and become antisocial. Students do not concentrate in class. People become addicted to these devices and dependable and with the result our social and cultural norms are negatively influenced. But these positive and negative impacts are secondary.When we look at these precious gifts of science and technology from different perspective and that perspective is interpretation and perception of Smartphone. There are several ways that will help us to control and minimize the negative impacts of Smartphone in society. In order to understand the positive and negative impact of Smartphone it is very important to educate the users on how to use Smartphone's smartly. The education should emphasis to enhance the positive impacts and highlight the negative impacts clearly so that the users can take advantages of this exciting technology for over all development of society.

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