Introduction

The technological invention of cellular mobile phones has revolutionized many spheres of life and made the world a global village (Katz, 2008). It is substantiated fact that what the mobile technology has brought in this computer era is of tremendous value. We can all attest to the fact that communication has been streamlined and made realizable with these gadgets. Talking to a distant cousin is simply the click of a button. These awesome social media forums (Face book, Twitter, WhatsApp), are some of the best features mostly used and supported by portable electronic devices. The field of academics has been made more authentic because learning materials can easily be accessed online within shortest time possible with aid of mobile phones.

The business industry has had positive reforms, all attributed to the mobile phone technology. Nowadays, product advertisement by some of the outstanding business moguls is easily done over and accessible heavily by majority of product users through these gadgets from all angles of the globe. Worldwide socialization and interaction has been made cheap, and more reliable because of mobile phones. Getting friends from Australia is not a big deal. You just grab your Smartphone and login to your Instagram account then within seconds you get connected to a new friend who may prove useful in future life maybe as a business associate or even spouse. However, as much as benefits have been greatly realized, more harm has been felt because of mobile phone invention.

Effects of mobile phones

Consistent mobile phone use has posed threat to global peace and security. Some people post hate messages on social media forums which perpetuates enmity to other members in the community. For example, some whites have fuelled racism and all sorts of negative stereotypes to people of black origin by use of mobile phones (Duracc, 2007). This has resulted to serious repercussions such as physical fights for those who feel demeaned and their ego stripped off by these Mesozoic utterances. Also, terror and other outlined groups such as Islamic states, Alshabaab (based in Somalia) use these gadgets in spreading their heinous acts of terrorism. It is through these electronic devices where youths are being recruited to join the terror groups. The message of hatred is being broad-casted through mobile phones.

Other notable and long term effect mobile phones have brought to society is the nauseating culture of gambling. Most people especially youths use hand held devices to access betting sites online (Hermann, 2003). Leading companies such as Sportpesa (based in East Africa) rely almost 95% to mobile phones for promoting and carrying out their businesses. Betting has resulted to laziness among majority of people worldwideespecially the youth who mostly live by chance instead of doing something meaningful in their lives like working hard in school for academic excellence for a better employment or entrepreneurial life. When some lose in the process of gambling, they end up committing suicide which becomes a great loss not only to the family members but to the society and country.There have been many reported cases of students squandering their school fees in the name of looking for lump sum amount of money through betting. The society happens to be raising maniacs instead of straightforward and responsible citizens.

The root cause of social vices such as kidnappings, criminal acts in social places are all linked to the use of mobile phones. Majority of youths watch irrelevant movies that have a negative impact in their lives through mobile phones while online or even offline and transform the same behavior to real life situations. Crimes are being orchestrated and instigated through these gadgets. Criminals in rehabilitation centers are using mobile phones to con ignorant people, promising to send them lucrative goodies provided they send them some critical details such as bank account passwords or their e-mail address passwords. There is need for proper and strict communication policy concerning the use of licensed telecommunication devices to curb these scammers who to a large extend steal from people through mobile technology.

According to Michael Kwan, mobile phones pose health problems to end users. There is certainly some evidence that points towards tumors caused by cell phones. Among these health issues associated with cell phone use are DNA damage, eye cancer, sleeplessness, infertility, chronic fatigue and cardiac problems. The evidence is still inconclusive but continued exposure to mobile phones is likely to pose more human health complications. This is because; cell phones emit low level energy radiofrequency wavelengths of which continued exposure will have adverse effects to humans. Also, the electromagnetic energy such as gamma and X-rays have untold ionization to both growth and reproductive human cells. These are some of the concrete reasons as to why exposure time should be minimized to reduce higher chances of being critically affected by cell phones.

The use of cells phones can lead to cultural and moral changes if not well handled. Majority of people have embraced the habit of visiting dirty pornographic sites for satisfaction of their sexual urges and as a result, masturbation has been a solution among many youths. With prolonged exposure to porn literature, even the libido level of people is lowered drastically due to unrealistic sexual expectation from spouses. There have been a lot of cultural changes in some communities. For example, the western culture has infiltrated almost the entire world, all due to mobile phones. Youths are ever trying to catch up with the popular celebrities sidelining important schedules of their daily occupations. Drug trafficking and substance abuse among the youth has been accelerated by exposure to no-educative sites, where destructive materials are in public domain. We all know the effects of drugs in society,those who are drug dependent are a burden to the community and end up becoming social misfits.

With changing trends in the Smartphone technology phones are generally expensive to buy and maintainas people always want to be catching up with the latest brands in the market. The costs of data bundles, text message subscription and insurance covers are some of the economic setbacks of phones. The apps installed need to be periodically updated, this is expensive to the consumer. Some of these gadgets need special care such as not being in contact with water or excessive heat to avoid any chance of overheating as it may cause the gadget to explode thus a danger to human life. One will incur huge costs in the event of any mechanical hitches that may develop due to careless handling of these devices.

Heavy commercial truck and public service vehicle drivers who ignore traffic rules because of texting, surfing or playing mobile phone games end up causing road carnage. Road accident statistics greatly link those careless road users to either listening to music or calling someone while at the same time using the road. Besides, pedestrians have greatly contributed to accidents on roads. The culture of playing loud music through earphones or communicating with friends while on a busy road is fatal as one may not realize an over speeding car or Nissan with malfunctioning brakes. Poor concentration by pedestrians while on the road is costing the lives of many people.

Mobile phones can be hacked by people with malicious motives or intentional eavesdropping by friends who are curious about one’s private life. For example, if you keep your phone at home and someone calls, your relatives or workmates may answer the call making you feeling less secure. There have been incidences of screenshots with weird conversions circulating in social media platforms, exposing some people with their fun characters. A case study of personal sex-tapes has been leaked online by people with sinister motives of embarrassing others or making a living out of what they do. Therefore, using these gadgets require high caution level about one’s privacy to avoid intruders from interfering with communication privacy.

Another sinful behavior associated with cellular gadgets is the exchange of explicit sexual materials such as photos, videosamong teenagers. These kids have become victims of circumstantial use of mobile phones, which is causing detrimental psychological effects. As well elaborated above, cases of kids accessing banned dirty sites is alarming to the society at large. The mental retardation is some kids nowadays point to the fact of them getting addicted to materials that don’t have any positive impact to their mind.

Nonetheless, human interaction has been hampered as people are usually and greatly focused to their phones while sideling the real socialization with friends, family and any other person close to them (Huss,2008). This is because cell phones take much of their time hence little or no time at all to talk to their loved ones. Therefore, future generational interaction is going to be greatly limited as people will tend to behave like machines. Very little space will be available for constructive exchange of ideas which is cardinal in the human social development cycle. Moreover, constant use of mobile phones has become agents of interruptions in the business and social environments. Take for example a phone ringing in the middle of any formal meeting is a nasty behavior of the given mobile user hence will interfere with smooth running of that formal gathering.

Mobile phones are not eco-friendly. The materials and any other parts used to make cellular gadgets are non-biodegradable. They pose a huge environmental cost for such hazardous electronic waste management because of current ineffective technology for proper care. Once old mobile phones are damped carelessly to the environment, it violates the precautionary and principle of sustainable development (use of current resources without comprising ability of future generation to meet for their own needs). All electronic devices (cell phones inclusive) have become great concern to environmental scientists and lawyers at large. Mother earth has to be safeguarded by all means.

There have been reported cases of some mobile phones exploding like Improvised Explosive Device (IDE); causing serious bodily harm to people. Cell phones are used by criminals to detonate landmines and other explosives.

Conclusion

The communication industry has led to both positive and negative drastic changes to the current society. It is credible to point out that the most affected/vulnerable of mobile phone are children (Mc Evoy, 2005). This is because, kids are ones who are there to continue human race hence all avenues should be resorted to ensure that they are safe. There must be effective policies and laws for better use of licensed electronic devices so that chances of being affected health wise ignorantly are curbed to the fullest.

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