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MOBILE PHONE ADDICTION AND CYBER CRIME AWARENESS AMONG PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

Ms. Ankita Rosy*& Dr. AnuragSankhian**

ABSTRACT

The present research was conducted to examine the relationship between mobile phone addiction and cyber-crime awareness among prospective teachers. The study is based on a sample comprised of 100 prospective teachers including 50 male pupil teachers and 50 female pupil teachers of Chandigarh, Union Territory selected through random sampling method. The tools used for conducting the present study were; Mobile Phone Addiction Scale developed by Velayudhan and Srividya (2012) and Cyber Crime Awareness Scale (CC AS-RS) developed by Rajasekar (2012). The results show non-significant coefficient of correlation between mobile phone addiction and cyber-crime awareness among prospective teachers. The study also found that there exist a non-significant difference between mobile phone addiction cyber-crimeawareness among male pupil teachers and female pupil teachers of Chandigarh.

Keywords: Mobile phone, Addiction, Cyber-crime, Awareness, Prospective teachers

INTRODUCTION

Technological advances have changed the way people live. Mobile phones have gainedgreat importance for everyone in society. Now a day's one can easily find people carrying two or three mobile phones. It has truly become an essential part of our everyday life. As the number of people having mobile phones is rapidly growing along with the number of people that are becoming addictive to their mobile phones. When mobile phones were invented, they were intended to make life easier but due to addiction this has become a new challenge before our society. Mobile technology affects our life in both positive and negative way. Mobile phones have become a primary means of communication. One can communicate to anyone, anywhere and at any time. Its highest level of use is among adolescents, younger adults, socioeconomically disadvantaged populations and less educated young adults. Due to mobile phones the world is connected.

***Alumnus, Government College of Education, Chandigarh, India.**
**** Associate Professor, Government College of Education, Chandigarh, India.**

These days' people get so much addicted to mobile phones for talking, chatting, text messaging, watching videos, playing games etc. that they overlook the actual purpose of the phone and squander large part of their time in needless interaction over the phones. These all activities related to mobile phones are also a reason for social isolation, deteriorating health and economic risk.National Research Council (1991) rightly states that, "*The modern thief can steal more with a computer than with a gun. Tomorrow's terrorist may be able to do more damage with a Keyboard than with a bomb"*. Since the beginning of the civilization, man has constantly adapted himself with the changing circumstances and scenarios to usher in new eras of development and progress.

MOBILE PHONE ADDICTION

Addiction refers to the development of physical dependence on a substance such that craving and physical discomfort occurs in its absence (Ahmed, 2008). Classical hallmarks of addiction include impaired control over substances or behavior, pre-occupation with substance or behavior, continued use despite consequences and denial. Habits and patterns associated with addiction are typically characterized by immediate gratification, coupled with delayed deleterious effects. Addiction is considered by WHO as dependence, as the continuous use of something for the sake of relief, comfort, or stimulation, which often causes cravings when it is absent. The two major types of addiction include either substance addiction, e.g. "drugs or alcohol addiction" or "behavioral addiction such as mobile phone addiction" (WHO Expert Committee, 1964).

According to Med lexicon's Medical Dictionary (2018), "*Addiction is habitual psychological or physiological dependence on a substance or practice that is beyond voluntary control"*.

In the words of Walters (1996) addiction is operationally defined as, *"Behaviours which an individual repeatedly fails to resist despite significant psychological or social consequences".*

Griffiths (1995) believes that, *"Technological addictions are a subset of behavioral addictions and operationally defines technological addictions as behavioral addictions that involve human-machine interaction and non-chemical in nature".*

Just like television and computers, mobile phones are technological instruments which, as numerous studies and researches show are being used more often and which are objects that people can become addicted to.Mobile phone addiction can be defined as problematic, prolonged and dysfunctional use of mobile phone, which has the following characteristics and

symptoms; Overuse of the mobile phones, The need to increase the frequency and time of making phone calls and sending text messages, Repeated unsuccessful efforts to cease number of text messages than originally reduce the number of phone calls made and text messages sent, Making longer phone calls and sending a large number of text messages than originally intended, Financial, career, family and social problems caused by mobile phone use, Lying to family and friends to conceal the costs and time devoted to making phone calls and sending text messages. A mobile phone addict uses the cell phone for an increasing amount of time in order to achieve satisfaction.

Bianchi and Phillips (2005) suggested that mobile phone overuse is associated with psychological symptoms constitute a form of behavioral addiction.Mobile phone addiction is a problem that is growing at a fast pace in the modern world. Robert (2012) states that, "*Whenever people display addictive behavior, it has a negative effect on quality of life*". Acharya, Acharya, and Waghrey(2013)studied the health effects of cell phone usage. It was conducted among the students who were admitted to pursue professional courses in colleges situated in urban setting. The result indicates that more than 90 per cent of the students were having cell phones which they were using for maximum time of the day. Hayat, Arshad, and Hussain (2014) in their research revealed that the usage of mobile phone was satisfactory technology as mobile phone gave more information to the students regarding their study.

CYBERCRIME AWARENESS

Cyber is a prefix used to describe a person, thing or idea as a part of the computer and information age. The word 'cyber' is taken from the Greek word '*Kybernetes'* which means steer-man or governor. It was first used in cybernetics, a word coined by Nobert Weiner and his colleagues.

Internet, though offers great benefit to society, also present opportunities for crime using new and highly sophisticated technology tools. Cybercrime means illegal activities committed over the internet. Cybercrime is emerging as a serious threat. Cybercrime is a term used to broadly describe criminal activity in which computers or computer networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity and include everything from electronic cracking to denial of service attacks. It is also used to include traditional crime in which computers or networks are used to enable the illicit activity.Cybercrime is also considered as computer mediated activities which are either illegal or considered illicit by certain parties and which when can be conducted global electronic network.Worldwide governments, police departments and intelligence unit

have started to react. The internet, along with its advantage, has also exposed us to security risks. The past several decades have brought vast increase in the availability of electronic resources.

Park (1983) defined cyber terrorism as, *"An act of terrorism committed through the use of cyber space or computer resources".*

Casey (2000) mentioned that cyber-crime is *"A crime related to technology computers and the internet".*

In the words of Hal and Micki (2005) the cyber-crime refer to, *"Any crime in which the computer may have been used in the commission of a crime or it may be the target".*

There is a widespread lack of awareness regarding cyber-crimes and cyber laws among the people who constantly use information technology infrastructure for official and personal purposes. The state has recently seen increased the cyber-crime activities such as email hacking, defamation through web, document forgery etc. Unless awareness is created among the users, such crimes may not be reported properly to the law enforcement agencies. And also this will block real use of IT infrastructure by public. There will always be new and unexpected challenges to stay ahead of cyber criminals and cyber terrorists but we can win only through partnership and collaboration of both individuals and government .There is much we can do to ensure a safe, secure and trustworthy computing environment.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study was conducted to attain the following objectives:

1. To study the mobile phone addiction of the prospective teachers.
2. To study the cyber-crime awareness of the prospective teachers.
3. To compare the mobile phone addiction of the male and female pupil teachers.
4. To compare the cyber-crime awareness of male and female pupil teacher.
5. To study the relationship between the mobile phone addiction and cyber-crime awareness of the pupil teachers.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted to test the following hypotheses:

1. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of mobile phone addiction of male and female pupil teachers.

2. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of cyber-crime awareness of male and female pupil teachers.
3. There exists no significant correlation between the cyber-crime awareness and mobile phone addiction of pupil teachers.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study was delimited with regard to the following aspect:

- The study was delimited to the pupil teachers of the B.Ed. course only.
- The study was delimited to the two education colleges of the Chandigarh only.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present study was primarily designed to determine the relationship between the mobile phone addiction and cyber-crime awareness of the pupil teachers. The study has been conducted by involving descriptive survey method of research.

Sample of the Study

In the present study a sample of 100 prospective teachers of Chandigarh including 50 male pupil teachers and 50 female teachers was selectedthrough Random sampling technique.

Tools used in the Study

i. Mobile Phone Addiction Scale developed by Velayudhan and Srividya (2012).
ii. Cyber Crime Awareness Scale (CC AS-RS) developed by Rajsekar (2012).

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results have been discussed in the light of the hypotheses of the study.

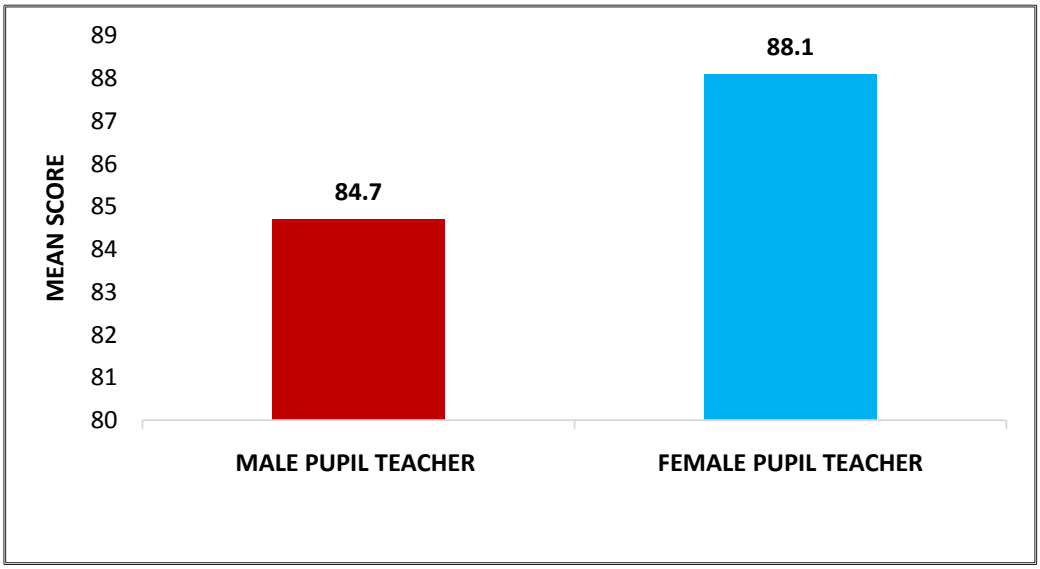
Hypothesis – I

H_{01}: There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of mobile phone addiction of male and female pupil teachers.

Table 1: Difference in the Mean Scores of Mobile Phone Addiction of Male and Female Pupil Teachers

Prospective Teacher	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degree of Freedom	t - Value	Level of Significance
Male	50	84.7	16.15	98	0.25	*Insignificant*
Female	50	88.1	13.47			

Figure 1: Bar graph showing the difference in the Mean Scores of Mobile Phone Addiction of Male and Female Pupil Teachers



The mean value and standard deviation of mobile phone addiction of prospective teachers for male pupil teachers is 84.7 and 16.15 and in the case of female pupil teachers is 88.1 & 13.47 respectively (Table 1 and Figure 1). It was found that mobile phone addiction is little more in the case of female pupil teacher as compared to male pupil teacher. The calculated t-value is 0.25 which is less than the table value 0.975 and calculated t-value is not significant at any level of significance. Therefore, the Hypothesis 1: *"There exists no significant differences in the mean scores of mobile phone addiction of male and female pupil teachers"* is accepted. We can say that there is no significant difference in mobile phone addiction in male pupil teacher and female pupil teacher.

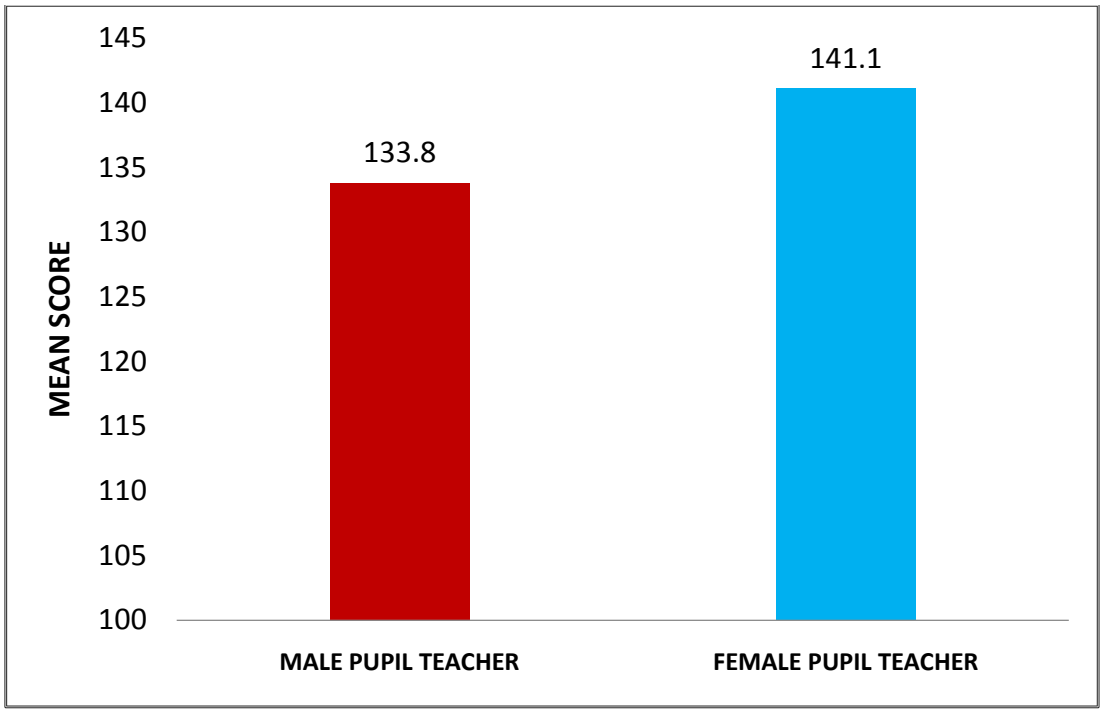
Hypothesis – II

H_{02}: There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Cyber-crime awareness of male and female pupil teachers.

Table 2: Difference in the Mean Scores of Cyber-Crime Awareness of Male and Female Pupil Teachers

Prospective Teacher	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Degree of Freedom	T - Value	Level of Significance
Male	50	133.8	22.01	98	0.074	*Insignificant*
Female	50	141.1	18.12			

Figure 2: Bar graph showing the Mean Scores of Cyber-Crime Awareness of Male and Female Pupil Teachers



The mean value and standard deviation of mobile phone addiction of prospective teachers for male pupil teachers is 133.8 and22.01 and in the case of female pupil teachers 141.1 and 18.12 respectively (Table 2 and Figure 2). It was found that cyber-crime awareness is little more in the case of female pupil teacher as compared to male pupil teacher. The calculated t-value is 0.07 which is less than the table value 0.975 and calculated t-value is not significant at any level of significance.Therefore, the Hypothesis 2: "*There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Cyber-crime awareness of male and female pupil teachers"*is accepted.

Hypothesis – III

H_{03}: There exists no significant correlation between the Cyber-crime awareness and mobile phone addiction of pupil teachers.

Table 3: Relationship between the Cyber Crime Awareness and Mobile Phone Addiction of Pupil Teachers

VARIABLE	N	r- value
Cyber Crime Awareness and Mobile Phone Addiction	100	-0.050*****

**Insignificant*

Table 3 show the correlation between and cyber-crime awarenessand mobile phone addiction. The r - value is found to be -0.050 which is not significant. Therefore, the Hypothesis 3: "*There exists no significant correlation between the Cyber-crime awareness and mobile phone addiction of pupil teachers"*is accepted.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were derived from the present research study:

1. There exist no significant differences in the mean scores of mobile phone addiction of male and female pupil teachers.
2. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of Cyber-crime awareness of male and female pupil teachers.
3. There exists no significant correlation between the Cyber-crime awareness and mobile phone addiction of pupil teachers.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The results of the present study can be usefully employed by the stakeholders. The present investigation suggests that the teacher educational institution should provide the required awareness to the prospective teachers regarding the side effects of the mobile phone addiction and cyber-crime awareness among the prospective teachers.The educational institutions should provide a fearless and advanced atmosphere to develop favorable attitude towards use of technology in teaching learning process and the authorities in introducing new courses about the cyber-crime.

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