A Study On Impact Of Digital Devices: Teans, Parents And Elders Perspective.

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ABSTRACT: Each phenomenon in present world has both positive and negative aspects; digitalization is not exception to this. Each one in the world hugged digitalization with an intension of doing work with greater speed at lower cost to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. We can notice positive impact of digital devices in each one's life. Exposure to two research report of world economic forum ignited interest in the minds of researcher to know impact of digital devices from the point of three major groups in the society which belongs to different generation with regard their experience with digital devices: teens, parents and elders. (Teens: those who are in the age group of 12-18. Parents: those who are in the age group of 40-50 and elders who are in the age group of 60 and above).The findings of the study proved that teens reaped maximum benefits from digital devices. Parents and elders are of the opinion that over use of devices definitely hinders family relation, increased social isolation, reduced interpersonal relationship, and empathy.

INTRODUCTION

The recent and rapid adaptation to new communication technology is one of important aspects of changes in contemporary social life. Such changes are happening faster and more dramatically than any change in recent history. Each phenomenon in present world has both positive and negative aspects, digitalization is not exception to this. Each one in the world hugged digitalization with an intension of doing work with greater speed at lower cost to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. We can notice positive impact of digital devices in each one's life.

Exposure to two research report of world economic forum indicates: Out of 5000 digital user $1/3^{rd}$ are of the opinion that they should reduce usage of digital devices. Global risk report indicates that adverse consequences of technology advances is one of the top risk sources facing today .These reports ignited interest in the minds of researcher to know impact of digital devices from the point of three major group in the society which belongs to different generation with

regard their experience with digital devices: teens parents and elders. (teens : those who are in the age group of 12-18. parents: those who are in the age group of 40-50 and elders who are in the age group of 60 and above)

Digitalization

The material process of converting analog streams of information into digital bits is digitization. The way in which many domains of social life are restructured around digital communication and media infrastructure is digitalization (8). So digitalization represents the interaction of multiple technologies into all aspects of daily life that can be digitized. To a business man it is a process of moving to a digital business by changing business model which produces greater revenue, more opportunities and greater efficiency at lesser cost. To a common man it is using digital devices to have access to any information relating to any aspects of life by sitting anywhere in the world.

Digital device

 As per Dictionary, A physical unit of equipment that contains a computer or microcontroller is a digital device. Which includes smart phone tablet etc. digital devices are used in all aspects of our lives, and in different workplaces .For example in our personal life to educate ourselves or to entertain or to socialize we are making use of it .

Literature review

We are living in the world where we can order food, buy a movie ticket,, shop for groceries , scour for travel deals, track fitness level, arrange for laundry cleaning using apps- all at one's finger tips..Digitalization offers advantage such as potential of working remotely and increasing efficiency. It also present decreasing direct communication and fewer job.(1) Digital media improved our social life, there is nothing wrong with our devices, but the way we are using them is hurting empathy, intimacy and in the work place there is significant collaborations and creativity.(4)

There are times to use technology, and there are times not to. It's all depending on being a little more thoughtful. Nowadays some parents are ignoring their children, instead focusing on their smart phones and their children have diminishing levels of self regulations, having not aware of their responsibility in digital age get changed(12). Some parents are ignoring how their kids are making use of digital devices.(5) Children and parents alike now, have a growing stream of new technological resources at their finger prints, offering increased opportunities for engagement,

entertainment and education (3).The greatest change in parent child relationship has occurred in the past two decades, with the advent of digital age(11). Impact of digital media on children ultimately depends on the content. Educative content which is appropriate, free of biases and violence would promote problem solving ability, compassion, moral values, manners and empathy Teens being challengers and pioneers, early adopters of technology are eager to reinvent their life with the help of digital devices(7). Children feel more comfortable in sharing their feeling online, as they feel they can be more honest and utilize the safety of being behind the screen to reach out and communicate. Whether digital native or digital immigrant, we all need to critically think of ways through which technology and media can best integrated to enhance learning and social interaction (51) .wasting time, the spread of incorrect and unauthenticated information and spreading lies through devices are among the most drawbacks that our communities face due to digital devices.(10)

As per The Hindu report (2015), the advent of technology has adversely impacted on the lives of elderly in the country, contributing abuse and their feelings of isolation. 65 percentages of elderly found their family paying lot of attention to phones and computers and they are disrespectful. (13). Isolation is an unrecognized crisis among seniors. A lot of people feel in the digital age, that they are not relevant or included. (9).   Brayant confirmed that there is a limited overlap between friendship in the lives of individuals and friendship through interactive technology. So there is number of friends on the internet to communicate with them online and instant messaging has proven that it is not a substitute for a source of social support to people who suffer from isolation.(2)

Studies made so for indicates that researchers concentrated on one group either parents or children or elders. There is a paucity of study of impact of digital devices taking all three at once. So this study concentrates on impact of digital devices as per teens, parents and elders.

Objectives of study

1. To know the extent of intimacy in communication

(Do they have same intimacy in communication that we had earlier before digitalization?)

2. To understand its impact on family relations

(In what way digital devices creating impact on family relations?)

3. To analyze are we becoming inhuman most of the cases

(In what way it contributes for cultivating sixth sense that is empathy?)

4. To get insights about impact of digital devices and get suggestion to come out of its negative impact

(How respondents considers its impact as and what they suggest as a way to come out of negative impact)

Methodology

Whole study was based on three groups in society: Teens, Parents and Elders

Having aware that first two are pro digital and the last one is forced to learn handling digital devices, no structured questionnaire was framed, instead taking objectives in mind certain question were asked to get insights. This paper uses qualitative data gained through face to face interviews to explore the way in which digital devices created impact on. 50 from each category of sample were selected based on random sampling method. Before studying on large scale, a pilot study was conducted taking answers from ten each. This facilitated researcher clearer with regard to questions to be asked.

Demographic details

Age group	12-18 (50)	40-50 (50)	60 and above (50)
Sex	Male:20 Female :20	Male:30 Female : 30	Male : 30 Female :20
Education BELOW SSLC 22	SSLC 40	PUC 50	Graduation and above 38
Marital status	Married:110	Unmarried:40	
Annual income per annum: Below Rs1,00,000 30	Rs 100,000-3,00,000 45	Rs 3,00,000-5,00,000 55	Rs 5 lakhs and above 20

Analyses and interpretation

1. Intimacy of communication

Digitalization enhanced intimate social interaction. Intimacy in communication related to number of comparable concepts such as love, closeness, self disclosure, support, bonding and attachment. What remains foundational to any healthy relationship is sharing intimate conversation, which makes each one to feel comfortable and respectful to each other.

When asked about intimacy of communication 70% of respondents are of the opinion that intimacy gets reduced after digitalization. That too all parents and elders expressed a view that when they were not using digital devices, communication was mostly through letters and face to face. It was great pleasure to express and indentify trueness in communication which is not possible know. But majority of teens were of the opinion that intimacy never gets reduced as we can see each other through video calling and they feel ashamed to accept that they will not talk with intimacy. Instead they could find intimacy and social anxiety relief through online communication

2. Impact on family relations

All teens are of the opinion that only those who fail to balance relationship with family and their involvement in digital devices can only feel negative impact on family relation. They explained a situation of increasing relationship by creating consent among family members, who were in difference of opinion, through mobiles which they cannot do it on face to face

Parents are of the opinion that they feel that their children are neglecting the concept of building relationship with in the family, instead they will be busy by keeping head down most of the time at home by being comfortable with that miniature world either enhancing relation with outsiders or watching videos or chatting. Female parents are of the opinion that whenever there is difference of opinion with their spouse they corrected it by expressing facts which cannot be done face to face, but through digital devices.. Some female respondents are of the opinion that they felt that their spouse is having second life by moving to isolated places while talking with many through mobiles. Digital devices definitely can allow relationship to develop and endure but it also provides space for breach of trust.

Majority of elders are of the opinion that they feel that one to whom they are depending some extent are not having time to listen, console or advice instead all will be busy in their own world. That too after digitalization there is not that much exchange of words at home most of things will

be done through the messages. They are definitely feeling isolated more and there is less bonding after being all at home started to hug digital devices. Elders are of the opinion that the age old practice of having at least dinner together or praying together once in a week is a remote possibility, such practices definitely enhances family bonding

3. Digital device addiction and empathy

When asked about impact of digital devices on sixth sense that is empathy(after explaining many incidents that researchers come across through media that: nowadays in most of the road accidents cases death rate is increasing because of lack of empathy

y amongst passersby. Instead of taking care of person who needs immediate care, most of the youngsters are busy in taking selfi) , teens are of the opinion that yes its wrong on any ones part to neglect one who is in need of help but empathy not decreased because of digital devices, but it get increased(they specified many incidents of helping to needy by passing message to collect money).they also specified there are n number of examples that they can sight for increase in empathy that too after making use of new digital devices

Parents and elders are of the opinion that, there is no empathy at all that too after digitalization. There are many examples that we expose through media which itself explains what extent people behaving inhuman in many situations at the cost of life. Empathy must be cultivated from child hood days at home first, elders and parents should reduce overusing modern digital devices then they will get moral rights to say youngsters with regard to its ill effects.

4. Overall impact of digital devices

Teens are of the opinion that, over all benefit is positive; otherwise people would not accept it. It opened world of operating business anywhere, helped to know about advancement in health and safety, helped by providing an opportunity to invent their life. As it is ever changing definitely helps in improving quality of life, it facilitated increased connection with the broader group of people and they reaped great benefits from digital life. They also suggested that, over all effects depend on how digital devices are applied. If one knows how to balance between digital and analog methods of experiencing, it will not have negative impact.

Parents felt that, children are immersing themselves technologically more instead of experiencing people and world around them. Many people on social media sites often presents idealized versions of their lives, ending others to make comparison which can lead to negative

emotion. Kids are prone to pleasant feeling by having access to internet, not being aware of impact on health. Most youngsters are not making proper use instead they misuse it.

 Elders are of the opinion that, as they were not grown up in a digitalized world, has been forced to learn how to deal with it in the course of their lives. They live in age of digitalization and for any situation there exist technological solutions which provide support via networking. Mobile enabled them to resume their contact so that they are able to reconnect with social environment .Their hobbies can be practiced with the help of digital devices. But they felt sad to say that No one say hi to anyone when they are passing by, no one take a moment to be friendly reach out even with eyes after being addicted to digital devices.

Discussion

Above analyses indicates that, teens are of the opinion that as digital devices are providing more positive benefits, so all   have accepted it using maximum of it in the area in which it is relevant to each one. Only those who fail to balance between their over use of digital devices and family are only experiencing negative impact of it on family relations. Intimacy definitely not get reduced instead it get increased. They also sighted example of being empathetic more whenever they expose information relating to someone really in need of help through digital devices. As per the overall impact of digital devices are positive. As per parents digital devices created negative impact on family relations, that too their children are not concerned about family bond rather busy with enhancing social contract. Empathy must get cultivated at homes , which is derogating today. Young minds are filled with negative thoughts in ~~the~~ process of their over response to any messages which they expose through digital devices without checking its authenticity. Overall impact can be converted into advantageous only when there is self regulation for parents first then such regulation must be inculcated at home. As per elders, digitalization should not be at the cost of humanity. Proper use of such devices is not dangerous otherwise we may end up with world of no feeling, no bonding and no life. Let we interact life around us, which definitely provides hope to live happily.

Pro-digital generation should concentrate on behavioral and psychological impacts of digital devices. Growing social isolation reducing interpersonal relationship, lack of empathy by being pro-digital must be taken care of. It is impossible to avoid in future that the world will be encompassed by technology in all areas of life. There is possibility of powerful digital devices can outsmart and overpower their human creators. But this fear and mistrust has never seemed to

hinder consumer adoption. Society has to find out way to deal with heavy digital experience. Some sort of intervention on the part of regulatory authority and government is required. Sensitization of children and strengthening inter generational bonding is the way to bridge the technology gap. Upbringing the young and adult according to a moral system supporting their identity is need of hour.

Limitation of the study and scope for further research

The study provides information with regard to how teens, parents and elders view the impact of digital devices, which can provide an opportunity to extend for further analysis. The study is based on 150 respondents of Udupi city, which can be extended to cover more cities. This study is not making use of any statistical tool to analyze the data; further study can be done by relating demographic variable to respondent's response. A structured questionnaire with relevant questions to different stream of society may fetch more use full results.

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