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INFLUENCE OF MOBILE PHONE USAGE ON INTER- PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS AMONGST RESI- DENTS OF IKORODU LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to assess the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communications amongst residents of Ikorodu Local Government, Lagos State, Nigeria. The simple random sampling technique was used to select 400 respondents from the study area. Primary data were also obtained through a structured questionnaire administered to 400 residents of Ikorodu Local Government, Lagos. Data were analysed using frequency counts, percentages and Pearson Product Moment Correlation. All the respondents have access to mobile phones. About 45.3% use 1hour or less less on mobile phones on a daily basis. About 55.3% of the respondents strongly agreed that mobile phones are used to relate with other people and it can take place in verbal as well as written communication form. About 80.2% use mobile phones for interpersonal communication in achieving transmission of ideas, information, messages, news and opinions. Major challenges involved in using mobile phones for interpersonal communication were: lack of social presence from another person and reduced identification which indicated that 'stereotyped and exaggerated partner impressions' occur in mobile phones (97.7% respectively). There exists a significant relationship ($p < 0.01$) between respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in the study area ($r = 0.704^{**}$), purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication ($r = 0.273^*$) and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication. The study concluded that the use of mobile phones had both positive and negative influences on interpersonal communication. The study therefore recommend that the use of mobile phones for interpersonal communication should be regulated to reduce the negative influence attached to it.

Keywords: Communication Pattern, Digital Communication, Face-to-Face Communication, Relationship building, Social Interaction.

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INTRODUCTION

Mobile phones have become an increasingly indispensable technology for social interac-

tion. Rice and Katz (2013) reported that the number of mobile phones has surpassed that of personal computers and may soon surpass

that of common television sets. Mobile phones of today have evolved beyond the conventional two-way communication system to become an unprecedented hub for a rapidly developing digital lifestyle (Bajarin, 2013).

The smartphone's multifaceted features allow users to start, maintain and update social networking, stream videos and live events, play video games, and browse the internet. What makes it alluring is the ability to access the internet whenever the user wants, provided there is a signal and the battery is charged (Julrud & Krogstad, 2020). Specifically, young people frequently utilise their phones in daily life, particularly to build and maintain social connections based on their attitudes and subjective norms (Gauld, Lewis & White, 2014).

Interpersonal communication, on the other hand, is an interactive process by which a person communicates with another person in a way that fosters mutuality, rapport and understanding. Yildiz (2012) stated that an organization's human relations viewpoint focuses on the value of interpersonal communication within the social context of the workplace. To efficiently coordinate and promote organisational activities, it lays a heavy focus on understanding and enhancing the connections between persons inside the organisation. This viewpoint emphasises that effective employee collaboration and cooperation are crucial for accomplishing the organization's overall goals. Similarly, Owoeye and Dhunsi (2014) assert that interpersonal communication is a crucial tool for achieving both personal and organisational goals. This is because it makes it easier to share ideas, gain knowledge and experience, make decisions, coordinate effort and interpret activities. Interpersonal com-

munication is the process of participating in mutually beneficial thinking, emotion, message, and idea exchange with others. People use a common system of symbols, emotions, thoughts, and information to exchange meaning with one another. (Yildiz, 2012; Ojomo, 2014; Ifidon & Ugwuanyi, 2013). Therefore, for communication to be effective and interpersonal, it must serve a goal. The stated explanation demonstrates how crucial interpersonal communication is for building healthy relationships amongst people.

Nowadays, it is typical to see people using a range of high-end cell phones, tablets, and iPads, all of which are outfitted with cutting-edge software, features, and programmes that allow users to connect to the internet and other social media platforms. People use these gadgets for interacting, browsing the internet, streaming video, downloading and uploading files, exchanging information, and enjoying other kinds of activities. It should be noted that some of the contents are explicit and geared towards adults.

A major problem in our culture is the lack of interpersonal contact. Interpersonal communication problems can result in misinterpretations of users' questions or information requirements, making it difficult to provide the necessary information on time. As a result, the basic goal of utilising a mobile device is undermined. Therefore, the study sought to determine whether there was any connection between the usage of mobile phones and interpersonal interactions in Ikorodu Local Government, which is situated in Lagos.

The idea of making calls is the major purpose for the use of mobile phones. A number pad, a computerised phone book, and a

pick-up/hang-up button are the common components of standard phones. Modern smartphones, on the other hand, outperform conventional mobile phones in terms of usefulness, displacing them (Soomro, 2013). These cell phones are portable pocket-sized computers in use. When compared to standard mobile phones, they offer a wide range of extra features, such as video calls, web browsing, emailing, photo uploading, using GPS for directing movement (if equipped with GPS), playing saved music and videos, operating new applications, installing and playing games, and performing a lot more activities.

Nowadays, smartphones have touchscreen controls that work with taps and gestures rather than buttons. On the touch screen, a dial pad appears while placing a call. The IBM Simon Personal Communicator, which was developed in 1992 but released to the public in 1994, was the first smartphone device featuring an early touchscreen. It could send and receive emails and faxes, act as a pager, and perform other smartphone-like functions (Andrew, 2018). Even though it was a smartphone, its major capabilities included a monochrome Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) touch screen, email, fax, notes and a calendar. Its battery had an hour lifespan. The BlackBerry 5810 was one of the first smartphones to be released in 2000. This had a full keyboard, music player, calendar, superior internet connectivity, among other features. The iPhone filled the void left by Blackberry, which was the preferred smartphone used by business professionals but was unable to maintain its development (Andrew, 2018; Jackson, 2018). When Apple released the iPhone in 2007, it changed smartphones by avoiding with phone buttons in favour of a complete touchscreen features. In recent times, few smartphones

are available that do not adopt the support of touchscreens features. Every major phone manufacturer including Apple, Samsung, LG, HTC, Nokia, Sony Ericson, Motorola, RIM and Palm, produces smartphones.

Smartphones are becoming a popular topic of discuss particularly among youths. Moreover, academics and educators have engaged in controversies over its use, with some arguing for and against its benefits and bad effects (Talbot, 2018). Those who support the use of cell phones claimed that its use provide students with necessary tools to support their academic pursuits irrespective of their socio-economic backgrounds. Others contend that technology can be addictive and thus can distract students, making it challenging for teachers to maintain control of the classroom environment. An European country with such a divergent stance is Italy, which in 2016, lifted its ban on smartphone usage in classrooms, while Denmark limited smartphone use in 88% of its classrooms in 2018 (Ritzau, 2018).

Additionally, according to some academics, smartphones can be helpful if they are properly monitored. They claimed that the deterioration in children's academic performance in schools was partly caused by the use of cell phones (Students Beware: Your Smartphone Could Be Damaging Your Education - Study International, 2017). According to a London School of Economics study, after smartphones were made illegal in classrooms, children's test results improved (Ritzau, 2018). Similarly, a report by Dr Pasi Sahlberg, a Finnish education specialist, claims that smartphones are to blame for Australia's drop in rankings in the Programme for International Student's Assessment PISA (Taylor, 2018).

The requirements, motives and satisfactions of media consumers are at the centre of the Uses and Gratifications Theory, a well-known mass communication theory. According to this theory, people who interact with media information actively participate in the process rather than being passive users of mass communication. The popular book "The uses of mass communication: Current perspectives on gratifications research" was published in 1974 by the theory's proponents, Jay G. Blumler and Elihu Katz. They were credited with developing the theory. Their article provided an in-depth analysis of the Uses and Gratifications Theory and highlighted its most important features (Ehikwe & Nwosu, 2013). The way communication messages were phrased, the decision to employ a certain media for audience engagement, and the audience's active roles and dispositions in selecting the medium to be exposed to were based on needs and satisfaction are all factors (Ehikwe & Nwosu, 2013). Folarin (2002) asserted that the uses and gratifications theory presumed that the recipients are actively influencing the process, since they selectively choose, attend to and retain the media messages.

Waqar (2010) investigated how teenagers' conversations with friends were affected by cell phone usage. According to the study, respondents rarely relate with peers who do not own cell phones and typically use their phones to communicate solely with a small group of people. Teenagers' dependence on cell phones is further demonstrated by the fact that they use them while at social gatherings and argue that they are necessary for social interactions. Teenagers' ability to communicate is also hampered with the use of cell phones, as several respondents claimed that because they are constantly on

their phones, they rarely interact with those around them.

According to another study conducted by Lepp *et al* (2014), excessive mobile phone usage is frequent among young people and has been linked to poor academic performance, strained relationships, low self-esteem, poor self-control, and a lack of life satisfaction. High degrees of impulsivity seem to be closely related to excessive usage of and dependence on mobile devices. Mobile communication, according to Castells *et al.* (2009), increases the likelihood, potential, and reach of interpersonal sociability. They argued that young people create their own networks of connections based on their interactions with others, their interests, and their projects, which are then strengthened with the use of wireless communication.

As a result of increased mobile phone usage, other researchers claimed that face-to-face communication has decreased. They point out that teens that use their phones constantly are more likely to engage in mediated communication rather than face-to-face interaction (Licoppe, 2017). Recent studies have revealed how ingrained mobile phones have grown in our daily lives. It serves as a mini-computer and is largely replacing computers because of its many features including messaging, surfing, gaming, calling, and emailing (Hakoama & Hakoyama, 2011).

Additionally, communication is a crucial element that is useful in a variety of workplaces. The act of exchanging or interacting ideas, thoughts and emotions or passing general information between two or more people in a direct face-to-face contact. Interpersonal communication is considered as the social contact between two or more individuals (Berger & Roloff, 2019). According to Lep-

pet al (2014), people regularly use their mobile phones on daily basis and this trend poses a negative impact on their ability to communicate effectively with others.

The ultimate purpose of this study is to ascertain the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication among residents of Ikorodu Local Government Area (LGA) of Lagos State Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study include:

1. to determine the frequency of mobile phones usage for interpersonal communication among residents of Ikorodu Local Government,
2. to determine the purpose of choosing mobile phones for interpersonal communication,
3. to determine the influence of mobile phones usage on interpersonal communication among residents of Ikorodu LGA of Lagos State, Nigeria,
4. to determine the challenges involved in using mobile phones for interpersonal communication.

The following hypotheses stated in the null form were formulated to serve as guide for the study:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the frequency of mobile phone usage for interpersonal communication and the influences of mobile phone usage for interpersonal communication among residents of Ikorodu Local Government.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between the purpose of choosing mobile phones for interpersonal communication and the influences of mobile phone usage for interpersonal communication among residents of Ikorodu Local Government.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study adopted the use of quantitative survey design. The population of the study were residents of Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State. There are 1,093,000 residents in Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria (Ikorodu, Nigeria Metro Area population; 2023). Simple random sampling technique was used to select 400 residents of Ikorodu Local Government of Lagos State. The sample size of the study was determined by the sample size calculation propounded by Yamane T. (1967). The formula for the calculation is as shown below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where: n=Number of respondents; N= Population size; e=Error (5%), 1 is constant
 $n = 1,093,000 / [1+1,093,000 (0.05)^2]$

Therefore
 $n = 399.9$
 $n \approx 400$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area

The mean age of the respondents was 31.5 years with 49.5% between the age ranges of 21-35 years (Table 1). Majority (50.7%) of the respondents were female while 49.3% were male. This is an indication that there is no gender bias in the sampling of the respondents used for the study and this is because both male and female should prioritize communication to make relationship grow. Also, the majority (79.3%) of the respondents were married, 10.7% were single, and 5.3% were widows, while 4.7% were separated. This is expected as the majority of the respondents were within marriageable age and this could influence their interpersonal communication as a responsibility usually conferred on individuals. Majority (56.3%) of the respondents were Christians, 41.7% were Muslims while only 2.0% were traditionalists (Table 1). This is an indication that most of the respondents practice different religions. About 44.0% of the respondents had tertiary education, 24.5% had secondary education while 20.5% had no formal education. This implies that majority of the respondents sampled were literate and this could influence the use of mobile phones among respondents because mobile phone

usage could be influenced by the ability to understand the technical know-how. All (100.0%) of the respondents have access to mobile phones while 45.3% use less than or 1 hour on mobile phones on daily basis (Table 1).

Frequency of mobile phone usage for interpersonal communication in the study area

Findings show that 87.8% of the respondents use mobile phones on daily basis, 7.0% use mobile phones twice a week while 2.5% use mobile phones on weekly basis (Table 2). This is expected as all of the respondents indicates that respondents have access to mobile phones and this could directly or indirectly influence their interpersonal communication. The pervasiveness of mobile phones in today's world is largely attributed to their affordability, ubiquity, and portability (Dar & Madhusudhan, 2018). As noted by Rice and Katz (2013), mobile phones have surpassed the pervasiveness of personal computers and are poised to surpass the ubiquity of television sets. Modern mobile phones have evolved beyond their traditional usage as simple communication tools and have become integral components of a digital lifestyle (Bajarin, 2013).

According to Lepp *et al.* (2014), individuals frequently use mobile phones daily which directly impact their interpersonal communication. Moreover, the smartphone User Persona Report (Vserv, 2015) revealed that individuals in various nations, including Nigeria and Malaysia, spend considerable time engaging with their cell phones daily, highlighting the significant influence of mobile phones on people's everyday lives and routines.

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents in the study area

Socio-economic characteristic	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
≤20	53	13.3	31.5 years
21-35	198	49.5	
36-50	79	19.7	
51-65	70	17.5	
Sex			
Male	197	49.3	
Female	203	50.7	
Marital Status			
Single	43	10.7	
Married	317	79.3	
Widow	21	5.3	
Separated	19	4.7	
Religion			
Islam	167	41.7	
Christianity	225	56.3	
Traditional	10	2.0	
Level of Education			
No Formal Education	82	20.5	
Primary Education	44	11.0	
Secondary Education	98	24.5	
Tertiary Education	176	44.0	
Access to Mobile Phone	400	100.0	
Hours spent on Mobile when Chatting			
≤1	181	45.3	45.4 minute
1-2 hours	84	21.0	
3-4 hours	96	24.0	
>4 hours	39	9.7	

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table 2: Frequency of use of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in

Mobile phone usage	Frequency	Percentage
Daily	351	87.8
Twice a week	28	7.0
Weekly	10	2.5
Bi-weekly	3	0.7
Monthly	8	2.0
Every Six Month	0	0.0
Source: Field Survey, 2023. Yearly	0	0.0
Never	0	0.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication (n=400)

For the purpose of choosing a mobile phone for interpersonal communication, 97.7% of the respondents indicated use for communication with friends and family, 55.3% use for watching of video and music for entertainment, 49.5% use mobile phone purposely for online shopping, 45.5% easy accessibility with everyone who wants to chat and 30.3% use mobile phone purposely for reading news as the main purposes

for choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication (Table 3). This implies that there are reasons for choosing mobile phones for interpersonal communication by the respondents in the study area. The findings align with the research of Owoye and Dhunsi (2014), highlighting the crucial role of interpersonal communication in achieving both personal and organizational goals. This supports the various purposes identified by respondents, including communication with friends and family, entertainment, and online activities.

Table 3: Purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Communication with friends and family	391	97.7
Watching of video and music for entertainment	221	55.3
I use mobile phone purposely for online shopping	198	49.5
I use mobile phone purposely for reading news	121	30.3
I use mobile phone for networking	98	24.5
I use mobile phone for the purpose of banking system	88	22.0
Easy accessibility to who every someone want to chat	182	45.5

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Benefit of using mobile phone for interpersonal communication (n=400)

On the benefits of using mobile phone for interpersonal communication, 80.2 % respondents strongly agree that with mobile phones, people can interact with each another and that communication can take place in verbal as well as written communication forms (Table 4). 60.3% of the respondents use mobile phones for interpersonal communication as an indispensable force towards achieving transmission of ideas, 58.0% use mobile phone allows cordial relationship, 50.3% use of mobile phone allows people to have the ability to make themselves feel comfortable with people and 49.5% use of mobile phone allows

people to have the capacity to handle varying situations (Table 4). This is an indication that the respondents strongly agreed that the use of mobile phones for interpersonal communication is beneficial to them.

The importance of interpersonal communication is emphasized in the human relations perspective, as it captures the hearts and minds of people (Table 4). As highlighted by Owoye and Dhunsi (2014), interpersonal communication plays a crucial role in achieving personal and organizational goals by facilitating the exchange of ideas, fostering relationships, and enabling individuals to navigate various situations effectively.

Table 4: Benefits of using mobile phone for interpersonal communication (n=400).

Variables	SA	A	U	D	SD
Ability to relate with people can take place in verbal as well as written communication forms	321(80.2)	79(19.8)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
It allows people to have the capacity to relate with various people in varying situa-	198(49.5)	82(20.5)	98(24.5)	22(5.5)	0(0.0)
It allows people to have the ability to make themselves feel comfortable with people	201(50.3)	99(24.8)	72(18.0)	8(2.0)	20(5.0)
Interpersonal communication is stressed in the human relations perspective by capturing the hearts and minds of the people	182(45.5)	79(19.8)	82(20.5)	32(8.0)	25(6.3)
It allows cordial relationship	232(58.0)	87(21.8)	68(17.0)	13(3.3)	0(0.0)
Interpersonal communication is an indispensable force towards achieving	241(60.3)	82(20.5)	77(19.2)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)

Values in parenthesis are percentages (Source: Field Survey, 2023).

Influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication (n=400)

About 97.7% of respondents strongly agreed that mobile phones facilitate communication among the masses and expose society to corruption. Additionally, 77.7% stated that mobile phones make communication easy, while 57.7% noted that daily mobile phone usage has affected face-to-face interaction because people tend to use their phones to communicate with those they often meet in person (Table 5). Furthermore, 56.3% of respondents believe that mobile phones have made connectivity easier, eliminating distance as a barrier, and 54.5% indicated that mobile phones help people develop friendships and even find new friends (Table 5). This suggests that

mobile phones have both positive and negative influences on interpersonal communication.

The widespread adoption of mobile phones has transformed the dynamics of interpersonal communication, offering both opportunities and challenges. As highlighted by Hakoama & Hakoyama (2011), mobile phones serve as mini-computers and are increasingly replacing traditional communication mediums due to their convenience and versatility. However, as noted by Gapsiso & Wilson (2015), excessive mobile phone usage can lead to decreased proficiency in face-to-face communication, hindering the conveyance of emotions and attitudes effectively.

Table 5: Influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication (n=400)

Variables	SA	A	U	D	SD
Mobile phone facilitate communication among the masses	391(97.7)	8(2.0)	1	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Communication via mobile phone is said to be popular for being more time efficient as compared to interpersonal communication	198(49.5)	92(23.0)	41(10.3)	52(13.0)	17(5.3)
People's daily mobile phone usage have affected face-to-face interaction because they tend to use mobile phones with those whom they often meet in person	231(57.7)	101(25.3)	39(9.7)	19(4.7)	9(2.3)
Easy accessibility to whoever someone wants to chat	181(45.3)	121(30.3)	18(4.5)	42(10.5)	38(9.5)
Help people to develop their friendship and even find new friends	218(54.5)	72(18.0)	58(14.5)	50(12.5)	2(0.5)
It makes communication easy	311(77.7)	42(10.8)	38(9.5)	9(2.3)	0(0.0)
Mobile phones have made connectivity easy and distance is no longer a barrier	225(56.3)	18(4.5)	68(17.0)	49(12.3)	40(10.0)
Its expose the society into corruption	391(97.7)	9(2.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)
Negatively impacted the best way to convey emotions and attitude.	198(49.5)	92(23.0)	41(10.3)	52(13.0)	17(5.3)

Values in parenthesis are percentages (Source: Field Survey, 2023)

Challenges involved in using mobile phones for interpersonal communication (n=400)

The 97.7% of the respondents indicated that lack of social presence from another human being and a group mentality indicated that stereotyped and exaggerated partner impressions occur with the uses of mobile phones (97.7% respectively), distance people from good relationship and lack of meaningful two-way conversation (95.5%). This implies that these were the challenges faced by the respondents who use mobile

phones for interpersonal communication.

The challenges identified align with previous research by Gapsiso & Wilson (2015), who highlighted the negative impact of excessive mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication skills and the quality of interactions. Additionally, Hakoama & Hakoyama (2011) emphasized the potential for mobile phones to distance individuals from genuine relationships due to the lack of social presence and meaningful two-way conversation.

Table 6: Challenges involved in using mobile phones for interpersonal communication (n=400)

Variables	Major challenge	Minor challenge	Not a challenge
Lack of convey emotions and attitude	198(49.5)	92(23.0)	110(27.5)
Lack of meaningful two-way conversation	382(95.5)	10(2.5)	8(2.0)
Lead to loneliness because people are by their self	225(56.3)	68(17.0)	107(26.7)
Lack of social presence from another human being	391(97.7)	9(2.3)	0(0.0)
Self-disclosure is another problem with the use of mobile phone for interpersonal communication	225(56.3)	68(17.0)	107(26.7)
De-individuation indicates that 'stereotyped and exaggerated partner impressions occur in mobile phones	391(97.7)	8(2.0)	1(0.2)
Distance people from good relationship	382(95.5)	10(2.5)	8(2.0)

Values in parenthesis are percentages (Source: Field Survey, 2023)

Test of Hypothesis

Test of significant relationship between the respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in the study area and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication

Results of the hypothesis 1 stated that, "there is no significant relationship between the respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in the study area and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication", were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation PPMC (Table 7). The significance of the relationship was determined at 0.01level. The PPMC result showed that there exists a significant relationship ($p < 0.01$) between respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in the study area and the influence of mobile phone usage on

interpersonal communication ($r = 0.704^{**}$) in Table7. This implies that the respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication had an influence on mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication. The null hypothesis is thereby rejected.

The significant relationship observed underscores the profound impact of mobile phone usage patterns on interpersonal communication behaviours. As individuals increasingly rely on mobile phones for communication, whether through voice calls, text messages, or social media platforms, the nature and quality of their interpersonal interactions are inevitably influenced. This finding aligns with previous research emphasizing the central role of mobile phones in shaping modern communication practices and social interactions (Rice & Katz, 2013; Lepp *et al.*, 2014).

Table 7: Test of significant relationship between the respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in the study area and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication

Variable	R-value	P-Value	Decision
Respondents' frequency of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication in the study area and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication	0.704**	0.000	Significant

Tool Used: PPMC; Significant at 0.01 level

Test of significant relationship between the purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication

Results of the hypothesis two that "there is no significant relationship between the purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication and the influence

of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication", were tested using PPMC (Table 8). The significance of the relationship was determined at 0.05level. PPMC shows that there exists a significant relationship ($p < 0.05$) between respondents' purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication and the influence of mobile

phone usage on interpersonal communication, with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.273* (Table 8). This implies that the respondents' purpose of choosing mobile phones for interpersonal communication had effect on the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication. The null hypothesis is thereby rejected. This implies that respondents' purpose of choosing mobile phones for interpersonal communication had an effect on the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication. The observed correlation, though

moderate, suggests that the reasons individuals have for selecting mobile phones for interpersonal communication do impact how they subsequently use these devices to communicate with others. This finding is consistent with previous research that has highlighted the importance of individuals' motivations and intentions in shaping their communication behaviours (Rice & Katz, 2013; Dar & Madhusudhan, 2018). It also aligns with studies on the influence of technology adoption on communication patterns (Lepp *et al.*, 2014).

Table 8: Test of significant relationship between the purpose of choosing mobile phone for interpersonal communication and the influence of mobile phone usage on interpersonal communication

Variable	R-value	P-value	Decision
Purpose of Choosing Mobile Phone for Interpersonal Communication and the Influence of Mobile Phone Usage on Interpersonal Communication	0.273*	0.012	Significant

Significant at 0.05 levels (Source: Field Survey, 2022)

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the widespread use of mobile phones has significantly influenced interpersonal communication practices. More prominent among users was the tendency to rely on mobile phones for chatting with friends and family, entertainment, and news consumption, reflecting a desire for connectivity and social engagement. However, the absence of physical social presence and the propensity for exaggerated partner perceptions could hinder the development of healthy relationships and meaningful dialogues. These findings highlight the dual nature of mobile phone usage in interpersonal communication, where the benefits of connectivity are tempered by potential drawbacks in social interaction

quality.

Based on the findings of the study, it was therefore recommended that:

To get the most out of utilising mobile phones for social interactions, people should make efforts to engage in meaningful two-way discussions and, whenever possible, use non-verbal signs. Additionally, people should use their phones occasionally to facilitate interactions with others in person and to sharpen their communication skills and avoid the drawbacks of an excessive reliance on mobile devices.

People need to be aware of the possible advantages and disadvantages of utilising mobile phones for social interaction. Mobile

phones can be convenient and make communication easier, but they can also have unfavourable impacts like lowering the standard of interpersonal relationships, impairing emotional comprehension, and causing a lack of social presence.

Organizations should also be mindful how they utilize mobile phones. Organizations should encourage their staff to interact in person when appropriate. To support staff members in maintaining their communication skills in the digital age, they may also think about organizing training workshops on effective communication techniques.

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