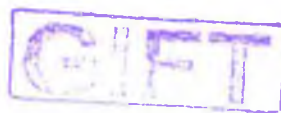


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MOBILE PHONE AND THE SOCIAL LIFE OF TEENAGERS OF BANGLADESH

Master's of Philosophy (Mphil) Thesis

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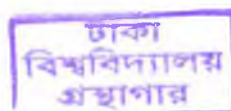
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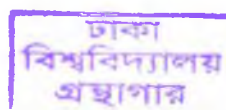
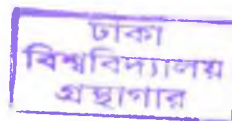


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MOBILE PHONE AND THE SOCIAL LIFE OF TEENAGERS OF BANGLADESH

ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to relate premarital relationship to the massive usage of mobile phone. The whole study revolves around the teenagers of 13-19 years and the ways they use the mobile phone as a device to communicate and share feelings mainly with friends and partners. Mobile phone is a very necessary and popular tool for communication, however, abuse of this tool can imbalance the life of a teenager for dating and chatting too much with partners which eventually results in entanglement with many phone friends or romantic partners with a view to having much sought after fun of life. To highlight the impact, the frequency and variety of mobile phone use by the teenagers have been hypothesized, such as: lots of text messages and much more talk mostly during night time when inherently sexual arousal peaks and they become prey to the desire of premarital sex regardless of their maturity and age where availability of contraceptive encourages them in this regard. The study has used both quantitative and qualitative methods to address the topic and found that they do as mentioned above including sex. In the context of Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh, the findings are alarming; these may be useful for increasing an understanding of how teenagers use mobile phone to support their premarital relationship.

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Last but not the least, I thank my precious family especially my dear husband who experienced this part of life with me. He supported me intellectually. He has patiently accompanied me throughout this whole journey, and later summed up the experience in a befitting manner. He admits he has also learnt a lot from this project which has inspired him to pursue knowledge on this discipline. My thanks also go to my little lovely son who makes me happy and cheer up with his little words “Ma tumi porcho, tumar pora, tumi poro, ami disturb korbona”...

CHAPTER 1

1.1: Statement of the Problem

Since the inception of the world people are using innovative techniques to make life easier and comfortable. Efforts in this direction started a long time ago and efforts are still in place. One of the eventual results of these efforts is globalization where irrespective of distance and geographical dispersion people feel themselves together in a world.

“Globalization in its literal sense is the process of transformation of local or regional phenomena into global ones. It can be described as a process by which the people of the world are unified into a single society and function together.”¹

As we understand from evidences that, there are several or may be thousands of causes for this globalization. Mobile Phone Technology is one those causes which facilitates all of us to stay in touch. In the natural law of Cause and Effect Equation², cause brings some effects both positive and negative on the relevant society and the people affected.

“A mobile phone (also known as a wireless phone, cell phone, or cellular telephone) is a long-range, electronic device used for mobile voice or data communication over a network of specialized base stations known as cell sites”. In addition to the standard

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Globalization>

² Cause $X \Rightarrow$ Effect Y

voice function of a mobile phone, current mobile phones may support many additional services, such as SMS for text messaging, email, packet switching for access to the internet, gaming, bluetooth, infrared, camera with video recorder and MMS for sending and receiving photos and video, MP3 player, radio and GPS".³ As of today, mobile phones have become very popular among the people of the world irrespective of their social, economical, and development status. And, young generation i.e., teenagers are not excluded from this user group.

People use mobile phone for different economic reasons to communicate faster via voice call, voice message, text message etc. Various user groups utilize this device for various purposes in multiple ways. It can be used for family contact, for academic purposes, for socializing, for business needs, for recreation, and for many more reasons based on the intention of the person using it.

Communication and connectedness play essential roles in human relationships (Markham et al., 2010; Catalano, Berglund, Ryan, Lonczak, & Hawkins, 2004; Pittman, Irby, & Tolman, 2003). The social support provided by parents and peers has been reported as one of the major factors in overall life satisfaction among adolescents (Gallagher & Vella-Broderick, 2008). Essential social behaviors such as expression, growth of self-

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone

awareness, connection to the community, and the giving and receiving of insight are all facilitated by social communication (Brown & Van Riper, 1973).

As technology progresses, new forms of communication have become increasingly popularized, especially among adolescents (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010). Phone technology in particular has greatly influenced modern communication patterns. After collecting the opinions of several school, college and just university going students participating in sample survey, in case studies the mobile phone was identified as the most important information and communication technology used in contacting both romantic partners and friends.

Our study seeks to explore mobile phone usage patterns among teenagers in school, college and first-year University going students living in Dhaka City specially looking at their dependency on cell phone for communications with friends, and romantic partners to support their relationships. Everywhere in the world, adolescents are the most eager group to embrace the new technologies. Wireless transmission technologies are certainly at the root of all innovations that make communication compatible with spatial mobility. Remarkably, this portability was first realized for receiving only devices, while transmission technologies (e.g. radio or TV stations) have remained stationary and under the control of very few elitist actors.

Seen in this very broad evolutionary perspective, the significance of the mobile phone lies in empowering people to engage in communication, which is at the same time free

from the constraints of physical proximity and spatial immobility. As it responds to such deeply ingrained and universal social needs, it is no surprise to see the mobile phone expanding worldwide at breathe-taking speed. In fact, there are reasons to assume that it would have been equally welcome in all human societies and cultures in the past: that is, under all imaginable specific cultural or socio-economic conditions. At the same time, however, this emancipation from physical constraints has to be paid for (1) with an almost exclusive limitation to bilateral contacts, and (2) with increased uncertainties about the current subjective states and environmental conditions of the contacted partners.

Since its inception in the late 19th century until recent years, the telephone has received very meager attention from sociology and the media sciences (Lasen 2002a: 31). In the theoretical perspective of Manuel Castells (1996), for instance, only the internet is given the status of a Mega-Innovation that really counts, while mobile communication facilities are almost totally neglected. Such views ignore the basic facts that in comparison with PC and net technologies, cell phones are used nowadays by broader strata of the population all over the world, and that for many users; they have stronger impacts on social life. So that most of them are ready to spend much larger sums of money on monthly phone bills than on internet provider services.

Due to the rapid increase in mobile phone technology, the total number of phones worldwide has for the first time surpassed the number of TV-sets in 2001. (Katz/Aakhus

2002:4). Mobile phones have become popular to teenagers than other modern technologies because its multimedia features and multimedia devices are able to transport voice, text messages, pictures, musical sound, software programs and anything else coded in digital format as well as it is much simpler, for its user friendlier interface which makes it possible to be used by teenagers but during the hundred years of its history the phone was a rather exclusive means of communication, which was not readily accessible to lower classes, woman and younger age group. In its early stages the mobile phone was even more elitist device, which was mainly used by middle and higher class males for instrumental (especially professional) purposes (Roos 1993). As late as 1996 European surveys showed that less than 14% of users reported using their mobile phone for private, intimate conversation (Fortunati 2002: 51)

Nowadays, teenagers opt for the new technology for gossiping, while today the industry relies heavily on adolescent users who exchange SMS as well as audio messages. Mobile phone operators' packages and offers are focusing on teenagers. Mobile phone use gives new meaning, allowing teen to escape from boredom. Now teens prefer this mobile phone as a technological gadget the most to others available devices.

Mobile phone creates a new aspect in which all human beings are equal, i.e. irrespective of age, gender, cultural background, wealth, income or hierarchical position, it is equally adopted by both adult and by younger people of all social backgrounds. It lends teenagers "personalization" by choosing individual colors, ring tones, display image,

contact list etc. Mobile phone opened the way for teens to free themselves (functionally as well as psychologically) from their immediate social surroundings by empowering them to fulfill many material and psychological needs without relating to any others in their vicinity.

This study was conducted not only to demonstrate how teens use this technology but also to show how mobile phone changes life style of teens, how it facilitates to support their intimate and pre-marital relationships. In Bangladesh, by now mobile phone has penetrated almost all of the grown up citizens including teenagers. The total number of Mobile Phone Active Subscribers has reached 79.7 million at the end of August 2011 (<http://www.btrc.gov.bd/>) including about 16 million (ie, 20%) teenagers (adolescent users). Dependency on the device for communication and other reasons has been acute. Besides the pros, there are some curses which the mobile phone technology fetched. Fiddling out time in chatting to form close relationship, and of late vulgarity perpetrated by the teenagers are a few examples of the anti-social elements which mobile phone has caused. Teens are prone to these negative sides of the mobile phone when it allows them to circumvent parental control in their romantic choices. In the given scenario mobile phone facilitates and gives new outlets for teenagers, use of mobile phone as a virtual leash to give teens freedom to roam away from home albeit under ostensible supervision of the parents.

After the introduction to the area of investigation, Chapter 1 of this paper sets out the significance of the study along with the defined method of the study and also describes scope and limitation of this project. The objective of this research is also described there. Chapter 2 discusses the previous research on the relationship between Mobile phone and premarital relationship.

Chapter 3 describes the theoretical framework and conceptual framework of the study. The project is framed firstly by the theories of Anthony Giddens' Plastic Sexuality and Contingent Love, secondly from Zygmunt Bauman's Liquid Modernity and Liquid Love, and, lastly on Manuel Castells' Mobile Youth Culture.

Chapter 4 describes the methodology along with definition and measurement, problem area, sampling, hypotheses. The chapter concludes with final remarks on broad lesson of this project.

1.2: Objective of the Study

The main objective of this research is to examine the relationship between mobile phone and premarital sex.

1.3 Method of Study

This study followed a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods. For quantitative method, the sample survey tool has been used. On the other hand, for qualitative survey the study has followed the tool of case study. The study has covered

different areas of Dhaka metropolitan city such as Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, and Mogbazar. The method of sampling for this research was not random rather selective based on purposes of the research. The target respondents for this study were teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 due to the nature and objectives of this study who were school going, college going and university going students. The survey included a total sample of 59 teenagers and 8 case studies out of the selected population. Urban teens participated in the study because they are likely to use mobile technologies more and to be exposed to multiple cultural forces. The interviews and case studies produced necessary data to conclude on the thesis paper. Primary data for this study has been collected from interview schedule and there was a questionnaire (Appendix 1) related to the study and most of the questions were very simple, easy, straight forward and close-ended. Participants took part in the interviews at college canteens, lounges, coffee shops, restaurants and their homes. The quantitative data are analyzed by using percent and the findings are presented through graphs, tables. Case studies have yielded the qualitative data which are then analyzed manually and presented in descriptive mode.

1.4: Significance of the study

Mobile phone is widely known as a useful device for communication. Studying how mobile phone technology is used to support premarital relationships among teenagers in Dhaka City, offers the chance to examine in a way the impact of mobile phone use on teenagers of the city in general. Many of the existing studies on mobile phone describe an emerging mobile culture. With the advent of globalization where irrespective of

distance and geographical dispersion people feel themselves together in a world. The usage of mobile phone and its features and flexibilities such as instant call, send/receive SMS connected teens on real time. Mobile phone helps teens to instantly connect with friend and families and special ones.

Today, mobile phones provide people particularly the adolescents with a greater ability to maintain connectivity with others. Mobile phone features (eg, instant message, MMS, tweeting, e-mailing, etc) are designed to be used in a way which acts as a catalyst for premarital relationships. This study seeks to explore how mobile phone use changes the life style of teenagers living in Dhaka city. The interviews reveal the changing patterns in the life style of teenagers. Because much of the research on cell phone usage of adolescents has been based on overall impact, the study finds it valid to explore that specifically the use of cell phone can facilitate maintenance of intimate relationships. Attempts were also made to relate the mobile phone using romantic partners' tendency to premarital sexual relationship with intimate partners. This study can help us better understand the social life of teenagers, not only in the research site of Dhaka City but also in variety of other cosmopolitan spaces.

1.5: Scope

This study considers primarily mobile phone use. As such, it does not deeply probe into the use of other available communication mediums like the fixed-line telephone, satellite TV and social networking sites, which may be significant for some of the participants'

lifestyle. Although use of mobile phone exists within a broader ecology of ICT, the other technologies are not described in this study acknowledging that the mobile is the only communication method a person might use, as it is the most preferred tool. So, there is further scope to delve more into the basis of other communication technological devices, eg, internet based facebook which young generation tends to use.

1.6 Limitation

The study has assumed that mobile phone is the most preferred communication device used by teenagers whilst it might not be the reality. Mobile phone may have been supplanted by other communication technological devices eg, internet.

The selected population may not be the suitable representatives of their age groups. Respondents were picked from various fast moving places of Dhaka City, such as colleges, cafes, lounges etc in Gulshan, Banani, Dhanmondi, Mogbazar, who may not be truthfully representing the rest of the same age group from other parts of the city, let alone small towns of districts and rural areas.

During one to one interview respondents tried to escape the sensitive questions which revolve around premarital sex. The respondents allowed minimum time from their budget for chatting and gathering with friends at various lounges, restaurants. This constraint has also impeded the interview to some extent since they were in hurry on excuse of their other activities.

Chapter 2

Previous Research on the Relationship between Mobile Phone and Premarital Sex

Fixed landline and cellular phones provide the modern world with the unique opportunity for instant connection with others. As compared to cell phones, landline phones have been associated more often with family interactions. Researchers theorize this is because the landline phone is located at home. The mobile phone differs from landline phones in that the cell phone allows for more communication in a context independent of the family for adolescents (Ishii, 2006). Interestingly, landline phone usage is on the decline for the adolescent age group. In fact, one nation-wide study reported 26 percent teens having cell phones but no landline phones in the households where they live (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010). By focusing on college students' attitudes towards cell phones, one study illustrates how cell phones have integrated into the modern adolescent's lifestyle. The participants from this study reported that cell phones are a necessity in modern times and provide cost efficient communication, safety and security, dependency, functionality, and a medium for exchanging information. Females in the study reported the highest likelihood to have phones for safety reasons whereas males reported higher emphasis on functionality (Lee, Meszaros, & Colvin, 2009). Certain gender differences have been found for texting among adolescents as well. Girls and high-school students aged fourteen to seventeen have been found to use text messaging considerably more than boys and younger aged teenagers (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, &

Purcell, 2010). The current study is interested in finding out mobile phone using teenager's life style.

The utilization of text messaging has increased dramatically over the past decade. Through the course of a seven year-long study, researchers found a significant increase in the number of text messages sent over time for each age group considered (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010). This fact reflects the domestication of text messaging into our modern society. Teens especially have been found to display a special affinity for text messaging as their preferred type of mediated interaction. Adolescent texting behavior has been found to peak in the late teen to young adult age group (nineteen to twenty-one years old). In 2001, this age group reported sending an average of six text messages per day. In 2007, the average number of texts sent within the nineteen to twenty-one age groups increased to eighteen per day (Ling, 2010). Another more recent study reported that 72% of teens use text messaging, and these teens averaged sending fifty texts per day (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010).

Researchers point to the life transition that is characteristic of many people at this age as the reason why the late teen and early twenties age group tends to text the most. Theoretically, as teens move into their own homes and dormitories for the first time, they often feel more need to establish a social sphere outside of their parents' homes and reach out to others (Ling, 2010). This age group may turn to cell phone use to facilitate this process.

Although text messaging is very popular among adolescents, teens also report appreciating the value of voice calling through the medium of their cell phones. Teens reported that voice calling provides for more nuanced interaction, time efficiency for longer conversations, immediate feedback, and an increase of social cues (as compared to text messaging). Also, when adolescents needed to contact groups that had less text messaging experience, such as some parents, voice calls were reported as the best method for mediated communication (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010).

Adolescents also commonly use mobile phones to contact their peers. Researchers have found that 54% of high school participants reported using text messaging to socialize with peers. This is the most common communication method reported in their study. Mobile voice calls came in second at 38 percent %. From there, face-to-face interaction outside of school (33%), landline phones (30%), social network sites (25%), instant messaging (24%), and e-mail (11%) were all significant but less popular methods in reported peer communication (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell). Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell (2010) found that 82% of the teens surveyed through questionnaires reported text messaging friends at least once a day. As for why this is the case, Rawlins (1992) hypothesizes that because friendships do not have the same legal or genetic ties commonly associated with relatives and romantic partners, friend relationships are often viewed as repeatable and replaceable. Thus, friendships depend more heavily upon frequent communication for their maintenance. Another study that gave questionnaires to high school students also found that socially interactive technology is a popular and

common method for communication with friends. One positive aspect of mobile phones that the participants noted was that technology-based communication allows for a more comfortable form of interaction for those who find face-to-face communication less appealing (Pierce, 2009). When teens were asked what the reasons were for calling and text messaging their friends, they replied that they contacted their friends to say hello and chat, report their location, micro-coordinate their activities, discuss personal matters, and manage school-related work (Lenhart, Ling, Campbell, & Purcell, 2010). Of those that were polled, 86% of the female population reported text messaging their friends several times a day whereas only 64% of boys reported this answer. As for voice calls, girls were also more likely than boys to call their friends at least once per day, and the female participants had higher frequencies of reported calls to friends.

Studies have found that communication is essential for successful romantic relationships (Burleson, Kunkel, Samter, & Werking, 1996). These relationships are also related to cell phone use in adolescents (Emmers-Sommer, 2004). This may be linked to the finding that the frequency of contact in which romantic partners engage has been related to overall satisfaction with relationships. Also, researchers have linked reports of intimacy with the combination of face-to-face time and phone interaction within a romantic type of relationship (Emmers-Sommer, 2004). In a study comparing aspects of communication within peer and romantic relationships, six out of the total eight aspects of communication listed in the study were reported as more important to romantic relationships than in friendships (Burleson, Kunkel, Samter, & Werking, 1996). This

study helps us better understand the value put on communication in romantic and emphasizes a perceived greater importance of communication skills for romantic relationships in & Pena (2010) asked college students to estimate their average time spent calling and texting their romantic partners, as well as the frequency that they called and text messaged these romantic partners. Reported time spent calling and texting were both quite significant. The average estimate for time spent calling their partner was an hour and fifteen minutes. Time spent text messaging was only slightly less time-consuming at an hour and ten minutes on average per day. The frequency in which the students called their partners averaged to approximately seven times per day, and the frequency of which the participants estimated text messaging averaged to 36 times per day. This study is interesting because it discusses the extensive amount of time college students spend texting and calling their romantic partners and further highlights the importance of frequent contact in romantic relationships.

Teenagers are spending a great deal of time speaking to people they are not with, at the expense of those who are actually there. Especially instant communication has become an essential feature of teens' social lives. Through the mobile they can make a virtual relationship like- friendship, romantic relationship as well as sexual relationship. The purpose of this literature review is to highlight core issues related to romantic relationships that are evolving and facilitating and that might be affected by mobile phones.

There is a very straightforward reason, says Amanda Lenhart, a Pew senior research specialist. "Simply, these technologies meet teens' developmental needs," she says. "Mobile phones and social networking sites make the things teens have always done- defining their own identity, establishing themselves as independent of their parents, looking cool, impressing members of the opposite sex- a whole lot easier."

Flirting, boasting, gossiping, teasing, hanging out, confessing: all that classic teen stuff has always happened, Lenhart says. It's just that it used to happen behind the bike sheds, or via tightly folded notes pressed urgently into sweating hands in the corridor between lessons. Social networking sites and mobile phones have simply facilitated the whole business, a gazillion times over.

Dating is not an uncommon phenomenon. A survey Study of university students in Delhi conducted by Sachdev (1998) found that about half of the males and about one third of the females reported experience with a steady dating partners and another one third of males and another one quarter of females reported experience with two or more dating partners. A rich language to talk about romance and dating has also evolved among young people in Pune as reported by Alexander et al, 2006, where "to propose is to make an offer of romantic partnership and loveship" describe a "romantic partnership" or dating relationship. And mobile phone facilitates dating.

Since dating as we know it began in the 1920's, societal expectations regarding heterosexual romantic relationship formation has encouraged males to pursue females (Cate & Lloyd, 1992). While dates and romantic relationships are traditionally initiated via telephone or face-to-face interaction, recent commercial studies suggest that some people are now initiating romantic relationships using short message service (SMS) text messaging, a form of computer-mediated communication (CMC) enabled by mobile telephones (Asia Market Intelligence, 2002; Mori, 2000). In a nationally representative sample of mobile phone users in the United Kingdom, a quarter of the participants used text messaging to flirt, with 19% saying they would consider using text messaging to initiate a date (Mori, 2000). With approximately 70% of Australians now owning a mobile telephone (Australian Communications Authority [ACA], 2003), and SMS messages sent in Australia averaging 329 million each month (ACA, 2003), SMS technology may not only be affecting the way in which people communicate, but possibly the way in which romantic relationships are initiated.

A Bangladeshi girl named Nusrat Azim who was a particularly happy and well-adjusted young woman. She had always wanted to be a doctor, and was well on the way to fulfilling her dream. A fourth year student of Dhaka Medical College, she was popular among her classmates who knew her as a kind, decent if slightly reserved human being. Nusrat was an active member of Shandhani, a volunteer organisation, and loved to sandwich a bit of social work in between studying and devouring movies on HBO, a safe secure and well-balanced existence. But all that changed in a flash one evening when her

mobile phone rang. The male voice at the other end introduced himself as Palash, a final year student of civil engineering at BUET. He had got her number from a friend, he said, and wanted to get to know her. *Ami ki apnar shathe kotha bolte pari?* She brushed him off. But he called again the next day, and then the next. Grudgingly, she began to talk. Palash turned out to be extremely glib and persuasive. The conversation soon turned romantic, and within six weeks they had exchanged vows of love. Palash proposed over fried chicken at a fast food joint, and they became “engaged”. Nusrat's friends, although initially skeptical, were won over and soon she prepared to break it to her parents. Then came the phone call that was to shatter her peace of mind. A man called her and said Palash was not a student of engineering. He was in fact doing a BA at Titumir College. The anonymous caller even gave her his class roll number. Throughout the tears and recriminations that followed, Palash kept insisting he had lied because he loved her. Nusrat was in the depths of despair. But in spite of everything, she could not bring herself to make a clean break. “I'm too deeply involved,” she kept telling her friends. Torn between loyalty to Palash and anguish at his deception, she became clinically depressed. Her grades went down, and she failed her professional MBBS examination in January 2008. (*Daily Star Weekend Magazine Volume 8, Issue 62, March 20, 2009*)

“Sexting” is a growing concern. A survey study of Pew research Center’s Internet and American Life Project, Teens & mobile Phone Survey (2009) showed that 4% sent sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude images or videos of themselves and 15%

received a “sext” from someone they know. Furthermore, teens who are more frequent users of cell phones are more likely to receive sexually suggestive images.

Focus group findings show that sexting occurs most often in one of three scenarios:

- Exchanges of images solely between two romantic partners
- Exchanges of images between partners that are then shared outside the relationship
- Exchanges of images between people who are not yet in a relationship, but where often one person hopes to be.

Teens explained how sexually suggestive images have become a form of relationship currency. These images are shared as a part of or instead of sexual activity, or as a way of starting or maintaining a relationship with a significant other. They are also passed along to friends for their entertainment value, as a joke, for revenge or for fun. Some teens also described the pressure they feel to share these types of images.

Manusher Jonno Foundation, a non-government organization, has conducted an extensive survey in the country on child pornography. Its report says, “Watching naked pictures through mobile phone is found to be a common trend among the children (covered by the survey). According to some children, they enjoy bad songs by mobile phone. Also, children are found to exchange porno pictures through mobile phone. The report, quoting an owner of a cyber café, says that a boy and a girl of a reputed school of Dhaka recorded their own sex act and sent it to others by MMS. Bangladesh RAB has caught some

criminals from Farmgate, Dhaka who were uploading porn on mobile phones at Taka 200 per cell phone.

"Pornography is spreading among the children mostly by the friends through chatting; drawing curiosity on sex or by peer pressure that insist them to view porno picture or movie considering it as a part of their smartness and adulthood" the report says, "Sometimes they simply follow their seniors at school or college. It is noticeable from their discussion that considering growing demand porno movies are prepared in large scale inside the country too and the children are aware about these web sites" and they got the videos through the blue-tooth from friends' mobiles and has made a CD of all the videos because he wants to see them together. (*Daily Star Weekend Magazine, Volume 8 Issue 94, November 13, 2009*)

Different studies that interviewed dealers in porno materials and cyber café owners have found that computer repair shops, some porno websites on the Internet as well as videos recorded with the help of mobile phones are their sources of porno materials. (*The Daily Star, Saturday, November 14, 2009*)

People of Natore sadar upazila formed a human chain and staged a rally at Jalalabad Bazar and later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding arrest of a youth on charges of raping a schoolgirl and spreading naked photos to different areas through mobile phones, according to a correspondent.

Police and locals said Abdul Mannan alias Sumon, son of Chan Miah of Jalalabad Tangailpara village had developed a romantic relationship with a class ten student of Jalalabad High School. Sumon wanted to marry the girl, but his parents refused to give their consent to his proposal. On November 15 last year, Sumon called the girl to a nearby sugar cane field and raped her. He also captured the nude photos of the girl in mobile phone and spread photos to different areas through mobile phones. The victim's family filed a rape case against Sumon on June 27 this year. But the rapist is at large. *(The Daily Star, July 14, 2010)*

Ideas about sexuality are underlying dramatic changes. Over the last few decades in western countries, important aspects of peoples' sexual lives have been altered in a fundamental way. In traditional societies, sexuality was tied tightly to the process of reproduction but in our current age, it has been separated from it. Sexuality has become a dimension of life for each individual to explore and shape. Sexuality once was defined in terms of heterosexuality and monogamy in the context of marital relations. Most people, in all societies are heterosexual- they look to the other sex for emotional involvement and sexual pleasure. Heterosexuality in every society has historically been the basis of marriage and family.

In our society sexuality is permitted after having marriage and marriage is an activity traditionally motivated by values of family, procreation rather than individualistic wishes. Love is not considered necessary for a marriage, and it is also not considered an

important attribute in partner selection; more important qualities are physical attractiveness, financial security, contributions to household chores and parenting skills (Medora, 2003). The conceptualization of marriage is more pragmatic than it is romantic. Marriage is considered a union of two families, and thus multiple people and factors are contemplated before a marriage (Medora 2003).

This literature review suggests that marriage tradition and attitude toward sexual relationship are changing for many complex reasons outside of mobile phones technology. Once in traditional society contraception was ineffective but fluid and evolving rituals surrounding romantic relationships, marriage and premarital sexual relationships create a space and opportunity for people to fold mobiles into their support of these intimate relationships as well as procreative technology enable to control birth, so sex separated from it and now there is no fear of unwanted pregnancies. The changes in the teen's life style also symbolize other cultural changes that are occurring. In general, romantic relationships and premarital sex seems to be an increasing factor.

The habitual use of mobile phones keeps alive what Misa Matsuda calls a "full-time intimate community". (Cited in ITO 2004: 11, M.Castells Mobile Communication and Society 2007: 92). This finding was confirmed in a survey in Japan, which found that those who use mobile internet more frequently also spend more time physically with friends; and that the mobile internet serves distinctly different social functions from the PC internet (Ishii 2004: 57)8.

Mobile phone users are also found to have high disclosure of their subjective self become mobile subscribers, a tendency to use the technology for close interpersonal relationships. This “full-time intimate community” facilitated by the mobile phone differs from the traditional face to face community because of the ease with which one may maintain key interpersonal relationships across spatial distance at any time. While intimate relationships may be strengthened by increased communication (oftentimes ritualistic greetings and repetitive expressions of affection), on other occasions, heavy usage may also lead to the weakening of communal ties beyond the most intimate group of close friends (Ito 2004: 10-11). This is the phenomenon that Ichiyo Habuchi describes “tele-cocooning”, the production of social identities in small, insular social groups through mobile phone communications (cited in ITO 2004:11).

Researchers such as Barnes and Huff (2003:83) thus believe that the rapid growth of mobile internet use in Japan owes much to the normative beliefs in Japanese society that attach high value to interpersonal relationships. Majority of emails exchanged by mobile phone are between with intimate relationship (ITO 2004: 10-11).

Similar patterns are found in China and the United States. Focusing on SMS, a survey shows that this means of communication is used mostly to maintain personal relationships, such as chatting with friends, contacting family and relatives communicating with significant others, a pattern quite similar to the “intimate” mobile-based relationship described in Japan & Europe (Sohu-Horizon Survey 2003). In the US,

text massaging has also become a useful tool for developing and managing romantic relations, by helping to remove the awkwardness that comes with some face-to-face situations, which is also the cause in Indonesia (Barendregt 2005). Even though SMS is in its early stages in the United States, text-message users are already using it in dating, as revealed in a study by AOL and Opinion Research Corporation (Green Span 2004a).

This development is similar to Japan's online encounter service of *deai*, which allows people to meet virtually or in person, and is "strongly associated with issues of dating, companionship, sexuality and romance" (Holden and Tsuruki 2003: 34) for mostly heterosexual but also homosexual relations. Many *deai* services consequently become a hotbed of fraudulent dating, online pornography, and even open solicitation for prostitution. (Holden and Tsuruki 2003: 3)

Entertainment is a fundamental dimension of the media world. However, it becomes a new reality when applied to telephony. The notion of telephone entertainment was very rare until recent times, and it was restricted to activities like phone sex or fortune-telling services. Thus, the emergence of mobile entertainment signals a substantial difference between mobile telephony and traditional telephony. Indeed, with the incorporation of Internet access, and the fast development of audiovisual capabilities in mobile communication devices, mobile entertainment is a key new area of business, technology, and social practice, though it is an area about which we still have very scant, reliable information, beyond the usual hype. The major components of mobile entertainment

include mobile gaming; media content consumption (icons, ring tones, music, images, movie clips, adult services, gambling, and so on).

The mobile phone is often personalized through a process shaped, to a great extent, by the user. This differs from the traditional mode of customization done by product or service providers because there are unlimited ways in which one can change the handset by putting on new ring-tones or setting one's own digital pictures as the wallpaper of the phone. While some researchers see personalization as an opportunity to promote personal autonomy and identity, others regard it as strengthening the trend toward individualization and making people more self-centered (McVeigh 2003:24-32). Whatever the evaluation, it is clear that mobile technologies have become closely involved in the processes of personal identity construction, and that the mobile phone is not only a utilitarian tool for communication but also "a miniature aesthetic statement about its owner" (Katz and Sugiyama 2005:64).

As today's wireless technologies are portable and wearable, like a watch (Ling 2001; Fortunati and Manganelli 2002; Oksman and Rautiainen 2002; Kasesniemi 2003), it is only natural for mobile devices to become fashion items with all kind of decorative, expressive, and symbolic functions. Hence, people "wear" mobile phones as a new addition to their clothing (Fortunati 2002a:56). From Europe to Japan and China, all kinds of accessories are available to personalize the device (Oksman and Rautiainen 2002; Skog 2002; McVeigh 2003; Yue 2003). This is part of the process of market

differentiation because, as the technology becomes omnipresent, “there has been a figurative arms race towards ever more lavish mobile phones,” such as the US \$26,000 Vertu handset made in London, which has platinum casing and a sapphire crystal screen, and the TCL jeweled phones, some studded with diamonds, which had a sales record of 12 million units between 2001 and mid-2003 (Katz and Sugiyama 2005: 74-75).

Among its other products, Apple Inc’s iPod, iPhone, and iPad, as of September 2011, have made Apple the largest publicly traded company in the world by market capitalization, and the largest technology company in the world by revenue (US\$ 108 billion) and profit (US\$ 26 billion). Minimum prices of each set of iPod, iPhone, and iPad are US\$ 150, US\$ 200, and US\$ 500 respectively. Recently Apple has announced introduction of iPhone4S which includes an improved camera with 1080p video recording, a dual core A5 chip capable of 7 times faster graphics than the A4, a voice recognition system named Siri, and cloud-sourced data with iCloud.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Inc.



Figure 2.1. Apple's multifunctional iPhone

While a built in digital camera is becoming a standard piece of equipment on mobile phones and gives rise to a new variant of photojournalism (ITO 2003 a), unscrupulous use of the camera phone has also started to emerge, which has been met with collective complaints, private- business interventions and government regulations around the world

(Kageyama 2003). Few “mischief” has raised serious public concern. One is that some people have taken photos secretly up women’s skirts in public bathrooms. The Japanese police have started to pay attention to inappropriate camera-phone use in public spaces by apprehending people who have taken intrusive pictures of unsuspecting women in crowded Train station and stores, one of whom was fined US \$4,200 (Kageyama 2003). Public bathhouses in Japan have also prohibited cell phones with built in cameras (Kageyama 2003).

In the UK, because there have been a similar of such assaults, violent youngsters equipped with camera photos are now known as “happy slappers”. “Happy slapping” is believed to have started in South London but is now more widespread, leading many schools in London to ban mobile phones because of fears of bullying and robbery. A number of violent attacks on school children have been filmed on mobile phones equipped with video cameras (Sulaiman 2005). One of the worst instances took place in April 2005, when two teenage boys at a North London School raped a teenage girl, while a third boy limited the process with his mobile phone. The footage was circulated among pupils “within minutes” (Sulaiman 2005). In August 2011, BlackBerry enabled tweeting helped rapid spread of the riot in the UK, the ever worst experience by the British people.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_England_riots

BlackBerry Messenger is now blamed for spreading the riot faster.

London riots: how BlackBerry Messenger played a key role

Police looking on Facebook and Twitter for signs of unrest spreading will have missed out – they should have watched BBM.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/aug/08/london-riots-facebook-twitter-blackberry>



Figure 2.2. UK Riots Mobile <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/sep/15/social-media-civil-unrest>

A study of sex workers in Hong Kong, for example, revealed that more and more sex workers in the city now in so called yilouyifeng (one- woman brothels), an individualized mode of operation that is only possible with a combination of Internet advertising and the mobile phone (Liu 2005). The main websites that carry advertisements for “one-woman brothels” also have a special version for mobile handsets, which display photographs along with text descriptions and contact information. Moreover, as the study found out, this new ICT-facilitated sex industry network not only brings convenience and a more discrete mode of communication to customers but also benefits the sex workers by allowing them to get rid of pimps and, in a sense, empowering them to run their own businesses as the researchers discovered through her interviews, the utilization of the mobile phone, including such functions as caller ID display, is helping “to a certain extent distinguish their personal life from business life and create some degree of control over who and at what time should get access to them”(Liu 2005).

In South China, where sex work is illegal, almost all sex workers are equipped with mobile phones because the flow of information is of utmost importance for them to survive police raids and keep their customers. Some have multiple phones which they use separately for their personal life and for business.

This is not to say that mobile phones favor the expansion of the sex industry. Rather, it is the growing importance of this industry, for deep social reasons, that finds a convenient platform in the networks of perpetual contact. This does not relate only to prostitution but also to dating services, although sometimes the line between the two is blurred, as has been observed in the *deai* services in Japan (Holden and Tsuruki 2003: 34). However, there are ample ways for wireless technology to be used for purposes of personal contact that have nothing to do with the sex industry, and relate to the practice of family, partnership, and love. It has to do with widespread use of mobile telephony and SMS for intimate communication, when one can talk about things that one would not normally discuss with others. In other cases, the association between mobile devices and sex work is fantasized, as in an Indonesian book published in 2004 entitled *Sex on the Phone: sensai, Fantasi, Rahasia* (sensation, fantasy and secrets), which described party-line services and the life of call girls in the country (Syahreza 2004; cited in Barendregt 2005). From SMS love letter manuals to sex on the phone, there is an array of popular literature that focuses on the relationship between mobile communication and sex and sexuality.

Much existing research on mobile youth cultures is concentrated on Europe, where wireless technology have diffused widely among the younger generations, especially in North & West Europe, attracting scholarly attention from Scandinavian countries to Spain and from the UK to Russia.

In Europe two studies of Finnish children conducted in 2000 placed children and adolescent into five categories according to the relationship they establish with the mobile phone (Mante and Piris 2002, Oksman & Rautiainen 2002). Children under 7 years, first of all, often have either an indifferent (imaginative) or personifying (animistic) relationship with their device. Games are the most interesting feature of the device, which in fact can be interesting on its own; important toys are more significant.

In the pre-teen world (10-12 years old), mobile telephony charges its position, becoming more central and leading to the beginning of the “mobile fever” age that takes place at around the time that the importance of hobbies and friends is increasing, while the significance of toys diminishes. Thus the mobile phone becomes an important appliance as a communication tool with peers. Pre-teens use it in a creative way; for instance sending empty of teasing people or playing various types of “boom call” games (Manuel Castells, 2006).

Teenagers, from 13 to 18 years of age, have distinct attitudes to mobile telephony, which can be practical and instrumental or alternatively, expressive and affective. Moreover, it is at this age that personalization of the handset becomes significant and aesthetics gains importance. Finally, Finnish pre-adults (16-18 years old) tend to decrease their offline use of the device at the same time as the practical and instrumental side becomes more appreciated. Nevertheless, this does not mean that they avoid texting. Indeed, the opposite was reported in the UK, where the same age group would regularly have text-message “conversations” over a number of hours in the evening (Smith et al. 2003).

Taking a wider age range for European teenagers in general: “the most important thing in mobile communication remains building up and maintaining their social networks” (Oksman and Rautiainen 2002:28), this observation made in Finland also applies to other countries, such as Norway (Ling 2002) and Spain (Valor and Sieber 2004). It is particularly true “when young people are forming their first relationships with the opposite sex” (Oksman and Rautiainen 2002:28, with reference to Finland) because the technological adoption in this situation combines the co-ordination and expressive user of mobile communication to a similar extent (See Ling and Yattri 2002 with reference to Norway; Kasesniemi 2003, with reference to Finland; and Valor and Sieber 2004, with reference to Spain).

Although, mobile telephony began as a business oriented technology in Japan, it is the younger generations, especially students, who constitute the most prominent mobile phone user group (Kenichi Fujimoto, cited in Ito and Okabe 2003: 10). Cell phone penetration is much higher among high school (76.8%) and college (97.8 %) students than the general population (64.6 %; Yoshii et al. 2002, cited in Ito and Okabe 2003: 5) Students also pay higher monthly cell phone bills (on average JPY 7,186 or US\$67.5) than the general population (JPY 5,613 or US\$ 52.7; IPSe 2003, cited in Ito and Okabe 2003: 5-6). In Tokyo, young urbanites spend an average of US\$ 150 on their cell phones each month to exercise their consumer power, resulting from the fact that “a generation of declining birthrates has filled Tokyo with one child families”.

Indeed, the centrality of the youth market is also observed in South Korea (S-D. Kim 2002: 63-64). Young users are particularly keen to adopt SMS. According to South Korea's Cheil Communications (2003), in May 2003, 93 percent of young Koreans between ages 17 and 19 sent or received SMS at least once a day. In order to target the youth market more precisely all three mobile operators in the country offer specialized rate plans for college students (age 18-23) and high school students (age 13-18). And, what is more, operators are also adding new services, such as mobile-based entertainment, to meet the demands of the mobile youth culture.

Previous research supports the notion that communication is an influential aspect of human behavior. Today, mobile phones provide people adolescents especially, with a

greater ability to maintain connectedness with other. This research seeks to explore how mobile phone use changes teenager's life style living in Dhaka city. Interviews with them reveal the changing patterns in the life style of teenagers. Because much of the research on cell phone usage in adolescents has been based on estimates, it is valid to explore cell phone use by getting more specific detail how can it facilities to maintain romantic relationships. The study is also interested in looking at the sexual relationship with romantic partners. In summary, the following hypotheses will be examined, firstly: teenagers will text and talk more with their friends than family; secondly, teenagers talk on mobile phone at night more than anytime in a day. Thirdly, mobile phone use encourages the teenagers to get into and maintain romantic relationship. Finally, the availability of contraceptive encourages making sexual relationship with romantic partners.

Chapter 3

Theoretical Framework

Social life is an ongoing process, constantly renewing, remaking and transforming itself. Events in the world compel people to change. Globalization in its literal sense is the process of transformation and there are several causes for this globalization. New technology is a major source of social changes. Since modernization deals with social change from agrarian societies to industrial ones, it is important to look at the technological view point. New technologies do not change societies by itself; rather it is the response to technology that causes change. A new technology does not merely add something, it changes everything. People in society are always coming up with new ideas and better ways of making life easier and more enjoyable. Technology makes it possible for a more innovated society and broad social change. Mobile phone technology can be one of those causes for social changes. Mobile phone has changed lives throughout the world. Uses of mobile phone have changed life style. We can see the life style of teens has already been changed. We can see the changes of their interaction pattern, fashion, food habit and most importantly relationships maintenance.

This chapter describes the sociological theories of liquid modernity, liquid love, and transformation of intimate relation which is described by Manuel Castells as Mobile Youth Culture. The purpose of this study is to consider how teenagers use mobile phone to support their premarital relationships and analyze the findings through theories. The

main theme that this study attempts to inform us is the ways how intimate personal relationships, especially premarital sexual relationships are maintained by teenagers through the use of mobile phone. The study also depicts the concept about mobile phone as symbol of liquid modernity by exploring the life style of teenagers with mobile phones, specifically; the increasing significance of the mobile phone in the way teenagers negotiates spatial boundaries. Utilizing theories of time and space, especially Giddens' concept of 'distanciation', the study shows how teens use the mobile phone as a tool for negotiating outside the home to escape parental authority and control as well as how they support their intimate relationship and how teens use mobile phone to create a virtual world, virtual relationship and maintain the relationships at ease. Teens conversely, in this process gain a degree of perceived empowerment with the help of the mobile phone. The mobile phone then has become an important facilitator of negotiations regarding relationships setting. In fine it is concluded that the mobile phone has enabled teenagers to gain increased leverage in their negotiation with others; it's an invention of privacy to create personal space.

3.1: Anthony Giddens: Plastic Sexuality, Contingent Love

Over the last decade or so sociological discussions of postmodernity, and more recently reflexive modernity, have increasingly raised questions about the putative impact of individualization, expanding life choices and challenges to tradition, among other social forces (Beck, 1989; Giddens, 1990; Lash, 1996; Sennett, 1998; Bauman, 2001).

This study examines how the mobile phone accelerates the process of detraditionalisation within the family by increasing the possibilities for negotiation between parents and children. This work has concentrated on various aspects of late modern family life, including negotiation, the democratization of the family in the guise of the 'pure relationship' (Giddens, 1991). Analysis of the social impact of technological innovations have been at the heart of the growth in sociological reflections of space and time over the last decade or so, such as in Harvey's (1989) pioneering work on "time-space compression" and Giddens' (1990) notion of "time-space distancing".

Both pre modern and modern society have time and space, with modernity became uniform and in the last decades has become coordinated. Space used to be closely connected with place, such as the act of going to work meant travelling from home to the office. Once there you were in the place fulfilling your function (space) at a given time. In the current age ICTs technology has enabled us to disjoin space and place. As Giddens mentions "advent of modernity increasingly tears space away from place by fostering relations between 'absent' others, locationally distant from any given situation of face to face interaction, it becomes increasingly phantasmagoric, the society is enabled to be sociologized through sometimes quite distant points. This study has related this "distancing" to the concept of "virtual reality".

Virtual reality as we understand from above quotes is joining from distant places through use of IT devices like internet, mobile phone etc. People tend to be mobile in this era,

and this is accelerated by the availability of connecting devices. Teenagers adapt to the change driven by surroundings. Of late over last decade Bangladesh has seen tremendous growth in mobile telecom sector reaching to almost all urban and half of the rural people. Teenagers also possess a mobile phone on the excuse of keeping in touch with family, use of which is then diverted towards communicating more with friends and peers. General tendency as revealed through the study shows their obsession with mobile phone to be virtually connected with intended ones even after class time.

Anthony Giddens also points on his theory about the rise of the modern global and democratic society fundamentally changed the shape of all human interaction. As we understand from the theory of “Transformation of relation intimacy” social life is an ongoing process, remaking, transforming itself. Giddens has explored the impact of globalization on the personal relationships. Giddens believes intimate relationships in the United States are in the process of profound transformation. By transformation he means a kind of democratization of the interpersonal domain, in a manner fully compatible with democracy in the public sphere. No longer has an oppressive demand for constant emotional closeness, this new kind of intimacy represented a negotiated agreement between individuals of equal standing. Citing data gathered from the popular literature, especially therapeutic works and self-help manuals, Giddens characterizes this change and traces its development against a backdrop of causally-related phenomena. He closes with a discussion of democratic ideals and proposes a new ethics for personal relationship.

One of the most important differences between modern and pre-modern societies is that modern society is characterized by a high degree of institutional reflexivity. Institutions structure and describe social life, introducing terms and concepts that influence changes at both the group and individual level. The rise of research in recent times on subjects like sexuality has increased the level of personal reflexivity. The hallmark of this reflexivity is a somewhat fluid sense of self-identity, including sexual identity. Giddens writes that the self today is for everyone a reflexive project. The self-help genre of literature that he draws on is the typical output of a highly reflexive culture. Other reflexive resources include television and magazines; collectively, these resources have the effect of undermining the more traditional elements of social life in modern society. Modern institutions have intervened in the traditional systems that once governed culture and have moved Americans to create internally referential systems. The more the life-span becomes internally referential and self-identity is reflexively organized, the more sexuality becomes a property of the individual. These changes have opened the way to a kind of sexual emancipation – by which he means sexual democracy – that in turn has the potential to completely restructure personal relations, including those between friends, between parents and children, etc. This emancipatory ideal is the essence of personal autonomy.

The rise of plastic sexuality, i.e., sexuality no longer tied to the exigencies of reproduction, has contributed to the emancipation of feminine sexuality. Once bound up in fear (of repetitive pregnancies and possible death), sexuality now has the potential to

become a mechanism of self exploration. Combined with the reflexive project of self, plastic sexuality makes possible a complete restructuring of intimate relations. Love and sexuality are no longer tied exclusively to marriage; instead, they are coming together more and more in the context of 'pure relationship,' an arrangement entered into for its own sake, for what can be derived by each person from sustained association with another. The pure relationship is continued only in so far as it is considered by both parties to provide enough satisfaction for each individual to stay in it. In other words, it is an agreement between two individuals to be together until further notice.

Pure relationship assumes a balance of power between the sexes and it depends on the autonomy of women, free from the double standard inherent in the more traditional notions of romantic love. Giddens calls this new model 'confluent love.' It is an active, contingent love and it presumes equality in emotional exchange. It is the new model of love for sexual relationships. Giddens maintains that heterosexual marriage, although superficially retaining its central position in the social order, has been undermined by the rise of pure relationship and plastic sexuality. It is on its way to becoming just another life-style choice.

The confluent love model is best understood in contrast to the romantic model of love it presumably replaces. Romantic love depends on 'projective identification,' which creates a feeling of wholeness with the other, strengthened by the established differences between masculinity and femininity, each defined in terms of an antithesis. These gender

ideals have become strained under the pressure of feminine sexual emancipation and autonomy. Confluent love, on the other hand, brings more balance to gender terms since it is not based on complementarities. Anatomy is no longer destiny. Sexual identity is less gender-based and becomes more of a life-style issue. The democratization of personal life depends on the emergence of pure relationship, not only in sexual relations but in all our relations. It is a process lead by women, but its benefits are open to all. To ensure free and equal relations, certain democratic principles must apply also to the personal sphere. Autonomy, defined as the capacity to be self-reflective and self-determining, is the idea that holds it all together. Giddens' ethical framework is based on his model of confluent love. Fundamental to the confluent love contract are: a prohibition of violence and emotional abuse in favor of the cultivation of mutual respect for others' personal traits and views; a balance between rights and obligations that are continually negotiated and never taken for granted; and personal reflexivity and open communication to facilitate public accountability. Open communication necessitates firm personal boundaries so that intimacy does not degenerate into reciprocal compulsiveness or codependency. Authority exists only according to specially developed capabilities and not along gender lines. Giddens writes that a rolling contract has no ethical absolutes. And since modern self-identity is an internally-referential system, the aim of the reflexive project of self is control. Its only moral principle, therefore, is the modern version of the maxim 'to thine own self be true.' Anthony Giddens posits that the rise of the modern global and democratic society fundamentally changed the shape of all human interactions, from sex to love to pure companionship.

Giddens' theory focuses on what he considers a progressive process of democratization and the modern social and sexual life. His interest in sexuality stems from the fact that few discourses on the subject interrogate its connection to love and gender. Societal advances towards equality between men and women, although nowhere near complete, have created what Giddens considers a sexual revolution and emancipation from reproduction. He uses the term "plastic sexuality" to describe sex free from procreation and considers it able to be molded "as a trait of personality and thus intrinsically bound up with the self" (Giddens, 1992:2). For Giddens, there is no question as to whether sex is natural or cultural; "sexuality is a social construct, operating within fields of power, not merely a set of biological promptings which either do or do not find direct release" (Giddens, 1992:23). The author attempts to trace and develop his theory of plastic sexuality through Foucault's discourse on the "repressive hypothesis," in which the control and discipline essential to modern institutions cause internal repression. He then considers the idea of love and sex as both addictions and formations of codependency, and the challenges to both of these when both women and men's sexual freedom increases. As power roles shift, the link between sexuality and democracy becomes ever more apparent to Giddens. Intimacy is both a construct of and an influence on modern civilization.

In Bangladesh context pre marital relationship is not permitted, it's prohibited. But at present we see teens are getting liberty, mobile phone empowered them, they create their private space, they are connected all the time, talking, texting, making relationships even

pre marital sexual relationship. Frequent communications obviously trigger the desire of getting closer. Giddens is concerned with the impact that globalization and global communications have on the social and Giddens believes that globalization has changed a lot. We can say mobile phone circulate the changes. In this study we see changing life style pattern of teenagers in Dhaka city, 90% teens have romantic partners and they hang out at cafes', restaurant and lounges, in private spaces to be closer physically. This is a natural law when two opposite sex spend time together for a long time; first priority becomes gratification of fulfilling physical need.

3.2: Zygmunt Bauman: Liquid Modernity, Liquid Love

This study relates to supporting intimate personal relationships, especially romantic ones with mobile phones. Mobile phones a symbol of liquid modernity. Mobile generation and liquid modernity is same. Mobile phone means a lively network of career and friendship. It is also a network of teenagers that mediated communication for romantic purposes has links to real space behaviors and at the same time, the technology affords new behaviors users construct an identity within a virtual space and also emotionally engage with the technology. Communication technologies, particularly mobile phones blur spatial boundaries and the lines delimiting personal space and create new luminal spaces.

Today's youth is like coconut, upside soft and creamy but inside brown and hard; upside mobile, inside motionless. Outer world modern pop cultured but at home docile. In these

edges we can see two types of modernity which socialist Zygmunt Bauman describes as the tug of liquid and solid modernity. (Bauman, 1999)

Pace of change always depends on the young generation who want to be bondless. Liquid modernity beckons them to fulfill this desire. Liquidity, bondless worldly pleasure, fun and lustful love are signs of liquid modernity. Nowadays, young people tend to escape solidity in everything they do or come across. They want to be free and off bond. In their life, Career is much taken care of, friendship prevails relationship; love is a symbol of status. They prefer light and platonic relationship to the committed bondage that creates pressure on them. Trust, dependency, responsibility, values trouble them in their way of life. They find gratification in boyfriend/girlfriend status. Mobile phone is also another symbol of this liquid modernity. 3G mobile generation and liquid modernity go in tandem. Mobile phone catalyzes actions of modern youths. Mobile phone is the only fixed item in their mobile life. It can help them make career and friendship network at ease. Network of mobile phone is the network of youth. Liquid is scared of young relationship; it wants to float through light network. It does not require house, table, plug etc to be in mobile network as it does for land phone. In side and outside are parallel here. It's a matter of click to get in and out of a network. Nothing like trust, reliance, and responsibility is needed to be connected. Making and deleting friends is a whim now. Such a virtual relationship is called liquid relationship where love and sex is available without commitment and bondage. It's like a product, get when you want, then forget for a while until you get the next urge. Today's modern young

generation like pleasure, not happiness, and such a desire of them can not bear the weight of deep relationship. Many events have been found in this study to support the catalytic character of mobile phone as claimed throughout my paper.

The study reveals that teenagers are mostly busy in a day talking to friends or sending text messages. Bauman mentions about it- they talk hours after hours even whole night sometimes with someone totally unknown. Relationship is formed of just talking on mobile phones. This study also finds that young people are using mobile phones on different SIMs to maintain multiple relationships. Some of them, it appears that, get related to someone new today whilst yesterday it was somebody else which is also described by Zygmunt Bauman as: “ in liquid modernity intimacy, relationship and bondage have been changed” (Bauman, 1999), love has become liquid and fragmented. Over time relations do change, so do the shape of relationships which is like hitech toys- upgradable and loosely bonded.

3.3: Manuel Castells: Mobile Youth Culture

By youth ‘culture’ M. Castells means the specific system of values and beliefs that inform behavior in a given age group so that it shows distinctive features vis a vis other age groups in society. This culture has to be placed in the context of a given social structure. In the other words, M. Castells do not refer here to a trans-historical analysis of the meaning of youth, but to the cultural specificity of youth in the social structure that characterizes time, the network society. For a definition of the network society and the

justification for the statement concerning its structuring role in time (Beck 1992 Castells 2000b, 2004, Himanen 2001, Capra 2002).

A fundamental hypothesis in Castells's analysis is that there is a youth culture that finds in mobile communication an adequate form of expression and reinforcement technologies, all technologies, diffuse only to the extent that they resonate with pre-existing social structures and cultural values. However, once a powerful technology is adopted by a given culture because it fits into its pattern, the technology grows and embraces an ever-greater proportion of its group of reference, in this case young people. M. Castells tried to specify this proposition, namely Castells tried to identify the content of the young culture in Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Asian Pacific and wanted to see how it fits into the pattern of mobile communication, how it transform mobile communication and how it is strengthened and influenced by communication technology. Overall M. Castells tried to show, a youth culture is emerging across Europe, the Americas, and the Asian Pacific when it comes to the ways in which young people use the mobile phone. Ample evidences have been collected and analyzed with regard to the following characteristics of this mobile youth culture:

1. Young people across the world are quick to adopt and appropriate mobile technologies, as long as they can afford them, because in general they use these new services with more intensity for all kinds of purposes in their everyday life. As a result, they become a major social group that is constantly networked through wireless communications, and in so

doing they reveal more quickly the potential uses of the technology compared to people of an older age.

2. Mobile phone usage is transforming youth cultures around the world via two interconnected processes. While the technology enhances the autonomy of young people as independent, communicating selves, it generally does not lead to the weakening of the dependency relationship between young people and traditional social institutions, especially the family in the form of financial support and/or parental surveillance. Mobile-equipped young people in different societies thus face the same central question: how to manage the new opportunity for autonomy under the existing structural conditions imposed on them, most importantly within the family and at school.
3. The mobile youth culture, as a new set of values and attitudes that informs practice among the younger generations, is a typical networked culture. Peer groups formed at school or in residential neighborhoods often serve as its basis. What the spread of the mobile phone does is to reinforce and extend existing youth networks and drive them toward a higher level of networked sociability, where face to face interaction is equated with mobile-based communication, and where a 'full-time intimate community' takes shape. The process of reinforcement is also a process of selection because, as researchers have found on many occasions, communication in mobile youth networks is usually restricted to a small circle of close friends.
4. Mobile youth culture in many countries, such as those in Asian Pacific, is characterized by a strong consumerist tendency. This is manifested materially in the appropriation of the mobile handset as a fashion item and in the entertainment dimension of young

people's mobile usage. When used in the public space, mobile devices are also displayed as notable object of consumption.

5. With the diffusion of technology, the mobile phone has become a central device in the construction of young people's individual identity. This is particularly so as a result of the new opportunity to personalize handsets and messages, as well as one's autonomy to decide how to use the technology anytime, anywhere.
6. A new collective identity with global relevance is emerging from the mobile youth culture. It is reflected and reproduced in a shared language, such as SMS codes, which is a prominent indicator of mobile youth culture M. Castells examined. Such a collective identity does not suppress personal identity, but affirms it. At times, this kind of community, such as the Generation Txt in the Philippines or youth groups in the anti-globalization movement, may be instantly mobilized as a force for social change.

In addition to the above characteristics constants, M. Castells pointed out few variables in the formation of the mobile youth culture by comparing Europe, the United States, and the Asian Pacific.

- I. The emergence of the mobile youth culture is influenced by the position of young people in the mobile-phone market. Although in most countries young people are among the most prominent users, the market situation varies, especially with regard to the willingness and actual strategies of mobile operators to meet the needs of young groups. The market setup may influence not only the diffusion rate among young people but also

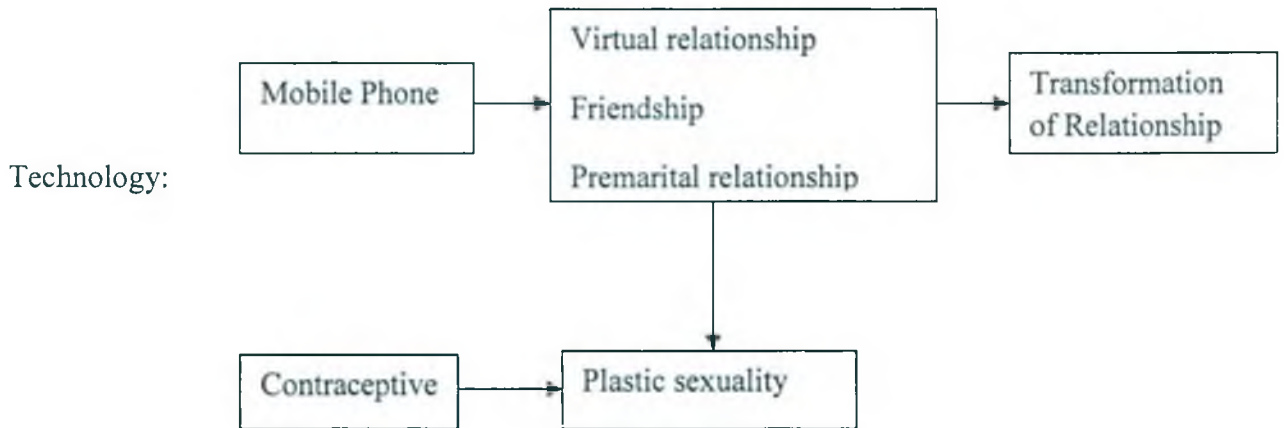
the actual processes of appropriation among teenagers, college students, or young professionals. Who may use one type of service or another to attain different goals.

II. The purchasing power of the young is another important variable as M. castells pointed that young people of different social strata are adopting the technology with different patterns of usage and different kinds of networked sociability. This is why American children download so many games with the cell phone, whereas young migrant workers in China stick to SMS. It is, however, not yet clear how youth groups operating within a lower budget differ from those with higher purchasing power with regard to their basic values, attitudes, and norms.

III. The last, and least researched, variable is the extent to which existing youth cultures and subcultures of different societies are shaping the mobile youth culture. This would be an important question given M. Castells's initial hypothesis regarding the cross-cultural significance of the phenomenon.

There is a clear correspondence between the emergence of a global youth culture, the networking of social relationships, and the connectivity potential provided by wireless communication technologies.

3.3: Conceptual Framework of the Present Study



Conceptual Framework: Mobile Phone and Premarital Sex

Chapter 4

Methodology

This study has followed a combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods. For quantitative method, the sample survey tool has been used. On the other hand, for qualitative survey the study has opted for case study.

4.1: Definition and Measurement

Some vocabulary is defined here for precision because these terms are central to this study. Mobile phone is defined as wireless device that permits interpersonal communication at any time. “A mobile phone (also known as a wireless phone, cell phone, or cellular telephone) is a long-range, electronic device used for mobile voice or data communication over a network of specialized base stations known as cell sites”. In addition to the standard voice function of a mobile phone, current mobile phones may support many additional services, such as SMS for text messaging, email, packet switching for access to the Internet, gaming, Bluetooth, infrared, camera with video recorder and MMS for sending and receiving photos and video, MP3 player, radio and GPS”. As of today, mobile phones have become very popular among the people of the world irrespective of their social, economical, and development status. And, young generation i.e., teenagers are not excluded from this user group.

People use mobile phone for different economic reasons to communicate faster via voice call, voice message, text message etc. Various user groups utilize this device for various purposes in multiple ways. It can be used for family contact, for academic purposes, for socializing, for business needs, for recreation, and for many more reasons based on the intention of the person using it.

Mobile phone use is described in this study includes verbal and textual uses of functions such as voice communication, texting, chatting and mobile e-mailing. It also includes multimedia uses of phone functions such as listening music, FM Radio, sharing photos, videos through Bluetooth, video upload, download, taking picture by mobile camera, watching porn video that a mobile phone hold for its user. It also includes nonverbal uses of the mobile phone such as intentional missed calls. Mobile phone use that supports personal or romantic relationships includes activities that are performed for the maintenance of the relationship. Activities include calling a friend or romantic partner for instrumental purposes such as scheduling a get-together, exchanging news or sentiments, sharing porn videos and exchange intimate/sexual image, personal photos. Activities may also be non-instrumental such as maintaining social connections through the use of intentional missed calls.

Premarital relationships are defined in this study as a steady date, engagement and premarital sexual relationship. The precursor to a romantic relationship is also considered a key component of the process. A single young person when get

opportunities to connect anyone very easily then he/she gets ready to engage with someone as a partner are important stages in the formation of romantic especially as the relationship moves towards premarital sexual relationship. One of the component steps in the formation of romantic relationships is connecting; talking which includes “dating,” Dating includes arranging meetings, doing activities together, and having a close relationship. “Romantic” has emotional and imaginative appeal, but for the purpose of this study, it refers to the outward markers of an intimate relationship and physical connections.

Teenagers’ ages are between 13 and 19. The study is restricted to this age range when considering mobile phone support for romantic relationships because it is a common period for dating, engagement, and seeking romantic partners. Members of this age group are also young enough that their parents are likely still to be influential in their personal lives and decision-making about romantic relationships.

4.2: Study Area

The study covered different areas of Dhaka metropolitan city such as Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani and Mogbazar.

4.3: Research Questions

The following research questions were proposed:

RQ1: How do teenagers use mobile phone to support their pre marital relationship? And what emergent behaviors are associated with Mobile Phone?

In addressing these questions the study considers the context and the theories which technological phenomena occur in order to elucidate the changes in teen's lifestyle which are simultaneously taking place. It offers insight on how technology can be so integrated into personal lives that it affects.

4.4: Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

The method of sampling for this research was not random rather selective based on purposes of the research. The target respondents for this study were aged between 13 years and 19 years due to the nature and objectives of this study who were students of school/collge/universities. A total sample of 59 teenagers was selected on purpose. Due to the nature of the study, the purposive sampling method is highly applicable since purposive sampling involves the use of judgment on the part of researcher who also has conducted 8 case studies among them. Urban teens were recruited for this study. These teens were targeted because they are likely to use mobile technologies and to be exposed to multiple cultural forces. Of 59 participants there were 37 female and 22 male.

4.5: Hypotheses

H₁: Mobile phone encourages teenagers to talk more with their friends than with family.

H₂: Ownership of mobile phone increases opportunities to use it at night more than day.

H₃: The more use of mobile phone, the greater extent of premarital relationship.

H₄: The more intimacy with the partner, the greater chances of having sexual relationship.

4.5: Data Collection

Fifty nine respondents participated in the data collection process for this study through survey and self observation on the selected samples. Primary data for this study has been collected from interview schedule and there was a questionnaire related to the paper and most of the questions were very simple, easy, straight forward and close-ended as well as some open-ended questions. Interviews were placed at college canteen, lounges, coffee shops, restaurants and participants' home. The researcher attended all interviews on person with the participants to maintain privacy and to make them feel more comfortable. It took two months to complete all interviews; the interview was held typically in the afternoon and early evenings but sometimes it took a for-night to catch the participants who were easily available at the lounges, restaurants with their romantic partners.

During the first step of interview, the study was explained to participants and they were encouraged to ask questions or express concerns. Participants completed the questionnaire on their own with the researcher sitting unobtrusively to the side.

Participants were allowed to ask for clarification as described but they were not coached in their answers and were encouraged to answer all questions to the best of their ability.

4.6: Data Analysis

The quantitative data were analyzed using percentage and the findings were presented in graphs, tables. The qualitative data have been collected through case studies and analyzed manually and presented in descriptive mode.

Chapter 5

Characteristics of the Respondents

5.1 Demographical Characteristic

The respondents, school/college/university going students, aged between 13 and 19 years were located in different areas of the Dhaka city. In number they were 59 who participated in the survey and allowed information for 8 case studies where 63% were female and 37% were male (N=59). Most of the respondents 89% (N=59) live with their parents, 3% live with single parent and rest 8% live with brother/ sister/cousins/friends. 46% respondents live at their own houses and 54% live at rental flat (N=59).

5.2 Emotional Characteristic

During teenage it is common for them to desire freedom with a craving for escaping from parental control. They are very curious about new things and fantasies, looking for new friends, enjoyment, dating, engagement, and seeking intimate partners. Members of this age group are young and under the dominance of parents to choose ways of life and decision-making about romantic relationships despite their disliking of parental intervention in their personal matters.

5.3 Socio-economic Characteristic

The levels of education of the respondents were different with varied occupations of their parents.

Table 5.1. Educational Background of the respondents, N=59

Education level	Percentage
S.S.C Level	11%
H.S.C Level	27%
Honors/ Graduation 1st year	62%
Total	100%

The highest number of respondents (62%) is university going after their H.S.C. Most of the respondents (68%) reported their fathers' occupation as business, 32% as service holder, and only 25% having working mother.

5.4: Extent of Mobile use

In the pre teen world (10-12 years old) mobile telephony changes its position, becoming more central and leading to the beginning of the “mobile fever” that take place at around the time that the importance of hobbies and friends is increasing, while the significance of toys diminishes. Thus, the mobile phone becomes an important appliance as a communication tool with peers. Pre-teens use it in a creative way; for instance, sending empty text messages as a means of teasing people, or playing various types of “boom call” games. Teenagers, from 13-15 years age, have distinct attitude to mobile telephony,

Table 5.3. Use of Mobile phone, N=59

Use of mobile phone	Percentage
Yes	100%
No	0%
Total	100%

In this study the target respondent were found to be user of Mobile phone since a long time. In 59 responds, all of the respondents use personally owned mobile phones.

Table 5.4. Age at first mobile phone ownership, N=59

Ownership age	Male	Female	Total
13-14 years old	19%	19%	38%
15-17 years old	17%	39%	56%
18-19 years old	1%	5%	6%
Total	37%	63%	100%

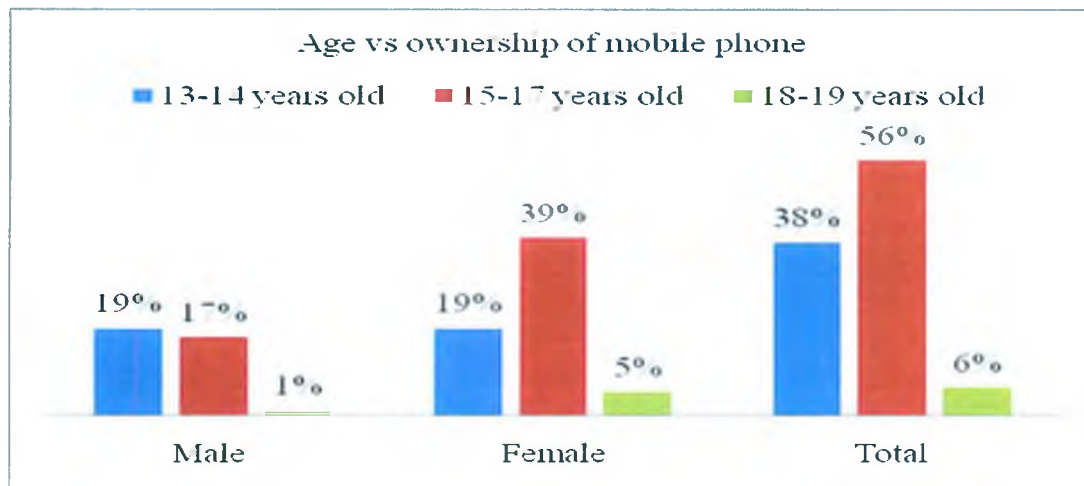


Figure 5.4. Age vs ownership of mobile phone

which can be practical and instrumental, expressive and effective. (Manuel Castells, 2006).

Table 5.2. Respondents' Attitude to Mobile Phone

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Total
Mobile phones are necessary tools in today's society	0%	2%	29%	69%	100%
Teenagers need a mobile phone	9%	25%	54%	12%	100%
Mobile phones are more important than others devices like computer, TV, DVD, camera	20%	19%	56%	5%	100%
People can maintain easily their relationship by using Mobile Phone	7%	12%	42%	39%	100%
People can make friendship easily by using Mobile Phone.	13%	15%	48%	24%	100%

There is certainly no other device except mobile phone evoking so much emotionality and personalized involvement, certainly no TV sets, digital cameras, VCR or DVD. No other electronic device is used so much for purposes for identity management. In this study the findings shows that 69% (Table-5.2 above) strongly agreed with the statement of "Mobile phones are necessary tools in today's society". And 56% (Table-5.2) agreed with the statement of "Mobile phones are more important than other devices like computers, TV, DVD, camera etc". fifty four percent (Table-5.2) agreed with the statement of "Teenagers need a mobile phone", whilst 42% agreed and 39% (Table-5.2) strongly agreed that people can maintain easily their relationship by using mobile phone. "People can make friendship easily by using mobile phone," 48% agreed with this statement.

In the Table (5.4.) above depicts 56% participants have adopted mobile phone at their ages of 15-17, 38% have adopted during the earliest stage of their teenage. Males and females both adopted mobile phone at teen ages, however, comparatively female owned more mobile phone than male respondents during the age of 15-17. Considering all age group female (63%) seems owning higher number of mobile phones than male.

Table 5.5. Motivation for using Mobile Phone, N=59

Motivating factor	Percentage
For emergencies or personal safety	85%
My friends all have a mobile phone	36%
To keep in touch with friends	75%
To keep in touch with family	71%
My home phone does not give any personal space	12%
I can make calls at any times	52%
To send and receive text messages	49%
For updating others no changes in plan/program	46%
To make plan any time	42%
To receive video, voice mail	13%

It is evident that the mobile phone can support the well-known tendencies of adolescents to emancipate from the local context of parental home and to integrate themselves into networks of peers. (Ling 001a). In this study, 12% (Table 5.5 above) shows the respondents use mobile phone because of their home phone does not give them any space, 35% reported they use mobile phone because of their all friends have mobile phone. Peer pressure is a reason, which motivated teenagers to grab mobile phone.

“To make plan any time,” 42% reported this factor as the motivation of using mobile phone, whilst 46% (Table 5.5.) have reported the motivation of using mobile phone is “For updating others no changes in plan-program”. Mobile phone fits nicely into this picture by making peer group contacts accessible almost everywhere and every time. In this course of modernization many factors have increased the changes from their parents influence and to adopt attitudes and activities shaped by peers and larger society. Even every teen is highly empowered, constantly connected with their groups. In this study 75% (Table 5.5.) shows they use mobile phone “To keep in touch with friends”.

Table 5.6. Chief reason for using Mobile Phone, N=59

Reason	Percentage
Keep in touch with family	13%
Keep in touch with friends/partners	44%
Make calls all time	12%
Home phone does not give any space	5%
My friends all have a mobile phone	5%
Emergency and personal safety	20%
To receive videos, voice mail	1%
Total	100%

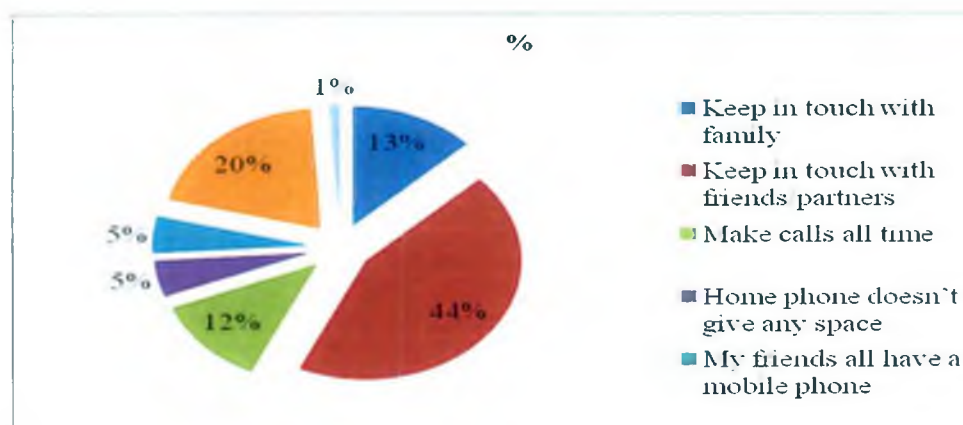


Figure 5.6. Chief reason for using Mobile Phone

To compare with all reasons there are seven chief reasons for using mobile phone, 44% (Table-6) has stressed on the reason to keep in touch with their friends and partners and they think it is so important to keep in touch with friends and mobile phone gives the facility to connect with them all times. It's easy to connect all time regardless of places; when they feel lonely they can call personally at any time, anywhere. In that way, Mobile phone users carry with them their loved ones wherever they go. So, we can say there is no time-space boundary. They are free, have freedom to contact any time. Mobile phone adds intermediate phase to the step by process that frees teens from parental watch by opening a first-virtual connection to peers long before tightly knit peer groups are formed in relationships to the other sex.

Table 5.7. Mobile phone usage patterns, N=59

Common use	Percentage
Talk with friends	85%
Talk with family	81%
Play games	37%
Take picture	51%
Listen to music	71%
E-mail	30%
Brows web just for fun	27%
SMS with friends	76%
Sharing videos/photos with friends	32%

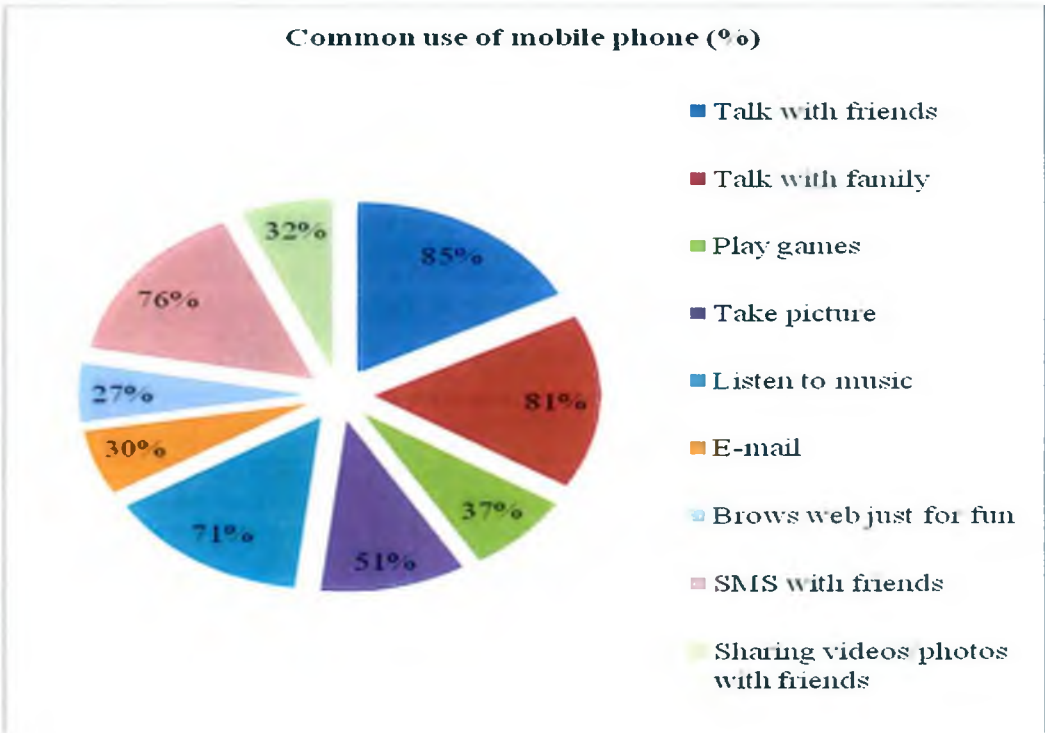


Figure 5.7. Common use of mobile phone

Teenagers use mobile phone for many purposes. Most common use of mobile phone is to talk with friends. 85% (Figure 3) shows the usage of mobile phone as talking with friends, 76% reported (Figure 3) “SMS to friends”, 71% reported to “Listen to music”.

Table 5.8. Most important usages pattern of mobile phone, N=59

Usage pattern	Percentage
Talk with friends	64%
Talk with family	22%
E-mail/Brows web	7%
SMS with friends	7%
Total	100%

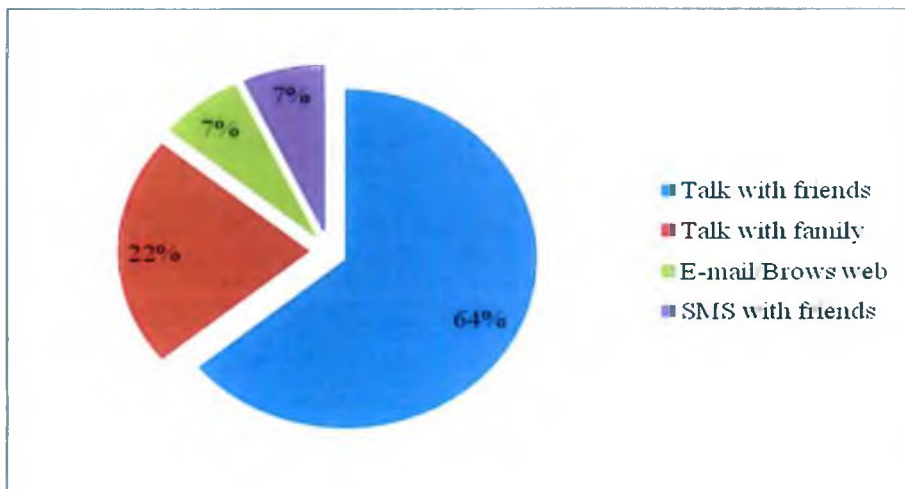


Figure 5.8. Most important usages pattern of mobile phone

Table 5.8 and Graph 5.8 show that there are four patterns of usages of mobile phone, 'Talk with friends' 64% is the most common pattern of use of mobile phone by teenagers. They explain- it is the prime purpose and they always want to connect with their friends and it is necessary to maintain relationship since face-to-face communication is not possible all time.

Table 5.9. Usage intensity of text messages, N=59

Frequency of sending SMS	Percentage
Several times a day	71%
1-2 days in a week	9%
About once a day	10%
Less often	10%
Total	100%

Text messaging is more common use among teenagers. Table 5.9 shows that 71% send text messages on a daily basis and send SMS several times a day.

Table 5.10. Sending SMS Daily, N=59

No. of sending SMS	Percentage
0-5	47%
06-10	20%
11-15	7%
16-20	3%
20+	23%
Total	100%

Table 5.10 shows that 47% send at least 5 text messages daily basis and 23% send above 20 SMS daily. Table 5.11 (below) shows 32% received 6-10 SMS daily and 24% received above 20 SMS daily.

Table 5.11. Receiving SMS Daily, N=59

No. of receiving SMS	Percentage
0-5	32%
06-10	32%
11-15	5%
16-20	7%
20+	24%
Total	100%

Table 5.12. Particular time of using Mobile Phone, N=59

Suitable time	Percentage
Morning	17%
Afternoon	32%
Evening	49%
Late night	44%

Mobile phone is more useful for teens to the degree that their movement in space is more tightly controlled so that they can maintain certain contacts at certain times. Table 5.12 above shows that 44% like to use the mobile phone at late night. "Late night is private time when all are asleep and this is the best time to talk freely with special ones," as they explained. They all feel comfort to talk during that time. Most of the participants describe it as safe for personal conversation through the use of personal mobile phone. Few participants (not shown in table) have described to choose particular time for low call rate at night. Talking at late night seems most popular among teenagers. Another 42% reported to choose particular time for the feel of being free to talk regardless of timing.

Table 5.13. Engagement with romantic partners, N=59

Engaged	Percentage
Yes	90%
No	10%
Total	100%

Out of 59 respondents 90% ie, 53 are who are engaged with romantic partners.

Table 5.14. Whole night talk experience by engaged respondents, N= 53

Talked whole night	Percentage
Yes	74%
No	26%
Total	100%

Those who are engaged with romantic partners, 74% ie, 39 out of 53 have whole night talk experience convincing one of the hypotheses (H₂: Ownership of mobile phone increases the opportunities to use it at night more than day) of this study.

Table 5.15. Usage pattern of mobile phone to support romantic relationship, N= 53

Usage partners	Percentage
Talking	100%
Texting/sexting	37%
Share personal photos	17%
Share videos	6%

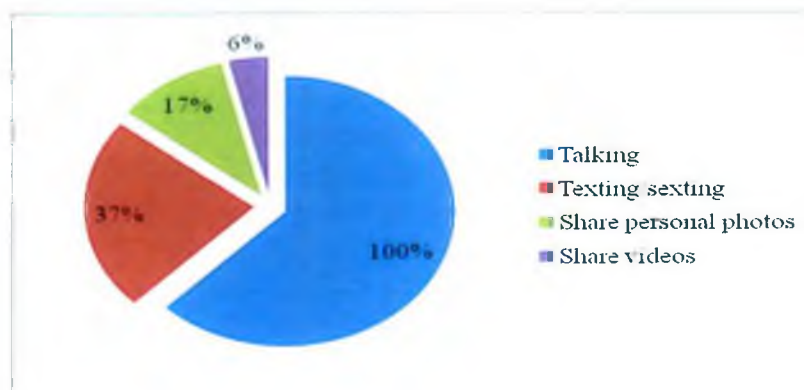
**Figure 5.15. Usage pattern of mobile phone to support romantic relationship**

Table 5.16. Extent to which mobile phone has improved personal relationship, N=53

Mobile phone has improved personal relationship	Percentage
A lot	66%
Somewhat	26%
Not much	8%
Not at all	0%
Total	100%

Mobile phone improved the ability for maintaining personal romantic relationship, 66% (Table 5.16) has reported that mobile phone improves the ability 'a lot' to maintain personal romantic relationship, 26% thinks that it is improved 'somewhat'. They are also used to sharing photos and videos to support their relationship. The type of sharing photos and videos are romantic/ intimate photos, sexual materials/pictures, and X-rated porn videos. As responded 36% shared sexual materials, 33% shared X-rated porn videos, and 11% shared compromising photos to learn each other bodies (Table 5.17. below). This seems to be a concurrent culture of the youth to exchange physical gestures and images as Manuel Castells has rightly termed the phenomenon as Mobile Youth Culture (3.3: Manuel Castells: Mobile Youth Culture, in Chapter 3).

Table 5.17. Types of shared MMS/Videos, N=53

Shared item	Percentage
Personal photos to learn each other bodies	11%
X-relate porn videos	32%
Sexual materials/pictures	36%
Romantic /intimate photos	21%
Total	100

During sample upon a question “Have they ever received/sent any sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude photos or videos?” 83% (Table 5.18 below) answered “No” that they didn’t. However, case studies findings revealed 75% reported about sending/receiving sexual suggestive nude or nearly nude photos or videos to invoke their sexual appeal.

Table 5.18. Exchange of sexually nude or nearly nude photos or videos, N=59

Yes	17%
No	83%
Total	100%

Table 5.19. Thinking it as a common scenario between all romantic partners, N=59

Yes	66%
No	34%
Total	100%

If it is common to all romantic partners to send/receive sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude photos/videos, we can predict that these kind of sharing images is done as a part of or instead of sexual activity, or as a way of starting or maintaining a relationship with a significant others. And sexually suggestive image have become a form of sexual relationship. These findings vouch Manuel Castells: Mobile Youth Culture (Chapter 3.3), and hypothesis H₄: The more intimacy with the partner, the greater chances of having sexual relationship.

In this study we found 90% of total respondents of 59 who are engaged with their romantic partners have some activities to support their premarital relationship such as 'dating', 'sexting', 'hanging out', 'to do oral sex' and even 'sex' before marriage.

Table 5.20. Activities of romantic partners to support their relationship, N=53

Activity	Percentage
Meet each other regularly	52%
Hang out café/lounge/restaurant	59%
To do oral sex	20%
Record/Share sex act video through mobile phone/ mobile phone internet	1%
Experienced sex with own romantic partners	11%
Exchanged Porn photo through mobile phone	20%

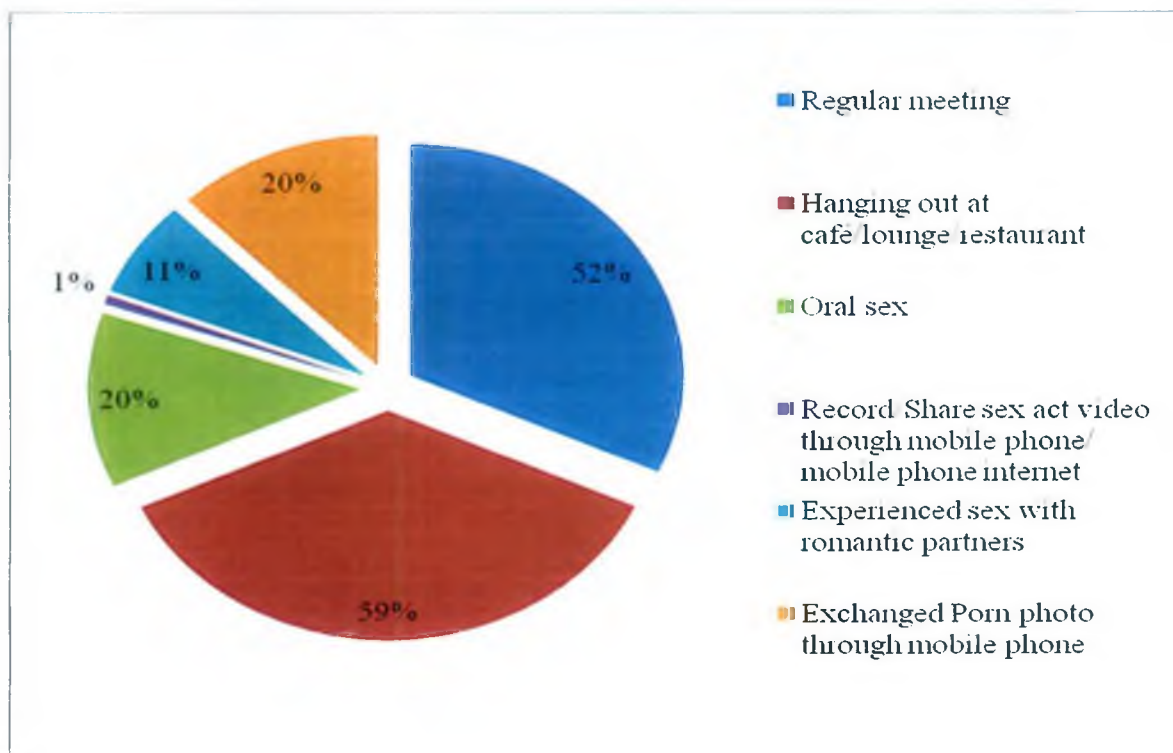


Figure 5.20. Activities of romantic partners to support their relationship

Table and Figure 5.20 above show that 52% respondents has reported they meet each other regularly and hang out at Cafes, Lounges, Restaurant, Park and Shopping mall and when they meet they enjoy each other company, share their feeling, make future plan and so on. Doing oral sex is not yet common, but as many as 20% (Table and Figure 5.20) of them have admitted that they do oral sex with partner and 11% reported they have sex experience but case studies revealed 100% reported to do oral sex and 75% have premarital sex experience and they are aware of the consequences of sex as well as contraceptives such as condoms, i-pill etc. They had learned about sex from friend circle as well as partners and porn, x-rated films and this study reveals that 20% (Table 5.20) respondents exchanged porn photos through mobile phone.

The findings here confirm Anthony Giddens: Plastic Sexuality, Contingent Love theory as well as this paper's hypotheses:

H₃: The more use of mobile phone, the greater extent of premarital relationship.

H₄: The more intimacy with the partner, the greater chances of having sexual relationship.

Table 5.21. Consciousness about precaution, N=59

Consciousness	Percentage
Aware of the consequences of sex, pregnancy or STD	90%
Aware of the availability of contraceptives	71%

Most of them know about the precautions and the consequences of sex such pregnancy or STD though 11% have sex experience so (100%-11%) 89% (Table 5.20, N=53)

participants have never experienced sex but they are aware of the consequences of sex, eg, pregnancy or STD, 90% reported that they are aware of the consequences of sex (Table 5.21 above) and 71% (Table 5.21) respondents have reported they know about the availability of contraceptives. The case studies revealed that 100% are well known to the contraceptive items as well as to the consequences of sex like pregnancy or STD. Condom and i-pill are well known to 75% as they named these as their precautionary measure.

Table 5.22. Availability of contraceptives vs sex between romantic partners, N=59

Availability of contraceptives encourages sex	Percentage
Yes	51%
No	49%
Total	100%

The study finds that most of the respondents (N=59) never experienced sex but 51% of them think availability of contraceptives encourages having sex with their romantic ones. The respondents agreement connotes “Anthony Giddens’ theory: Plastic Sexuality, Contingent Love” through this study.

5.5 Case Studies

Case: 1

Polin, a 19-years old university going boy, lives with parents at Banani, Dhaka in rental flat, strongly believes mobile phone is a necessary tool in today's society. He has been using mobile when since his 14. After passing H.S.C exam he got leisure time so he was busy with his friends' circle getting together, hanging out at cafés, and outing with them. Once he met a girl at a friend's party who is his friend's girl friend's friend. After introduction and short chat they exchanged their mobile numbers. One evening he called that girl when he was just playing with his mobile phone since it is just a matter of click to connect anyone if the number is on the phone set. They greeted each other on phone and conversed briefly since this is the first call after their introduction. The conversation was as follows:

Polin: Hello

The Girl: Hi

Polin: Hi how are you? What are you doing?

The Girl: OK, how about you?

They hanged up in few minutes; it takes time to rev up a chatty ambience. Polin knows he has the opportunity to contact further with that girl very easily. So, he used to make call to chat with her whenever he felt her. The girl also welcomed his call and she also called him back on times. Gradually they made a relationship over mobile phone.

One day Polin offered her coffee outside. They met and hanged out. At night Polin phoned her to know about the day that they have just passed together. That night phone call and conversation turned them on and they formed a special relationship. After that they exchanged SMSs, shared personal photos, special songs, and finally involved in a deep relationship. Polin says:

If you're not in love, you are missing something and you seem not to be cool. Now we know enough about sex and the consequences but no worries we have precautionary measures.

Pre-marital relationship tempts him, and he has experienced it already.

Case 2:

Mitu, a 16-years old girl, lives with her parents. When she was in class IX, her world revolved around school, classes, home tasks, study, a few friends and her family. She did not have any personal phone; she was used to make phone call on the land phone placed at their drawing room. One noon the phone rang when her mother was busy in the kitchen, father was in the office and the elder sister was at university. She picked the phone to answer and heard a boy asking for some unknown persons, apparently he misdialed. Mitu replied it's wrong number and was about to hang up, but the boy pleaded not to end the call and requested her to talk with him. Puzzled, she continued a few minutes talk before putting the phone receiver on the cradle. The boy phoned again to know her name, personal status etc. She tried to ignore him but being tempted to the opposite sex she couldn't. They started talking, initially on land phone at noon when her

mother remained busy in the kitchen to cook dinner and other members of the family were not available at home. Gradually their platonic phone talk turned into a romantic relationship and they started talking frequently. Sometimes she had problems to talk with the boy on land phone because it was fixed at their drawing room where her parents and siblings watched TV and sometimes for guest visitors to the house. During those cumbersome situations ie whilst she was with the other family members in the drawing room, or if suddenly somebody entered the room, she would talk to the boy pretending a serious discussion with her class mate on study materials. The urge became so intense that she started borrowing her father's or elder sister's mobile phone to contact with the boy. She would also grab the opportunity to talk to the boy on her father's mobile at night when he was asleep. To remove these barriers to talk, the boy insisted her to take a personal mobile phone by means of a gift from him. Though she also felt the necessity of mobile phone, Mitu could not accept the offer apprehending suspicion from her parents -- and sister. She asked her father to buy her a mobile phone. After her S.S.C exam she finally got a personal mobile phone. She was very happy on that day for owning a phone which will enable her to talk with boyfriend freely and suitably. Now, she is freely communicating and exchanging SMSs. A sample of her SMS is: *Ki Koro? Tumake miss korchhi?*

Now they talk more than before. They are used to send SMSs to each other as well as to sharing music, videos, and photos.

My mobile phone brings the opportunities for me to talk with him a lot whenever I want especially at late night when all are asleep. I have a record 'a whole night talk experience upto 6 o'clock in the morning from midnight at 12 o'clock. That was really exciting and cautious because I had to avoid noises to provoke suspicions or to awaken my parents, I had to talk whispering, sometimes had to slid the phone under the pillow at the sight of someone' footstep approaching me.

Case-3 Rony, 19 years old, a university going boy believe in pre-marital sexual relationship. He thinks: *If you're in love, you should believe in pre marital sex as well, and we all have precautions.*

Case-4, Zabir, 18-years old university going student, is used to talking with known and unknown girls on mobile phone just for fun. He eagerly collects the numbers form various sources to have fun talk with girls particularly at night. He has created a virtual friendship with many girls and flirting with them using multiple mobile SIMs.

"It's no big deal marinating multiple relationship with various girls on mobile phone, SIMs with different numbers offered by mobile operators are easily available to support my relationship maintenance. On top of that it's not expensive; thanks to the low rate call offers by the mobile phone operators." Zabir explained flamboyantly.

Case- 5, Abir 19-years old university going boy, lives with his parents at Dhanmondi in their own house. He has been using mobile phone since his 14. He had a relationship

with a girl, albeit he was used to talk to several girls on mobile phone. When his girlfriend knew about his habit of talking with many girls on phone, she gave her up. Now he has been engaged with another girl seriously, and he does not want to lose her, so quit talking with mobile girls. He makes date and plan on mobile phone with his girlfriend to hangout. He is very used to do oral sex and believe in premarital sex.

Another Case- Nitu, a college going girl, one evening her mobile phone rang, a male voice at the other end wanted to be introduced with her to know each other- *'Ami ki apner ektu somoy nite pari? She brushed him off. But he called again and again relentlessly, and then sent her an SMS: Pls. kotha bolun. . helloo.. ki korchen? Gradually I like you and At last she began to talk and the conversation soon turned into romantic and gradually they had exchanged vows of love and finally in a deep intimate relationship.*

The teens are looking for excuses to get to be known to each other. Unknowingly they are at this stage of life cycle obsessed with each other once hooked up mainly for physical need. Case study 1 above on Polin suggests that mobile phone can act as a catalyst in forming premarital relationship during teenage. The case also reveals that frequent communication is triggered by the availability of personally owned mobile phone, and too frequent associations through mobile leads to closer relationship which is inevitably physical which in turn is encouraged by the involved partners' temptation to sex and their awareness and the availability of contraceptives.

Case study 2 tells us that Mitu could not resist her temptation to talk to an opposite sex on phone; mere talking to a male voice was intriguing for her. Secretly she was expecting the boy to call her back, and when she got the recall she was elated, gradually got herself into a fantasy world where talking talked a lot in her mind and body. Mitu even dared to talk to the boy on pretence in presence of her parents or some one else. Phone conversation allowed them not to be out of sight, let alone out of mind. Mitu actually took a daunting step of getting into relationship at her puberty when she was in class 9. Parental care and watch could have avoided the situation. Anyway, once she got the mobile phone she started frequent chatting particular at late night including a whole night talk. This tendency is prevalent among the teenagers to talk at night chatting trivial to sexual matters which are called phone sex, an unhealthy and immature habit of the phone users. From the cases three hypotheses of this paper have been established: H₁: Mobile phone encourages teenagers to talk more with their friends than with family; H₂: Ownership of mobile phone increases the opportunities to use it more at night; and H₃: The more use of mobile phone, the greater extend of premarital relationship.

Chapter 6

Mobile Phone Culture and Premarital Relationship

6.1: Friendship, Virtual Friendship and Romantic Relationship

For a moment we can reminisce about the landline telephone route romance to understand the relationship between mobile phone and premarital relationship. In the context of the land phone before cellular phone became omnipresent, the teenaged person desiring to talk to someone on other side of the phone would dial the number with the hope of getting him/her at first attempt. Unfortunately if somebody else not desired at all would pick the phone, the dialer would find himself/herself in an embarrassing situation if the call was uncalled for or not expected or welcomed by the person answering the phone instead of the target receiver. Essentially in those situations the dialer would face some direct questions or frowning from the receiver family as calls from opposite sex teenagers are beyond imagination of the guardians. There would loom a visible tension and ordeal to pass to manage the situation honorably without raising any suspicion from guardian side.

Think of now, dominance of mobile phone has crippled the land phone. Land phone is now office stuff, not useful at large at homes. Mobile phone has changed the scenario totally. The dialer does not have to worry about receiving undesired person, if for any reason meets someone unknown on other side, there are so many excuses to pass the test- we are friends, friends are not worrying and unimaginable now. Basically, to make a call

now all we need is to push the call button on the saved number to connect with specific one. It clearly shows the significance of mobile phone to facilitate communications and relationships through texting and calling, and teenagers with their own mobile set are not controllable anymore. Teenagers can even do group talk on their phones. Thus, the phone is enhancing their relationships in two ways. Firstly, it is broadening the range of their friendships. The mobile phone allows teens to keep in touch with a wide circle of friends. Built in address books and the ability to send text messages and pictures, videos, etc. to many recipients at once allow casual interaction to flourish. A text can easily be sent to others whom you do not know well. Alert via sms before talking. What's the rush, there is no obligation to go for instant conversation on a mobile phone. It takes time to have a face to face meeting which entails spending time together. The opposite can also happen like a call can easily be dialed to other that you met and introduced once casually at a friend's get together or birthday party where personal cell numbers were exchanged, and one day making a call playfully does not make you nervous because now it's just a button push and a mobile phone allows saying hello without worrying about what to say next. Teenagers' behavioral patterns and quick thinking capability are obviously compatible with mobile phone. Mobile phone enhances communications among teenagers and it helps deepen relationships too because teens are having lots of trivial dialogues, often with text messages. As teenagers' emotional characteristic it is a common period they are very curious about new fantasized things, looking for new friends, enjoyment, dating, engagement, and seeking intimate partners. Members of this age group are young enough that their parents are likely still to be influential in their

personal lives and decision-making about romantic relationships but they focus on their wishes and likings. And with the help of technology mobile phone helps them create a greater virtual friendship to maintain and for sharing emotions, feelings, experiences, pictures, videos and other stuff. Considering the side effects of using a mobile phone, parents can ask if the teenagers really do need a mobile phone. This study reveals that all respondents 100% (Table 5.3) use own mobile phone since the age of 13 years. All of them have a mobile phone and 56% participants (Table 5.4) have adopted mobile phone at their 15-17, 38% have adopted during the earliest stage of their teenage. Males and females both adopted mobile phone at teen age. The mobile phone has become a 'must need' for teens and they without mobile phone feel not so good and they have peer pressure too to have a mobile phone. As many as 69% (Table 5.2) strongly agreed with the statement "Mobile phones are necessary tools in today's society", and 56% (Table 5.2) agreed with the statement "Mobile phones are more important than other devices like computer, TV, DVD, camera etc". The statement that "Teenagers need a mobile phone" is agreed by 54% (Table 5.2) whilst 42% agreed and 39% (Table 5.2) strongly agreed that people can maintain easily their relationship by using mobile phone. About half of the respondents ie, 48% (Table 5.2) have agreed that people can make friendship easily by using mobile phone.

Teenagers always face challenges as they grow up. Changes happen to their bodies, their personalities and to everyday living. Adapting to change is always a struggle for the majority. Peer pressure is one of the hardest things teens face today. These groups

encourage a teen to change his/her lifestyle and this study reveals that 36% of participants' (Table 5.5) motivation to use mobile phone caused by their friends who all have a mobile phone. Their friends are most important to them. In the same table (5.5) we can see that 75% respondents use mobile phone to keep in touch with their friends and most common use of mobile phone is to connect and talk with friends.

So, we can say today life style has changed and now consumed by technology every minutes and hour of the day and night through mobile phone. "Connecting People" is the slogan of a renowned mobile phone company NOKIA. All teens have now own personal mobile phone number which empowered them to make a personal space, own individual private world, freedom so that they can easily make virtual friend as well as personal intimate relationship. This mobile intimacy has been accelerated by the reallocation of time, space through new media. Anthony Giddens coins 'time space distanciation' as a prerequisite for modernity which is described as "the conditions under which time and space are organized so as to connect presence and absence (A. Giddens, 1990: 14).

Today's teenagers are influenced by more external pressure than ever before. Now being a teenager involves a constant communication, get freedom and seeking their own place. It is not hard to see the appeal of mobile phone allowing them to connect independently. It frees them from the constraints of fixed land line telephones, allowing conversation to be held at home in bed room away from parents and siblings' ears and also of course outside the home. Plans can be made and whole social networks can be mobilized

quickly, arrangements often made on the move. Mobile phone has given teens some of the freedom that in the past also given them a communication tool that they can call their own, rather than a shared landline phone tying them to the living room. Mobile phone offers the freedom of fluid access to the social networks. One of the most striking consequences of this found freedom among teens is the instant and constant communication between them. This study reveals that 47% (Table 5.10) send on average 5 SMS daily, 23% (Table 5.10) send more than 20 SMS daily. Thirty two percent participants received (Table 5.11) an average 5 SMS daily and 24% received 20+ SMS daily. In addition 64% reported (Table 5.8) "Talk with friends" is the most important use of mobile phone and is the prime purpose and they always want to connect and talk with friends. Another characteristic of mobile phone especially the lean channel of texting is that it leads itself to make relationship. Manuel Castells tried to show the emerging mobile culture and how young use the mobile phone. Manuel Castells examined that young people talk and text more with friends than family, that is a prominent indicator of mobile youth culture and the study reveals that teens talk with their friends more as well as text. This is the way teenagers establish their own personal space and identities and mobile phone has become the primary way of connecting with the group and these connections are nurtured almost constantly that M. Castells examined.

Mobile phone helps to maintain the relationships easily, it is more influential and this connectivity and freedom also effectively make the relationships more intimate. At first romantic relations may stay virtual, to have romance at a distance where they fantasized

and imagine about their relationships. This intimacy is characterized as rapid falling in love and then transition into real space. Mobile phone is the mediator for user to find friends, either for dating, romance. As mobile communication can be adapted to all kinds of uses general and even romantic partners can take advantage of new technology within their networks for such matters as instant contact even late night and whole night talking. As the study found out 74% of N=53 have (Table 5.14) whole night talk experience with their partners. Above noted 53 among teenagers are them who are already engaged with romantic partners, in this study we found from survey 90% (Table-5.13) have romantic partners, from 8 case studies it is found all they maintain their romantic relationship with the mobile phone and one of the largest operations between romantic partners is the 'dating' which is only possible easily by using mobile phone. Serial mobile phone dating has emerged as a new phenomenon. The study reveals that 59% (Table 5.20) of participants reported that they make dates by mobile phone with their partners. With dates available so easily, some people refuse to work on taking any relationship forward, drop their 'date' and start searching for partner again. From case studies we have found that there is a tendency to maintain multiple relationships by the support of multiple SIM.

For example, one case shows that Zabir, 18-years old university going student, is used to talking with known and unknown girls on mobile phone just for fun. He eagerly collects the numbers from various sources to have fun talk with girls particularly at night. He has created a virtual friendship with many girls and flirting with them using multiple mobile SIMs.

Another case study reveals that Abir had a relationship with a girl, albeit he was used to talk to several girls on mobile phone. When his girlfriend knew about his habit of talking with many girls on phone, she gave her up. Now he has been engaged with another girl seriously, and he does not want to lose her, so quit talking with mobile girls. He makes date and plan on mobile phone with his girlfriend to hangout.

The above findings connote that platonic and playful relationships for a short time is now easier with the availability of mobile phones which are affordable at low cost by teenagers. Relationships are fragmented, not in a fixed shape for the teenagers' minds being mobile to keep pace with mobile phone culture. These studies and findings direct us to believe in the existence of theory of Liquid Love by Bauman.

6.2: Mobile Phone and Premarital Sex

Continuous availability for talking during late night may be considered strong indicator for high mobile phone involvement because it means that the new communication channel is allowed to penetrate even the most intimate moments in private life. Mobile phone supports to maintain premarital relationship and it facilitates premarital sex as well by the coordination of sexually appealing activities like sharing personal photos, sexual image and sex act videos. Mobile phone has so many special features like camera (it helps to take their intimate photos), Bluetooth option (it helps to share the photos that they took by mobile camera) or sharing any kind of videos even sex act video or porn, FM radio and Mp3 (it helps to send or dedicate any special love song for proposing).

Most popular usage pattern of mobile phone are 'talking' and 'texting' to support their relationship. While a considerable part of the questionnaire was dedicated to usage patterns between two romantic partners, several questions tried to record to understand how mobile phone support personal relationship, specially the involvement with mobile phone between romantic partners. On the most general level, it was found that most of the respondents use their mobile phone to support their romantic relationship by talking, texting, sharing videos. All of them (Romantic Partners) ie, 100% (Table 5.15) use mobile phone for talking to support their romantic relationship, 37% (Table 5.15) reported they use mobile phone for texting/sexting to support their romantic relationship and 17% use their mobile phone for sharing personal photos to support their relationship.

The interview entailed another question whether the respondents think that exchanging sexually nude or nearly nude photos or videos is considered as a common scenario between all romantic partners. As many as 66% respondents (Table 5.19) thought it was a common phenomenon between all romantic partners. Though they think it is a common practice by romantic partner, when asked if they had received or sent any of such photo or video, they replied in negative being too shy to openly admit the act. The respondents tried to avoid the sensitive questions mainly involving sex.

These activities by romantic partners are done to substitute sexual activity and to pave the way of starting or maintaining pre-marital sexual relationships and mobile phone supports them by giving the opportunity to frequently contact the specific one anytime,

anywhere. Moreover, as the study discovered that the new ICT facilitated not only to build a romantic relationship and to maintain the relationship easily to make them close but also benefits them allowing instant connection whenever they need even at late night for whole night talking, romantic talking, sex talking finally to have premarital sex.

Premarital sexual relationship can be initiated through intimacy, love, romance in a word through foreplay in a romantic relationship. Romantic relationships can also be facilitated through mobile phone that explicitly supports users as they try to make friends or new acquaintances and seek to connect each other looking for new friends, and dates. Mobile phone's important tool is instant messaging (SMS) option which supports forming and maintaining romantic relationships. Mobile phone instant connection, talking, SMS and chatting system support users to connect whenever they need which indicates presence of friends all the time. Mobile phone is an ideal medium for supporting romantic relationships that may be extended to pre-marital sexual relationships and maintaining sexual relationships is not so hard because of availability of contraceptives which are well known to all of us. They had learned about sex from friend circle as well as partners and porn, x-rated films and this study reveals that 20% (Table 5.20) respondents exchanged porn photos through mobile phone. A considerable number of respondents 36% (Table 5.17) shared sexual materials/pictures with their intimate partners to support their premarital relationships, 66% of participants (Table 5.19) thought sending/ receiving sexual suggestive nude or nearly nude photos or videos is as a common scenario between all intimate partners.

Case studies of this paper show most of the case have pre-marital sex experience and they are aware of the consequences of sex as well as the availability of contraceptives such as condoms, i-pill etc.

Polin (case-1, described above) believe in pre-marital sexual relationship. He thinks:

If you're not in love, you are missing something and you seem not so cool. And now we all are well known to sex and its consequences but no worry we have precautions.

Contraceptive work as a facilitator romantic partners for having sex because of no fear of pregnancy or others STD except getting pleasure, sex is separated from reproduction which Giddens refers as "Plastic Sexuality". The study reveals that 51% reported (Table-5.22) availability of contraceptive encourages having sex with their romantic partners.

Case studies also reveal that sexting is common most often in the following scenarios:

1. Exchange of image solely between romantic partners.
2. Exchange of porn videos between two romantic partners.
3. Sent/received unwanted sex images, videos from others.
4. Whole night romantic talk, sex talk and phone sex.
5. Doing oral sex

We can say these are shared as a part of or instead of sexual activity or as a way of starting or maintaining pre marital personal and sexual relationships. Mobile phone gives rise to the opportunity of frequent contact to specific one. Although anytime, anywhere

to stay in touch, it also provides new opportunities for making a personal relationship. Sexual relationship can be initiated through intimacy for the time being and it taken place through mobile phone. Case studies reveal that:

Nitu made a relationship through mobile phone with the conversation of: *'Ami ki apner ek'tu somoy nite pari? She brushed him off. But he called again and again relentlessly, and then sent her an SMS: Pls. kotha bolun. . helloo.. ki korchon? Gradually I like you and' At last she began to talk and the conversation soon turned into romantic and gradually they had exchanged vows of love and finally in a deep intimate relationship.*

Bony, 19 years university going boy maintaining multiple relationship by the support of different SIM and mobile operators' free call after midnight.

I just dialed random numbers in the hope of connecting with a girl as well as collecting girls cell phone no., anyway I have got a few from friend circle, few from facebook, collecting cell no. it's not a big deal. It's a simple matter to talk and make date with lot of girls at times by changing my SIM card.

Bony sometimes met with his phone partners and after few months he refused to continue phone talking to not to take the relationship forward, among them he decided to keep relationship and he had already the experience of sex with his partners because they both believe in pre-marital sex.

Case studies clearly show that today's teenagers are looking for romantic love, to fall in love, make date, to go out but sometime not to maintain in the long run. So is it the state of true love connecting with mobile phone? Or is it an illusion or lust? Teens today are adopting a more casual approach and dating, hanging out, making fun, 'chilling' etc but no commitment. Zygmunt Bauman narrated the metaphor "Liquid Love" where relations are liquid, bondless and constantly changing shapes. Liquidity, bondless worldly pleasure, fun and lustful love are signs of liquid modernity. In this study we see it's happening because of easy access and more access to mobile phone.

Gossiping, texting, sexting are right there on the screen for teenagers to absorb with the click of a button. Late night talk, excessive talking, whole night talk, sharing x-rated porn videos, sexual materials, romantic image which would probably be shocking and evoking are no surprises now rather "cool" stuff as uttered by the teens. Latest version of mobile phone has rapidly changed teen's life-style. Two third respondents ie 66% (Table 5.16) credit their mobile phone for improving the ability to maintain their premarital relationship a lot.

Though the survey produced inadequate information on sexually suggestive activities triggered by usage of mobile phone, while questioned during survey, participants ignored or escaped all sensitive questions but gave inferentially positive responses when asked to comment on prevalence of contemporary sexual activities through the usage of mobile phone. We can assume that respondents try to give answers which are socially

acceptable. So, they gave desirable answers against the sensitive issues and tried to ignore the questions involving sex elements. For this truth, reality would be hidden but we know it happens at present. The total picture did not come out fully but we can assume it is happening focusing on case studies and Newspapers' reports. We can assume from the contents of the newspaper below how mobile phone helps to build a relationship that turns into sexual relation as well, it also indicate several incidents of pornography and sexual abuses with the help of mobile phone.

Media advertisement of mobile phone targeting teenagers also highlights the savvy phone as a sex symbol- by including CONDOM in mobile phone ad theme for LAVA mobile. The ad is like a shop keeper gives sweet for change to a guy with an ordinary phone and condom for a guy with LAVA mobile. The detail of the advertisement's theme is like this- a boy at department store when come to the billing department beside kept his mobile set and asking his bill to a sales girl, the sales girl looked at the smart boy as well as his smart mobile phone set and she gave him a condom as his change saying sorry no change. The ad tried to depict a relationship between mobile phone set and sex! What a thought to grab teenagers' attention!



Figure 6.1. Shopper guy with normal mobile set (less attractive to eyes of the sales girl)
being offered lozenge on the excuse that there was no change

465266



Figure 6.2. Shopper guy with LAVA A10 set lined up to pay bill

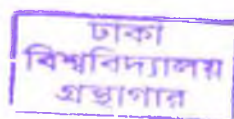




Figure 6.3. Eagle-eyed sales girl gawking at the phone set



Figure 6.4. The guy got condoms as his change



Figure 6.5. She is explaining there is no change; the guy is gleefully gesturing

Another advertisement of mobile phone set a teenage girl maintaining multiple personal relationships by changing her mobile phone set casing, when she is on date with her partner she carries a mobile phone with red casing and when met another partner she changed her set's red cover to white. Recently, there is one by Nokia where few teens (merely teens- yet to get body and mind in shape) are shown to be on spree with the help of the set. Constant exposure to different types of advertisement encourage teens to cross their boundaries. Teens are on public display today as we see the advertisement of mobile phone as well as billboards.



Figure 6.6: Billboard for Mobile Phone Advertisement

“Watching naked pictures through mobile phone is found to be a common trend among the children (covered by the survey of ManusherJonno Foundation, a non government organization)- reports by the *Daily Star Weekend Magazine*, Volume, 8, Issue, 94, November 13, 2009)). “Children are found to exchange porno picture through mobile phone. The report quotes that an owner of Cyber Café says that a boy and a girl of a reputed school of Dhaka recorded their own sex act and sent it to others by MMS” (Report by the *Daily Star Weekend Magazine*, Volume 8, Issue, 94, November 13, 2009)



Figure 6.7: Watching Sex act videos through Mobile Phone

[illegible]

Figure 6.8 Mobile phone and Pornography

Source: The Daily Ittefaq, 26 December, 2009

Palash phoned a girl named Nusrat and proposed. First Nusrat refused but gradually she begun to talk with him, she could not refuse anymore for Palash's frequent rings then it turned romantic and within six weeks they had exchanged vows of love. Palash proposed over fried chicken at fast food and they become engaged and deeply involved. (Report by *The Daily Star Weekend Magazine*, Volume, 8, Issue 62, March 20, 2009)

Some students said that at present mobile phone is being used commonly to download porno pictures, as it is easy and manageably stored. (Report by *The Daily Star Weekend Magazine* dated November, 13, 2009).

মোবাইল ফোনে পর্নো ছবি জড়িয়ে পড়ছে তরুণ-তরুণীরা

॥ জামিউল আহসান সিপু ॥

বনানীর একটি বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ছাত্রী তার বন্ধুর সঙ্গে সাইবার ক্যাফেতে বসে গল্প করছিলেন। তাদের মধ্যে প্রেমের আলাপের এক পর্যায়ে দুইজন পরস্পরকে জড়িয়ে ধরেন। এ দৃশ্য সাইবার ক্যাফেতে গোপনে স্থাপন করা ক্যামেরায় ধারণ করা হয়। এরপর ঐ দৃশ্য পর্নো ছবি আকারে মোবাইল ফোনের দোকানে বিক্রি করে দেয়া হয়। এ দৃশ্য মেমোরি কার্ডের মাধ্যমে লোড করে একজন আরেকজনের মোবাইল ফোনে পাঠাতে থাকে। এক পর্যায়ে ঐ ছাত্রীর মোবাইল ফোনে তার এক বান্ধবী এসএমএসের মাধ্যমে সাইবার ক্যাফের দৃশ্য পাঠায়। এ ছবি ঐ ছাত্রী দেখে হতবাক। অভিযোগ পড়ে রাখে। এরকম

শত শত অভিযোগ র্যাবের কাছে জম পড়েছে। এক পর্যায়ে র্যাব রাজধানীর একটি মোবাইল মার্কেটে অভিযান চালিয়ে বিপুল পরিমাণ পর্নো ছবির মেমোরি কার্ড উদ্ধার করে। এ ব্যাপারে র্যাব-৩-এর লেফট্যানেন্ট (১৫শ পৃঃ ৩-এর কঃ দ্রঃ)

Figure 6.9. Pornography in mobile phone, Source: *The Daily Ittefaq*, 31 October, 2009

MAKING PORNO CDs OF SCHOOLGIRLS

Four remanded in Ctg, protesters demand arrest of Natore culprit

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four youths, arrested on Monday in Chittagong on charge of making a porno CD of a schoolgirl after rape, were placed on a four-day remand yesterday.

The arrestees are Mohiuddin Monir alias Munna, 22, Nirjhar Das Samu, 25, Rana Nandi, 25, and Ruhul Nath, 25.

In Natore, people of sadar upazila yesterday formed a human chain and staged protest rally at Jalalabad Bazar demanding arrest of a youth who raped a schoolgirl and spread nude photos to different areas through mobile phones.

Chittagong Kotwali police produced the four youths in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Azizul Haque, seeking a seven-day remand for the accused, but the court granted four days' remand, reports our staff correspondent.

Mohiuddin, one of the accused, recorded his physical relation with a 14-year-old girl, also a class nine student of a school in the city, forcibly at Hotel Golden Star of Sadarghat area on March 28.

Later, he along with the other arrestees made 400 copies of the CD at a shop called Video Park at Jalsha Market in the city.

On June 24, they contacted with the girl's father over phone demanding Tk 50 lakh in exchange for returning the CD. Failing to get response from the girl's father, they released the CD in the market

on June 26.

Victim's father filed a case with the Kotwali Police Station on Sunday night against three—Mohiuddin, Rashed, and Jasim Uddin—and five other unidentified persons.

Investigation officer of the case Sub Inspector Sudip Das along with Sub Inspector Md Mohsin of the police station raided different areas of the city and arrested the four in a 17-hour drive that ended at 4:00pm on Monday.

Police also seized the mobile phone set used for the video.

People of Natore sadar upazila yesterday formed a human chain and staged a rally at Jalalabad Bazar and later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding arrest of a youth on charges of raping a schoolgirl and spreading naked photos to different areas through mobile phones, according to a correspondent.

Police and locals said Abdul Mannan alias Sumon, son of Chan Miah of Jalalabad Tangailpara village had developed a romantic relationship

with a class ten student of Jalalabad High School. Sumon wanted to marry the girl, but his parents refused to give their consent to his proposal.

On November 15 last year, Sumon called the girl to a nearby sugar cane field and raped her. He also captured the nude photos of the girl in mobile phone.

After spreading photos to different areas through mobile phones, victim's family filed a rape case against Sumon on June 27 this year. But the rapist is at large.

PHOTO STAR

People form a human chain in Natore town yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminal who raped a local schoolgirl and spread obscene video through mobile.

Figure 6.10. Newspaper Report on Mobile phone based Premarital Sexual Relationship

Source: The daily Star, July, 14, 2010

Accordingly, we know that human behavior is learnt and formed by surroundings. When a teenager spends a large amount of time with the mobile phone, there is a profound effect on their ability and lifestyle to adapt to what they see and there is more chance to get engaged with unknown people that turns to personal relationship gradually premarital sexual relationship. We cannot say mobile phone is the direct reason to have premarital sex but it facilitates to connect someone very easily that can be influenced to talk and text further to form an intimate relationship and sexual relationship too via frequent contacts including whole night talks, texting/sexting, sharing personal intimate photos, sex videos which has significant association with sex.

Conclusion:

Teenagers owning mobile phones talk more with their friends than with family mostly at night. The series of late night talks are mainly with the romantic partners with whom they share private matters. Frequency of chatting at night gradually turned them on to talk and share about sexually appealing topics, thus the more intimate the partners are the greater tendency to form sexual relationship. The whole cycle can be characterized by the changed behavioral patterns of the teenagers using mobile phones extensively since the rise in the usage of mobile phone has changed the teenagers dramatically over last few years in terms of the way they look at life. They like to feel mobile like their cell phones free from any kind of control. Mobile phone is influencing teenager's life greatly. It is normal for a teenager to talk excessively on their mobile phone surpassing face-to-face contact as evident from this study report. They think life is dull without talking to friends and partners on mobile phones. Mobile phones are now well integrated into the lives of Bangladeshi teens. From this study it is shown all teens (N=59) aging between 13 and 19 years have owned mobile phones (Table 5.3) where most of them started using personal mobile phone from the age of 14. Mobile phone has become increasingly important modes for external communication and it creates new opportunities for teens, of course with new opportunities there come new issues/agendas and mobile phone puts new twists on old ones. This study found some of the adverse ramification of mobile phone use by teens, including so called 'sexting', unwanted pictures, videos. The ease of uploading an image and forwarding it to countless friends often means an intimate image

is something normal nowadays. This study reveals 66% of participants (Table 5.19) thought sharing sexually suggestive photos and videos is a common phenomenon between romantic partners.

The report findings suggest the pattern of teenagers' relationship by using mobile phone, however, the advent and availability of other communication tools like internet, facebook, and social networks have not partaken in this study. The respondents can be maintaining the same relationship by using other tools, but since there were no questions around these tools their responses on the usage of those tools are not gathered for analysis. Though the current findings improve our understanding of the ways teenagers form and maintain premarital relationship by using mobile phone, they do not exhaust the usage intensity of "other available communication tools like facebook or internet" by the teenagers for the same purposes. The current study is not encompassing, but provokes thoughts for a separate study on the remaining communication tools which may be useful for increasing an understanding of how teenagers form and maintain their premarital relationship, despite the popularity of mobile phone among the teenagers for easy communication.

"Mobile phone and the social life of teenagers of Bangladesh" the title is befitting in the context of changed lifestyle of the teenagers immediately after widespread usage of mobile phone. The findings of the study are alarming; excessive time spent on mobile phone and getting entangled in relationship during teenage can have a far reaching impact

on the teenagers' future prospects since they are not adequately focusing on the concurrent main agenda of life such as good academic results to build a sound knowledge base for future career, rather they are fiddling out time which may culminate in increased drop outs from academic institutions. Without good academic achievement, attainment of successful life is tough. Successive failures may convert them into a depressed generation where commitment and love will evaporate. Also is worth mentioning the existing law and order situation and infrastructure of our country which are not conducive to playful young life at spree as the western countries can afford. We should not mimic their ways of life, if eager to follow then can grab the positive things from them which are suitable for us in our country's and culture's context.

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Appendices:

Appendix-1: Questionnaire

Questionnaire

**To assess the impact of Mobile Phone on the
social life of teenagers of Bangladesh**

Prepared by:

Fatema Akter

Registration number 150

M. phil Session 2008-09

Sociology Department

University of Dhaka.

May 08, 2011

Introduction:

Thank you for your attention and interest to participate in this study of mine which will enable me to gather pertinent information to base my comment in my Mphil thesis paper on “Mobile Phone and the social life of teenagers of Bangladesh” under department of sociology, University of Dhaka.

This questionnaire includes a series of interwoven questions to learn about the role of mobile phone in teenagers lives in Bangladesh. The questions demonstrate my endeavor to know the impact of mobile phone as well as another technology that support its functions in forming personal relationship among the respondent groups/teenagers. Please answer these questions to the best of your ability and conscience to help me gather accurate information to support my conclusion on the subject matter of the thesis.

Your answers and personal details will be kept confidential.

Questionnaire:

About you respondent:

1. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female
2. Age group: ☐ 13-14 years ☐ 15-17 years ☐ 18-19 years
3. Residence/where do you live? :
4. Living with/ie, Who do you live with? :
- Parent's Occupation :
5. Type of home you live in (eg, own house, flat rental, etc) :
6. Level of ☐ Primary ☐ SSC ☐ HSC ☐ Graduation/Hono
education:
7. Religion:
8. Attitudes about mobile phones

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Statement	(1) strongly disagree	(2) disagree	(3) agree	(4) strongly agree
1. Mobile phones are necessary tools in				

Statement	(1) strongly disagree	(2) disagree	(3) agree	(4) strongly agree
today's society				
2. Teenagers need a mobile phone				
3. Mobile phones are more important than others devices like computer, TV, DVD, camera				
4. People can maintain easily their relationship by using Mobile Phone				
5. People can make friendship easily by using Mobile Phone.				

Use of mobile phone:

9. Do you ever use a mobile ☐ Yes ☐ No
phone?
10. When did you start using a mobile phone? :
11. What motivated you to use the mobile phone? Check all that apply.
- ☐ For emergencies or personal safety
 - ☐ My friends all have a mobile phone
 - ☐ To keep in touch with friends
 - ☐ To keep in touch with parents/ family members
 - ☐ My home phone doesn't give any personal space
 - ☐ I can make calls at all times
 - ☐ To send & receive text messages
 - ☐ For updating others on changes in plan/program
 - ☐ To make plan any time
 - ☐ To receive video, voice mail
 - ☐ Others
12. Please tell the CHIEF REASON for using the mobile phone: which one is the most important reason from the above? :

13. Why do you think so? :
14. What do you commonly do with your mobile phone? Please tick all that apply:
- ☐ Talk with friends
 - ☐ Talk with family
 - ☐ Play games
 - ☐ Take pictures
 - ☐ Listen to music
 - ☐ E-mail
 - ☐ Browse web just for fun
 - ☐ SMS with friends
 - ☐ Sharing videos/photos with friends
15. Which one is the most important to you from the above? Why do you think so, please explain:
16. How often do you send text messages?
- ☐ Several times a day
 - ☐ 1-2 days in a week
 - ☐ About once a day
 - ☐ Less often
17. On average, how many text messages do you SEND per day? Please put a number :

18. On average, how many text messages do you RECEIVE per day? Please put a number :
19. In which time of the day do you usually use your mobile phone more? Please tick all that apply:

- ☐ Morning
- ☐ Afternoon
- ☐ Evening
- ☐ late night

What's the reason to choose this particular time? :

20. How much, if at all, has the mobile phone improved your relationship with your FRIENDS?

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ Not at all.

21. How does your use of mobile phone support your personal relationship? Tick all that apply:

- ☐ Talking
- ☐ Texting / sexting
- ☐ Share personal photos
- ☐ Share videos
- ☐ Others.....

22. Do you ever share any mms/video through your mobile phone Bluetooth option?

☐ Yes ☐ No

23. If yes, what type of videos /photos you shared with your friend/ partner?

☐ Sharing compromising photo to learn each other bodies

☐ X-rated porn videos

☐ Sexual materials /pictures

☐ Others

24. Do you think it as a common scenario to share sexually suggestive image/videos between all romantic partners/friends?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Romantic Partners:

25. Do you have any romantic partners?

☐ Yes ☐ No

26. Have you ever received/sent any of the following (between you two romantic partners)?

Sexually suggestive nude or nearly nude photos or videos ☐ Yes ☐ No

27. Do you think it as a common scenario between all romantic partners? ☐ Yes ☐ No

28. Have you ever experienced whole night talk with any of your partner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

29. How many times (hours) do you and your partner talk daily with each other over mobile phone? :

How much, if at all, has mobile phone improved your ability to maintain new personal romantic relationship?

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ Not at all.

30. Do you ever make date with your partner by mobile phone? ☐ Yes ☐ No
31. Do you meet each other regularly? ☐ Yes ☐ No
32. If yes, what kinds of things do you enjoy doing together as a couple?
33. When together, where do you usually hang out? :
34. Do you to do oral sex with your romantic partner? ☐ Yes ☐ No
35. Do you get any unwanted demand for sexual activity from your partner or any one through mobile phone? ☐ Yes ☐ No
36. Do you believe in premarital sex? ☐ Yes ☐ No

37. How have you learned about sex? Please tick all apply:

- ☐ from friends
- ☐ x-rated film
- ☐ from your romantic partner
- ☐ porn website through internet

Use of mobile internet:

38. Do you have internet access in your mobile phone? ☐ Yes ☐ No

39. What has motivated you to use internet through mobile phone? Please tick all that apply:

- ☐ Easy to access
- ☐ To down load songs & easy to install
- ☐ To download porn/nude pictures & easy to install
- ☐ Can access when need
- ☐ Low cost
- ☐ All time available
- ☐ Easy to handle

40. How much time do you spend daily on internet? ☐ 30m – 45m ☐ less ☐ more

41. Do you ever access any porn or semi porn site through mobile phone? ☐ Yes ☐ No

42. Have you ever recorded your own sex act and shared it with others? ☐ Yes ☐ No

43. Do you think it's very common to record own sex between two romantic partners & share it with others/or between them through mobile MMS?

☐ Yes ☐ No

44. Have you ever exchanged porn or semi porn photo through mobile phone? ☐ Yes ☐ No

45. Have you ever experienced sex with your partner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

46. If yes, aren't you afraid of the consequence of sex such pregnancy, or STD ☐ Yes ☐ No

47. If yes, what do you do as a precautionary measure?

48. If no, can you please explain why are you not scared of the consequence of having premarital sex :

49. Do you think availability of contraceptives encourages you to have sex with your romantic partner?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you so much.

Appendix-2: Checklist

Checklist for Case Studies:

1. Age, Sex
2. Please tell me about your educational background?
3. Whom do you live in? Where /area do you live in? Is it own house or rental flat?
4. Please tell me about your family? Your parents occupation
5. Do you use mobile phone? Tell me about its facilities, how is the mobile phone used for communication?
6. How has the mobile phone improve the ability to maintain your relationship?
7. With whom do you talk more? Do you have any intimate partner? How many? If more how can manage all at a time?
8. What is the subject matter of talking? Is there any very intimate matters or sexual matters have you ever discussed over mobile phone? What was that?
9. When usually call your friends/partners? How long talk with them?
10. Do you have whole night talk experienced with you partner? What was the subject matter for a long time?
11. What are the usage patterns of mobile phone to support your intimate relationship?

Do you ever share sexually suggestive videos or photos through mobile phone to support your intimate relationship?

12. How important the relationship to you?
13. How do you meet each other? How much time do you and you partner spend together? What kinds of things do you enjoy doing as a couple?
14. Do you believe in premarital relationship? Do you believe in premarital sex?
15. Do you do oral sex with your partner?
16. Have you ever experienced sex with your partners?
17. Are you aware of the consequences of sex?
18. What is the precaution you take having sex?