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Topic: History & Impact of Smartphones over Society

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Literature Review: History & Impact of Smartphones over Society

Introduction:

Smartphones are a class of mobile phones and of multiple computing devices that are used in the everyday life of the average person. Smartphones have a long history to them that dates as far back as 1992 when the first smartphone by IBM, who revealed a revolutionary device that had more capabilities than its preceding cell phones.

The modern smartphone has taken an incredible journey to reach us in 2020. With time smartphones have transformed from the large bulky luxury items to small, portable, and compact devices we can't live without. In fact, 168.183 million of the population in Pakistan own smartphones by the end of 2019.

The history and evolution of the smartphones is important for us to understand, because it gives us a glimpse of where we've come from, and of what's coming.

Start of Pocket Computers:

1970's:

These pocket computers had their start when a senior engineer from Motorola named Martin Cooper was standing near a 900 MHz base station in midtown Manhattan, undoubtedly dialed the number of bell labs in New Jersey on the date April 3, 1973.

Cooper had used Motorola DynaTAC 8000x, a product that wouldn't go on sale to the public for another decade; it isn't quite clear on what was said in this call. By 1979, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) introduced the first ever (analog) 1G phone service in Tokyo.

1980's:

Although NNT gave Japanese the first access to mobile service, it was several years before technology moved into the mainstream worldwide. It was on March 13, 1984 that the Motorola DynaTAC 8 of Cooper's call finally went on sale for \$ 3,995.

The 8000x wasn't similar to the phones of today; it weighed almost two pounds and took ten hours to charge for thirty minutes of talk time.

By April 25, 1989, the Motorola MicroTAC 9800x showcased true mobility with its (relatively) compact size and flip-up mouthpiece. They both still had antennas, and could only be used to place calls.

1990's:

This decade had brought a momentous change onto society as it was never the same again. In 1992, the GSM standard established a common network access Europe and provided users with

uninterrupted service even when crossed borders. The GSM phone, the Nokia 1011, which went on sale November 9, 1992, also introduced text-messaging.

First Smartphone:

The prototype smartphone of 1992 by IBM was known as the Simon personal communicator, but this hadn't reached the consumers until 1994 and the term "smartphone" wasn't used until 1995.

This device contained the modern elements of what creates and makes a phone identify as a smartphone. It had the attributes: Touch screen(monochrome LCD screen measuring 4.5 inches by 1.4 inches), it came with a stylus, Email, Fax, notes and calendar, Apps and other widgets that would become widespread decades later.

This phone did come with a hefty price though, with the price tag of \$899, \$1,435 in today's dollar (234,586.62 rupees).

IBM managed to sell approximately 50,000 units, according to Bloomberg BusinessWeek. This device was created 15 years before apple released the iPhone. Smartphones have irrevocably changed our lives. Mobile internet access allows employees to work from anyways, while countless apps help people file their taxes, track their spending, or simply stay in touch with their old friends.

Smartphones Advance through Time:

Smartphones made a rapid change in the loves of people as it became widely spread with time. It started with Simon Personal Communicator in 1992 as stated above and soon new smartphones entered the trend and evolved smartphones as a whole.

After the Simon Personal Communicator, came blackberry, the first blackberry mobile device was the Blackberry 5810. It had what you would think it would when you hear of "blackberry" such as calendar, music, a full keyboard, advanced security, and internet access, but you had to make calls through a headset. Blackberry was primarily aimed at business professionals.

They kept releasing more and more advanced devices, and we're the market leaders in the smartphone industry, until iPhone took the steam.

As time went on Blackberry seemed to have lost sight of their target customer, and bottomed out with 0% market share in 2017.

It's the late 2000's and Apple had entered the smartphone race. Apple had already begun transforming how people use portable technology with the iPod, and the stage was set for them to unveil their latest device in 2007.

Although this wasn't the first touchscreen phone on the market, it came at a time when the mobile industry was predominantly made up of phones with physical keyboards, small screens, and clunky designs.

The iPhone was one of the most advanced consumer smartphones the market had ever seen. The iPhone's large touchscreen could flip through websites just like a desktop computer, all while looking sleeker than what the consumers had seen before. Priced at \$499 for the 4gb unit and \$599 for the 8gb model, users flocked the device, and to the AT&T carrier it was exclusive to.

Apple sold 1.4 million iPhones its first year in the market, and the device exploded to 11.6 million sold in 2008.

Apple already had the iPod video, but one large drawback was it's small, 4:3 aspect ratio screen. The iPhone came with a wide LCD screen that was perfect for video.

Its extended battery life allowed for 8 hours of talk time and 250 hours in standby. The battery was a huge improvement over IBM's Simon. It also made the iPhone a much more consumer-friendly device, particularly for daily use.

The hardware was impressive, but the software, in the form of 3rd party apps, expanded the iPhone's capabilities and created a revolution for the industry.

Millions of apps arrived on the iPhone, adding to the device's feature set daily. Before long, the smartphone market exploded, and in 2015, 84% of Americans said they can't go a day without their phone.

Many experts in the industry nothing 2007, as the most significant moment in smartphone history.

There's a large difference in hardware from 2007 to 2020. In short, everything is more advanced. Some of the attributes that show us the advancement in smartphones throughout the years are: there's way more memory, Devices are far faster and more powerful, you can use multiple applications at the same time, cameras are HD, music and video streaming are easy, as well as online gaming, the battery lasts for days instead of minutes or a couple hours.

The Impact of Smartphones over Society:

The emergence of communication and computing for mobile consumer devices is of the evolutionary course to bring interoperability and leverage the services and functions of every industry. Smartphones have brought an irrevocable impact upon our society. As it's changed it for the better, revolutionizing our lives, though it's also brought negative effects on our lives and how society now functions.

Smartphones are distinguished from feature phones by their stronger hardware capabilities and extensive mobile operating system, which facilitate wider software, internet (including web browsing over mobile broadband), and multimedia functionality (including music, video, cameras, and gaming), alongside core phone functions such as voice calls and text messaging.

1. Impact on Education

Smartphones provide a unique way to improve the quality of education. The use of the internet has become a part of life for every student. Internet together with smartphones, provide an alternative channel to deliver education services and distant education.

2. Health impact

Today there are several apps to manage prescriptions, promote alternative, treatment options, provide price comparison, and validate prescriptions. Today several apps are available to track exercise, diet and blood pressure, enabling smartphones to play a key role in the health sector.

3. Psychological impact

Smartphones are said to reduce stress in busy work life. In today's busy schedules mobile phones provide a means to interact with friends and families when they get time. The smart use of smartphones increase your brain's functioning helping to stay active. Instead of using smartphones only for entertainment it could be used to access useful information, for example, access the news headlines, latest technology updates, and more.

4. Social impact

Social life has been drastically changed with the introduction of smartphones and this domain has encountered most of the impact from the use of smartphones. Smartphones play an important role in the integration process of people with special needs, elderly age and with some sort of disabilities.

Advantages:

1. Emergencies

People worldwide carry mobile devices. Many carry them in case an emergency situation arises, from a flat tire to a natural disaster. Some mobile phone companies now include your panic buttons and GPS tracking devices in phones, making it easier for people to be reached and to reach responders with just the press of a buttons.

Smartphones offer security and peace of mind to many, including elderly and very young, when they are away from a landline. Mobile users are able to instantly inform law enforcement if they see an emergency or a crime being committed.

2. Friendly communication

Mobile phones allow friends and family members to stay in touch, no matter the distance or location. Thought text messaging, picture messaging, new internet technology, email and long-distance services, you can talk, send pictures, send videos, and read emails in an instant, even if your family member is away at school or fighting a war overseas. A decade ago, these options were not available.

3. Productivity

Mobile phones help organizations stay on top of businesses 24/7. Mobile phones allow business men and women to conduct business on the road, in the air, at any time of the day. Mobile phone conference calling allows partners to meet via the phone while traveling. Applications on phones, such as calendars, note keepers, voice recorders, and alarms, all help people stay organized up and on time. If you are late or stuck in traffic, you could use your phone to call the boss. These are only a few of the many advantages phone provide us.

Disadvantages:

1. Costly

Smartphones can be expensive, especially those high-end phones with great specs and features. Apart from the smartphone itself, some applications require being purchased in order to fully use the other functionalities offered by the app. If you also want data connectivity, you need to maintain a data plan.

2. Distraction

Despite the productivity, smartphones can really be distracting. Applications notify you when there are messages, updates, latest offerings, etc. These interrupt the momentum which can potentially affect your productivity. When you attend to these notifications, you'll find yourself attached to the phone.

3. Health issues

Smartphones are also found to have a negative impact on your health. Smartphones emit radio frequency energy which can be absorbed by the tissues in the body. Sleep deprivation is also one of the common bad effects of using smartphones. Moreover, phones produce HEV light which can damage your eyes retina.

These are a few of the disadvantages in smartphones, though one main negative effect phones have on people especially teenagers is how phones are addicting.

Addiction:

While a smartphone can be a hugely productive tool, compulsive use of these devices can interfere with work, school, and relationships. When you spend more time on social media or playing games than you do interacting with real people, or you can't stop yourself from repeatedly checking texts, emails, or apps, even when it has negative consequences in your life, it may be time to reassess your technology use. Smartphone addiction, sometimes colloquially known as "monophobia" (fear of being without a mobile phone), is often used by an internet overused problem it internet addiction disorder. After all, it'sstrately the phone or tablet itself that creates the compulsion, but rather the games, apps, and online world it connects us to.

Smartphone or Internet addiction can also negatively impact your life by increasing loneliness and depression, fueling anxiety, increasing stress, and disturbing your sleep.

Conclusion:

Learning the history and evolution of smartphones gives us an insight on where we've come from and where we're headed. It is true that smartphones have a sizeable impact on society and other aspects of life. Smartphone has impacted almost all walk of human life.

The prominent areas, where impacts of smartphone are obvious include business, education, health, and social life. Mobile technology has drastically changed the cultural norms and individual behaviors. The impacts are both on the positive and the negative side. There are several ways that can help control and minimize the negative impact of smartphone use on society by educating users on how to use smartphones smartly. The smartphones is only a pocket-sized PC today but the device seems to have limitless potential!