Chapter 6

GENDER ACCESS PATTERNS OF MOBILE PHONE COMMUNICATION

The development of mobile telephony started in 1918 with the tests of wireless telephony on military trains between Berlin-Zossen. In 1925, public trials launched with telephone connection on trains between Hamburg and Berlin. But the first mobile telephone calls were prepared in 1946 followed from the Bell System's Mobile Telephone Service (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_phone/...). In 1956, the world's first Mobile System was introduced in Sweden. In 1973, John F. Mitchell and Dr. Martin Cooper of Motorola displayed the first mobile phone. In 1991, the Second Generation (2G) of cellular technology commenced and after ten years in 2001 the Third Generation (3G) of cellular technology was introduced. Recently, mobile phone is overwhelming in society. Mobile phone is a device that can make and receive calls over a radio link while moving around a wide surface. It is popularly known as cellular phone or hand phone. Inside telephony modern mobile phone has a wide variety of services such as text messaging, MMS, E-mail, internet access, short-range wireless communications, business applications, gaming and photography. Besides, Mobile phone is subscribed to maintain a touch with family members, to perform business activity and to have an access at any emergency. Freedom of Information (FOI) comprises of good governance to enable understanding and participate in public affairs and also accountable for their decisions, actions and non-actions. FOI empowers people for enhancing capability, freedom towards bringing equitable development. It also imparts freedom of opinion and expression through any media. This chapter will discuss the patterns of gender access to mobile phone technology of communication comprising the mobile phone exposure, purpose, frequency, attitude and impact of mobile phone.

I

THE GENDER ACCESS PATTERNS OF MOBILE PHONE

Mobile Phone Exposure

One finds two types of communication network portable and non-portable. Portable connectivity belongs to cellular phone and non-portable connectivity belongs to

telecommunication or landline services. The cellular phone is assimilated with mobile phone. Mobile phone is a striking communication technology for each family member of urban society in Silchar. Many persons from the family members of the sampled households have extensive access to mobile phone technology of communication. There are 2847 persons from the sampled 124 households in Silchar town, out of which 1776 are mobile phone users and 503 are landline users or are using a combination of both. Individuals are subscribing this technology of communication irrespective of age-group: children (6-12 years), adolescents (13-17 years), early youth (18-25 years), late youth (26-31 years), early middle age (32-39 years), late middle age (40-45 years), early old age (46-50 years) and late old age (60 years and above). It is observed that mobile communication technology and landline have both users and non-users, consisting of both male and female users. 568 persons belong to non-users include both males and females. The following table shows the distribution of users and non-users of mobile phone and landline phone:

Table 6.1
Users and Non-Users of Mobile and Landline Phones
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Age-Group	Mobile Phone (%)						Landline Phone (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Users			Not Users			Users			Not Users					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Infants	--	--	--	20 (8.3)	18 (33.96)	38 (12.93)	--	--	--	35 (17.16)	28 (40)	63 (22.99)	55 (3.02)	46 (4.47)	101 (3.55)
Children	54 (5.33)	56 (7.35)	110 (6.19)	--	--	--	--	--	--	82 (40.2)	32 (45.71)	114 (41.61)	136 (7.48)	88 (8.56)	224 (7.87)
Adolescents	126 (12.43)	87 (11.42)	213 (11.99)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	126 (6.93)	87 (8.46)	213 (7.48)
Youth	301 (29.68)	223 (29.27)	524 (29.5)	--	--	--	30 (8.33)	68 (47.55)	98 (19.48)	--	--	--	331 (18.2)	291 (28.31)	622 (21.85)
Middle Aged	295 (29.09)	218 (28.61)	513 (28.89)	152 (63.07)	28 (52.83)	180 (61.22)	127 (35.28)	--	127 (25.25)	--	--	--	574 (31.56)	246 (23.93)	820 (28.8)
Old Aged	238 (23.47)	178 (23.36)	416 (23.42)	69 (28.63)	7 (13.21)	76 (25.85)	203 (56.39)	75 (52.45)	278 (55.27)	87 (42.65)	10 (14.29)	97 (35.4)	597 (32.82)	270 (26.26)	867 (30.45)
Total	1014 (100)	762 (100)	1776 (100)	241 (100)	53 (100)	294 (100)	360 (100)	143 (100)	503 (100)	204 (100)	70 (100)	274 (100)	1819 (100)	1028 (100)	2847 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that over one fourth (29.68%) of males from youth and middle age (29.09%) groups are mobile users followed by nearly one fourth from old age, over one tenth from adolescent age using mobile phone and the rest (insignificant number) uses mobile phone. Over one fourth (29.27%) of females of the households from youth age and (28.61%) middle age are mobile users, nearly one fourth from old age (23.36%) followed by over one tenth are children using mobile phone.

Nearly three fifths of males are middle aged who are non-users of mobile phone followed by over one fourth from old age who are not using mobile phone. Over half of females are middle aged who are not using mobile phone followed by over one tenth of them from old age.

Over half of males from old age are users of land line phone followed by over one third of middle age using land line phone, and the rest (insignificant number) from youth age are using land line phone. Over half (52.45%) of females old aged are using land line phone followed by nearly half (47.55%) who are youth using landline phone.

Thus, male and female users have equal access from youth and old age, where mobile phone is considered as safe guard due to free and easy access.

Mobile phone technology of communication is a significant Information and Communication Technology (ICT) creating facilities, empowerment, accountability, capability, in terms of gender. Therefore, it is intended to discusses on the analyses of mobile phone access, use, purpose, attitude and impact, dynamic use of mobile, advantages of mobile phone, disadvantages of mobile phone and finally the impact of mobile phone in social life.

This section demonstrates the access to mobile phone. Mobility has influenced to the soaring rate of mobile phone usage in society. Mobile phone device is the most common communication tool being subscribed by both males and females of any age group (from children to old-age), religion, occupation etc. Everyone is willing to have a mobile phone of one's own. Mobile phone-access is a favourite method of communication (Livingstone and Bober 2005). By accessing to mobile phone it is easy to know what is happening in surroundings. For any kind of appointment, the mobile phone can easily do it on time. The growth of mobile phone in market has been impressive and well addressed over the decade. Its impact has been a positive influence on business practices, academic practices and also social practices. Business practices refer to economic purpose that imparts quick connectivity from one corner of a country to another that improves economic growth. Academic practice implies school activity or teaching-learning

activity that signifies information through text message. Mobile phone also creates disturbance while student is accessing to it during class hour particularly, while teacher is taking class. In this situation, it is very difficult to control them by the teacher because they can easily hide the device due to its smaller size. It is observed that infants are only accessing to mobile phone as a playing device like accessing to key pads, seeing cartoon videos, listening songs etc. The distribution of place of accessing to mobile phone by individuals is shown in the following table:

Table 6.2
Place of Access to Mobile Phone among Individuals
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Place of Access	Age-Group (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	Children			Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=54	Female N=56	Total N=110	Male N=126	Female N=87	Total N=213	Male N=301	Female N=223	Total N=524	Male N=295	Female N=218	Total N=513	Male N=238	Female N=178	Total N=416	Male N=1014	Female N=762	Total N=1776
Home	32 (59.26)	31 (55.36)	63 (57.27)	23 (18.25)	23 (26.44)	46 (21.6)	70 (23.26)	73 (32.74)	143 (27.29)	70 (23.73)	70 (32.11)	140 (27.29)	66 (27.73)	72 (40.45)	138 (33.17)	261 (25.74)	269 (35.3)	530 (29.84)
Outside Home	24 (44.44)	27 (48.21)	51 (46.36)	29 (23.02)	26 (29.89)	55 (25.82)	89 (29.57)	96 (43.05)	185 (35.31)	91 (30.85)	96 (44.04)	187 (36.45)	93 (39.08)	96 (53.93)	189 (45.43)	326 (32.15)	341 (44.75)	667 (37.56)
Business Place	--	--	--	47 (37.3)	24 (27.59)	71 (33.33)	74 (24.58)	35 (15.7)	109 (20.8)	74 (25.08)	34 (15.6)	108 (21.05)	56 (23.53)	14 (7.87)	70 (16.83)	251 (24.75)	107 (14.04)	358 (20.16)
Driving Place	--	--	--	31 (24.6)	18 (20.69)	49 (23)	72 (23.92)	23 (10.31)	95 (18.13)	64 (21.69)	22 (10.09)	86 (16.76)	27 (11.34)	--	27 (6.49)	194 (19.13)	63 (8.27)	257 (14.47)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table depicts that nearly three fifths of the males in the sampled children are accessing to mobile phone at home followed by over two fifths accessing to mobile phone from outside home. Over half of the female children are accessing to mobile phone at home followed by nearly half accessing to mobile phone from outside home.

Over one fourth of male youths are accessing to mobile phone at outside home followed by business place (24.58%), driving place (23.92%), home (23.26%). Over two fifths of female youths are accessing to mobile phone from outside home followed by nearly one third accessing at home , over one tenth accessing to mobile phone at business place and the rest (insignificant no) accessing to mobile phone at driving place.

Nearly two fifths (38.02%) of males from old age are accessing to mobile phone at outside home followed by over one fourth accessing to mobile phone at home. Nearly one fourth (22.73%) are accessing to mobile phone at business place and the rest one tenth accessing to mobile phone at driving place. Over half of females from old age are accessing to mobile phone from outside home followed by two fifths accessing to mobile phone at home, the rest (insignificant number) accessing to mobile phone at business place.

Thus, majority of females are accessing to mobile phone at and out of home due to easy access, easy to carry and easy to getting quick network.

Purpose of Accessing to Mobile Phone

The purpose of accessing to mobile phone has various dimensions like academic, business, collecting information etc. The distribution of purpose of accessing to mobile phone by various age-groups of family members is shown in the following table:

Table 6.3
Purposes of Accessing to Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Purpose	Age-Group (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	Children			Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=54	Female N=56	Total N=110	Male N=126	Female N=87	Total N=213	Male N=301	Female N=223	Total N=524	Male N=295	Female N=218	Total N=513	Male N=238	Female N=178	Total N=416	Male N=1014	Female N=762	Total N=1776
Game	32 (59.26)	36 (64.29)	68 (61.82)	33 (26.19)	--	33 (15.49)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	65 (6.41)	36 (4.72)	101 (5.69)
Academic/ Mathematical Calculation	24 (44.44)	22 (39.29)	46 (41.82)	44 (34.92)	48 (55.17)	92 (43.19)	80 (26.58)	88 (39.46)	168 (32.06)	40 (13.56)	60 (27.52)	100 (19.49)	--	--	--	188 (18.54)	218 (28.61)	406 (22.86)
Business	--	--	--	35 (27.78)	17 (19.54)	52 (24.41)	114 (37.87)	58 (26.01)	172 (32.82)	148 (50.17)	60 (27.52)	208 (40.55)	130 (54.62)	48 (26.97)	178 (42.79)	427 (42.11)	183 (24.02)	610 (34.35)
Collecting Information	--	--	--	26 (20.63)	31 (35.63)	57 (26.76)	116 (38.54)	86 (38.57)	202 (38.55)	116 (39.32)	107 (49.08)	223 (43.47)	112 (47.06)	134 (75.28)	246 (59.13)	370 (36.49)	358 (46.98)	728 (40.99)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that over half of males children are accessing to mobile phone for playing followed by over two fifths are accessing for mathematical calculation. Over three fifths of female children are accessing to mobile phone for playing mobile games followed by nearly two fifths using for mathematical calculation.

Nearly half of male adolescents, followed by over one fourth are accessing to mobile phone for collecting information while nearly one fourth are accessing for business. Over one fourth of female adolescents are accessing to mobile phone for doing mathematical calculation followed by one fourth are using for collecting information.

Over two fifths of male youth are accessing to mobile phone for business purpose followed by over one third are using for collecting information. Half of female youth are accessing to mobile phone for collecting information followed by one fourth who are using for doing mathematical calculation.

Over half of males from middle age-group are accessing to mobile phone for business purpose followed by over one third accessing for collecting information. Over two fifths of females from middle age-group are accessing to mobile phone for collecting information followed by nearly one fifths using for doing mathematical calculation.

Over half of males from old age are accessing to mobile phone for business purpose followed by more than two fifths using for collecting information. Majority of females from old age-group are accessing to mobile phone for collecting information followed by over more than one tenth are using mobile phone for business purpose.

Thus, it signifies that majority of males are accessing mobile phone in business sector for getting up-to-date market report and for rapid sending and receiving of calls. On the contrary, majority of females are using mobile phone for collecting information about relatives, friends and sons or daughters who are residing in and out of the nation that strengthens their social connectivity.

Frequency of Access

Frequency is grouped into two categories like daily and often. The distribution of frequency of accessing to mobile phone by the members of different age-groups in a family is shown in the following table:

Table 6.4
Frequency of Accessing to Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Frequency	Age-Group (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	Children			Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Often	54 (100)	56 (100)	110 (100)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	54 (5.33)	56 (7.35)	110 (6.19)
Daily	--	--	--	126 (100)	87 (100)	213 (100)	301 (100)	223 (100)	524 (100)	295 (100)	218 (100)	513 (100)	238 (100)	178 (100)	416 (100)	960 (94.67)	706 (92.65)	1666 (93.81)
Total	54 (100)	56 (100)	110 (100)	126 (100)	87 (100)	213 (100)	301 (100)	223 (100)	524 (100)	295 (100)	218 (100)	513 (100)	238 (100)	178 (100)	416 (100)	1014 (100)	762 (100)	1776 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that all the male and female adolescents, youth, middle and old aged are accessing to mobile phone daily. Thus, the males and females of different age-groups have equal access to mobile phone due to availability of the device.

II

GENDER ATTITUDE PATTERNS IN THE ACCESS TO MOBILE PHONE

This section introduces gender attitudes in the access of mobile phone. It is categorized into four groups; namely, don't like, like a little, like much, like very much etc. The distribution of gender's attitude towards the access of mobile phone by individuals is shown in the following table:

Table 6.5
Gender Attitudes in Access to Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Likeness	Age Group (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	Children			Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Don't Like	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	128 (53.78)	46 (25.84)	174 (41.83)	128 (12.62)	46 (6.04)	174 (9.8)
Like a Little	--	--	--	37 (29.37)	32 (36.78)	69 (32.39)	--	--	--	37 (12.54)	57 (26.15)	94 (18.32)	110 (46.22)	132 (74.16)	242 (58.17)	184 (18.15)	221 (29)	405 (22.8)
Like Much	--	--	--	55 (43.65)	28 (32.18)	83 (38.97)	146 (48.5)	91 (40.81)	237 (45.23)	145 (49.15)	57 (26.15)	202 (39.38)	--	--	--	346 (34.12)	176 (23.1)	522 (29.39)
Like Very Much	54 (100)	56 (100)	110 (100)	34 (26.98)	27 (31.03)	61 (28.64)	155 (51.5)	132 (59.19)	287 (54.77)	113 (38.31)	104 (47.71)	217 (42.3)	--	--	--	356 (35.11)	319 (41.86)	675 (38.01)
Total	54 (100)	56 (100)	110 (100)	126 (100)	87 (100)	213 (100)	301 (100)	223 (100)	524 (100)	295 (100)	218 (100)	513 (100)	238 (100)	178 (100)	416 (100)	1014 (100)	762 (100)	1776 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that all male and female children like mobile phone very much. Over two fifths (43.65%) of males from adolescent age-group like mobile phone much followed by over one fourth each liking mobile phone a little (29.37%) and like mobile phone very much (26.98%). Nearly two fifths of females from adolescent age-group like mobile phone a little followed by nearly one third (32.18%) like mobile phone much and (31.03%) like mobile phone very much. Nearly half of males from youth age like mobile phone much followed by over half (51.5%) like mobile phone very much. Over half of female youth like mobile phone very much followed by nearly half (48.5%) like mobile phone much.

Thus, it indicates that both males and females equally like mobile phone very much where it signifies no digital discrimination and no gender gap in access.

Impact Pattern of Mobile Phone

Impact of mobile phone implies achievement of mobile phone and application of it in everyday interaction that effects on gender. In this context, Erving Goffman (1967) in his work on interactions in everyday life has been recently enhanced by Randall Collins (2004). Ling disagrees with Collins particularly in viewing forms of mobile communication that are creating precisely entertainment and contribute to cohesion. While disturbing situations of interaction, mobile technology strengthens the bonds of family and friends, produces bounded solidarity (Durkheim 1893). The above mentioned studies of eminent sociologists are reflected in the social life of day to day interactions of individuals in the study of Silchar town. It is observed that the total mobile users are 1776 out of where children users (110) are not sharing opinion in impact pattern. The impact patterns of the access to mobile phone are shown in the following table:

Table 6.6
Gender Impacts of Mobile Phone Access
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Impact	Age-Group (%)												Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=126	Female N=87	Total N=213	Male N=301	Female N=223	Total N=524	Male N=295	Female N=218	Total N=513	Male N=238	Female N=178	Total N=416	Male N=960	Female N=706	Total N=1666
Helpful	28 (22.22)	40 (45.98)	68 (31.92)	118 (39.2)	107 (47.98)	225 (42.94)	108 (36.61)	83 (38.07)	191 (37.23)	141 (59.24)	95 (53.37)	236 (56.73)	395 (41.15)	325 (46.03)	720 (53.22)
Less Expensive	33 (26.19)	33 (37.93)	66 (30.99)	111 (36.88)	89 (39.91)	200 (38.17)	120 (40.68)	68 (31.19)	188 (36.65)	101 (42.44)	87 (48.88)	188 (45.19)	365 (38.02)	277 (39.24)	642 (38.54)
Quick Connectivity	74 (58.73)	23 (26.44)	97 (45.54)	81 (26.91)	36 (16.14)	117 (22.33)	76 (25.76)	76 (34.86)	152 (29.63)	--	--	--	231 (24.06)	135 (19.12)	366 (21.97)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that over half of male adolescent find mobile phone as quick connecting device followed by (23.26%) who consider that mobile phone is less expensive device (less expensive consists of one who can re-charge bill phone by starting from Rs.10/- to Rs.100/- and above) and the rest (19.38%) find it helpful by its use. Over two fifths of female adolescents find it helpful by its use followed by one third liking quick connectivity. Near about two fifths of males from middle age find that mobile phone is less expensive followed by over one third finding that mobile phone is helpful and the rest (one fourth) find it as quick connecting device. Over one third of females from middle age-group say that mobile phone is helpful followed by one third who say that mobile phone is quick connecting device and the rest (one fourth) find it less expensive in nature.

Thus, it shows that more males from middle age-group support that mobile phone is less expensive where they can easily pay pre-paid bill. On the other hand, majority of females find mobile phone as a quick connecting device where it can reduce the distance within no time and as a result they get digital empowerment.

III

GENDER USE PATTERNS OF MOBILE PHONE

Mobile phone is an essential device to youth, middle age to arrange their social life (Menceron 1997) as all social life is based on ongoing interaction. Adolescent age is a time of exceeding the family boundaries to engender wider spread of network with peers. Young person's use of mobile phone is functional for his life. It is functional in the sense that young person can assemble or reassemble social functions quickly that leads to "more fluid culture of information of social interaction" (Geser 2004). Further, the use of mobile phone has extended synchronization of communication that has no social constraint and rather more spatial mobility. The use patterns of mobile phone are directly to communicate relatives, friends or any person that enhances more flexibility and spontaneity for persons from any age group, religion, income groups in their lives. The uses of mobile phone in social life are shown in the following table:

Table 6.7
Gender Uses of Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Age-Group	Use of Mobile Phone in Social Life (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	On (when ?)			Off (when ?)									Roaming (when ?)					
	Always			Night			In Meeting			In Busy Schedule			Travelling					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Adolescents	105 (18.45)	74 (17.66)	179 (18.12)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	21 (19.09)	13 (16.25)	34 (17.89)	126 (13.13)	87 (12.32)	213 (12.79)
Youth	205 (36.03)	149 (35.56)	354 (35.83)	22 (19.82)	--	22 (11.34)	27 (29.67)	21 (33.87)	48 (31.37)	23 (29.11)	27 (43.55)	50 (35.46)	24 (21.82)	26 (32.5)	50 (26.32)	301 (31.35)	223 (31.59)	524 (31.45)
Middle Aged	110 (19.33)	98 (23.39)	208 (21.05)	37 (33.33)	33 (39.76)	70 (36.08)	39 (42.86)	21 (33.87)	60 (39.22)	56 (70.89)	35 (56.45)	91 (64.54)	53 (48.18)	31 (38.75)	84 (44.21)	295 (30.73)	218 (30.88)	513 (30.79)
Old Aged	149 (26.19)	98 (23.39)	247 (25)	52 (46.85)	50 (60.24)	102 (52.58)	25 (27.47)	20 (32.26)	45 (29.41)	--	--	--	12 (10.91)	10 (12.5)	22 (11.58)	238 (24.79)	178 (25.21)	416 (24.97)
Total	569 (100)	419 (100)	988 (100)	111 (100)	83 (100)	194 (100)	91 (100)	62 (100)	153 (100)	79 (100)	62 (100)	141 (100)	110 (100)	80 (100)	190 (100)	960 (100)	706 (100)	1666 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table analyses that over one third of the male youth keep mobile phone in "On Mode" always followed by over one fourth from old age. Over one third of female youth keep mobile phone in "On Mode" always followed by nearly one third from middle age and old age. Two fifths of males from middle age are using mobile phone in "Off Mode" at meetings followed by over one fourth of them from youth and old age.

Nearly one third of females from middle age and youth are using mobile phone in "Off Mode" at meetings and the rest (over one fourth) from old age.

In "Roaming Mode", while on travelling, over two fifths of males are using mobile phone that belong to middle age followed by one fifth of them who belong to youth, nearly one fifth of them belong to adolescent, one tenth of them belong to old age. In "Roaming Mode" while on travelling, over one third of females are using mobile phone followed by nearly one third of them belong to youth, more than one tenth of them belong to adolescent age.

Thus, it signifies that both males and females are always equally using the device while at night, male youth use more than females. At meetings, female youth and old age are more in "Off Mode" due to getting disturbance from strangers while in "Roaming Mode", male from middle age are more than females.

Average Bill of Phone Calls

Average bill consists of minimum bill that is used for re-charging of mobile network connection. It is of two types like pre-paid bill and post-paid bill. The distribution of types of average bill that is afforded by different gender age-groups is shown in the following table:

Table 6.8
Types of Average Bill of Phone Calls
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Age-Group	Average Bill (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Pre-Paid			Post-Paid					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Adolescents	126 (18.26)	87 (18.59)	213 (18.39)	--	--	--	126 (13.13)	87 (12.32)	213 (12.79)
Youth	166 (24.06)	102 (21.79)	268 (23.14)	135 (50)	121 (50.84)	256 (50.39)	301 (31.35)	223 (31.59)	524 (31.45)

Middle Age	160 (23.19)	101 (21.58)	261 (22.54)	135 (50)	117 (49.16)	252 (49.61)	295 (30.73)	218 (30.88)	513 (30.79)
Old Age	238 (34.49)	178 (38.03)	416 (35.92)	--	--	--	238 (24.79)	178 (25.21)	416 (24.97)
Total	690 (100)	468 (100)	1158 (100)	270 (100)	238 (100)	508 (100)	960 (100)	706 (100)	1666 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that over one third (34.49%) of males from old age pay pre-paid bill while nearly one fourth from youth (24.06%) and middle age (23.19%) groups also pay pre-paid bill. Nearly two fifths of females from old age pay pre-paid bill and near about one fourth of them from youth and middle age pay pre-paid bill.

Half of males from youth age pay post paid bill followed by nearly half of females paying post-paid bill.

Thus, it indicates that majority of males are using pre-paid bills. On the contrary, both male and female become equal in accessing pre-paid bill that shows equal digital access.

Dynamic Use Pattern of Mobile Phone

The males and females access cell phone actively by obtaining different applications through it. Various commercial companies like Nokia, Samsung, Carbon, Blackberry, Sony etc. and one service provider like Vodafone have also extended various facilities and applications in cell phone. These applications are grouped into six categories, namely, FM Radio, songs, games, blue tooth, E-mail and camera. It is found that there are 1776 users including children. The uses of various applications in mobile phone by male, female and age-groups are shown in the following table:

Table 6.9
Dynamic Uses of Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Dynamic Use	Age Group (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	Children			Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=54	Female N=56	Total N=110	Male N=126	Female N=87	Total N=213	Male N=301	Female N=223	Total N=524	Male N=295	Female N=218	Total N=513	Male N=238	Female N=178	Total N=416	Male N=1014	Female N=762	Total N=1776
F.M Radio	--	--	--	26 (20.63)	23 (26.44)	49 (23)	60 (19.93)	64 (28.7)	124 (23.66)	--	--	--	--	--	--	86 (8.48)	87 (11.42)	173 (9.74)
Songs	21 (38.89)	26 (46.43)	47 (42.73)	33 (26.19)	21 (24.14)	54 (25.35)	45 (14.95)	61 (27.35)	106 (20.23)	78 (26.44)	86 (39.45)	164 (31.97)	--	--	--	177 (17.46)	194 (25.46)	371 (20.89)
Games	21 (38.89)	19 (33.93)	40 (36.36)	18 (14.29)	15 (17.24)	33 (15.49)	--	--	--	--	--	--	08 (3.36)	06 (3.37)	14 (3.37)	47 (4.64)	40 (5.25)	87 (4.9)
Blue tooth	--	--	--	33 (26.19)	16 (18.39)	49 (23)	55 (18.27)	28 (12.56)	83 (15.84)	61 (20.68)	51 (23.39)	112 (21.83)	--	--	--	149 (14.69)	95 (12.47)	244 (13.74)
E-mail	--	--	--	24 (19.05)	19 (21.84)	43 (20.19)	80 (26.58)	65 (29.15)	145 (27.67)	98 (33.22)	49 (22.48)	147 (28.65)	113 (47.48)	--	113 (27.16)	315 (31.07)	133 (17.45)	448 (25.23)
Camera	21 (38.89)	20 (35.71)	41 (37.27)	28 (22.22)	29 (33.33)	57 (26.76)	86 (28.57)	30 (13.45)	116 (22.14)	78 (26.44)	52 (23.85)	130 (25.34)	126 (52.94)	178 (100)	304 (73.08)	339 (33.43)	309 (40.55)	648 (36.49)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table depicts that nearly one third of male are children play games through mobile phone and listen songs. Nearly two fifths of female children listen songs followed by over one fourth of them using camera.

Over one third of males from middle age send and receive e-mails, followed by nearly one fourth listening songs through mobile phones and using camera through mobile phone and the rest (one fifth) use bluetooth through mobile phone. Over one third of females from middle age listen songs through mobile phone followed by over one fifths (21.17%) using camera through mobile phone and one fifth use bluetooth.

Thus, it shows that majority of males are using bluetooth facility of mobile phone which is the sole means of establishing network connectivity within a specific geographical domain. It shows similar patterns of dynamic uses of mobile phone among males and females.

Advantages of Mobile Phone

Mobile phone has influenced the society irrespective of any age group. Children are accessing to the device but they can't share these advantages to those who are using it for entertainment purpose. Early studies ranging from Hardy (1980) to the recent Kathuria, Uppal, and Mamta (2009) have revealed the significant impact of telecom services on economic growth and development. From a more micro-economic angle, Donner (2006), Jensen (2007), Abraham (2007), Aker (2008), and de Silva and Ratnadiwakara (2008), among others, have shown how phones reduce information search costs, leading to lower transaction costs. Others like Bayes, Von Braun and Akhter (1999), Goodman (2005), Frost and Sullivan (2006), and Kwaku Kyem and LeMaire (2006) have shown how mobile phone adoption leads to greater social cohesion and improved social relationships. The distribution of the advantages of mobile phones that are used by both males and females are shown in the following table:

Table 6.10
Gender and Advantages of Mobile Phone Use
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Advantages of Mobile Phone	Age-Group (%)															Grand Total (%)		
	Children			Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=54	Female N=56	Total N=110	Male N=45	Female N=32	Total N=77	Male N=142	Female N=114	Total N=256	Male N=136	Female N=49	Total N=185	Male N=118	Female N=73	Total N=191	Male N=495	Female N=324	Total N=819
Calculating Device	25 (46.3)	29 (51.79)	54 (49.09)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	25 (5.05)	29 (8.95)	54 (6.59)
Playing Device	33 (61.11)	31 (55.36)	64 (58.18)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33 (6.67)	31 (9.57)	64 (7.81)
Portable	--	--	--	15 (33.33)	11 (34.38)	26 (33.77)	46 (32.39)	44 (38.6)	90 (35.16)	47 (34.56)	14 (28.57)	61 (32.97)	40 (33.9)	21 (28.77)	61 (31.94)	148 (29.9)	90 (27.78)	238 (29.06)
Strengthen Social Network	--	--	--	20 (44.44)	11 (34.38)	31 (40.26)	32 (22.54)	30 (26.32)	62 (24.22)	46 (33.82)	21 (42.86)	67 (36.22)	34 (28.81)	19 (26.03)	53 (27.75)	132 (26.67)	81 (25)	213 (26.01)
Makes Distance to Near	--	--	--	19 (42.22)	11 (34.38)	30 (38.96)	42 (29.58)	30 (26.32)	72 (28.13)	38 (27.94)	16 (32.65)	54 (29.19)	25 (21.19)	28 (38.36)	53 (27.75)	124 (25.05)	85 (26.23)	209 (25.52)
Safe Guard	--	--	--	--	15 (46.88)	15 (19.48)	38 (26.76)	26 ()	64 (25)	21 (15.44)	14 (28.57)	35 (18.92)	35 (29.66)	21 (28.77)	56 (29.32)	94 (18.99)	76 (23.46)	170 (20.76)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that over one fourth (28.18%) of male adolescents find mobile phone portable in nature followed by reduced distance to (27.27%), nearly one fourth of them feel that mobile phone strengthens social network and the rest (one fifth) agree that mobile phone is considered safe guard of life. Over one third of female adolescents agree that mobile phone is a safe guard communication device followed by nearly one fifth consider it portable and strengthening social network and the rest (nearly one fifth) feel that mobile phone reduced distance. Over one third of male youths find that mobile phone can be easily carried from one place to another followed by over one fourth find that mobile phone is a safe communication device, over one fifth find that mobile phone strengthens social relations like peer to peer relations, gender relations and teacher-student relations etc.

Thus, majority of female youth are using mobile phone where they consider mobile phone as safe communication device.

Advantages of Landline Phone

Telecommunication is associated with land line phone. Land line phone is a fixed network connectivity which is under the guidance of BSNL and MTNL service provider. Landline is a fixed communication process which is considered as Communication Inductive Leap. Communication Inductive Leap is a process that passes from known land line connection to unknown mobile connection as well as broadband connection.

It is observed that only few persons are using landline connection for telephonic conversation due to its high monthly bill and majority of people use it for broadband internet connection. The advantages of Landline phone are shown in the following table:

Table 6.11
Advantages of Land Line Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Advantages of Land Line Phone	Age Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=19	Female N=54	Total N=73	Male N=78	Female N=0	Total N=78	Male N=145	Female N=19	Total N=164	Male N=242	Female N=73	Total N=315
Anytime Connectivity	12 (63.16)	26 (48.15)	38 (52.05)	54 (69.23)	--	54 (69.23)	27 (18.62)	19 (100)	46 (28.05)	93 (38.43)	45 (61.64)	138 (43.81)
Broadband Connection	11 (57.89)	32 (59.26)	43 (58.9)	28 (35.9)	--	28 (35.9)	122 (84.14)	--	122 (74.39)	161 (66.53)	32 (43.84)	193 (61.27)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data show that nearly half of male adolescents feel that land line phone has anytime network connection. Over half of female youth use broadband connection followed by over half of them getting anytime network connection.

Thus, majority of females are using internet due to absence of social constraint on them.

Disadvantage of Mobile Phone

Disadvantage of mobile phone signifies the limitations of using mobile phone. As age group is concerned, the adolescents (students) are easily hiding the device due to its small size during teaching-learning situation which is very difficult to control the situation for the teachers. It is also considered as one kind of disturbance for teachers as well as students. This is how uses of mobile phone have many limitations that are categorized into three groups such as health hazard, addiction, decaying social cohesion etc. The disadvantages of mobile phone for various gender age-groups are shown in the following table:

Table 6.12
Gender Disadvantages of Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Disadvantages of Mobile Phone	Age-Group (%)												Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=81	Female N=55	Total N=136	Male N=159	Female N=109	Total N=268	Male N=159	Female N=169	Total N=328	Male N=122	Female N=103	Total N=225	Male N=521	Female N=436	Total N=957
Health Hazard	41 (50.62)	34 (61.82)	75 (55.15)	49 (30.82)	46 (42.2)	95 (35.45)	46 (28.93)	58 (34.32)	104 (31.71)	60 (49.18)	54 (52.43)	114 (50.67)	196 (37.62)	192 (44.04)	388 (40.54)
Addiction	--	--	--	60 (37.74)	36 (33.03)	96 (35.82)	67 (42.14)	67 (39.64)	134 (40.85)	45 (36.89)	33 (32.04)	78 (34.67)	172 (33.01)	136 (31.19)	308 (32.18)
Decaying Social Cohesion	44 (54.32)	25 (45.45)	69 (50.74)	59 (37.11)	36 (33.03)	95 (35.45)	55 (34.59)	53 (31.36)	108 (32.93)	26 (21.31)	25 (24.27)	51 (22.67)	184 (35.32)	139 (31.88)	323 (33.75)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that half of male adolescents feel that mobile phone hampers social cohesion, the use of mobile phone causes health problem due to its radioactive power followed by over three fifths of them agree that the use of mobile phone causes health problem due to its radioactive power that mobile phone hampers social cohesion. Over half of female adolescents feel that mobile phone creates health problem followed by two fifths who find it decaying social cohesion.

Thus, the majority of males feel that mobile phone hampers social cohesion which causes unwanted calls, missed calls and unwanted SMS. On the contrary, more females find health problems from mobile use.

Disadvantage of Landline Phone

Limitations of Landline phone are grouped into two categories: non-portable and maximum bill. The distribution of the limitations of landline connection used by the individual of the household is shown in the following table:

Table 6.13
Genderwise Disadvantages of Landline Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Disadvantage of Land Line Phone	Age-Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=11	Female N=14	Total N=25	Male N=49	Female N=0	Total N=49	Male N=58	Female N=56	Total N=114	Male N=118	Female N=70	Total N=188
Not Portable	11 (100)	14 (100)	25 (100)	19 (38.78)	--	19 (38.78)	29 (50)	35 (62.5)	64 (56.14)	59 (50)	49 (70)	108 (57.45)
Maximum Bill	--	--	--	34 (69.39)	--	34 (69.39)	33 (56.9)	25 (44.64)	58 (50.88)	67 (56.78)	25 (35.71)	92 (48.94)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that over four fifths (84.62%) of male youth feel that in comparison to mobile phone, land line phone is not portable. Over four fifths of female youth feel that landline phone is not portable.

Thus, majority of males and females found that the landline phone is not portable.

Impact Pattern of Mobile Phone Use in Social Life

The mobile telephony has flourished the study of mobile technology when it interacts with the social order (Castells et al. 2007). They summarized with the proposition that there is a 'mobile network society' that represent an enhancement of social structure by new wireless communication device in terms of mobile phone. The wireless new communication device is called new media communication that provides potentiality for maintaining social relation. From emerging social relation, mobile phone has stressed on two main assets; namely, dominant uses of device and stress on access pattern of new or unique practices that are associated with adoption.

Children from 6-11 years of age are accessing to mobile phone of others parents, elder brother or sisters or may be other members of the family. They are accessing for games, songs, camera etc. Although younger children have no "sufficient linguistic competence and social skill" (Veach, 1981), they are accessing to it for games, songs etc. But a controversy is rising about the actual age when the children first need a mobile phone. According to Ling and Helmersen (2000), mobile phone fulfills a need when a child across the limit from elementary to middle school at about 12-13 years of age and enters into adolescent age-group. Conversely, many pre-teens also deserve a mobile phone as a status symbol of becoming adolescent because it is seen as symbol of independence from family (Ling 2000). Additionally parents perceive it as a source of communication for their preteens.

Mobile phone has brought a sense of social security, social connectivity and safety among the persons. Mobile phone has now able to keep in touch with their family members in distant place that means that it reduces distance. Mobile phone has facilitated easy communication with family members and friends, particularly for women whose spouse are working in far-off places.

Women admit that mobile has actually helped in maintaining and strengthening social and familial bond.

The distribution of impacts of mobile phone is shown in the following table:

Table 6.14
Gender Impact of Mobile Phone
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Impact of Mobile Phone in Social Life	Age-Group (%)												Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged			Old Aged					
	Male N=126	Female N=87	Total N=213	Male N=301	Female N=223	Total N=524	Male N=295	Female N=218	Total N=513	Male N=238	Female N=178	Total N=416	Male N=960	Female N=706	Total N=1666
Strengthening Social Harmony	31 (24.6)	22 (25.29)	53 (24.88)	80 (26.58)	66 (29.6)	146 (27.86)	95 (32.2)	67 (30.73)	162 (31.58)	94 (39.5)	59 (33.15)	153 (36.78)	300 (3.25)	214 (30.31)	514 (30.85)
Instant Connection	40 (31.75)	22 (25.29)	62 (29.11)	71 (23.59)	52 (23.32)	123 (23.47)	93 (31.53)	61 (27.98)	154 (30.02)	86 (36.13)	84 (47.19)	170 (40.87)	290 (30.21)	219 (31.02)	509 (30.55)
As a Status Symbol	23 (18.25)	20 (22.99)	43 (20.19)	59 (19.6)	36 (16.14)	95 (18.13)	--	--	--	--	--	--	82 (8.54)	56 (7.93)	138 (8.28)
Education	30 (23.81)	31 (35.63)	61 (28.64)	46 (15.28)	42 (18.83)	88 (16.79)	60 (20.34)	68 (3.19)	128 (24.95)	--	--	--	136 (14.17)	141 (19.97)	277 (16.63)
Gender Relation	27 (21.43)	17 (19.54)	44 (20.66)	70 (23.26)	52 (23.32)	122 (23.28)	63 (21.36)	38 (17.43)	101 (19.69)	67 (28.15)	44 (24.72)	111 (26.68)	227 (23.65)	151 (21.39)	378 (22.69)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that nearly one third of males from middle age find that mobile phone strengthens social harmony followed by over one fourth of them who agree that mobile has instant network connection, nearly one fifth (19.73%) of them agree that mobile phone is providing equal gender relation and the rest (18.73%) are getting educational information through mobile phone. Over one fourth (28.38%) of females from middle age find that mobile phone strengthens social harmony and education (28.83%) followed by one fourth who agree that mobile phone has instant network connection, over one tenth agree that mobile phone improves gender relation through mobile phone.

Thus, more males feel that mobile phone strengthens social harmony due to the reason that mobile phone is an absolute means of communication.

From the above analysis the following patterns of mobile phone access between genders are drawn:

1. Over one fourth (29.68%) of male youth are mobile users. Over one fourth (29.27%) of female youth and 28.61% of middle aged are using mobile phone.
2. Over half of male children are accessing to mobile phone at home. Over half (51.72%) of female children are accessing mobile phone at home.
3. Over three fifths of females are accessing to mobile phone for playing. Nearly half of male adolescents are accessing to mobile phone for collecting information
4. Cent percent of male and female adolescents, youth, middle and old aged are accessing to mobile phone daily.
5. Over half (51.5%) of male and female youth like mobile phone very much.
6. Near about two fifths of males from middle age feel that mobile phone is less expensive. Over one third of females from middle age-group find that mobile phone is helpful.
7. Near about half of male youths use mobile phone in “Off Mode” at night. Over one third of female youth use mobile phone in “Off Mode” at night.

8. Over one third (34.49%) of males of old age pay pre-paid bill. Nearly two fifths of females from old age pay pre-paid bill.
9. Over one third of males from middle age listen songs through mobile phone. One third of females from middle age listen songs through mobile phone.
10. Nearly one fourth of males feel that mobile phone strengthens social network and one fifth of female agree that mobile phone is portable and strengthens social network.
11. Nearly one third of male children play games through mobile phone and listening songs. Nearly two fifths of female children listen song through mobile phone.
12. Over one fourth (28.18%) of male adolescents find that mobile phone is portable in nature. Over one third of female adolescents agree that mobile phone is a safe communication device.
13. Half of male adolescents feel that mobile phone hampers social cohesion and the use of mobile phone causes health problem due to its radioactive power. Over half of female adolescents find that mobile phone creates health problem.
14. Nearly half of male adolescents find that land line phone has anytime network connection. Over half of female youth use broadband connection.
15. Over one fourth (28.18%) of male adolescent find that mobile phone is portable in nature. Over one third of female adolescents agree that mobile phone is a safe guard communication device.
16. Over four fifths (84.62%) of male youth support that in comparison of mobile phone, land line phone is not portable. Over four fifths of female youth agree that landline phone is not portable.

17. Nearly one third of males from middle age agree that mobile phone strengthen social harmony. Over one fourth (28.38%) of females middle age support that mobile phone strengthens social harmony and education (28.83%).
18. Cent percent (100%) of male and female adolescents use broadband connection. On the contrary, one fourth (28.18%) of male and female adolescents find that mobile phone is portable.
19. Three fifths of males support that landline phone has maximum bill in comparison of mobile phone. Over half of them agree that landline phone has maximum bill.

In sum, mobile communication has emerged as one of the defining communication technologies (Castel et al 2007). In short, mobile technology provides extensive help in terms of access to information, overcoming geographic limitations and market access. This communication device enables females and other individuals for accessing social media platforms where people can extend their reach and use resources in meaningful ways. Mobile technology has enhanced gender empowerment including social, economic and political development. Though gender equalization is seen across all age-groups, it is obvious in the age groups of children, adolescents and youth.