

**A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE PHONE ADDICTION OF  
PARENTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KOCHI CITY**



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**A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE PHONE ADDICTION OF PARENTS FROM THE  
PERSPECTIVE OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KOCHI CITY**

Thesis submitted to St. Teresa's College (Autonomous), Ernakulam in *fulfillment of the  
requirements for the award of the degree of **Master of Arts in Sociology***

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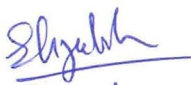
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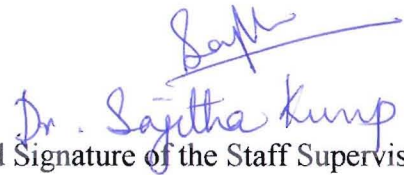
  
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## CERTIFICATE

I certify that the thesis entitled **“A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE PHONE ADDICTION OF PARENTS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KOCHI CITY”** is a record of bonafide research work carried out by **ALEENA FRANCIS**, under my guidance and supervision. The thesis is worth submitting in fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.



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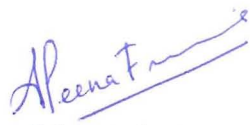
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## DECLARATION

I, **Aleena Francis**, hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**A Sociological Study on the Phone Addiction of Parents from the Perspective of Children with Special Reference to Kochi City**” is a bonafide record of independent research work carried out by me under the supervision and guidance of **Dr. Sajitha J Kurup**, I further declare that this thesis has not been previously submitted for the award of any degree, diploma, associateship or other similar title.

Ernakulam

March 2022

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Name and signature of the student

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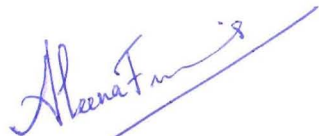
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Ernakulam

March 2022

  
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# **CHAPTER – I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

# INTRODUCTION

Addiction can be in any form of substance, thing, or behavior. It doesn't only refer to the obsessive use or dependence on the substances such as heroin or cocaine. There are other addictive behaviors such as inability or difficulty quitting a job such as eating, drinking, reading, writing, working, gambling, fighting, stealing, etc.... According to the American Addiction Medicine community, they describe addiction is "chronic as well as a treatable, medical condition that involves complex interactions between the regions of the brain, genes, environment, and individual life experiences. Addicts can't control themselves. Some symptoms are anxiety, headache, lack of sleep, anger, aggression, and other physical, mental, and psychological problems.

## PHONE ADDICTION

The phone is one of the most important companions of our life. Now in the present society, the phone had become a part of an organ of the human body. We can't even imagine a second without having our phone. And even though access to smartphones is making our lives easier in different ways. The devices are designed in a very specific way that makes the people attracted towards it by their colors, sounds, vibrations, variations that they are introducing each day. Phone addiction is also known as "Nomophobia". Which occurs due to the overuse of gadgets, devices like phones, computers, etc.... These smartphone addictions can create many problems like:

- **Virtual Relationships**

Through the use of phones, we get addicted to dating apps, social networking apps, etc.... by this, people are becoming more addicted to the virtual world rather than the real-world people and relations with them. The Internet can help connect to people and even make new friends, but it's not that good to substitute it with real people or real-life interactions.

- **Information Overload**

The continued usage of phones like web surfing, watching videos and news which can lead to a decrease in productivity at work and schools and you prefer to be

alone all the time, so you will isolate yourself for hours. The over usage of the phone may cause you to neglect the social aspects of the real-life

- **Cybersex addiction**

Excessive use of internet pornography, adult messaging, and other means can affect your life negatively, and it can make many negative impacts in your life. Pornography and sex chatting are sexual addictions. The internet makes it easily accessible for everyone, which will lead to or make it more difficult to make a long relationship or it can damage an existing relationship because they are spending hours for fantasies that are impossible in real life.

- **Online compulsions**

There are many online compulsions like online gaming, stock marketing, online shopping which can cause problems in the financial field and also in life. You are using these online sites for the sake of it, not for your real need which will lead to wasting of money, things and will also affect their financial status.

A heavy smartphone can cause stress, depression, loneliness, and anxiety. At the same time, the phone can help us to eradicate these problems like we can use our smartphones as a “security Blanket” which help us to relieve the feelings of anxiety, it can be a companion when we are feeling loneliness, it can help us in different ways when we are feeling awkward in certain situations.

## **NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF PHONE ADDICTION**

The most recently developed form of addiction is Chronic phone use. According to the American Psychiatric Association, they had not yet officially accepted the condition, but it had acknowledged it as a behavioral addiction.

Phone addiction may lead to:

- Shortage in sleep
- Concentration decreases
- Barriers towards the creativity
- Apprehension
- Tensions
- Isolation

- Lack of confidence
- Weaken parent-child relationship
- Weak Academic performance
- Decrease in the deep thinking and Actions, exercise
- Psychological disorders
- Crimes
- Aggravated attention deficit disorders

This may also cause or lead to physical dysfunctions, like GABA dysfunction and loss of grey matter is other disorders.

## GABA DYSFUNCTION

Overuse of the phone leads to chemically changing the reward circuits in the brain. GABA is an inhibitory neurotransmitter that produces a calming or joyful effect. Even it helps in controlling our fear and anxieties. Many research shows that the overuse of phones may result in an increase or decrease in GABA production. And also, the heavy use of the phones will result in the upsetting ratio of GABA to other neurotransmitters.

## DECREASE IN THE GREY MATTER

Grey matter is one of the important parts of the central nervous system which helps in the movement of the individuals and controlling those movements, memory, and even emotions. According to the study and the research, there was a huge change in the brain's grey matter in those who were addicted to the phone. For those who are addicted to phones, it shows like the grey matter had been decreased in important areas, which is a resemblance of the drug users.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF PHONE ADDICTION

There is a limit or a line between the health full life and the mobile phone use. Over usage of the phone may lead to mobile addiction. There are some ways to understand if an individual is battling a phone addiction. They are:

- People lie about their smartphone usage on their phones.
- Their significant ones or loved ones were expressing the concern about their usage of phone
- Hiding the phone usage
- Very poor social life
- Phantom vibrations (People may feel that the phone is ringing when it doesn't.
- People wait till the last minute for completing the tasks.
- People who are slowly isolating from others
- People who get irritated or angry when the phone usage is interrupted or cannot be reached.
- People who get panic when the phone is left at home or even the battery dies.
- They take the phones when they are bored or left alone.
- There will be a lack of connection
- Limiting the usage of phones is difficult
- Spending most of the time on the phone
- Even after sleeping, getting up at night to check the phone.
- Isolation from our loved ones.
- Accidents occurs due to the over usage of phone
- Neglecting our duties and responsibilities at school, work, even at home for chatting, playing games, watching videos, scrolling, surfing, texting, chatting.
- Longingness for access to your smartphone or another device.

## PHONE ADDICTION TREATMENT

Phone addiction is still prevalent in our society. There are many ways to prevent and treat this disorder. Even there are many specialized deaddiction centers. In these detox centers, there are many varieties of treatments or programs which will help people to overcome the digital addiction

- Group therapy
- Group support
- Psychotherapy
- Medical-assisted treatment
- Cognitive-behavioral therapy

- Marriage or couples counseling
- Motivational interviewing

Smartphones are very a useful tool as well as a dangerous tool, for everyone. Many issues arise from the over usage of the phone, but all those problems which arise due to excessive phone usage are not completely understood.

We all know that the children use or spend most of their time on the gadgets, not only the child even the parents are found engaged on the phones for the longer time than the child. Addiction can be various types, which can be the individual's urge to check the phone most often, or their urge to check the messages, callings, and scrolling through the internet or the social media or playing online games.

### IMPACT ON CHILDREN OF PARENTS PHONE ADDICTION

- **Chance for the children to develop a negative attitude**  
Studies show that children develop negative attitudes. And also, they are found with low tolerance towards disturbing situations and lack interest in going outside and exploring. The over usage of phones among the parents may adversely affect the parent-child relationship.
- **Children may feel that they are unimportant in the family**  
When the parents are busier and you are more interested to use their phones when the children need them this will create an impact on the children that they will think are unimportant in the family. The feeling of belongingness is diminishing among the members of the family due to the feeling of unimportant.
- **Impact on Children's Emotional Development**  
When the parents use the gadgets many times and when they are not given the proper care that the children are needed of then the children will feel sad and angry. The children wouldn't get the attention that they are needed. The willingness of the children to share things with their parents is also affected due to this will lead to an end to the positive emotional development. The most important positive feelings are happiness, excitement, appreciation, love, care was not available to the children, so it will hurt their social behavior and it will affect their socialization process.



## SMARTPHONE ADDICTION AFFECTS HEALTHY PARENTING

Parents are found to be more engaged with smartphones, even at the dining tables. According to a study, a researcher says that the first thing that a parent does will look on the phone when they are gone out for a family dinner or lunch. They will be taking pictures and updating the photos on social media and posting in the media. Whenever the child tries to talk to you, parents will get interrupted and become angry. The child may not be listening to you but they will closely and carefully observe things that the parents do. So, it will negatively affect the children.

## HOW PARENTS CAN GET RID OF SMARTPHONE ADDICTION

- Only check phones for a valid reason  
Every time that you take the phone you should ask yourself some questions, what is the purpose of taking the phone now, whether it is important? You have to question yourself about your usage of your phone. Which will help you to reduce your engagement with smartphones.
- Limit the usage of the phone.  
You have to limit the usage of the phones, mainly when you are with your children. You have to schedule the timing of the usage of the phone. You have to find out the time to spend with your child. You may not be able to adjust on the first day itself after some time you will be able to cope with the situation and it will help you in better parenting.
- Ask someone to track your activities for better controlling  
Rely on someone who can help in keeping track of what you are doing. So, you have to find out someone who will be very supportive of you and can help you to overcome this addiction, it can be anyone your partner, colleagues, friends, etc.....
- Celebrate when you achieve the goal  
You can mark the days which you had strictly followed the schedule. After the successful completion of it, we can celebrate, share it with our significant others. We can share it with children, through it you can able to explain how you have managed to do it. This can inspire them a lot. When are you with your child you should put all the toxic devices, through it you can have quality time with your

family? And both the parent and children get very special moments that you spend together to remember.

Marshal McLuhan extended the idea proposed by Harold Innis and stated that

- “The Medium is the message, that is, characteristic of all media; the ‘content’ of any medium is always another medium. The content of writing is speech, just as the written word is the content of print, and print is the content of the telegraph (McLuhan, 1964).
- Hot and cool media: There is a basic principle that distinguishes a hot medium like radio from a cool one like the telephone, or, a hot medium like the movie from a cool one like TV. A hot medium extends one single sense in ‘High definition.’ High definition is the state of being well filled with data. On the other hand, hot media does not leave so much to be filled in or completed by the audience. Hot media are, therefore, low in participation, and cool media are high in participation or completion by the audience” (McLuhan, Understanding Media).

A careful study of the above statements leads us to the conclusion that the cell phone is the hottest medium activity that covers all the media available to humans right now. And it is the coolest as it offers more opportunities for the user to fill out details and at the same time interact with other users. Young people from the community often use this device.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHONE

In the primitive or ancient society, the people were made use of many things such as the smoke signal, carrier pigeons, jungle drums, and semaphores to send and receive messages from one place to another. While in the present society, it's very clear that the importance of communication is increasing day by day, Communication is the most important factor for transmitting the messages from one person to another from any corner of the earth. In the earlier stage, Alexander Graham Bell had realized the importance of communication and he invented the Telephone in 1876 as part of this realization. This invention on communication has made a huge change or revolutionized the daily lives of the common individuals to

a large extent. A telephone is any device that can convey or send sound over any distance. The telephone is a combination of two words, The Greek word 'Tele' means 'afar' and 'phone' means 'voice'. And then the telephone had evolved in many forms, had occurred many changes had happened in it.

The telephone has faced many changes and evolved into many forms like, from the tin can telephones to the payphones which can be operated by the coin, then it changed into pagers and bulky mobile phones. And in modern societies, cellular phones had become widespread in the society. First, it was in a wired form and then it changed into a wireless form. The basic concept of cellular phones started in 1947. Now mobile phones have become the most common way to communicate with other people. Now there are many different types, brands of Smartphones are available in the market, which is more likely to represent the status symbol and more like a fashion statement. These Smartphones had created an unspoken dependency. In the present scenario, all individuals are more likely to engage in SMS, messaging, making phone calls, accessing the internet from the phone, playing games on phone, attending classes on phones, even doing work from using the phones, and even doing our transaction, banking, shopping, etc... using the phones.

## ROLE OF SMARTPHONES IN THE PRESENT SOCIETY

Now during this pandemic situation, we are seeing a tendency of increased use of phones among people irrespective of their age, from child to aged people. They were using phones for different purposes for shopping, reading, gaining information, writing, playing, booking appointments for doctors, even the consulting process is conducted through it, everything thing is done through the phone, it had become like a part or organ of our body itself. People in modern society cannot live detached from the phone, they were having a very close attachment to their phone.

According to De Santis, Poole, and Orlicowski (2011) technology is not rendered as an artifact but instead examines how people as they interact with technology in their outgoing practices which shape their emergent and positioned the use of that

technology. On the other hand, cellular phones depend upon an individual, on how he will use them, whether it surrender oneself from other influence or use it as a purpose of communicating and personal satisfaction. Moreover, Bandura (1973) claims that human behavior is learned observationally from others, one forms an idea of how new behavior is performed, and later occasions this coded information serves as a guide for action, changes in technological development among cellular phones is very alarming, especially to adolescence.

From the 21<sup>st</sup> century onwards, digital technologies were becoming a very important factor in our daily life, which have a very important role in our daily practices and habits. In the present society, there are many digital technologies which are defining our present-day reality, the way through which we look upon society have been changed. Now, each person has their technological equipment. Within a very few decades of inception mobile phone, technology has become a universal artifact. The mobile phone is such a technology which is used by a high or larger amount of people. There is no other technology that has been widely accepted or adopted by the entire population of the world. In the present world the old ideas and assumptions about the development, planning, and management of the modern, industrial city seem less important and less useful. And also, the accepted notions about the nature of time, space, distance, and urban life are similar under question.

Giddens had written that “We live today- in a world which intensely worrying, yet full of extraordinary promise for the future. It is a world of awash with change, marked by deep conflicts, tension, and social divisions, as well as by the destructive onslaught of modern technology on the natural environment”. (Giddens, Sociology, 2006, pg. no. 4). In the present society, the use of the internet was widespread due to the advancements in technology, through mobile phones, smartphone production had increased very much. We can almost perform all operations with smartphones that provide access to the internet. The usage of phones and the time spent with mobile phones is increasing, which in turn have positive and negative sides or aspects to it. The excessive use of mobile phones is resulting in creating an addiction. The ability to access the internet with mobile phones, smartphones at any time, use of social media applications, mobile games, online shopping,

banking, transactions, entertainment, online streaming had increased the use of the internet and mobile addiction.

With the emergence of advancements in the technologies operated on the internet, people became users of the social networks and became more content producers through the accounts that they had created. Due to these technological advancements, it has become inevitable for all people, irrespective of their age, they spend excessive time on the phone, social media, and also fulfilling their social, economic, educational, professional duties and responsibilities. And also, they were experiencing many kinds of psychological, physical, and social problems.

Even during this Covid 19 time, with the use of this rapid progress in the technology, we were able to meet the educational needs, professional needs anything was possible. In recent years it had become very important and widespread and people began to use it continuously in every field like education, vocational, training, professional, medical, economic, political, etc..... The family is the place where the informal education of an individual starts, so it's the duty or the responsibility of the family to develop a positive attitude towards the classes and technology. The children's attitude towards the technology and the beneficial uses of it is depended upon the positive attitude and behaviors of the children's parents. If the parents create the necessary awareness among the children, it will be easy for a child to gather or collect the benefit from the technology correctly. The main thing that the parents should take care of is that they should not use the phones and social media excessively, should use only to the extent that they need, and should not be addicted to it.

Mobile phones have a very strong influence on our day-to-day life and also in social relationships. Mobile phones have made our life more easy, convenient and the continuous and frequent usage of mobile phones can lead to mobile phone addiction. Phone addiction has many negative consequences, including sleeping problems, health issues, anxiety, disorder, and even poor performance in schools, the place you were working. "Phubbing" this term refers to the kind of social exclusion and interpersonal neglect, which is the combination of the two words "Phones" and "Snubbing", Phubbing refers to the interruptions among the social

relations due to or caused by the usage of mobile phones. In a family, the scholars focus on the ‘partner phubbing’, which doesn’t only make negative impacts on the quality of the conversation and the intimacy it also affects the mental health of the partners. And there is also the influence of phubbing on the parent-child relationships, they say that the parents play an important role in the development of the adolescents. According to the recent study, it shows that during the conversation between the children, when the parents tend to use mobile phones which will negatively affect the conversation and also adversely affect the interactions with children, the quality of the interactions will be decreased.

Many studies focus on the use of mobile phones among children. Smart addiction can be classified as technological addiction, which can be said as a subpart of behavior addictions which includes the human-computer interactions with software that might lead or promote the addictive tendencies (Griffiths, 1996). The most important symptom of Mobile phone addiction is listed as “impaired control”. Phone addiction has many features like functional impairment, Withdrawal (which is measured by psychological symptoms such as irritability, uneasiness, restlessness which occurs due to the unavailability of smartphones.), tolerance (it’s defined as the increase in the times of engaging in the smartphone) and even the symptoms of the compulsive disorder. At first, the studies were focusing on the psychopathologies such as depression, anxiety, unintentional injuries like accidents, falls, pedestrian collisions, sleeplessness, decrease in physical activities, or their, problematic behavior, decrease in emotional intelligence, negative habits and lifestyles, and poor achievement in the academic field.

## PARENTAL MEDIATION ON THE CHILDREN’S USAGE OF PHONE

Parents play the most important role in the influence in the use of smartphones by the child. Parental mediation is the management of the relationship between the children and the media by the parents. According to a European Union study, there are 4 types of parental mediation on the children’s usage of the internet and mobile devices. They are:

- Active Mediation of the Internet use - Parents have to make the children aware of the internet content through the talking process.
- Active Mediation of the Internet safety – Parents should promote the safer means to use the internet and they should be responsible and make the children aware of the uses of the internet.
- Restrictive Mediation – Parents should set the rules which should regulate and limit and regulate the usage of the internet among the children and which will also help to regulate the time that the children are spending online.
- Monitoring or Technical Mediation – Parents can use different means of software and technical tools for the filtering and also can install different apps or software's for controlling the activities of the children through these parents can restrict and also can monitor the activities of the children's online activities

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Phone addiction is a common condition that we can see in the present world. Many studies focus on the phone addiction of the students, children, youth, and adolescents. Phone addiction is not a condition that affects only these people. Phone addiction is a condition that affects people in all sects. This study is providing information about the phone addiction of parents from the perspective of the children with special reference to Ernakulam district. And this study also tries to understand the socio-economic background of the parents. It also helps to find out whether there is phone addiction among the parents or not and also helps to know about the challenges and issues faced by the parents and the children due to the phone addiction of parents. Since the data is collected from direct sources, it can provide a more reliable and realistic view without any prejudices. And also, from this study, we can understand what are the different causes for phone addiction among parents.



**CHAPTER – II**

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Phone addiction is also known as “Nomophobia”. Which occurs due to the overuse of gadgets, devices like phones, computers, etc.... These smartphone addictions can create many problems. Heavy smartphone usage can cause stress, depression, loneliness, and anxiety. At the same time, the phone can help us to eradicate these problems like we can use our smartphones as a “security Blanket” which help us to relieve the feelings of anxiety, it can be a companion when we are feeling loneliness, it can help us in different ways when we are feeling awkward in certain situations. In the present world, the phone had become an inevitable thing. It had become like an organ of our body; we can’t even live without it. While it started, no one ever imagined that it would cause worry. But as technology advances and now everyone has access to phones irrespective of any differences. Phone addiction has caused many social, physical, mental issues. The advancements in information technology have a major role in phone addiction. There is many research, studies, articles, that are conducted on phone addiction.

Bandura (1971) in his work “social learning theory” in *The War System: An interdisciplinary Approach* says that the social learning theory reflects that observational learning is a great way for kids and teens to learn. This theory states that children's behavior is informed by looking at the thing’s parents do. Phubbing is an unhealthy behavior that can hurt people’s social life (David & Roberts, 2017). In the current study, we described parental deception as undesirable for cell phones when communicating with children and adolescents. While there is no direct evidence to support the belief that parental phubbing increases teen cell addiction, it is a logical argument while considering the following three points. First, studies based on social learning theory and informal social control theory (Bandura, 1971; Mason & Windel, 2002) found that parents who report themselves using cell phones are positively correlated with teens’ online addiction (Cho & Lee, 2017). Second, the marginalized family's environment created by a difficult parent or poor parent-child relationship makes it worsen the teen’s usage of the internet online (Boniel-Nissim & Sasson, 2018; Wang & Qi, 2017). Third, people feel excluded from society, and as a result use social media to compensate for related needs (David & Roberts, 2017).

Mason and Windel (2002), had stated that the informal social control theory shows that the family is the most important factor in controlling deviant behavior of children and teens and that a poor family environment will exacerbate youth misconduct. Informal social control theory shows that the parents are the center of social control in adolescent socialization, and unprotected parent-child relationships promote deviant behavior among adolescents. The informal social control theory shows the relationship between peers is an informal control source that is related to perverted or deviant behavior. Teens with active friends who are engaged in disrespectful conduct or delinquent behaviors there is an increased risk of developing deviant or anti-social behavior.

Skopp, McDonald, Jouriles, & Rosenfield (2007), In their article “partner aggression and children’s externalizing problems: Maternal and partner warmth as protective factors” in the journal “Journal of Family Psychology” Skopp and colleagues found that, in a marital relationship, husband and wife's anger has exacerbated the problems of children who go out of their way, especially in the families there is very low maternal warmth.

Marie Brannon (2009) criticized that compulsive cell phone users left others confused, trapped, disrespected, and angry. These users often feed their egos at the expense of others.

Banjo, Yifeng Hu, and Sundar (2008) conducted research and developed a method for detecting cell phone use in public places. There are potential negative consequences in dealing with others around you. It causes isolation and confusion and closeness to others. The mere presence of a cell phone in public clashes with the privacy and confidentiality of the public and prevents contact with close people (strangers or acquaintances). Users can distract themselves from public activities, as they ignore the environment, their surroundings. They neglect help to get closer to others (even at the time of emergencies). Accessibility and use of the cell phone create a form of confinement and isolation that prevents reckless behavior

SteeGAR& Rosenfield (2013) they had attempted to describe the longitudinal study they had conducted through which they had found that the sixth graders who had more conflict with mothers and teens than their peers later reported higher anger or aggressiveness in seventh grade.

Cho & Lee (2017) had pointed out that parents who reported themselves using cell phones were positively related to teen online addiction.

Vaidyanathan and Latu (2007) After reviewing the literature and research work, the authors argued that it was in line with peer pressure, family upbringing, and ultimately habits, attitudes, and strengths rather than technology alone. These are communication services they are ubiquitous and even though they cause society to unite and divide, the ultimate goal is to link and coordinate the activities of everyone, regardless of age. Cell phones eliminate the need for the middle person. Everyone has the right to live in a healthy family environment. The authors claim that if technology is not embraced properly the digital natives or people will turn either “Digital Addictive” or “Digital Refugees” which results in an imbalance in society.

Stewart (2008) pointed out that over the years, communication between parents and their children may become impersonal. Teens often text their parents instead of talking. They are at risk for getting into accidents (walking into the dark, running on unstoppable traffic, etc.), and, in turn, are prone to cyberbullying and sexual harassment of the opposite sex. They view cell phones as a means of communication that will give them greater space and more secure security.

Ravichandran (2009) focuses on the positive or negative effects of consumption of mobile usage. A cell phone is a safety device that can be used in the event of an emergency. However, young people are addicted to texting and are distracted in their studies. Bullying and harassing messages are another form of cell phone threat. The most important suggestion found in this study is that adolescents lose control of cell phone access. The negative impact outweighs the positive effects. The use of cell phones by teenagers is opposed by all parents, as teenagers are immature.

Prezza, Pacilli, and Dinelli (2004) conducted research in Italy and found no gender differences. But weaker social and economic relations were found. They wish the cell phone to avoid negative labeling which is related to non-possession. Loneliness was not related to the use of cell phones.

Chigona, Chigona, Ngqokelela, and Mpofu (2009) examined and have found the perception patterns of both parents and teens. Both, the parents and children have developed attachment and dependency on cell phones. They experience cognitive dissonance, which changes as a result of capturing two incompatible perceptions. Self-justification is used to overcome the disease. It has become a tradition as well as instrumental

Walsh, White, Cox, and Young (2010) have shown that age and self-esteem significantly predict the frequency of cell phone use. In contrast, age (younger), gender (female), self-identity, and the norms in the group predicted cell phone involvement in adolescents.

Campbell (2005) studied the effect of mobile phones on young people's social lives (such as peer relationships, family relationships, and school environment). Teens constructively use cell phones to organize and maintain social networking sites. Other negative effects of cell phones can also be seen in peer relationships, such as stigma and cyberbullying. Likewise, the use of a mobile phone has led to a shift or created a change in the activities of the family. Issues of safety and surveillance from the perspective of parents lead to discussions about the changes in the freedom of young people. While functional coordination in the family can be beneficial, but also other problems can arise, including financial hardship, noncustodial parents' access, and over-reliance on cell phones for safety issues and disrupting young people's lives. Studying the lessons of interruptions or disruptions, cheating incidents, bullying, etc... these all are the negative effects of using a cell phone at school while texting to parents of logged-in students or those students present in the school, seems to be the best. And he also checked that the cell phone had turned into a technological tool from the social tool. The cell phone has become a status symbol for young people and is considered a fashion accessory. Research shows that they prefer it over television and the Internet. It is considered a sign of independence even in his own family. It has practical, social, functional, relational, and negative consequences such as discrimination and family bullying. It also has an impact on improving and evolving family relationships.

Campbell and Rachel (2006) have suggested that in the case of a teenage girl, the cell phone is an all-encompassing feature, namely independence, security, and

femininity. It works as a 'technology of the self'. Teenagers go against norms by practically spacing their behavior to actions and identities of society and what they internally desire.

Leung (2007) researched these objectives

(1) Identify symptoms of addiction that are specifically related to cell phone use within

youth in Hong Kong;

(2) to evaluate the way how demographics and psychological characteristics (such as sensation seeking, boredom, and self-esteem) of individuals are associated with symptoms of addiction;

(3) to examine how these are features, cell phone addiction symptoms, and public finances can predict the misuse of a cell phone.

The study was conducted in Hong Kong in China, between 402 young people and young adults aged 14-20. The four symptoms of addiction are identified using exploratory factor analysis. These were: „loss of control and acceptance of complaints, ‘anxiety and longing,’ ‘withdrawal/skipping,’ and ‘loss of productivity. ‘And the research had found that those participants who have scored higher on boredom and sensation-seeking likely to have higher addiction. In contrast, participants with high scores on self-esteem showed such a slight tendency. Again, respondents received lower scores on self-esteem but wanted to feel superior, showing more misuse of mobile phones.

Chawla (2012) conducted a study to assess the relationship between the family environment and academic achievement among 200 randomly selected students (100 boys and 100 girls) of the 9th Marathi schools in Nasik city. Drs. Harpreet Bhatia and Dr. N.K. Chadha (1993) put forward the Family Environment scale and second semester (year) students of 9th standard were used to measure family environment and academic achievement also. Data were analyzed using the Pearson correlation coefficient and found that the family environment score was positively associated with the academic success of the students.

Shambare, Rugimbana, and Zhoua (2012) conducted a study on an important research question, what are the behaviors associated with cell phone use? Thus, a questionnaire of 33 items was prepared to measure addictive and habitual behavior and was provided to the students. Researchers have found that the use of cell phones is not habit-forming and relatively addictive. The result also suggests that the cell phone may be a major non-drug addict of the 21st century.

Thomee, Harenstam, and Hagberg (2011) highlighted high cell phone usage was associated with sleep disorders and male depression symptoms and 1-year follow-up symptoms in women. It was advised to limit cell phone usage and accessibility as it causes mental health consequences. The study was conducted on the mental health effects of adults aged 20-24. The study was conducted on adults aged 20-24.

Den Bulck (2007) has identified the most important effects of cell phone use even after turning off the lights. Excessive use of cell phones leads to increased levels of fatigue and tiredness. There is no safe rate and no safe time to use the phone to send messages or make phone calls after the lights are off. Current research suggests that there are many other threats to teen sleep in the bedroom. Cell phones are very attractive to use even after the lights are turned off, they may be too much.

Cotten (2008) argued that cell phone use was widespread and high among US and Canadian students. Social welfare and wellbeing are marked by their heavy usage. Several impacts have been uncertainty, mitigation, security, efficiency, access to information, communication, social media, and public control. Researchers have noted that “the use of cell phones may be a lifesaver to facilitate the preservation of social relationships and to reduce the insecurity of the physical environment.

Hoong (2003) confirmed that cell phones emit radiation that raises skin temperature and the heating of tissue in the ear or head. Therefore, excessive use of cell phones is dangerous to health. It is thought to be harmful to the baby's brain and cause cancer, too.

Lane and Manner (2010) presented a study and found that extroverts use smartphones and are more involved in texting. Extraverts are outgoing and friendly and have a strong desire to connect with others. Texting is a great tool that can satisfy this need. However, more compatible people prefer to call than to send text

messages. The value of a smartphone decreases with age. Women are less likely to have their smartphones when compared to men.

Long (2010) studied the effect of cell phones on the Fire Station Department. It has shown that a modern cell phone now improves productivity at work and allows the family to stay connected. However, literature shows that cell phones lead to stressful and angry times. Employees and managers are frustrated, annoyed, distracted, inefficient, misuse technology which leads to litigation and chaos. Members of the Chesapeake Fire Department photographed and uploaded them to Facebook and this violating the organization's fire safety policies and breach of privacy could lead to significant penalties. Cell phones often disrupt training, meetings, and face-to-face conversations, which many consider being careless and unreasonable. Unfortunately, this practice goes in the wrong direction, and it can be believed that misconduct on mobile phones could adversely affect the reputation of organizations. Mobile is used for both emergency and non-emergency responses. Although the commonwealth of Virginia restricts the use of mobile phones; public safety facilities have been granted an exemption. The practice still exposes the Chesapeake Fire Department to liability and "(CFD) may be officially charged with a head-on collision caused by disturbed employees talking on cell phones while driving". Cell phones caused disruptions and injuries at work

Zeewaqr (2009) discovers that mobile phone companies are launching attractive packages and destroying our youth. They are deviating from training, professionalism, and commitment to education, changing the culture of the stagnant mind. Most importantly, art, creativity, and innovation are hindered by regular cell phone chat. Young people do not care about human relationships and are interested in segregation and alienation. They become mentally weak and the strained family ties gradually weaken the betrayed parents and lead to a dramatic decline in moral values. They cross borders and boundaries, which are important in a well-organized society

Stuckey (2004) identifies 5 components like imagination, appropriation, objectification, incorporation, and conversion as the causes of cell phone addiction. He explained that cell phones have an unprecedented ability to influence our interactions with people and with our daily life. They are very active in our social



environment. This technology can cause a person to have a unique personality that separates him from society or to change a single language or group of habits.

Kathleen et.al. (2008) studied technology spending patterns of mobile cell phones and poverty level change among households in Uganda. The results showed gender inequality with improved asset control and a lack of knowledge about cell phones furthering digital diversity. However, the increase in small business development is encouraging mobile phone ownership for women

Onwumele (2011) conducted a study to assess the effect of cell phones on rural livelihoods assets in Ovia, in the northeastern part of local government, in rural Nigeria with a questionnaire. Results show that cell phone use has a profound effect on the social and human capital livelihood assets in rural areas.

Furuholt and Matotay (2011) investigate the use of mobile phones among rural farmers in Tanzania to provide informative information about the role of technology development. The results showed improved access to telecommunications and information on mobile phones affected the entire agricultural life revolving around time and caused major changes in livelihoods, increased opportunities, and reduced risks.

Kuldeep and Meenakshi (2012) conducted interviews to assess users and cell phone usage patterns in the Haryana area. More than 70% of active mobile phone users of the age group (15-45), 97% were educated 79% have a school level (primary to twelve). Mobile phone users were 42% of rural elite, 26% middle class, and 22% lower. More than 80% of users have purchased cell phones to connect with family and friends. Purchasing decisions (over 75%) on mobile phones are made by the head of the household, especially fathers or grandparents, with only 16% of users using customer care services.

Adnan Yousef Atoum, "Internet Addiction and its Relation to Psychosocial Adaptation among Jordanian High Basic Stage Students" in this paper he tries to identify the categories of internet needs among high school students (grades 8, 9, and 10) in Jordan. They also found the effect of psychological problems and other variables related to internet use dependent on internet addiction. They also found that the internet is attractive, so many users face problems with psychological

addiction. It was one of the factors associated with isolation, anxiety, depression, difficulty concentrating, and social problems in general. The study also suggests that many studies have suggested that depression, anxiety, overwork, social anxiety, self-esteem, and motivation are the most predictive variables for internet addiction.

Ahmet A et.al (2011) “Internet Addiction and Depression, Anxiety and Stress” in this paper he represents the relationship between online addiction and depression, anxiety and depression. They found that there was a significant relationship between these variables. They also found that there was a positive correlation between Internet addiction and these three factors. They also suggested that Internet addiction had given a direct impact on these factors.

Aaron Smith (2011) conducted a national telephone survey of 2,277 adults during April 26-May 22, 2011 in the United States of America. 1,522 interviews were conducted through landlines, and 755 interviews were conducted over the mobile phone. Pew Research Center, Washington, DC published a report based on the survey above. The report confirmed that ‘Cell phones can help prevent unwanted personal interactions– 13% of mobile phone owners pretend to use their phones to avoid contact with the people around them (Smith, 2011). He goes on to add that ‘Cell phones help retrieve information quickly (so that their absence can cause problems) - Half of all adult cell phone owners (51%) used their phone at least once to get the information they needed immediately. One-third (27%) said they encountered a situation where they had trouble doing something because their phones were not in hand.

David & Robert’s (2017) found that the parents who be phubbed will experience a sense of social exclusion, and the adolescents will feel neglected when they are phubbed by parents. And Parental neglect is a dangerous factor that affects the bond between parent and child. McDaniel had summarized that Parental telephone disruption is a serious precursor to behavioral problems for children and adolescents.

Boreli & Decio, (2015) they had reported that those children who face parental neglect have a high insecure attachment. Based on this evidence, I have concluded that parental deception or being phubbed by parents is harmful to both parent and

child. And I thought that parental negligence due to over usage of the phones would increase the risk of teen cell phone addiction due to the insecure attachment between the parent and child.

**CHAPTER -III**  
**METHODOLOGY**

## **METHODOLOGY**

“Research Methodology is the specific procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about a topic. In a research paper, the methodology section allows the reader to critically evaluate a study’s overall validity and reliability. The methodology section answers two main questions: How was the data collected or generated? How was it analyzed?”. This chapter explains the methodology that has been followed in this study and this chapter contributes to the discussed topic to be upgraded and updated. This chapter contains information regarding the statement of the problem, general and specific objectives, concepts and their theoretical and operational definition, Independent and dependent variables, the universe, sampling method, sample size, research design, tools for data collection.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

Phone addiction is considered as the obsessive use of phones. In the present scenario, Phone addiction is becoming increasing and also very common. But most of the research are focusing on phone addiction among children and youth. Also, the parents are getting addicted to phones. So, in this study, I’m trying to find out the extent of addiction among the parents, to study the reasons regarding their addiction, and also trying to analyze the challenges and issues related to it.

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

- To study the phone addiction of parents from the perspective of children with special reference to the Kochi City.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- To study the socio-economic profile of the parents.
- To examine whether there is phone addiction among the parents or not?
- To identify the challenges and issues faced by the parents.
- To understand the causes of phone addiction among parents.
- To identify the challenges and issues faced by the child due to the phone addiction of parents.

## DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS:

### 1. Phone Addiction:

- Theoretical Definition: According to the Addiction Center “Phone addiction is the obsessive use of a smartphone. The behavioral addiction is often dubbed as “nomophobia,” or the fear of being without a mobile device”.
- Operational Definition: In this study, Phone Addiction refers to the disorder involving compulsive overuse of mobile devices among parents in Kochi city.

### 2. Parents:

- Theoretical Definition: According to Merriam Webster “Parents are that person who is a father or mother and the person who has a child”.
- Operational Definition: In this study, parents refer to a person who has a child in Kochi city.

## VARIABLES:

### 1. Dependent Variable:

- Phone Addiction among Parents

## 2. Independent Variables:

- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Occupation
- Income
- Type of Phone
- Internet Availability
- Age of Children
- Locality

### RESEARCH DESIGN:

This Quantitative research is descriptive in nature. The research is designed to know the Phone addiction among parents, from the viewpoint of children, especially in Kochi city.

### UNIVERSE:

The universe in this study refers to all the children who have a mother or father in Kochi city.

### SAMPLE:

50samples are selected from the children in Kochi City. These samples will portray the children who have mothers or fathers in Kochi city.

## **SAMPLING METHOD:**

Snowball Sampling is used as the method in this study. Snowball sampling is non-probability sampling. This snowball sampling will help us to find the traits that are rare to find.

## **TOOL OF DATA COLLECTION:**

The questionnaire is used as the tool for data collection in this study. Due to this Covid-19 pandemic situation, we are using google forums for collecting the data.



**CHAPTER-IV**

**DATA ANALYSIS AND**

**INTERPRETATION**

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The purpose of collection and interpretation is to acquire useful and usable information and to make the most informed decisions possible. It provides limitless benefits for a wide range of institutions and individuals. It includes data identification and explanation, comparing and contrasting of data, identification of data outliers, future predictions. It helps improve and identify problems.

TABLE NO: 4.1

TABLE SHOWING THE AGE OF RESPONDENTS FATHERS

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
41-45	3	6
46-50	5	10
51-55	19	38
56-60	13	26
61-65	8	16
66-70	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.1 reveals that the majority of the respondent's fathers fall under the age group of 51-55 and then 56-60 years. And as compared to these two class intervals, 41-45 and 66-70 age groups have fewer respondents. Out of total respondents, 38 percent of respondents' fathers fall under the age group of 51-55 years. And only 4 percent fall under the age group of 66-70 years. 80 percent of the respondent's fathers are in the Middle age and only 10 percent fall in old age.

From the entire sample, it was found that the maximum number of participants' fathers of the study belonged to the age group of 51-55 years.

TABLE: 4.2

TABLE SHOWING THE AGE OF RESPONDENT'S MOTHERS

AGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
36-40	2	4
41-45	8	16
46-50	22	44
51-55	12	24
56-60	6	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.2 reveals that the majority of the respondent's mothers fall under the age group of 46-50 and then 51-55 years. And as compared to these two class intervals, the 36-40 age group has fewer respondents. Out of total respondents, 44 percent of respondents mothers fall under the age group of 46-50 years and only 4 percent fall under the age group of 36-40 years. 96 percent of the respondent's mothers are in the Middle age and only 4 percent fall in adulthood(20-40yrs.). From the entire sample, it was found that the maximum number of participants' mothers of the study belonged to the age group of 46-50 years.

FIGURE:4.1

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF AREA OF THE RESPONDENT

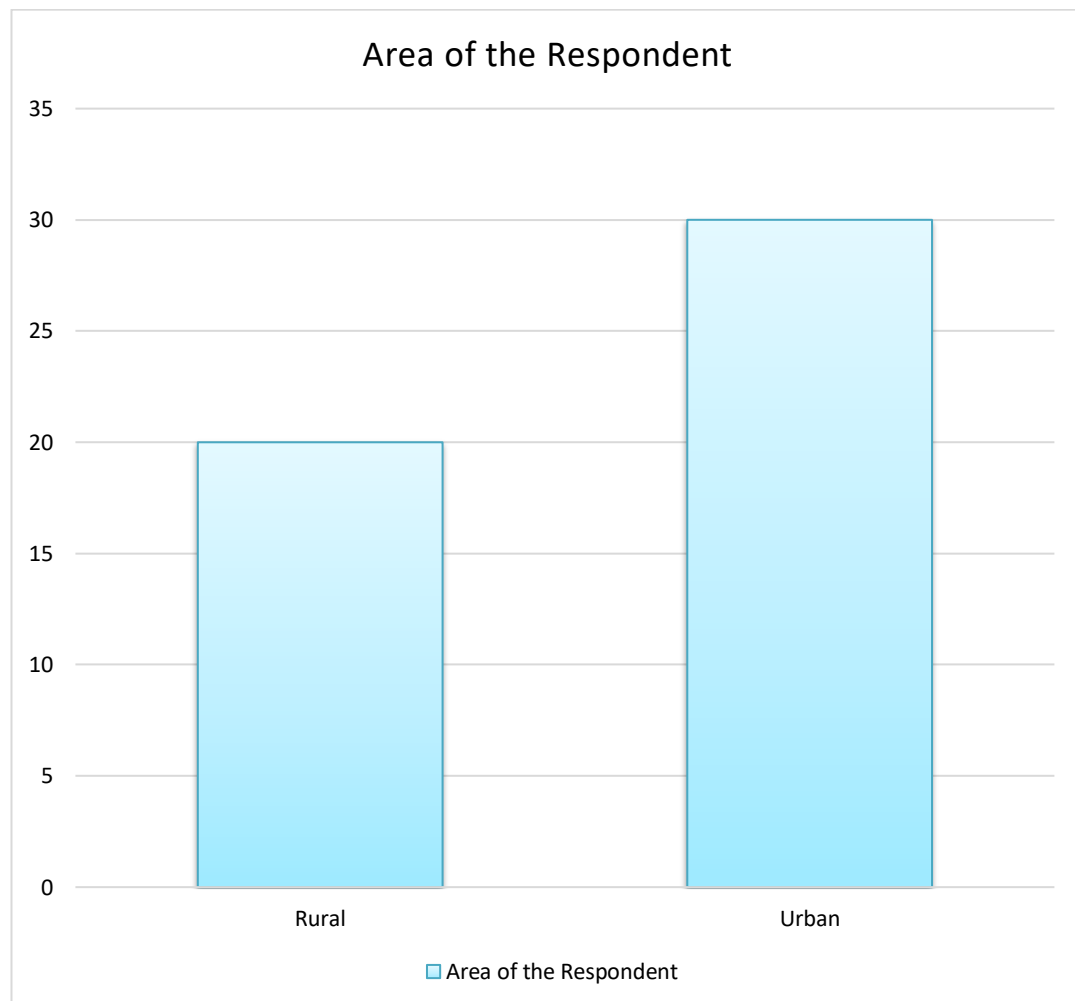


Figure: 4.1 shows the area of the respondent of the study. The table gives the status of the area of the respondent of the study, whether it's a rural area or urban area. And the majority of the respondents are from the Urban area. 60 percent of the respondents are from the urban area and the rest 40 percent are from the rural areas. The main reason for the high usage of phones in the urban area is the good internet connection they got as compared to rural areas. From the entire sample, it was found that the maximum number of participants of the study belonged to the urban area.

FIGURE: 4.2

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF ANNUAL INCOME OF FAMILY

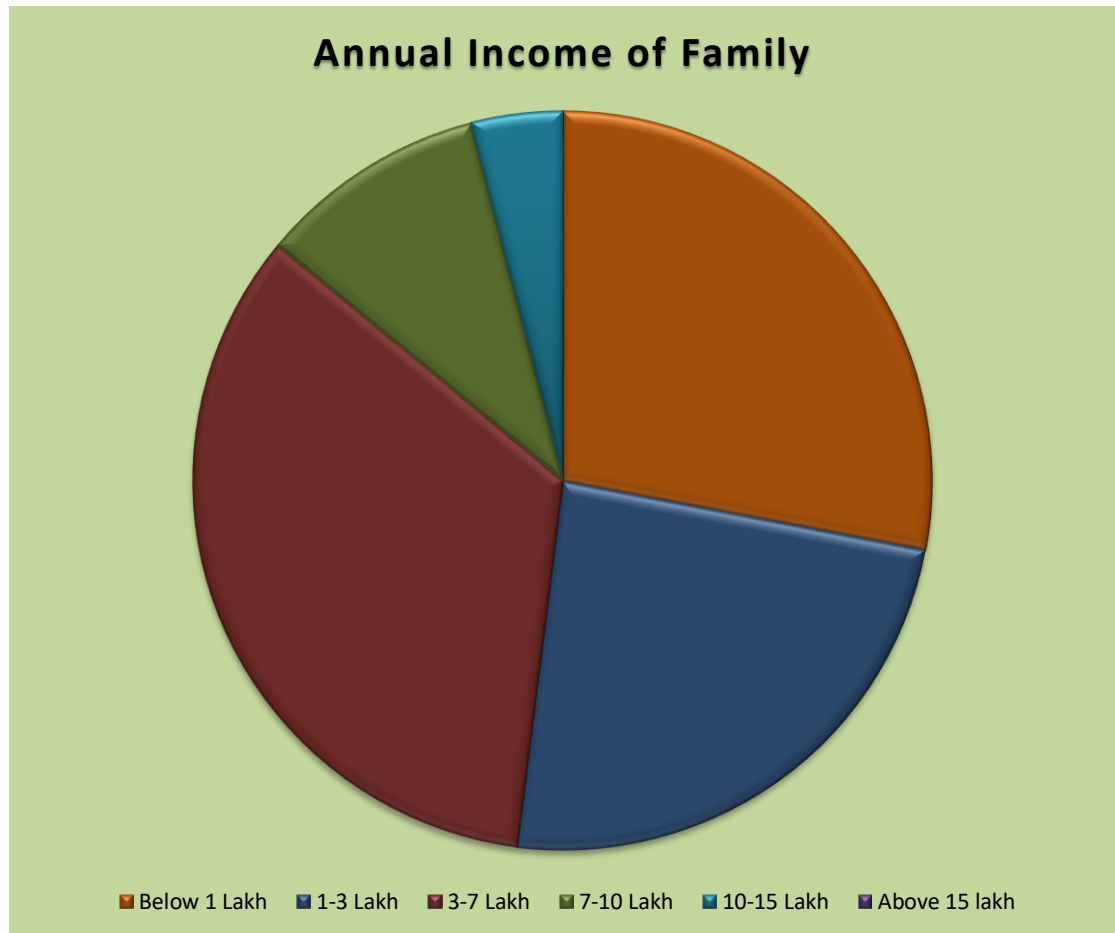


Figure:4.2 showed the status of family income per annum. The majority of the Respondents are from a middle-class families and a few respondents belong to low-class families. 72 percent of the respondents are from middle-class families and the rest 28 percent belong to low-class families. Therefore, from the entire sample, it was found that 28% of participants' annual family income was found to be below within the rupees of 1,00,000. 24% of participants reported as within the rupees of 1,00,00 to 3,00,000, while 34% participants showed their annual family income within 3,00,000 to 7,00,000, 10% claimed that their family income was within the rupees of 7,00,000 to 10,00,000 only 4% participants said that their family income was within the rupees of 10,00,000 to 15,00,000 From this

table, it was found that maximum participants of the study belonged to the family income group ranging within the rupees of 30,00,000 to 7,00,000.

FIGURE: 4.3

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS

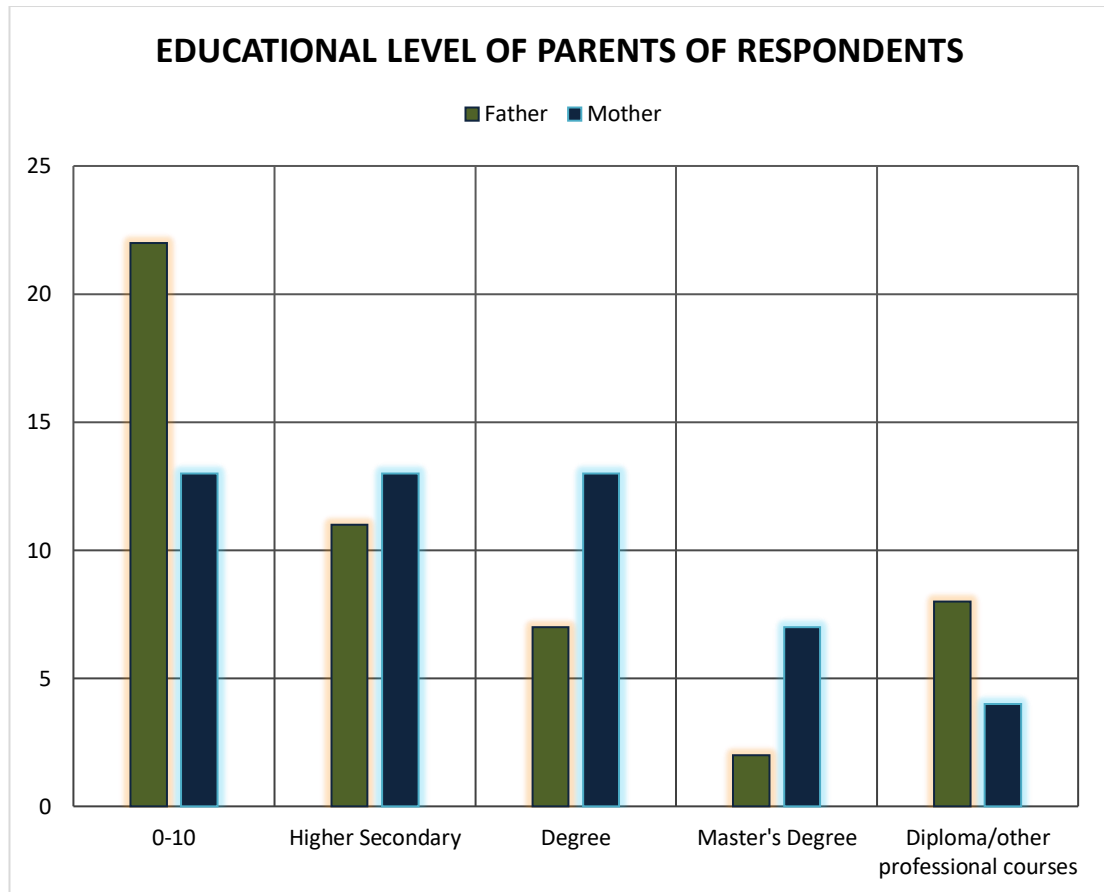


Figure: 4.3 represents the educational level of the father and mother of the respondent. Both the father and mother of the participants are literate. The majority of the fathers are passed high school (44 percent) and 22 percent had passed higher secondary, degree (14 percent) and diploma/ other related professional courses (16 percent) and master's degree (4 percent). The majority of the mothers had passed high school, higher secondary and degree (26 percent) And 14 percent had passed master's degree and 8 percent had passed diploma/other professional courses. When we compared both of these it's clear that the mothers have got more higher education more than fathers, but even then, the mothers have had literacy, 78 percent of them are not working.

TABLE: 4.3

TABLE SHOWING OCCUPATION OF FATHERS OF RESPONDENTS

OCCUPATION	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
ADVOCATE	2	4
BANK EMPLOYEE	2	4
BUSINESS	11	22
DAILY-WAGE WORKERS	21	42
CENTRAL- GOVT. SERVICES	2	4
GOVT. EMPLOYEE	4	8
DESIGNER	1	2
FILM INDUSTRY	1	2
FARMER	1	2
FISHERMAN	3	6
MERCHANT NAVY	1	2
NAVAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE	1	2
TOTAL	50	100

Table:4.4 showed the occupations of the fathers of respondents. At first, the table gave the status of the occupations of fathers of respondents. Most of the fathers were daily wage earners, followed by business. Some of them were government employees, central government employees. While a few of them were engaged in farming, fishing, designing, and others. So, the table cited above is suggested that

the occupation of most of the fathers was daily wage-earning. But, diversification in occupation was seen.

FIGURE: 4.4

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF OCCUPATION OF MOTHERS OF RESPONDENTS

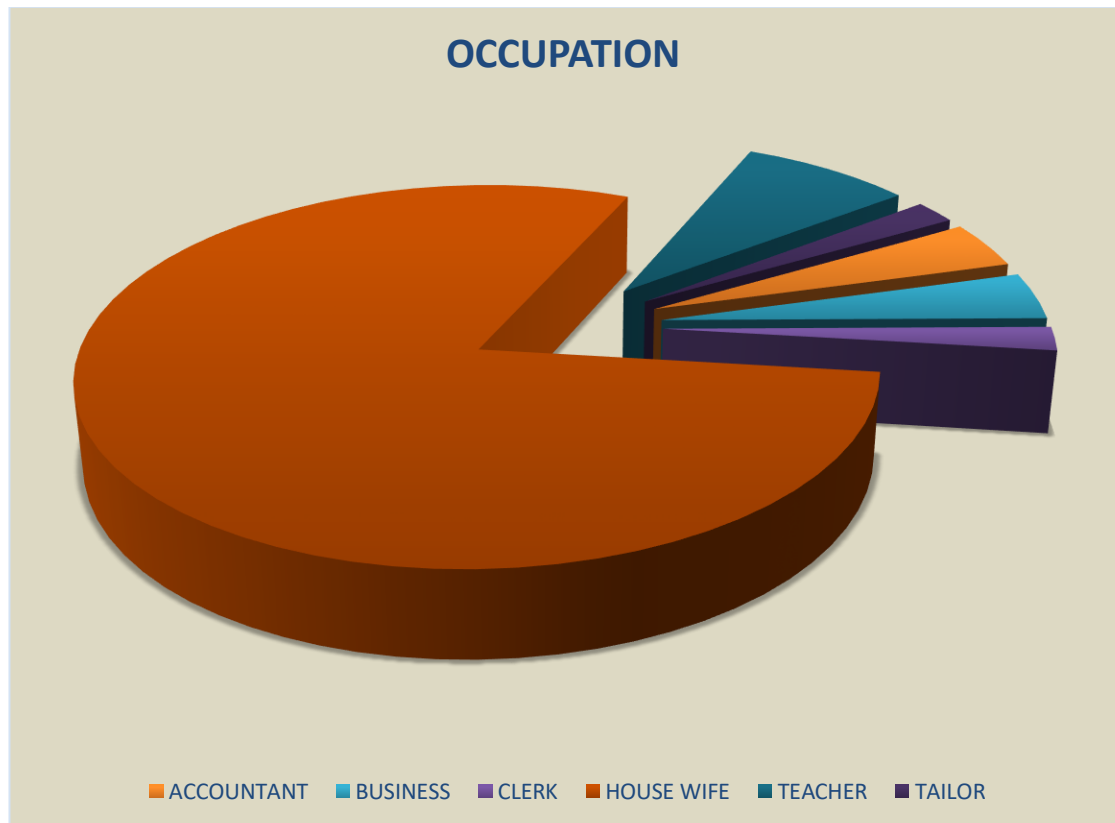


Figure 4.4 showed the occupations of the mothers of respondents. the figure gave the status of occupations of mothers of respondents. Most of the mothers were housewives, followed by the teacher, business, and others. Others included self-employed, clerical jobs and others. From the total sample, it was found that the maximum numbers of mothers were housewives, followed by service, business, and others. But when we compared it with Figure 4.3, we can see that the mothers have achieved higher education than fathers, but in the field of occupation, 78 percent of the mothers are not working.



FIGURE: 4.5

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE TYPE OF PHONE USED BY THE PARENTS OF RESPONDENT

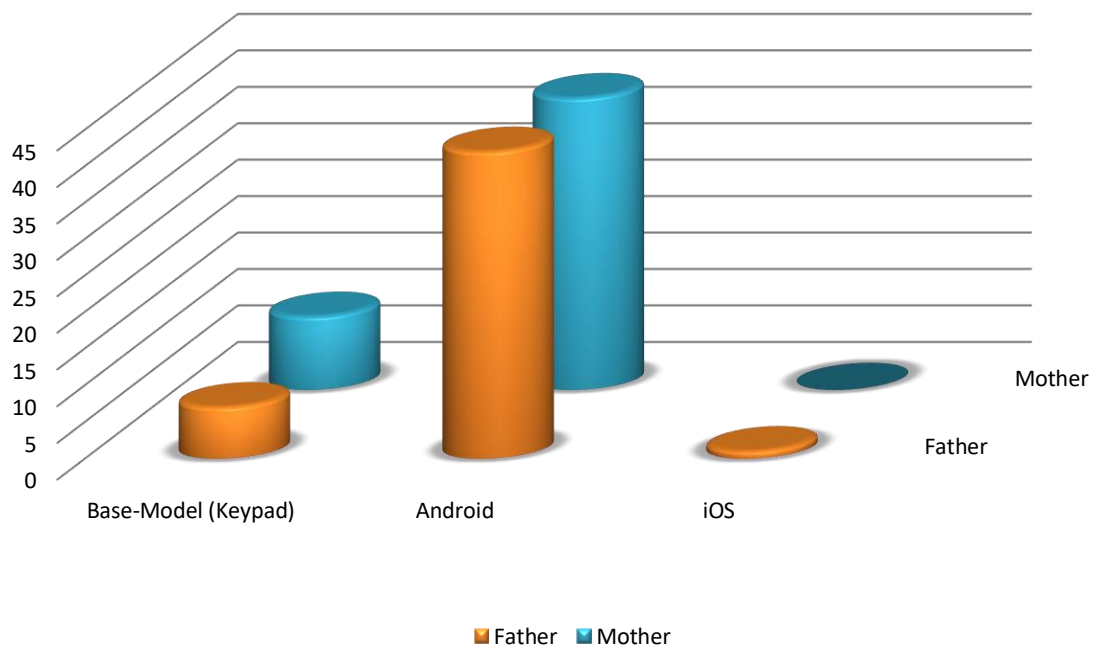


Figure:4.5 Showed the graphical representation of the phone used by the parents of the respondents. The figure gives the data about the types of phones used by both the mother and father of the respondent. Most of the fathers are using Android phones, followed by the base model and then iOS. The same kind of trend can be seen in the mother's case also. Most of the mothers are using Android phones, followed by base models. And 82 percent of the parents are using the Android type of phone and then 17 percent use the Base model type of phone and only one percent are using iOS phones. But we can see diversification in mobiles they use.

TABLE:4.4

TABLE SHOWING WHETHER THEY ARE HAVING GOOD INTERNET CONNECTION

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
<b>YES</b>	46	92
<b>NO</b>	4	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	100

Table:4.4 shows whether the respondents are having a good internet connection. The table gives us data on whether the respondents are having a good internet connection, in their area. The majority of the respondents are having a good internet connection and a few respondents are not having a good internet connection. 8 percent of them are not getting good internet connection, the main reason behind it is that they are living in a rural area. Every respondent in the urban area is getting a good internet connection. And 32 percent of the respondents those who are living in the rural area are also getting internet connection and 8 percent of people in a rural area are not getting. From the entire sample, it was found that the maximum number of respondents of the study are having good internet connections.

FIGURE: 4.6

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE SOURCES OF DATA

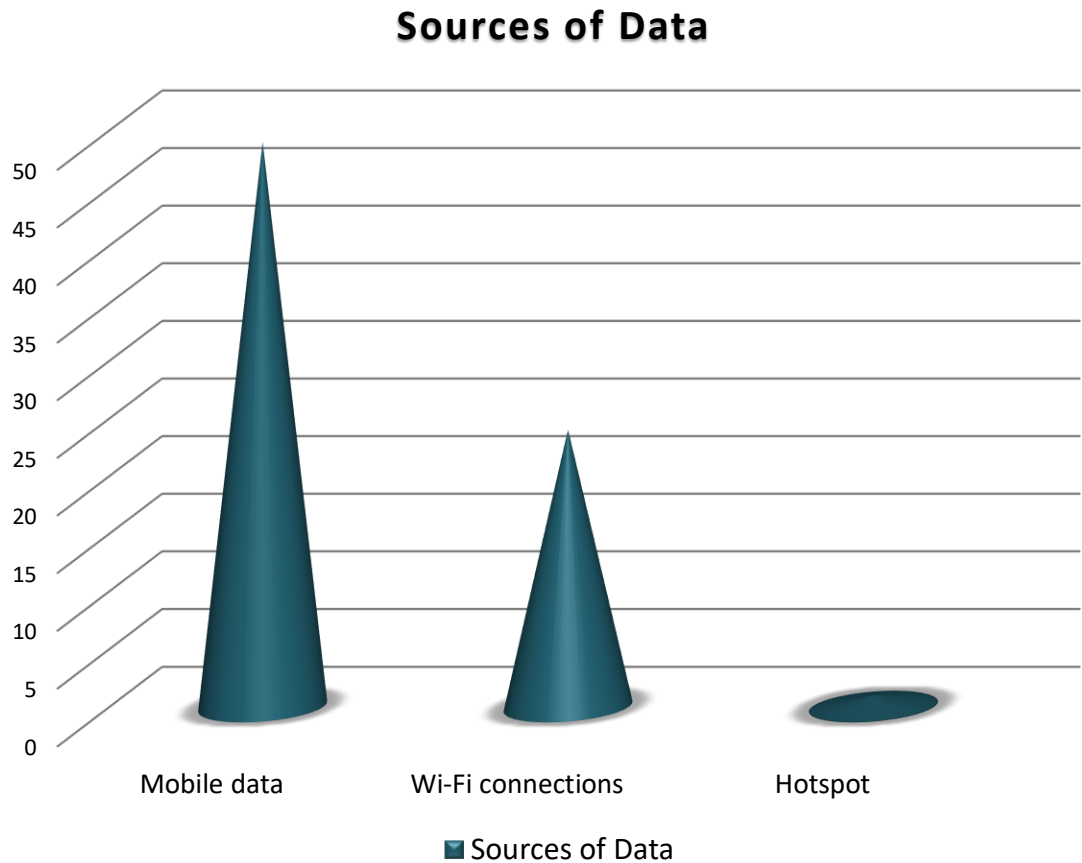


Figure: 4.6 reveals the graphical representation of the sources of data. The Figure gives us a clear understanding of the different sources of the internet data received by the respondents. The Source of data of the majority of the respondent is Mobile data, followed by Wi-Fi connections and the only respondent use the Hotspot. 50 percent of the respondents are using Mobile data as a source of data and 48 percent of the respondents are using both Mobile data and Wi-Fi connections and only 2 percent are using the hotspot. From the entire sample, it was found that the maximum number of respondents of the study are using Mobile data as a source.

FIGURE: 4.7

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE MONEY SPENT BY THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENT FOR DATA RECHARGING



Figure: 4.7 reveals the money spent by the parents of the respondents for the data recharging. The Line graph gives clear data about the amount spent by both the mother and father of the respondent for data recharging. Therefore, from the entire sample, the money spent by fathers of the respondent for data recharging, 12 percent of respondent's fathers comes within rupees of 100-200 and 40 percent comes within the rupees of 200-300, 26 percent comes within the rupees of 300-400 and 8 percent comes within the rupees of 400-500, 10 percent comes within the rupees of 500-600,

4 percent comes above the rupees of 600. And also, the money spent by the mothers of the respondent for data recharging, 36 percent of respondent's mothers come within the rupees of 100-200 and 32 percent comes within the rupees of 200-300, 20 percent comes within rupees of 300-400 and 8 percent comes within the rupees of 400-500, 4 percent comes within the rupees of 500-600. And from this, it is clear that the Majority of the fathers spent rupees of 200-300 and 300-400 for data recharging and clear that the Majority of the mothers spent rupees of 100-200 and 200-300 for data recharging.

FIGURE: 4.8

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF MOSTLY USED APP BY YOUR PARENTS

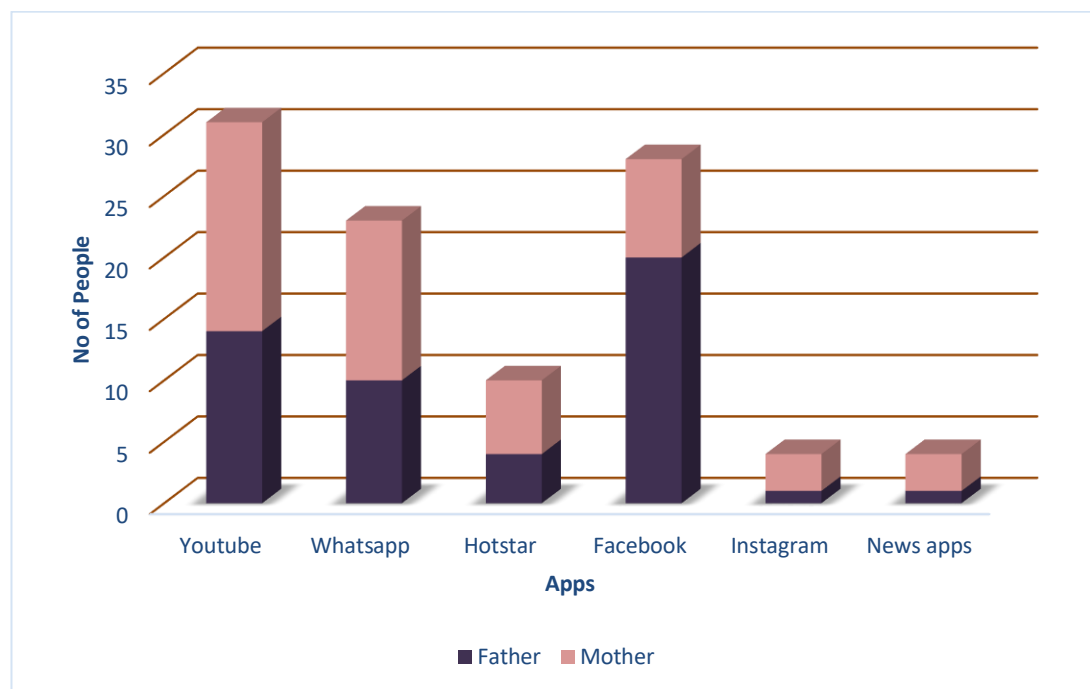


Figure: 4.8 represents the most used app by your parents. At first, it gives a clear idea about the most used app by the father and mother of the respondent of the study. Therefore, from the entire sample, the most used app by mothers of the respondents is YouTube, and it's followed by WhatsApp, Facebook, Hotstar, Instagram,

Newspaper apps. The most used app by fathers of the respondents is Facebook, and then it's followed by YouTube, WhatsApp, Hotstar, Instagram, News related apps. From this graphical representation, it is clear that the majority of mothers of respondents, mostly used the app is YouTube and that the majority of fathers of respondents, mostly used the app is Facebook.

FIGURE: 4.9

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE HOURS SPENT ON THE MOST USED APP BY THE FATHERS OF RESPONDENTS

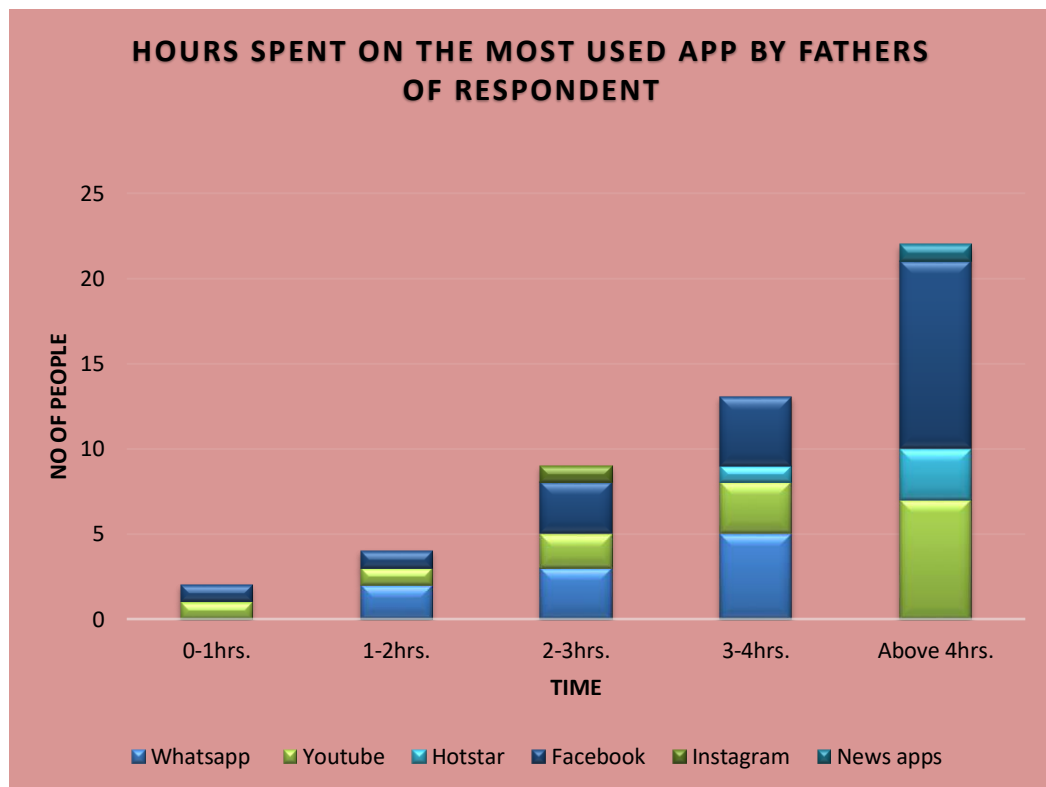


Figure: 4.9 shows the graphical representation of the hours on the most used app by the fathers of the respondents. The majority of the fathers of respondents spent more than 4 hours in the apps. Therefore, from this entire sample, the majority of the respondent's fathers use the most-used app for more than 4 hours. 44 percent of the respondent's fathers use apps for more than 4 hours daily. 26 percent of the

respondents use apps for 3-4 hours, 18 percent use apps for 2-3 hours, 8 percent use apps for 1-2 hours, and 4 percent use apps only for below 1 hour.

FIGURE: 4.10

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE HOURS SPENT ON THE MOST USED APP BY THE MOTHERS OF RESPONDENTS

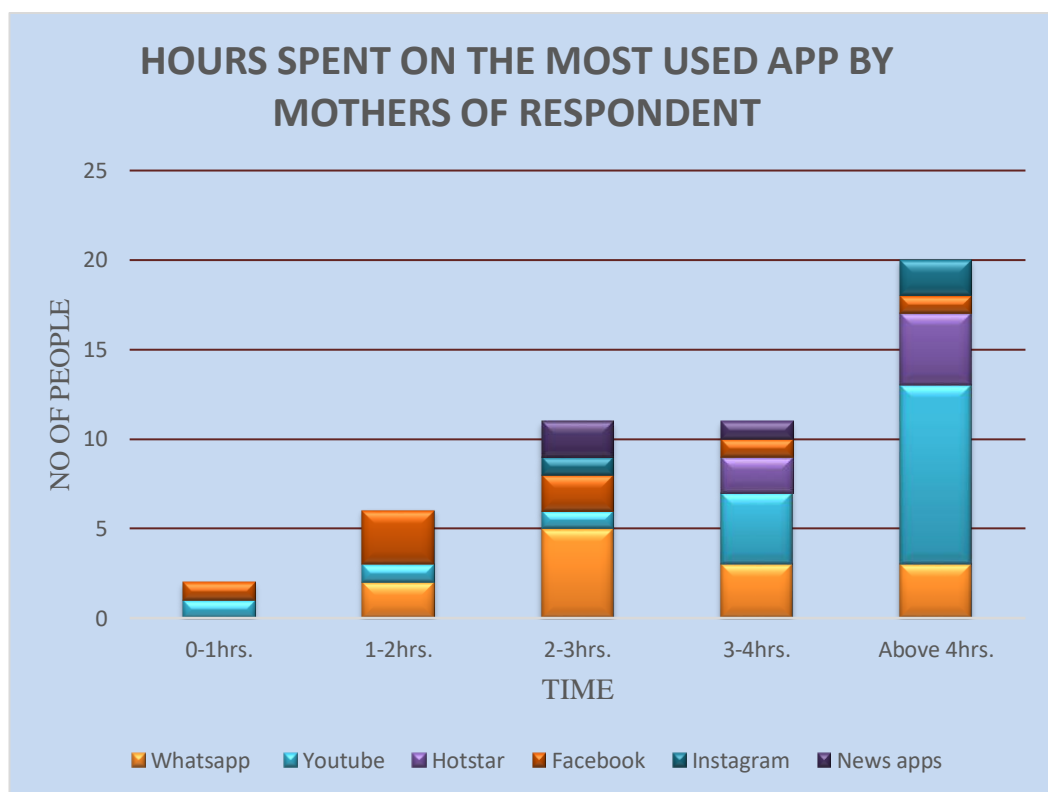


Figure: 4.10 shows the graphical representation of the hours on the most used app by the mothers of the respondents. The majority of the mothers of the respondent spent more than 4 hours in the apps. Therefore, from this entire sample, the majority of the respondent's mothers use the most-used app for more than 4 hours. 40 percent of the respondent's mothers use apps for more than 4 hours daily. 22 percent of the respondents use apps for 3-4 hours, 22 percent use apps for 2-3 hours, 12 percent use apps for 1-2 hours, and 4 percent use apps only for below 1 hour.

FIGURE: 4.11

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF WHEN THE RESPONDENT'S PARENTS BEGIN TO USE THEIR PHONES EXCESSIVELY



Figure: 4.11 shows the graphical representation of when the parents of the respondents of the study, began to use their phones excessively. The figure gives a clear understanding of when the excessive use of phones had begun among the parents. From the total sample, it is clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents have increased the usage of the phone after covid-19. 60 percent of the parents had been using the phone excessively after the covid-19 and 40 percent of the parents were using the phones excessively before the covid. Therefore, it is clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents of the study has started to use phones excessively after the covid-19. The covid-19 had played a crucial role in the usage of the phone and the situation had led to making use of the phone. Some of the respondents have pointed out that the mothers during the covid-19 lockdown, had started watching soap operas.



FIGURE: 4.12

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF HOURS SPENT BY YOUR PARENTS ON THE PHONE PER DAY

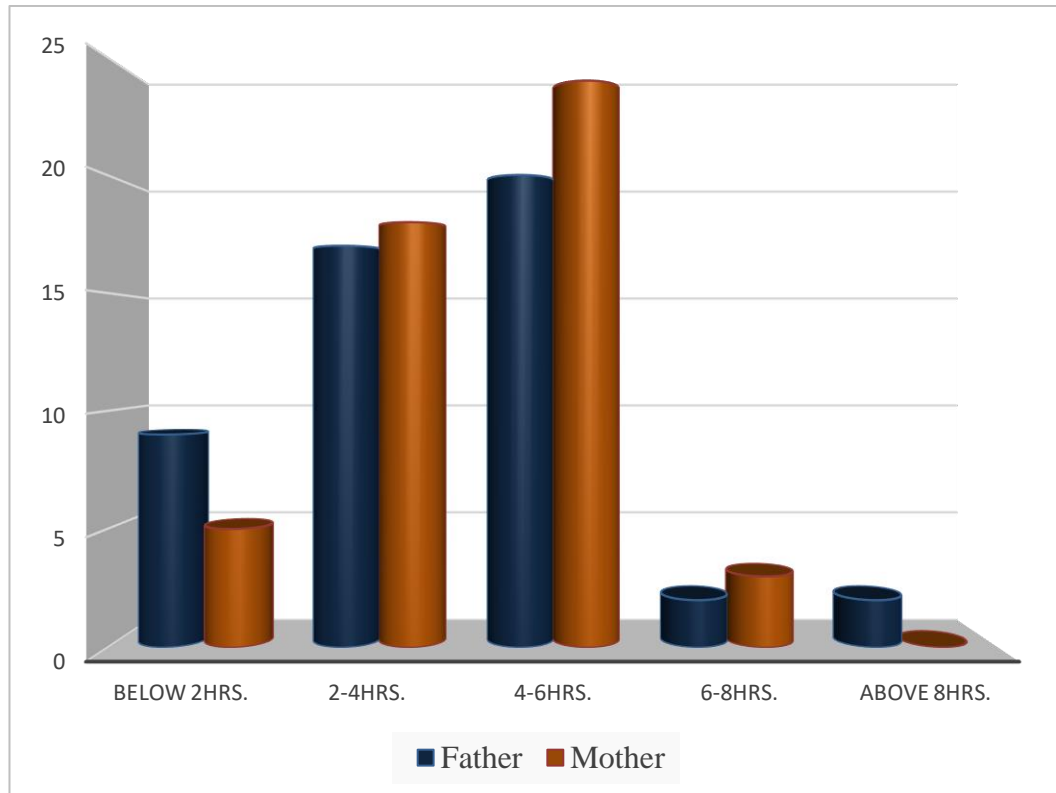


Figure: 4.12 portrays the graphical representation of the hours spent by the respondent's parents on phone per day. The figure gives a clear understanding of how many hours does the father and mother of the respondents spend on the phone every day. From the total sample, it's clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents of the study spent 4-6 hours daily. 40 percent of fathers of the respondent belong to the group of 4-6 hours and also 48 percent of mothers of the respondent belong to the group of 4-6hours. Therefore, it is clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents use their phones for 4-6 hours daily. And some of the respondents say that they become absent-minded sometimes, which also leads to a stressful life.

FIGURE: 4.13

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF WHETHER THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS CHECK THEIR PHONES CONTINUOUSLY.

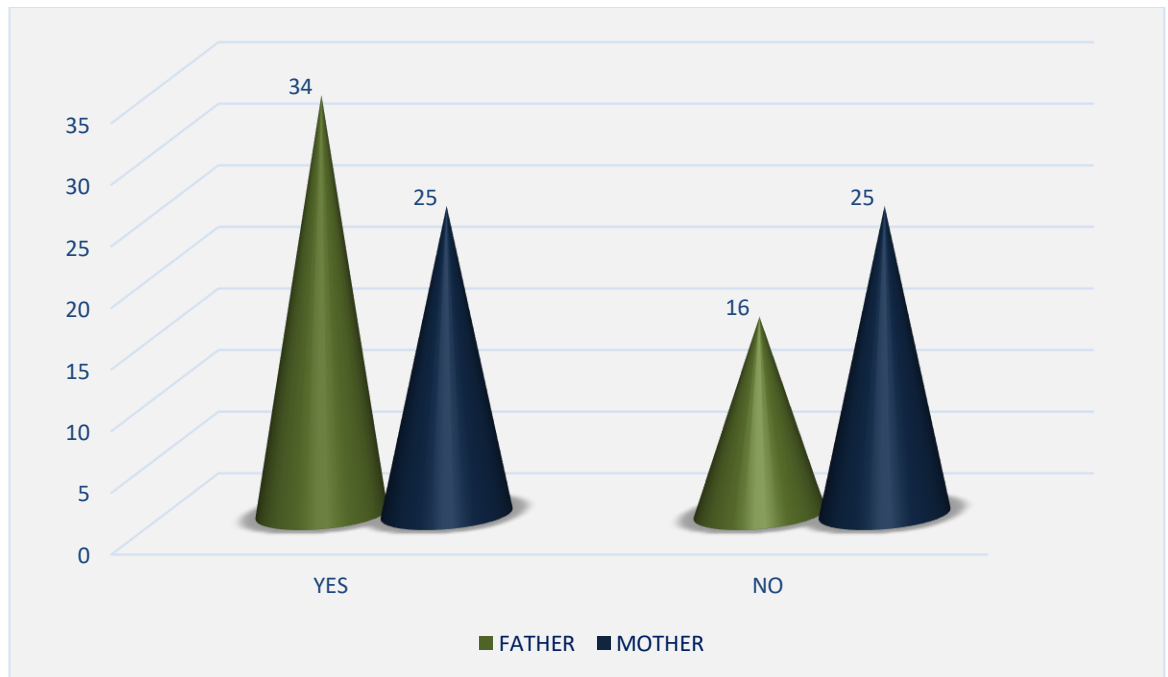


Figure: 4.13 shows whether the parents of the respondents of the study, check their phones continuously. The figure gives us a clear understanding of the response of the participants regarding whether their parents continuously check their phones or not. From the entire sample, it is clear that 68 percent of the fathers of the respondent continuously check their phones and 32 percent of the fathers of the respondents are not continuously checking their phones. From the entire sample, it is clear that 50 percent of the mothers of the respondent continuously check their phones and 50 percent of the mothers of the respondents are not continuously checking their phones. Therefore, it is clear that the majority of the respondent's parents are checking their phones continuously.

TABLE: 4.5

TABLE SHOWING WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS THINK THEIR PARENTS WILL BE ABLE TO NOT USE THEIR PHONE FOR A WHOLE DAY.

RESPONSE	FATHER	MOTHER
YES	23	25
NO	27	25
TOTAL	50	50

Table: 4.5 reveals whether the respondents think, that their parents will be able to not use their phone for a whole day. The table gives a clear understanding of the responses of the participants of the study regarding whether their mother and father will be able to not use their phones for a whole day. From the entire sample, 54 percent of the fathers can't able to not use the phone for one day and 46 percent can do it. 50 percent of the mothers can't able to not use the phone for one day and 50 percent can do it. From the entire sample total of 52 percent of the parent can't be able to not use their phone for one day. Therefore, it's clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents are not able to not use their phones for a whole day.

FIGURE: 4.14

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF WHETHER THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS CHECK THEIR PHONES IN THE EARLY MORNING.

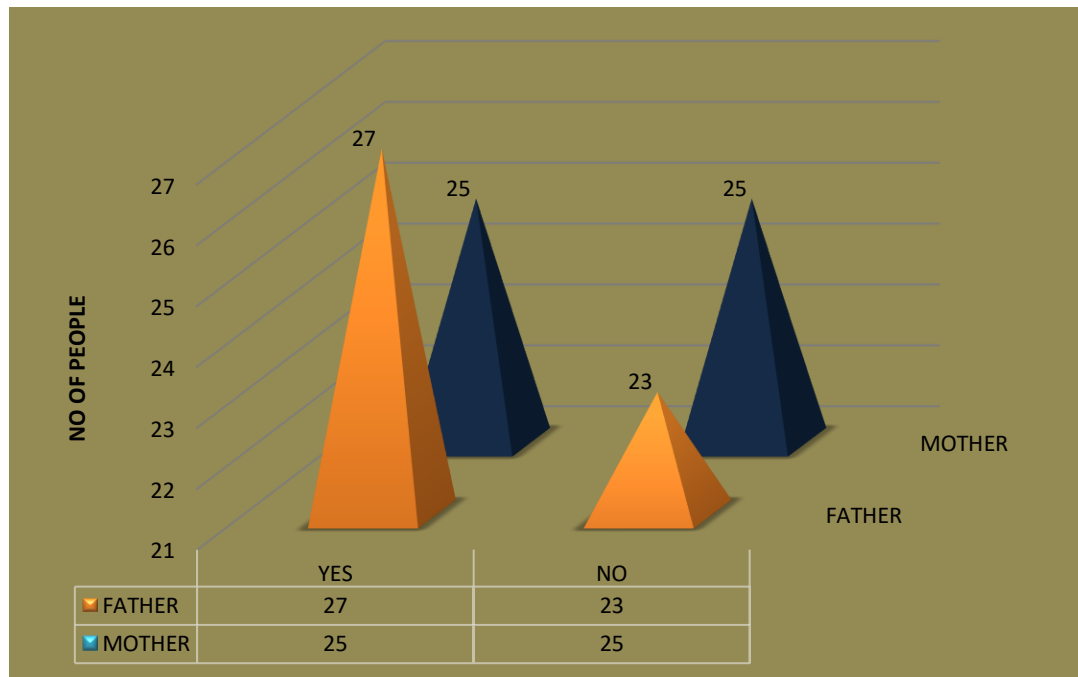


Figure: 4.14 shows whether the parents of the respondents check their phones in the early morning. Graphical representation gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents of the study check their phones in the early morning or not. From the entire sample, 52 percent of the parents check their phones in the early morning and 48 percent of them don't. Therefore, it's clear that the majority of the respondent's parents are checking phones in the early morning. As compared with both parents we can see that 54 percent of the fathers are checking their phones in the early morning and 50 percent of the mothers are checking the phone in the early morning.

FIGURE: 4.15

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF WHETHER THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS CHECK THEIR PHONE IN LATE NIGHT

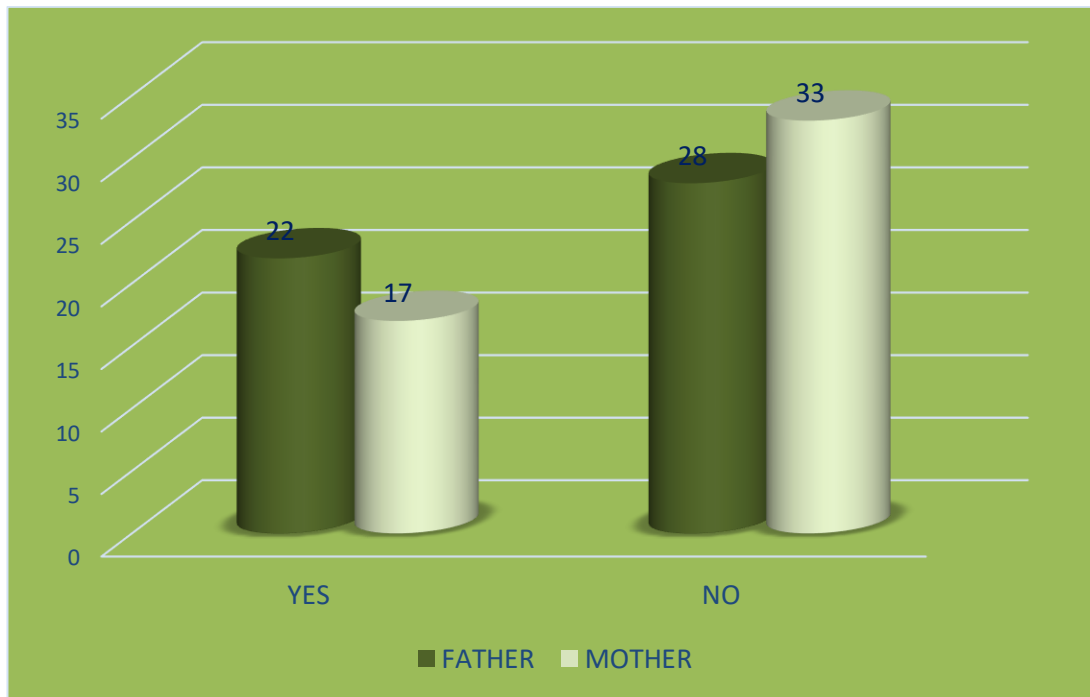


Figure: 4.15 reveals whether the parents of the respondents check their phones late at night. Graphical representation gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents of the study check their phones late at night or not. From the entire sample, 39 percent of the parents check their phones in the early morning and 61 percent of them don't. Therefore, it's clear that the majority of the respondent's parents are not checking phones in late at night. As compared with both parents we can see that 44 percent of the fathers are checking their phones in late at night and 34 percent of the mothers are checking the phone at late night. And 56 percent of the fathers are not using phones late at night and 66 percent of the mothers are also not using the phones late at night.

TABLE: 4.6

TABLE SHOWING WHETHER THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS BECOME DISTURBED WHEN YOU INTERRUPT THEM WHILE USING PHONE

RESPONSES	FATHER	MOTHER
YES	30	18
NO	20	32
TOTAL	50	50

Table: 4.6 shows the responses of the participants regarding whether their parents become disturbed when you interrupt them while using the phone. The table gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents become disturbed or not when you interrupt them while using the phone. From the entire sample, 48 percent of the parents get disturbed and 52 percent don't. But when we take both the parents separately, we can see that 60 percent of the fathers are getting disturbed. Whereas only 36 percent of mothers get disturbed while using their phones. Therefore, the majority of the parents of respondents don't get disturbed when the respondents interrupt while using the phone and the majority of fathers get disturbed when the respondents disturb them while using the phone.

TABLE: 4.7

TABLE SHOWING WHETHER THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS BECOME IRRITATED IF THE MOBILE DATA OR Wi-Fi IS UNAVAILABLE.

RESPONSE	FATHER	MOTHER
YES	27	22
NO	23	28
TOTAL	50	50

Table: 4.7 shows the responses of the participants regarding whether their parents become irritated if mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable. The table gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents become irritated or not when the mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable. From the entire sample, 49 percent of the parents get irritated and 51 percent don't. But when we take both the parents separately, we can see that 54 percent of the fathers are getting irritated. Whereas only 44 percent of mothers get irritated if Mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable. Therefore, the majority of the parents of respondents don't get irritated if mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable and the majority of fathers get irritated when the mobile data and Wi-Fi become unavailable.

FIGURE: 4.16

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF WHETHER THE PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS GET NERVOUS/RESTLESS/UNEASY WHEN THEY ARE NOT AROUND THE PHONE.

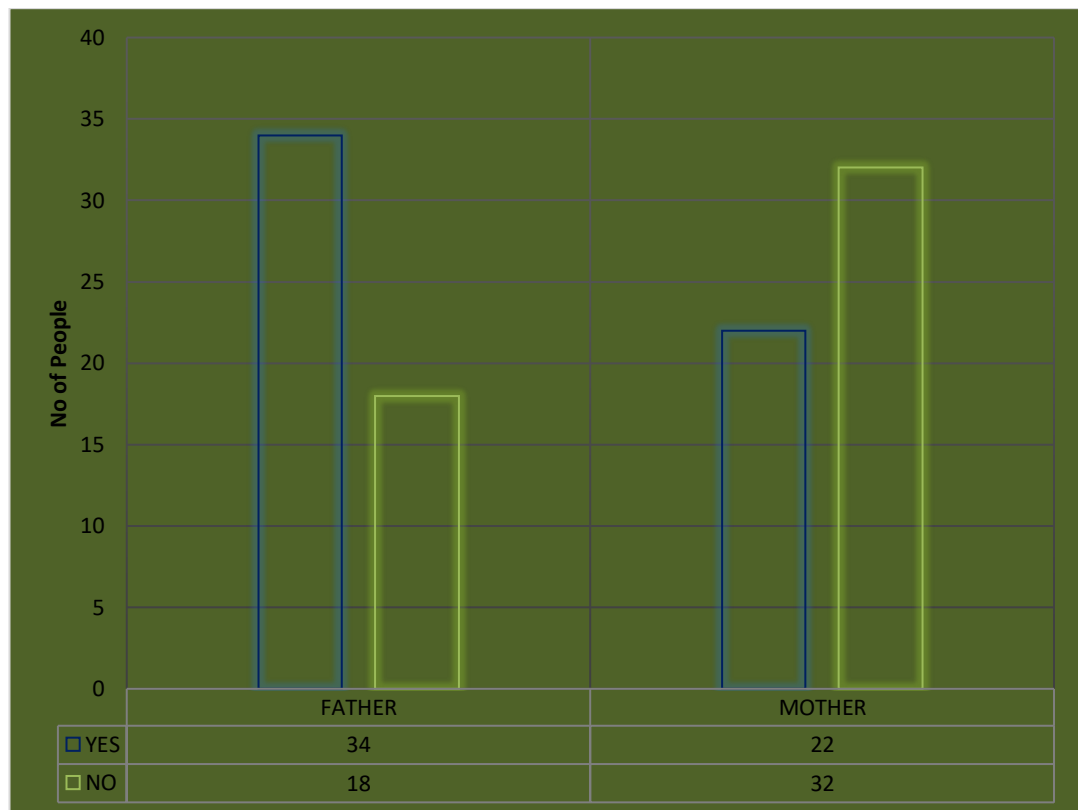


Figure: 4.16 shows the responses of the participants regarding whether their parents become nervous/restless/uneasy when they are not around the phone. The Graphical representation gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents become nervous/restless/uneasy or not when they are not around the phone. From the entire sample, 56 percent of the parents get nervous and 48 percent don't. But when we take both the parents separately, we can see that 68 percent of the fathers are getting disturbed. Whereas only 44 percent of mothers get disturbed while using their phones. Therefore, the majority of the parents of respondents get nervous/restless/uneasy when they are not around the phone and the majority of fathers get nervous/restless/uneasy when they are not around the phone



TABLE: 4.8

TABLE SHOWING THE RESPONSES OF THE PARTICIPANTS REGARDING WHETHER THEY THINK PARENTS HAVE BECOME LAZY OR IDLE BECAUSE OF TOO MUCH USAGE OF THE PHONE.

<b>RESPONSE</b>	<b>FATHER</b>	<b>MOTHER</b>
<b>YES</b>	19	16
<b>NO</b>	31	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	50

Table: 4.8 shows the responses of the participants regarding whether their think parents have become lazy/idle because of too much usage of the phone. The table gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents have become lazy/idle or not, due to too much usage of the phone. From the entire sample, 35 percent of the parents had become lazy due to the over usage of the phone and 65 percent don't. But when we take both the parents separately, we can see that only 38 percent of the fathers are becoming lazy. Whereas only 32 percent of mothers are become lazy while using their phones. Therefore, the majority of the parents of respondents haven't become lazy/idle because of too much usage of the phones.

FIGURE: 4.17

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF RESPONSE OF THE PARTICIPANT ON WHETHER THEIR PARENTS OVERREACT TO WHEN YOU INTERRUPT THEM WHILE USING THE PHONE.

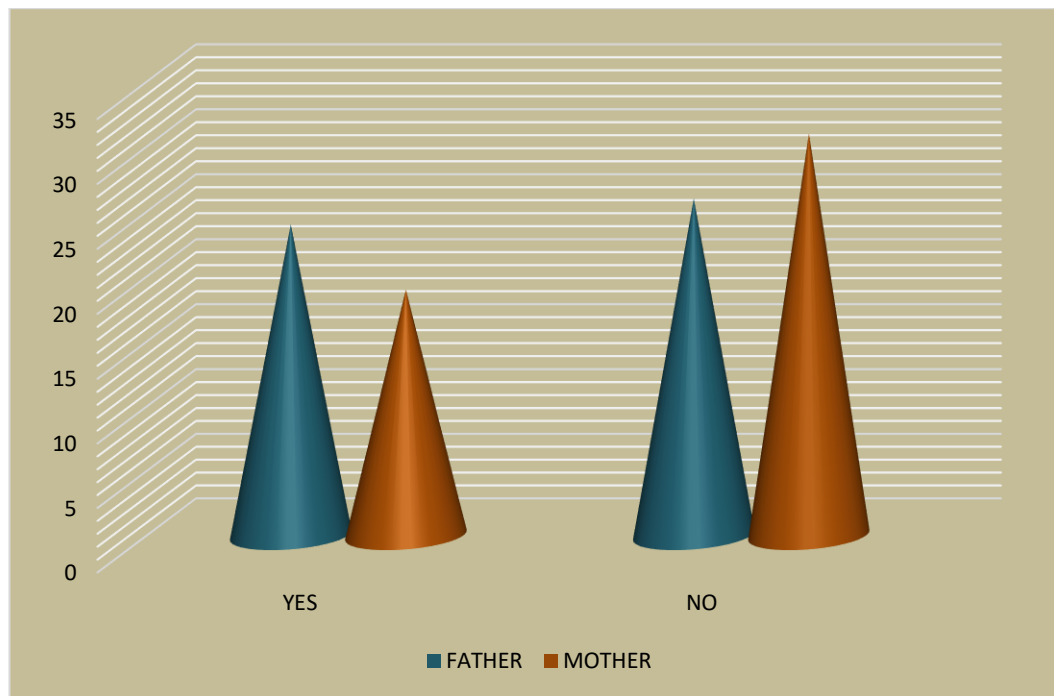


Figure: 4.17 shows the responses of the participants regarding whether their parents overreact to when the respondents interrupt them while using the phone. The table gives a clear idea of whether the parents of the respondents overreact or not when they interrupt them while using the phone. From the entire sample, 43 percent of the parents overreact to when the respondents interrupt them while using the phone and 57 percent don't overreact. When we take both the parents separately, we can see that 52 percent of the fathers don't overreact when the respondents interrupt them while using the phone. Whereas only 62 percent of mothers also don't overreact when the respondents interrupt them while using the phone. Therefore, the majority of the parents of respondents come haven't overreacted to when the respondents interrupt them while using the phone.

FIGURE: 4.18

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF, FOR WHAT PURPOSE DID THE RESPONDENTS FATHER USE THE PHONE MOST.

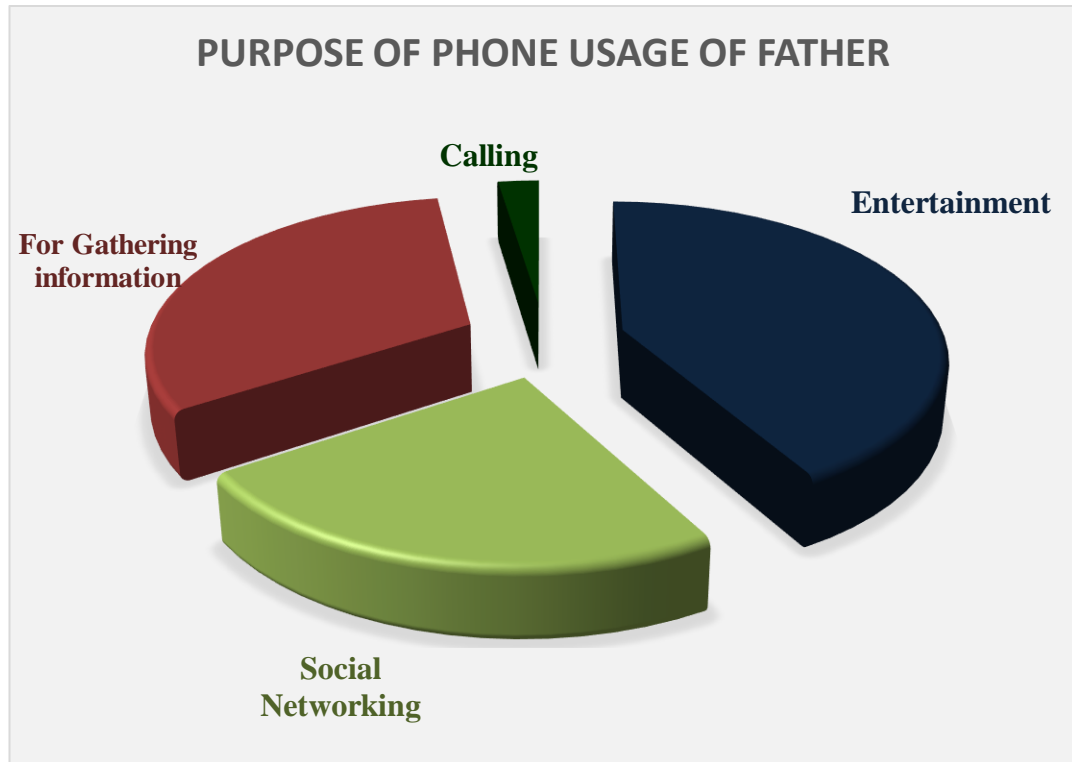


Figure: 4.18 shows a graphical representation of, what are the purposes did the respondent's father use the phones for most. Most of the fathers use phones mostly for entertainment purposes, which is followed by gathering information, social networking, and calling. From the entire sample, it is clear that the majority of the fathers are using the phone for entertainment. 42 percent of the fathers are using the phones for their entertainment, 32 percent on information gathering, 24 percent on social networking, and only 2 percent for calling. Therefore, we can understand the majority of the respondent's fathers of the study use phone for entertainment and then for information gathering and others.

FIGURE: 4.19

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF, FOR WHAT PURPOSE DID THE RESPONDENT'S MOTHER USE THE PHONE MOST.

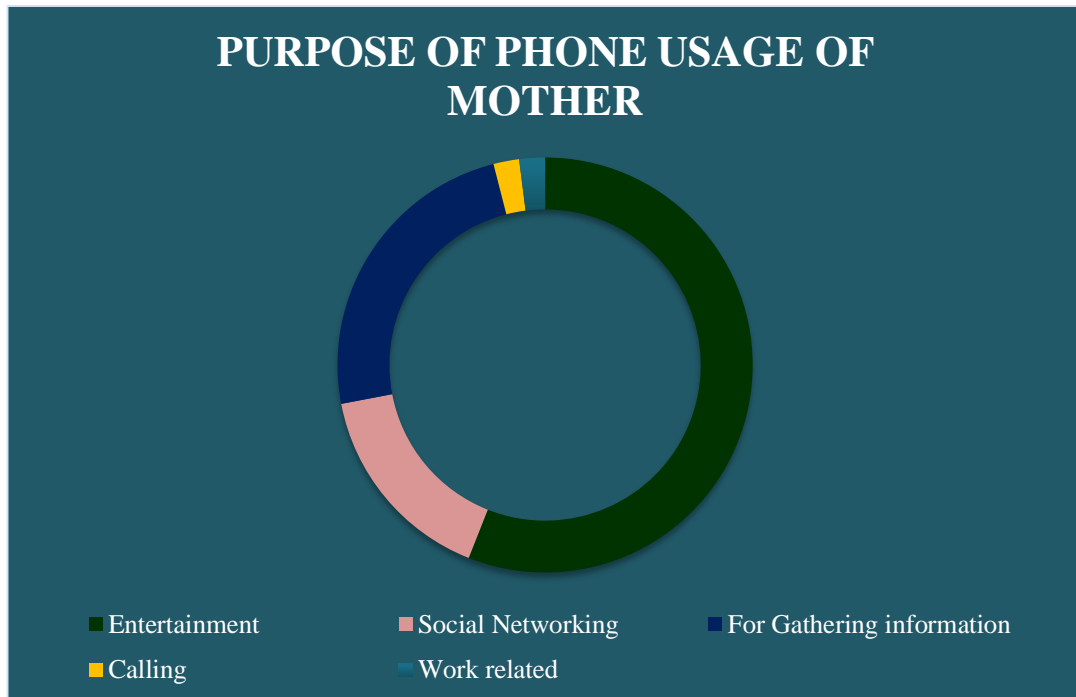


Figure: 4.19 shows a graphical representation of, what are the purposes did the respondent's mother use the phones for most. Most of the mothers use phones mostly for entertainment purposes, which is followed by gathering information, social networking, calling, and work-related things. From the entire sample, it is clear that the majority of the mothers are using their phones for entertainment. 56 percent of the mothers are using the phone for their entertainment, 24 percent for information gathering, 16 percent for social networking, 2 percent for calling, and two percent for work-related things. Therefore, we can understand the majority of the respondent's mothers of the study use phone for entertainment and then for information gathering and others.

FIGURE: 4.20

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE HOURS SPENT BY THE RESPONDENT’S PARENTS BY CALLING THEIR LOVED ONES IN ONE DAY.

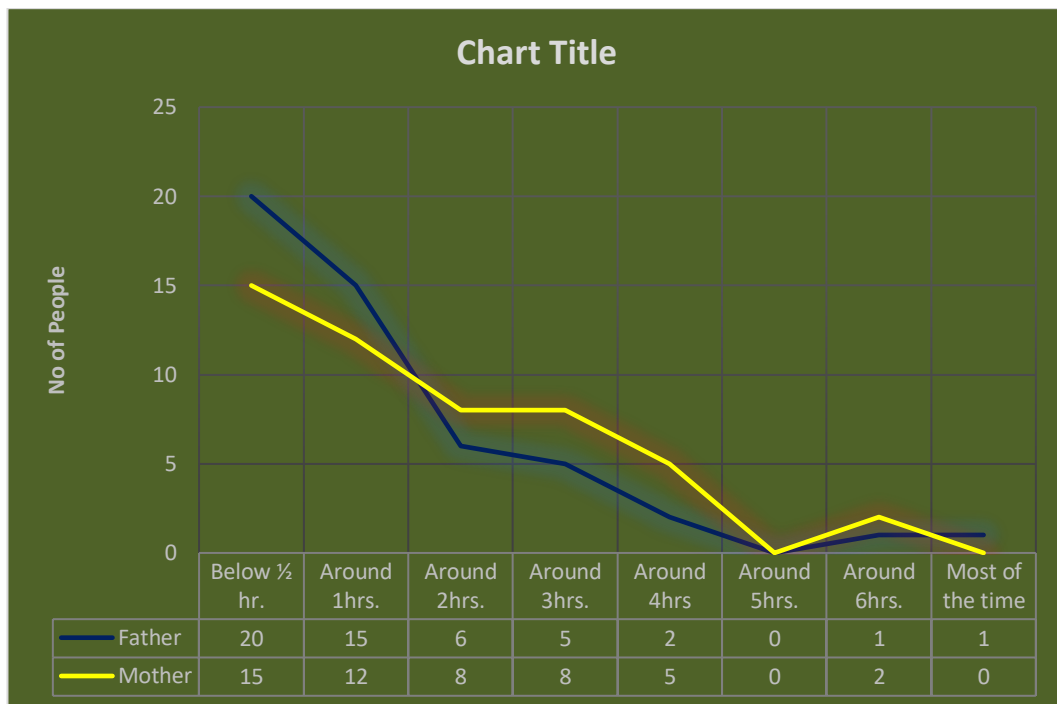


Figure: 4.20 shows a graphical representation of the hours spent by the respondent’s parents by calling their loved ones (friends and families) in one day. Parents spent hours calling their beloved ones, most of them spent below ½ hour and then around 1 hour, 2hour, 3hours goes on. From the entire sample, it is clear that the majority of the respondent’s parents spent ½ hours calling their loved ones (families and friends) and then Around 1 hour. 35 percent of parents spent below ½ hours for calling, 27 percent around 1 hour, 14 percent around two hours, 13 percent around 3hours, 7 percent around 4hours, 3 percent around 6hours, and 1 percent most of the time. So, it’s clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents use limitedly for calling their beloved ones per day.

FIGURE: 4.21

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE REASONS THAT LEAD TO THE OVER USAGE OF PHONE IN PARENTS OF THE RESPONDENTS.

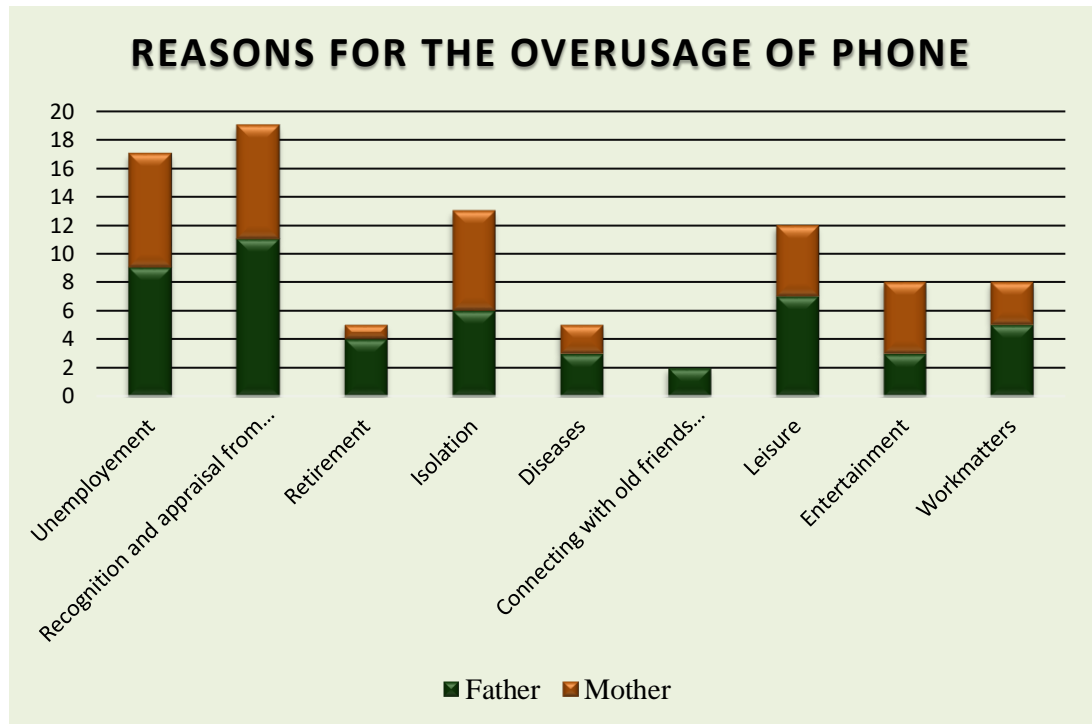


Figure: 4.21 shows the graphical representation of the reasons that lead to the over usage of phones by parents of the respondents of the study. Most of the parents use the used phone for recognition and appraisal. Recognition and appraisal, unemployment, isolation, leisure, entertainment, work-related things, diseases, retirement all are the reasons for the over usage of phones among the parents of the respondents of the study. For the majority of the parents of the respondents of the study recognition and appraisal from social media and unemployment are the reasons that led to the over usage of phones among parents, followed by leisure, isolation, entertainment, work-related things, diseases, retirement, connecting with old friends through social media and others.

FIGURE: 4.22

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF WHETHER THE PARENTS ARE FINDING ENOUGH TIME TO SPENT WITH THE RESPONDENTS.

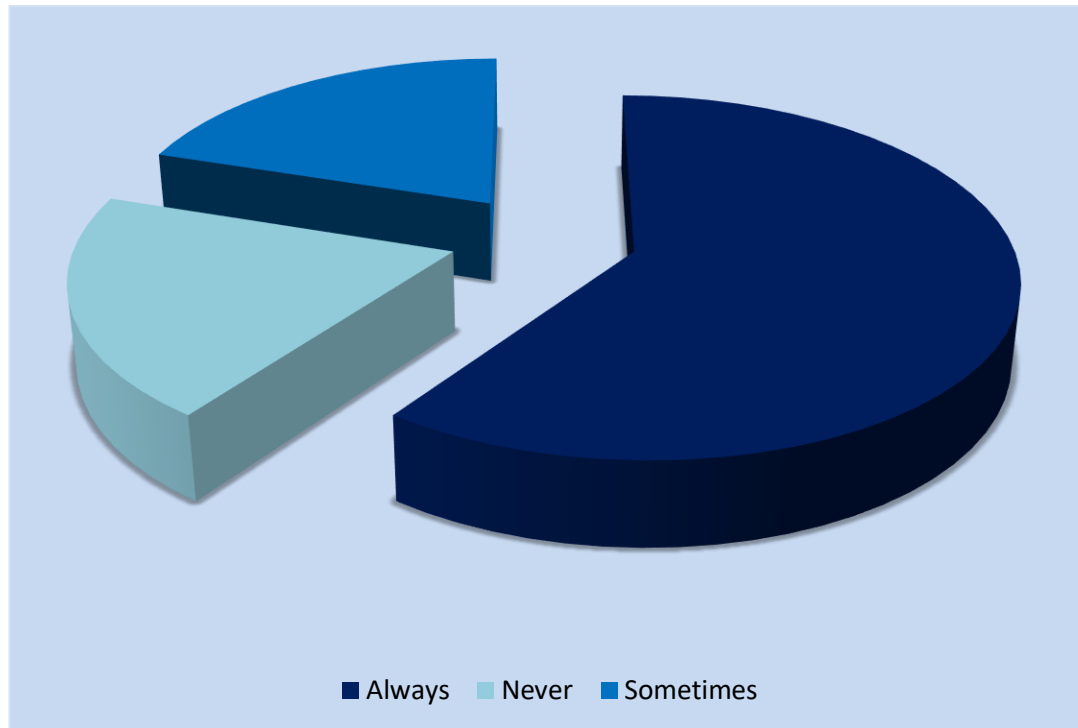


Figure: 4.22 shows the graphical representation of the responses, regarding whether the parents are finding enough time to spend with the children. The majority of the children say that the parents always find time to spend with them. From the entire sample, we understand that 60 percent of the parents always find time to spend with children, 20 percent of the parents never find time to spend with the children and another 20 percent of the parents sometimes find time to spend with children. Therefore, it is clear that the majority of the parents of the respondents find time to spend with children.

FIGURE: 4.23

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE RESPONSE OF PARTICIPANTS, WHETHER THEY FEEL THAT THE OVER USAGE OF PHONE BY YOUR PARENTS HAD RESULTED IN THE WEAKENING OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP IN THEIR FAMILY.

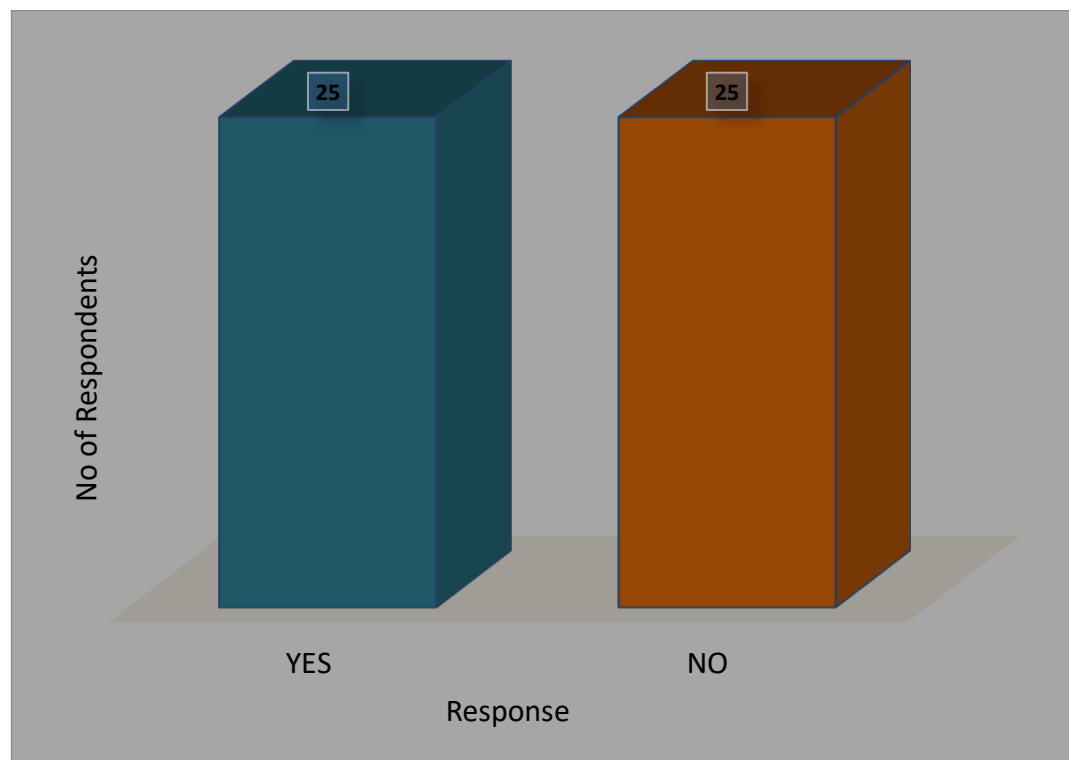


Figure: 4.23 shows the graphical representation of the responses of the respondents regarding whether the respondents feel that the over usage of the phone by your parents had resulted in the weakening of the parent-child relationship. 50 percent of the participants of the study say that the usage of the phone had resulted in the weakening of the relationship between the parent-child relationship in the family and another 50 percent of the respondents say that it hadn't affected the relationship between the parent and child in the family. Therefore, there are equal respondents in both the response.



FIGURE: 4.24

GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS, DUE TO THE PHONE USAGE OF PARENTS

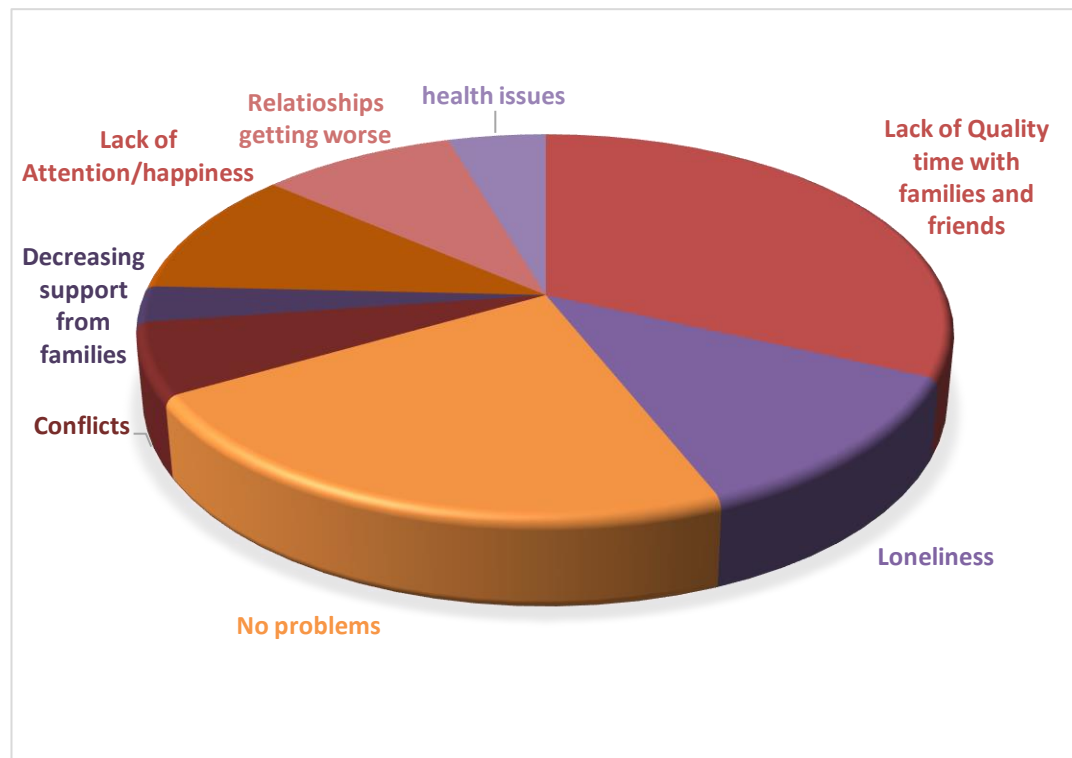


Figure: 4.24 shows the what are the problems faced by the respondents, due to the phone usage of parents. This graphical representation represents the responses of the respondents regarding the problems faced by them due to the phone usage of their parents. The majority of the children say that there is a lack of quality time with parents and there are respondents who say that there is no problem, and they also say the reason that their parents use the phone moderately, make time for them and also give the child the freedom they need. There are other problems like health issues, relationships getting worse due to lack of communication and misunderstandings, conflicts, loneliness, decreasing support from family and others.

# **CHAPTER-V**

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

Phone addiction is a common condition that we can see in the present world. Many studies focus on the phone addiction of the students, children, youth, and adolescents. Phone addiction is not a condition that affects only these people. Phone addiction is a condition that affects people in all sects. This study is providing information about the phone addiction of parents from the perspective of the children with special reference to Kochi City. And this study also tries to understand the socio-economic background of the parents. It also helps to find out whether there is phone addiction among the parents or not and also helps to know about the challenges and issues faced by the parents and the children due to the phone addiction of parents. Since the data is collected from direct sources, it can provide a more reliable and realistic view without any prejudices. And also, from this study, we can understand what are the different causes for phone addiction among parents.

The first objective of the study was to find out the socioeconomic profile of the parents who have phone addiction in Kochi city. In the sample of 50 responses, the Majority of the respondent's (80%) parents belong to the middle age group. And 60 percent of the parents of the respondents are residing in the urban area and 40 percent of the parents are residing in the rural area. Majority of the respondents (34%) comes within the 3,00,000 to 7,00,000 rupees. All of the parents of the respondent are literate and the mothers have high literacy rate than the fathers. The majority (42 %) of the fathers of the respondent have daily waged workers and the Majority of the mothers (82%) of the respondents are homemakers. 82 percent of the parents of the respondents of this study use android phones.

The second objective of the study was to find out whether there is phone addiction among the parents or not. 92 percent of the respondents are available with a good internet connection. 50 percent of the respondent's parents are using Mobile data and 48 percent are using Wi-Fi connections as a source of data. The majority of the fathers (26%) spent 300-400 rupees for data recharging and the majority of the mothers (36%) are spending 100-200 rupees for the data recharging. The most used app by the mothers of the respondent is YouTube and Facebook by the fathers. The majority of the fathers (44%) are using the single app for more than 4 hours. And the majority of the mothers

(40%) are using the single app for more than 4 hours. 60 percent of the parents had started to use the phone excessively after the Covid-19 and 40 percent of the parents were using phone excessively before Covid-19. And Most of the parents were using the phones for 4-6 hours daily, which shows that they use the phone very often and some of the respondents have been responded that they become absent-minded sometimes. The majority of the parents often check their phones continuously, 68 percent of the fathers continuously check their phones and 50 percent of the mothers check their phones continuously. 50 percent of the respondents had responded that their parents cannot use the phone for the whole day. The majority of the parents of the respondent of the study check their phone in the early morning, but most of them doesn't check their phone late at night. Only half of the parents become disturbed and irritated when the children interrupt them while using the phone, but when we compared the statistics of the father and mother the fathers are more easily getting disturbed than the mothers. the majority of the parents of respondents don't get irritated if mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable and the majority of fathers get irritated when the mobile data and Wi-Fi become unavailable. From the statistical analysis, we come to the point that there is high usage of phones among the fathers as compared to the mothers.

The third objective of the study was to identify the challenges and issues faced by the parents. The majority of the parents (56%) get nervous when they are not around the phone. the majority of the parents of respondents haven't become lazy/idle because of too much usage of the phones. And also, the majority of the parents don't overreact when the respondents interrupt them while using the phone.

The fourth objective of this study was to understand the causes of phone addiction among parents. Most parents use phones mostly for the entertainment process, and then for social networking and gathering information. 35 percent of parents spent below ½ hours calling, 27 percent around 1 hour, 14 percent around two hours. The parents use limited for calling their beloved ones per day. Most of the parents use the used phone for recognition and appraisal. Recognition and appraisal, unemployment, isolation, leisure, entertainment, work-related things, diseases, retirement all are the reasons for the over usage of phones among the parents of the respondents of the study.

The fifth objective of this study was to identify the challenges and issues faced by the child due to the phone addiction of parents. The majority of the children say that the parents always find time to spend with them. From the entire sample, we understand that 60 percent of the parents always find time to spend with children. 50 percent of the participants of the study say that the usage of the phone had resulted in the weakening of the relationship between the parent-child relationship in the family and another 50 percent of the respondents say that it hadn't affected the relationship between the parent and child in the family. The majority of the children say that there is a lack of quality time with parents and there are respondents who say that there is no problem, and they also say the reason that their parents use the phone moderately, make time for them and also give the child the freedom they need. There are other problems like health issues, relationships getting worse due to lack of communication and misunderstandings, conflicts, loneliness, decreasing support from family and others.

## **SUGGESTIONS**

- To reduce the phone addiction among the parents, the family members should ensure that they get proper awareness classes and counseling sessions.
- Parents should be more encouraged to participate in some physical activities, exercise, outdoor games, and socially-oriented activities.
- Children or family members should encourage and give support to parents for developing their skills and creative ideas.
- Keep the phone and other related gadgets outside the bedroom and the place where the family members are present.
- Try to find out more time to spend with the family members and the children.
- Parents can also include yoga and meditation in their daily routines, which will help to reduce the stress and also it will help in reducing their phone addiction as well.

## **CONCLUSION**

The phone is one of the most important companions of our life. Now in the present society, the phone had become a part of an organ of the human body. We can't even imagine a second without having our phone. And even though access to smartphones is making our lives easier in different ways. Phone addiction is considered as the obsessive use of phones. In the present scenario, Phone addiction is becoming increasing and also very common. But most of the research are focusing on phone addiction among children and youth. From this study, we had found out that there is phone addiction among the parents, but when we compared both the fathers and mothers, we can see that the fathers are more addicted to phones. And respondent's mothers having more educational qualifications are spending quality time with the children and are using the phone limited.

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# APPENDIX

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### **Sociological Analysis on Phone Addiction among parents from the viewpoint of children: Special Reference to Kochi City.**

This survey is to study Phone Addiction among parents. This study may help in analyzing the phone addiction among parents from the viewpoint of children in Kochi city. And will also help to study the causes and challenges that they face. So please carefully read this questionnaire and give sincere answers.

#### INFORMED CONSENT

The study has been explained to me, & I understand the purpose of the research & what my participation involves.

- Yes
- No

I understand that the information given to the researchers will be treated as strictly confidential according to the Data Protection Act & will use only for their search purpose.

- Yes
- No

I understand that the research report will include my views but I will not be identified by name

- Yes
- No

I understand that my participation is voluntary & I can withdraw from their search at any time without providing a reason

- Yes
- No

I agree to take part in answering the questionnaire with the researcher

- Yes
- No

1. Age of your Father:
2. Age of Mother:
3. Area:
  - Urban
  - Rural
4. Educational Level of your father:
  - 1-10
  - Higher Secondary
  - Degree
  - Master's Degree
  - Diploma/ other professional courses
  - Other:
5. Educational Level of your mother:
  - 1-10
  - Higher Secondary
  - Degree
  - Master's Degree
  - Diploma/ other professional courses
  - Other:
6. Family Income:
  - Below 1 Lakh
  - 1Lakh - 3Lakh
  - 3Lakh - 7Lakh
  - 7Lakh - 10Lakh
  - 10Lakh - 15Lakh
  - Above 15 Lakh
7. Occupation of your Father:
8. Occupation of your Mother:
9. Type of phone your father use:
  - Base Model (Keypad)
  - Android
  - iOS

10. Type of phone your mother use:

- Base Model (Keypad)
- Android
- iOS

11. Do they have a good internet connection?

- Yes
- No

12. What is the source of data?

- Mobile Data
- Wi-Fi Connection
- Free Wi-Fi Connections
- Hotspot

13. How much money does your father spend for the data recharge per month?

14. How much money does your mother spend for the data recharge per month?

15. The most used app by your father on phone and how many hours do they spend on that single app?

16. The most used app by your mother on phone and how many hours do they spend on that single app?

17. When did they begin to use their phone excessively?

- Before Covid19
- After Covid19

18. How many hours does your father spend on the phone per day?

- Below 2hrs.
- 2-4hrs.
- 4-6hrs.
- 6-8hrs.
- Above 8hrs

19. How many hours does your mother spend on the phone per day?

- Below 2hrs.
- 2-4hrs.
- 4-6hrs.
- 6-8hrs.
- Above 8hrs

20. Does your father Continuously check their phone?

Yes

No

21. Does your mother Continuously check their phone?

Yes

No

22. Do you think that your father will be able to not use the phone for a whole day?

Yes

No

23. Do you think that your mother will be able to not use the phone for a whole day?

Yes

No

24. Does your father check the phone in the early morning?

Yes

No

25. Does your mother check the phone in the early morning?

Yes

No

26. Does your father use his phone late at night?

Yes

No

27. Does your mother use her phone late at night?

Yes

No

28. Does your father become disturbed when you interrupt him while using the phone?

Yes

No

29. Does your mother become disturbed when you interrupt him while using the phone?

Yes

No



30. Does your father get nervous/restless/uneasy when they are not around the phone or not using the phone?

Yes

No

31. Does your mother get nervous/restless/uneasy, when they are not around the phone or not using the phone?

Yes

No

32. Does your father become irritated if the Mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable?

Yes

No

33. Does your mother become irritated if the Mobile data or Wi-Fi is unavailable?

Yes

No

34. Do you think that your father has become lazy or idle because of too much usage of the phone?

Yes

No

35. Do you think that your mother has become lazy or idle because of too much usage of the phone?

Yes

No

36. Do your father overreact, when you are interrupting him while he is using the phones

Yes

No

37. Do your mother overreact, when you are interrupting him while he is using the phones

Yes

No

38. For what purpose did your father use the phone the most

Entertainment

Social Networking

For Gathering Information

Others

39. For what purpose did your mother use the phone the most?

- Entertainment
- Social Networking
- For Gathering Information
- Others

40. How many hours do your father spend in one day calling their loved ones (Family and Friends)?

- Below ½ hour
- Around 1 hour
- Around 2 hours
- Around 3 hours
- More than 4 hours
- Other:

41. How many hours do your mother spend in one day calling their loved ones (Family and Friends)?

- Below ½ hour
- Around 1 hour
- Around 2 hours
- Around 3 hours
- More than 4 hours
- Other:

42. What may be the reasons that lead to the over usage of the phone in father?

- Unemployment
- Recognition and Appraisal that they get from the social media
- Retirement
- Isolation
- Diseases
- Other:

43. What may be the reasons that lead to the over usage of the phone in the mother?

- Unemployment
- Recognition and Appraisal that they get from the social media
- Retirement
- Isolation

Diseases

Other:

44. Are they finding enough time for spent with you?

Always

Never

Sometimes

45. Did you feel that the over usage of the phone by your parents had resulted in the weakening of the parent-child relationship in your family?

Yes

No

46. What do you think are the problems, you face with the phone's usage of the parents?

Specify it.....