Cell phones have provided avenues for individuals to stay connected on a new level that does not depend on space or time, but is readily accessible at anytime, anywhere. Never being disconnected has allowed social networks and relationships to be strengthened as well as new relationships formed. Cell phones have also allowed individuals all over the world whom, without the cell phone would never have access to all of the networks, assets and information that they do via the mobile phone.

While it has provided a new avenue to social networking and interactions, the change in the space and time concept has also had a negative effect as well. Many of us have likely experienced a situation where we have been in the presence of a cell phone user who is engaging in some form of rude behavior that lacks respect for the individuals around them. Cell phones have changed the way that individuals socially interact. Individuals are communicating more via text messages and cell phones than they are face-to-face, changing our social environment.

Individuals have become enveloped in their cell phones and less aware of their social surroundings, missing out on possible new social interactions. The danger is that many people do not know when to turn off their cell phone. Personal contact and good listening skills have
become less of a commodity than availability. Cell phones have influenced every aspect of our lives.

The study was conducted on a sample of 613 students belonging to Medical and Engineering Colleges. In Medical, there were 436 students and in Engineering there were 177 students. There were 347 students below 20 years of age and 266 students above 20 years of age. And, the sample included 251 males and 362 females.

Based on the objectives of the thesis, a schedule was designed, carefully. Four dimensions of the schedule were identified – namely, cell phone as a communication tool, multimedia applications, status, security and freedom, cell phone addiction and family and interpersonal relationships. The items in the schedule were prepared in such a way that a high score indicated less usage or less impact.

The findings of the present study show that a substantial percentage of students uses the cell phone for more than 4 hours per day; receive on an average 18 calls per day and make about 8 calls daily. The most popular applications are music and games. They felt that cell phones are status symbols and that most of the world is addicted to cell phones.

They admit that cell phones provide security when are lost or in new places but state that late night conversations do not disturb
concentration in the class. About 40 percent of students admit that they would prefer talking to friends on their cell phones rather than parents when they are at home. However, they do not prefer to engage in cell phone conversations when they are in a low mood.

The study also highlighted significant gender differences in cell phone usage and effects. Male students use the phone more than the female students. They are more unlikely to switch off their phones and are prone to disturbance in concentration. Male students have also been found to yield to peer pressure to buy new models of the cell phones and rely on cell phones when they have to tell a lie. The influence of play of stay on cell phone usage and effects shows that the effect is more for students staying at home. This group of students uses the cell phone more and show more addiction. The students residing at home prefer to talk to their friends more than their parents.

New technologies enable people to alter existing patterns of communication. In their time, the telegraph and the (landline) telephone redefined assumptions about how social relationships should be conducted (Baron, 2000). More recently, it was initially assumed that the internet would equalize power relationships between genders (Herring, 2003). Yet technologies don’t automatically undo long-standing patterns of socialization. Like in other Western countries where research studies
have been conducted, mobile communication technology has penetrated the daily life of almost all young Indians – males and females alike.

There is a need to understand and evaluate better the usage of mobile devices used by the student population. Students make their own choices and have their preferences regarding the services and characteristics of mobile devices. It appears that there could be a tension between what designers of devices and instructors believe that is essential and what users consider being important for them. As pointed out earlier, Universities need to become leaders in applying technology to daily life and education. Moreover, there are many issues that have not been fully addressed. Students have to learn how to use all the device’s features and they need support and help so as to be successful in this.

It is also reported (Comscore, 2007) that although 63% of U.S. mobile users own phones with Internet connectivity capability, only 17% of them subscribe to their carriers’ Internet services. Similarly, Telecommunications Management Group, Inc. (TMG, 2004) reported the top ten nations by percentage of population using mobile phones to access the Internet: Japan (29.5%), Korea (24.8%), France (10.5%), Singapore (7.1%), Sweden (7.1%), Germany (6.1%), U.K. (5%), Finland (4.1%), Norway (3.9%) and Spain (3.4%).
In just a few years, mobile phones have emerged as the ultimate multimedia device. It has become inseparable part of our life style. India has more than 64 crore cellular connections for a population of nearly 120 crores. Phones make people individualistic - being unique from others, Instancy - sense of instant gratification, Virtunity - being close to others and overcome landlines, Techpowered - they empower us to take control of other lines of communication face to face and one to one being the most affected. Technology has both wide spread advantages and disadvantages. It rules over the X gen era undoubtedly and made our life digitalized.

On a broader perspective Cell phones have remarkably intruded in social space and in totality effect our social interactions. Cellular technology has reduced over all focuses on life on the move. Generally speaking it has diluted our ability to do for ourselves and has replaced effective time management with constant, chaotic commentary and dependency and cell phones have thus diminished our ability to self-reliance. But it provides for excellent help at the time of emergency, stand handy for safety and multi tasking.

The study revealed that the adolescents felt helpless and unable to resist the urge to share their secrets to their friends, because of the use of cell phones. They communicate to friends immediately and easily, as it is easy, simple and economical to operate. They regret after having
blurted out their secrets. They land up in vulnerable situations. They become the cynosure of ridicule, mockery or sarcasm. Few of them expressed to be gullible. The impact of technology is pervading the daily routine including the intimate and personal aspects of their relationships and consuming the bright future, of teens on a negative note.

When viewed from a positive angle some students vent out their feelings through conversation bringing positive healthy relations. This enhances their mood and alleviates tensions within them and ultimately leads to peace of mind. Secrets are exposed to others through the information and photos in the cell phone instrument. All these may reveal and yield unnecessary controversies. Long conversations may breed mass of views and attitudes, which in turn fire new controversies. Many students felt that overuse of cell phones lead to exchange of information which triggered dangerous revelations of sensitive nature. The boundary between secrecy and privacy has been rubbed away, due to cell phones. Misuse of cell phone is another hazard. The application is exploited and operated in many ways like editing photos, pornography, harmful SMS, MMS, etc which besides being undesirable destroy the self-esteem and ego of the teenagers.

Any number of advancements in technology can be constructively channelized and put for the enhancement of mankind and enrichment of lifestyle but should not be employed for the detrimental consequences.
The essence of living should be primarily having a humane approach in a societal framework. We must not pamper those inclinations which make us callous and insensitive in our relationships to other Human-beings.

Man strived all through the civilization to mark his presence over nature. He is efficient and can function on par with a computer. But, he is in a hopeless stage if asked to live without Cell phone. Today, Cell phone has emerged as a uniform massive social aura of almighty. Humans are strongly capsized and addicted to it. It has mitigated our self-reliance and Time-sense.

FACEBOOK is a social network which connects people all over the world. It is a new mania of adolescents. The study revealed that both Medical and Engineering students were thrilled and euphoric to use facebook. It is natural human urge to share everything with friends .The sharing doubles joy and halves sorrow. This brings energy and instills excitement to them

They eagerly watch for friends’ comments and replies. This new habit has snowballed and soared to addiction. It gradually nurtured their mindset in such a way, so as to take pictures everywhere they go and upload photos. It demands for compliments. Youth are pinned to discuss over the picture shown. They are mercilessly demanding a comment
which needs to be specified like or dislike. This compellation is annoying and creating cracks in Interpersonal relations.

Facebook is emerging as a singularly strong influential social network replacing a coffee shop, a library or a friends club. It creates warmth, social conformity, self-esteem, thrill giving umpteen choices. But, it does not fill inner vacuum inside an individual. It only is a show of quantity of peers but, not quality of relationships. The students exhibit an innate urge to share everything but, felt insecure and are driven by confusion and fear.

It creates disturbances among true friends. We are just exploring the new path of danger and the end result of guilt sweeps over. Facebook redefines the new relationships and direct new systems and builds new culture which causes confusion rather than secure and confident feeling. The number of favorable comments given also breeds jealousy among other friends. Even, triggers guilt that we do not have so many friends.

Cell phones have shaped the behavior of adolescents and determined new modes of courtesy and communication patterns. It created a new era of callous culture that, hampered social and emotional closeness. The crux of Indian culture stands on family. Cell phone rubbed all inhibitions and courtesies. It camouflaged true, strong and false, fake relations. The essence of human existence is diluted by being
very mechanical, exchanging all condolences through cell phone. Humans are slave to this technology and are ready to lose their privacy, time, efficiency and well-being.

A Chat room is not a bedroom to share intimate, personal issues. The role of privacy is deemed to be undefined and crude. A personal relation is intimate and not for public consumption. A pen friend shares his attitudes, opinions and views. It is quite healthy relation. But, one’s personal shall not be accessible to strangers. We are not sure of the authenticity of the others identity.

We are just exploring the new path of danger and the end result of guilt or aftermath consequences. Facebook redefines the new relationships and directs new systems and builds new culture which cause confusion rather than secure feeling.

Facebook creates problems among intimate true friendships. The true friend may not like a silly flatter by a stranger. It disturbs relationships and friendships. By insisting a comment of LIKE OR DISLIKE? An emotional stress and annoyance is created for silly and unnecessary, trivial issues. It compels a comment that should be either flattery or silly. But, the honest friend views it as an intrusion into relationship. Also, an individual can be a victim of false conformity.
While this is not the end of the road the lessons learnt are far too many but being practiced in a lesser degree owing to the change in socio economic and cultural human space, splitting of joint family system, high prevalence of nuclear families, lesser parental control on the adolescents, fast paced lifestyle even in rural areas, negative impacts of globalization in the sectors of education, entertainment and livelihoods coupled with a weak education system failing to deal with the deviant behavioural aspects of adolescent youth easily influenced by peer pressure.

While there is an urgent need for counseling services and parental guidance, some regulatory mechanism through the TRAI on mobile phone companies including network operators should be exercised to disseminate IEC material and statutory warnings on the ill and negative impacts of cell phones on public in general and adolescents/youth in particular. This should also be made part of their corporate social responsibility towards the society.

Despite the availability of some clinical data which is in still in a nascent stage, owing to the need to obtain authentic data and analysis on the long term impacts of the cell phone socio cultural and behavioural/neurological deviancies there is an urgent need to allocate/earmark enough budget for R&D not limited to clinical research but also sociological and .......as the severe consequences that may flow in
times to come are frightening when visualized in terms of crime, neurological disorders, breakdown of human relationships and so on.

It is easy to visualize that cell phone is not just another gadget or instrument which can be included in the general list of our daily routine but needs a critical look which may destroy the very fabric of our well designed society.

Though the networks are ‘connecting people ‘with one another they have become successful in disconnecting us with our own self. In the name of consumerism while the multibillion crore business is aggressively making giant leaps Into our life threatening to erode the sensitivities of everyday life of an average Indian It is time when not only the government but people and voluntary activists should come together To take resolute decisions to get back to the basics by suitable legislations in order to develop suitable Work culture, to tighten our education system making it more meaningful to cater to the aspirations of the individuals and the needs of the industry.

May be a time may come in the future with slogans like “say no to cell phone (like plastics which has become an almost indispensable evil)” and “only one call and one SMS a day keeps the doctor away”.

The famous hutch puppy advertisement sums it up though hilariously ‘our network follows wherever you go’.