

# Social impact of technology poster

Technology



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BUSTER**

Fast forward to the sass's and the first commercially produced cell phone came into existence. Ironically the first cell phone cost \$4, 000 and measured 13" x 1. 75" x 3. 5" inches and weighed 28 ounces, it was so big and heavy, even its creators had nicknamed it " The Brick. " The battery life lasted a whopping 30 minutes. Can you imagine what havoc that would cause today? Life as we know it might come to a screeching halt. Today cell phones are pocket sized and have battery lives that last days. They are not just phones either; most can perform any of the same functions that are accomplished on our home and work computers.

Having briefly examined the historical change from writing letter to today's cell phone I will now examine 10 effects cell phones have had on our society. I will begin by examining some positive examples. You might be surprised to learn that cell phones make saving and spending money easier. For example if you live in a town with no bank your cell phone can be used to make digital transactions that are cheaper and safer than paying with cash or credit. Cell phone-based finance also makes credit available to those less fortunate. They can invest in building a home or starting a small business simply by owning a cell phone.

According to the Department of International Development (DIF), " Over a billion people own a mobile phone but do not have a bank account. DIF support for the Consultative Group to Assist Poor technology program alongside the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation aims to use mobile phones and other technology to help 30 million people get better financial services ([HTTPS://www. Gob. UK](https://www.Gob.UK)) Cell phones help save lives. Mobile health

(unhealthy) programs are helping remote communities with healthcare services. Another use of mobile phones is the SMS for Life program.

Text messages are used to deliver malaria medication to remote communities. Using text messages, the program helps get malaria medicines to the people who need them, and checks on stock levels to avoid running out. (Higgins, 2013) The next example may seem obvious however according to the World Bank, three quarters of people on Earth have access to a mobile phone. There are now at least 6 billion mobile phone subscriptions active, up from 1 billion in the year 2000 and 5 billion of those are in developing countries. So a key way cell phones change the world is what they were designed for: communication. (The World Bank, 2012) Cell phones assist farmers. Ever wonder when you go to the market why corn cost more this year than it did last year? The availability of cell phones to farmers helps them make more informed decisions about what to plant, when to harvest, and how much to sell crops for. The Journal of Economic Perspectives reported; " Mobile phones also allow households to obtain information about potential shocks, allowing them to use such information to make planting and harvesting decisions, which can have important effects on yields (Rosenstein and Binger's, 1993). Cell phones benefit employers as well as workers and customers. This is primarily due to its ability to connect people quickly. Cell phones can be abused along with other technologies, but they offer advantages that customers appreciate. One simple method is by the use of text or email. Cell phones allow business owners to communicate with employees without spending time talking on the phone, helping them and the employees to communicate with greater efficiency. A reminder can be sent

accompanied via text or email, increasing the chance the message is received.

Now that I have looked at five positive social impacts of cell phone technology I will examine five negative social impacts. Excessive cell phone use may result in family neglect. According to Furrow Hosannas, a teen correspondent, at Dispatched. Com, when a person is constantly glued to their electronic device, he or she pays little attention to the things around them, let alone the people. Family interaction becomes limited as people find more and more reasons to stay with their cell phones for hours (Hosannas, 2001).

Use of mobile phones can also become physically dangerous. The American College of Emergency Physicians Foundation (n. D. ) has voiced concern over rising numbers of emergency room cases involving mobile phone users who walked into lampposts, tripped on sidewalks, or entered the street into oncoming traffic. In November 2009, the Pew Internet & American Life Project reported that one-quarter of American teenagers of driving age admitted to having tested while driving (Madden & Element, 2009). Cell phone use can deteriorate social relationships. Hubbard et al. 2007), observed dating partners whose face-to-face conversations were interrupted by a phone call, found that partners receiving the calls felt negatively about imposing on their waiting partner, while those kept waiting believed their partners had tarnished their self-image by accepting the call. Cell phone use is linked to selfish behavior. Marketing professors conducted a series of experiments on cell phone users and found that after a short period of

cellophane use subjects were less inclined to volunteer for a community service activity when asked, marred to the control-group counterparts.