

Research Scholar Information Sheet  
Institute of Kashmir Studies, University of Kashmir



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Title of PhD: Smart Phone usage among youth in Kashmir: Impact on Social Relations and Professional Development

Short Summary (300-400 words):

Smartphone is a device with advanced feature and functionality beyond traditional functionalities like making phone calls and sending text message. The smartphones are equipped with the capabilities to display photos, play games, play videos, navigation, built in mail, built in apps for social websites, and surf the web, wireless internet and much more. Smartphones have become ubiquitous in modern society and young adults appear to be particularly heavy users of them. The advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution has stimulated interest in educational reforms for the integration of information and communication technology (ICT) into instruction. Smartphones have become immensely popular ICT devices. In 2019, approximately 96.8% of the global population had access to mobile devices with the coverage rate reaching 100% in various developed countries. Having versatile functions, students use smartphones as learning aid which provide convenience, portability, comprehension, learning experiences and multi sources. Smartphones have been rapidly integrated into communication and learning, among other domains and have become inseparable part of daily life not only for social use, but for professional use as well. The advantages of smartphones in educational contexts include rich content transferability and the facilitation of knowledge sharing and dynamic learning. Learning activities can now be performed anytime, anywhere, as long as the opportunity to obtain information is available.

Mobile learning has become the buzzword of the 21<sup>st</sup> century education. Mobile learning has become a relatively new tool for the learning process for many students who found it convenient to use many options such as websites, accessing online courses, reading e-books, articles concerned with learning and training, and mobile apps that facilitate and support the learning activities, learning new skills. The adoption of smartphone by youth has been a global phenomenon in recent years. Being a technological tool, it has turned into social tool and means of communication as well. Youth use it to organize and maintain their social networks. It has a broader social impact on family, peer relations and socialization. According to Ling (2004) “that any moment of social life has been broadly linked with time and space. The multiplied interactions into a single seamless web are due to smartphone communication”. Some of the challenges are distraction, dependency, lacking hands on skill, and the reduce quality of face-to-face interaction.

#### OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To explore the smartphone usage patterns among youth.
- 2) To study the impact of smartphone on education and professional development.
- 3) To explore the advantages and disadvantages of smartphone
- 4) To explore the relationship between smartphone usage and social interaction among students.

#### METHODOLOGY:

The present research is exploratory in nature. A mixed method design is used in research to combine quantitative and qualitative approaches. The method of data collection is observation and interview schedule consisting of both open and closed ended questions. For sample selection, stratified random sampling has been used comprising of 250 respondents from colleges, universities between the age group of (19-27) years.

Current Status: Field work has been done. Presently doing data analysis and interpretation.