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Mobile phone addiction may cause psychological problems

Feb 28, 2007 - 11:28:33 AM , Reviewed by: [Dr. Himanshu Tyagi](#)

 'Switching off their phones causes them anxiety, irritability, sleep disorders or sleeplessness, and even shivering and digestive problems,' she added. 

Key Points of this article

Mobile-addicts can be seriously affected at the psychological level

Mobile addicts tend to neglect important activities

Most mobile-addicts are people with low self-esteem

Switching off their phones causes them anxiety, irritability, sleep disorders or sleeplessness, and even shivering and digestive problems

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By IANS, [RxPG]

London, Feb 28 - Teenagers who use mobile phones for many hours a day - talking and sending messages or missed calls - may develop psychological disorders, says a study that advises

'a reasonable use' for positive effects.

Francisca Lopez Torrecillas, a lecturer at the department of personality and psychological assessment and treatment of the University of Granada, surveyed several 18 to 25-year-olds from the city of Granada in Spain, said the health portal News Medical.

Torrecillas said this addiction was the result of social changes that occurred in the last decade. The main difference between this kind of addiction and alcoholism or drug addiction is that mobile phones do not apparently cause physical effects - only psychological ones.

'Mobile-addicts can be seriously affected at the psychological level but, as they don't show any physical symptoms, their disorder goes unnoticed to others,' she said.

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About 40 percent of young adults admit using their mobiles for more than four hours a day. Most of them say they spend 'several hours a day' on their phones. Many of these people are 'deeply upset' if their missed calls or messages do not elicit a response.

Mobile addicts tend to neglect important activities -, drift away from friends and close

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family, deny the problem and think about their mobile constantly when they do not have it with them, the study says.

'Most mobile-addicts are people with low self-esteem, have problems with developing social relations and feel the urge to be constantly connected and in contact with others,' the study says.

Torrecillas says these people 'can become totally upset when deprived of their mobile phones for sometime, regardless of the reason'.

'Switching off their phones causes them anxiety, irritability, sleep disorders or sleeplessness, and even shivering and digestive problems,' she added.

However, Torrecillas said that making 'a reasonable use' of mobile phones can be even positive for teenagers, 'since it enables them to keep their friends near and feel backed by their peers', but misusing this device 'can have irreversible effects on the development of teenagers' personality'.

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About Dr. Himanshu Tyagi

This news story has been reviewed by Dr. Himanshu Tyagi before its publication on RxPG News website. Dr. Himanshu Tyagi, MBBS is the founder editor and manager for RxPG News. In this position he is responsible for content development and overall website and editorial management functions. His areas of special interest are psychological therapies and evidence based journalism.

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