Getting Closer Being Apart: Living in The Age of Information and Communication Technologies

Dr. Irshad Hussain*, Dr. Ozlem Cakir**, Dr. Burhanettin Ozdemir*** and Shaheen Ashraf Tahirkheli****

Abstract

This study was conducted to search answer to the question, "Is the use of ICTs particularly, mobile phones and social media distracting relationships? It was a descriptive study, therefore, a survey approach was adopted to elicit the opinions of the respondents. It was a small scale study and qualitative data was collected from students and academia of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan and Ankara University, Turkey. Purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. The students and university teachers using an android phone and social media for more than three years were invited to participate in the survey. However, their participation was volunteer. From Pakistan, 37 respondents (9 teachers and 28 students) and from Turkey 32 respondents (25 students and 7 teachers) participated in the survey. Gender balance was ensured for both of the countries. A semi-structured interview protocol was administered personally by the researchers to get the viewpoints of participants from their respective universities. The qualitative data analysis of both of the universities demonstrated that use of ICTs has reduced the physical and real-life face-to-face human interactions. It is causing mistrust by rusting the feelings –affection of parents and regard of their children, love among spouses, and trust of/on friends and friendship. It was also evident from the discussion that ICTs have connected people on social cost ignoring their dearer and nearer ones causing a wedge in their real relationships and disintegration in their families. Besides, cheating and cyberbullying appeared to be associated with the use of ICTs. Apparently, people seem to be connected technologically but they are being isolated physically and psychologically.

*Associate Professor, Department of Educational Training, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan
**Associate Professor, Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology, Faculty of Educational ScienceAnkara University, Turkey
***Assistant Professor Department of Educational Measurement and Statistics, Siirt University Turkey
****Research Associate, Department of Distance, Non Formal & Continuing Education, Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad, Pakistan.

Introduction

The 21st century dawned with innovations and inventions termed as 'technologies' to facilitate humans and to bring about a change in their lives (Hussain, 2005). There appeared human friendly technologies which have facilitated people in all aspects of their lives including health, education & training, communication & interaction, transportation, aviation and so on (Hussain & Durrani, 2012). Moreover, developments in the area of Communication and Information Technologies (ICTs) have an undeniable impact on all aspect of life and especially the education. One of the main reason behind it is that policy makers of different countries, including Pakistan and Turkey, make a huge amount of investment, since they consider ICT as an important tool for development and innovation in education (Eurydice, 2001; Papanastasiou & Angeli, 2008; Tezci, 2009). However, those who support investment in ICT should also consider possible positive and negative impact of its usage. For instance, there are some researchers who state that technology usage in the classroom environment causes pressure on both students and teacher (Kozma, 2003), while some of them claims that this pressure is mainly because of negative attitude of teachers towards ICT and lack of knowledge about technology (Pelgrum, 2001; Garland & Noyes, 2004; Torkzadeh, Chang & Demirhan, 2006; Zhang, 2007; Paraskeva, Bouta & Papagianni, 2008; Tezci, 2009). Besides, Hussain (2005) viewed ICTs appearing with their greater impact on human life and styles of living by transforming the patterns of interactions and styles of communication.

He further stated that ICTs include all kinds of technologies which facilitate the process of communication and interaction among people, and organizations. Communication satellites, computer technology, internet and its related technologies including all forms of social media, and cell phones are examples of the modern ICTs. Computer technology works as core to support rest of the technologies and therefore, may be called as the mother of ICTs. The field of ICTs is wider and dynamic as new technologies are emerging and innovations are being made to enhance the capabilities of the existing ones.

The advent of the ICTs seems to have changed the entire scenario of communication and interactions in human life. Traditionally, much importance has been adhered to the face-to-face real-life communication and interactions because of the reason that it helps individuals to understand the body language of their conversant(s). They can get meaning of some unuttered messages through the tone of voice, and observing facial expressions, postures and movements of extremities. They can even know the answers of some unasked questions like if one can trust by looking into someone's eyes. Nonetheless, ICTs enabled communication and interactions seem to make them scarce.

The conventional face-to-face communication and interactions seemingly are being replaced by the use of social media and cell phones –conversations, texting, instant messaging and emailing. Seemingly, the real-life communication is becoming second chance and lesser among people and they are being apart even living together. People seem to be connected technologically but in fact they are [being] isolated physically. Usually, one can observe people holding a cell phone, an iPad or a notebook even when they are travelling or walking. Even so they use a mobile phone when they are driving a car or riding a motorbike being too careless to save their own lives and that of others.

Apparently, people have become dependent on ICTs for initiating and maintaining communication and interactions. Particularly, the youth fondly appears to use modern technologies for communication purpose. One can observe people using modern technologies to communicate with their friends and/ or relatives at a distance but ignoring those around them even in homes. Some individuals use smart phones for listening music or viewing videos while others use social media. The practice is so common that parents and siblings are usually observed chatting by text messages even in the same house, and some play games on mobile phones or computers. It reflects their divesting attitude towards friends and family members around them and level of ethical considerations.

Connecting people technologically and isolating them physically

Conventionally, families and individuals living apart used to get together on some special event like Eids, Christmas, marriages etc. In past they had to visit to see each other and sometimes, they would had been waiting for years. They always seemed more concerned and felt being closer to each other. However, the advent of ICTs particularly mobile phones and internet including social media has connected individuals living anywhere in the world. They can stay connected being physically away.

The internet technology is the basic one of which social media has spurred out and seemingly it has connected families and friends living far away geographically. It is cheaper and easier way of communication instead of visiting personally, calling telephonically or writing letters to someone. It has promoted opportunities for individuals to extend their social networks by reaching out to people they would otherwise never meet. The Internet facilitates people from remote areas to connect with each other and share mutual interests, thus bringing them closer to each other.

Before the advent of internet and other ICTs people used to sit together and exchanged their pleasures and pains; and successes and loss with each other. It

kept them connected and they were feeling a sense of belongingness, relationship and wholeness. Now people prefer to spend more time in using technology and they are using mobile phones and social media even living in the same house for conversation instead of sitting together. It is also observed that courtesy, social norms and moral values are diminishing. No doubt the use of ICTs is enhancing connectivity of people throughout the world but the natural relationships and personal associations are being weakened.

Review of Related Literature

It is an undeniable fact that ICTs have connected people all over the world. Now they can communicate and interact freely with each other without time and space restrictions. Currently, social media and modern cell phones have become popular tools of communication, interaction and connectivity even in rural areas of developing countries like Pakistan. However, it does not necessarily mean that these individuals are connected under some kinship or alike relationship. Using mobile phones and other modern devices of communication can disengage one from his/her immediate environment. It shows one's passive attitude towards individual(s) next to him/her (Wajcman, Bittman & Brown, 2008) while connecting to a fellow from a faraway place. Similarly, discussing changes in interpersonal relationships due to mobile technology Palackal et al. (2011) asserted, *"mobile technology tends towards closure rather than opening of networks"*. One can infer that it [mobile technology] isolates users from their physical environment. It insulates them from their immediate environment under their preferences.

Time is all about and nourishing relationships with time flourishes them to be stronger and trustworthy. The time which one spends in using technology costs relationships. Deloitte which is one of Australia's leading professional services firms affirmed it in its report (2013) by asserting, *"the more time we devote to the phone or the computer, the less time we have available for anything else, especially for nurturing personal relationships"*. It means that the use of mobile phones or computer weakens relationships. Tully (2003) also viewed negative effects of cell phones on social relationships with increased social anxiety among users.

Throughout the history of mankind family relationships have been considered stronger and everlasting than any of the social relationships. Family life is more important than anything else in the life of an individual; but the use of social media disturbs family life of the users. It was affirmed by the findings of the study of Jacobs (2014) which was conducted on 1160 married people. A correlation between marital dissatisfaction and use of social media was found leading to the inference that the excessive use of social media too absorbs the users to regard

their spouses. Naturally, it develops agonizing feelings leading to their separation. Similarly, the results of the study of Valenzuela, Halpern and Katz (2014) indicated negative correlation of social networking sites with quality of marriage and happiness of users; and found it to be positively correlated with feeling a disturbed relationship and thinking about divorce. The state-wide analysis of the study affirmed that diffusion of Facebook among couples between 2008 and 2010 was positively correlated with increasing divorce rates during the same duration.

Facebook is the popular social networking site throughout the world. Facebook penetration and divorce rates are significantly correlated and former is predictor of the later (Valenzuela, Halpern & Katz, 2014). The study of Valenzuela, Halpern and Katz (2014) further demonstrated that a 20% increase in Facebook users appeared to be associated with a 4% increase in the divorce rate. Just updating the Facebook page, postings and clicks easily become talk of the town scandalizing and *'letting others know about a relationship'* (Ericsson, 2012). According to Fottrell (2012) a prominent majority (80%) of the US divorce attorneys realized an increase in number of [divorce] cases who were using social networking sites.

Relationship problems arise by excessive and inappropriate use of modern communication technologies. Sometimes, people seem to be more concerned about gadgets and devices than their mates. Yorston (2012) asserted it in a survey of Relationships Australia Victoria (RAV) as 50% of the relationship counsellors have had to deal with concerns of their clients about mobile and internet devices. The survey further revealed negative effects of social media and mobile devices on ones' relationships. Body language and nonverbal cues play an important role in understanding one's feelings and interpreting the situations. But these are scarcely found when one interacts through technology and it was affirmed by ABC Radio (2012). Apparently, the use of ICTs have affected teenagers too. According to Frost (2014), a parenting expert, social media develop vanity and egotism among teenagers making them addictive and dependent on their phones, *"which has the effect of breaking strong communication and relationships with friends and family"*.

It is evident from the above discussion that ICTs particularly, mobiles and social media have become popular tools of communication but leaving negative effects of social life of users particularly, the relationships.

Focus of the study

The study focused on social aspect of the use of ICTs. Therefore, it concentrated on finding out the distracting effects of ICTs on real relationships.

It aimed at finding answer to the question, "Is the use of ICTs particularly, mobile phones and social media distracting relationships or lessening the sense of belongingness with real relatives? In addition, the study aimed to compare the results obtained from Pakistan to the results obtained from Turkey in order to see common points and differences between these two countries.

Methodology

It was a descriptive study in nature and adopted qualitative research method. It mainly focused on finding the answer of the question, "How the use of ICTs particularly, mobile phones and social media is deteriorating or upsetting the relationships"? Therefore, a survey approach was considered appropriate and adopted to elicit the opinions of the respondents.

Context and Participants of the study

It was a small scale qualitative study conducted on students and academia of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), Pakistan and Ankara University (AU), Turkey. The participation in the study was volunteer. However, participants were students and teachers of the two aforementioned universities who had been using social media for more than three years about 3-4 hours daily and having an android phone for the same period. They were contacted and briefed about the study in both of the universities by the respective researchers. Time frame for interview was mutually decided with those who agreed to participate.

Collection of responses of the participants

As the participation in the survey was volunteer, purposive sampling technique was used for data collection from students and academia. The study consisted of university students and academia of the departments of social sciences from the IUB, Pakistan and AU, Turkey as population(s). A sample of 60 respondents (45 students and 15 teachers) from the IUB; and 45 respondents (30 students and 15 teachers) from AU were contacted and invited by the researchers in their respective universities to participate in the survey. However, in response 37 (28 students and 9 teachers) from the IUB and 32 respondents (25 students and 7 teachers) from AU agreed to participate in the survey. Gender balance was ensured for both of the universities. A semi-structured interview protocol was administered to get viewpoints of the participants. It was administered personally by the researchers in their respective universities. Each of the participants was briefed about the purpose of the study and assured to observe the confidentiality of their provided information. The researchers conducted interviews in a friendly way and took down the notes of responses of the participants. The body language of the respondents was also observed during interview.

Analysis of responses

After data collection, the notes of the interviews were categorized thematically by means of qualitative content analysis and elaborated in an academic style for both of the universities by the respective researchers. The analysis document was shared through email, discussed by using Skype and WhatsApp and finalized. The analysis is given in the next section of the study.

Findings of the study

The data analysis and findings of the study are given below:

Ignoring the dear ones – A wedge in relationships

Apparently, the use of mobile phones is changing the entire societal set-up and social practices of people. They seem to be bypassing the social norms and values of the society. Usually, they are seen to ignore their nearer and dearer ones and connect to those at distance. Sometimes, one is too busy in communication to give due time to those who are nearer. One of the teachers from IUB described such an incidents in this way. "Once my mother came to see me from our native village to the city where I was working. She told me about her visit in advance. On the day of her visit I had to attend a meeting called in emergency by our boss. I became late to arrive at home than usual. When I arrived at home I came to know that my mother was waiting for me since afternoon. I sat beside her and apologized for coming late. She kissed on my forehead and smiled in a cheerful way. We were talking and during the conversation I received a phone call from one of my colleagues. He was asking about the proceedings of the meeting. It took 5-7 minutes. Again as we started conversation; I received a call from a friend who called after a year. He started discussing about education of his son. I told him, "I am with my mother and she has visited me after a long time" in a courteous way. He did not take the hint and continued talking. He wanted getting advice about admission of his son in a university. It also took 8-10 minutes. My mother was observing all this. When the call ended I noticed that my mother was not happy".

At night as there was a family dinner and no sooner did we start taking food I received a call from my boss. He directed to organize a meeting of a research group next day. He discussed agenda of the meeting and its arrangements. It took more time than previous calls. At the end of the call rest of the members were also ending up the dinner. My mother noticed it seriously and scolded in a loving way and said, "Phone calls are too important to have a dinner with mother". The next day she told, *"I came to see my son but I am going back to my home in village. Here in city phone calls are preferred over me (mother). Natural relationships are sacrificed and materialistic norms are adopted. I can't live in this situation. Hence I must leave"* and she left.

Use of ICTs is rusting the relationships even affection of parents

The use of modern technologies seems to affect the real relationships –parents and siblings. Now people seem to be tele-relatives, net relatives and/ or mobile phone-relatives. One of the IUB student described her experience in this way. She said, "After getting admission in my BS program I started living in university hostel. Usually, I visited my home fortnightly. All at home welcomed lovingly showing their concern and caring attitude. All used to ask about my days at hostel even my food and sleep. Initially, I did not have mobile phone but on better performance in first semester my mother gifted me a cell phone. I got hourly package and talked to my parents, brothers and sisters in the evening for about an hour. Now when I go to my home, *I feel less excitement, emotions and concern of my parents, brothers and sisters than before. It makes me gloomy. I think it is due to daily conversation with them on mobile phone. Although it (mobile phone conversation) keeps me connected but creating psychological distance among us –me and my parents, brothers and sisters".*

Although there are some advantages of social media and mobile phone usages such as communicating with friends and relatives living abroad or different cities, Turkish students and academia mostly believe in that the social media and mobile phones destroys the relationships between family members and relatives. One of the participants said that even during the electric outage he could not find a common topic to discuss with his family member and they tended to be more caring about the problems appeared on social media rather than problems of family member.

ICTs connect people on social cost

The usage of Internet has promoted opportunity of getting together and one can make friends easily the world over. An IUB student of Bachelor of Education (Hons.) said while describing his experience of using internet, "I have been using internet when I was studying in a high school and because of it I became able to make new friends. I usually stay in contact with my friends who are living and/ or have moved far away for their education or job. Now I have friends throughout the world. I kill my leisure time in chatting with my friends on social media and enjoy. I think it has brought me closer to different people and I can talk to them more often and sometimes at a deeper level". But at the same time, *"I am spending less time with parents, siblings and those with whom I used to play during my childhood & boyhood. Sometimes I feel loneliness and being ignored at home".* It creates distance among family members and sometimes may lead to dissociation.

Social media is being used extensively for advertising and promotional campaigns to boost up the business and trade, and introducing the new brands. A

group of IUB teachers and students appreciated the use of social media by acclaiming, *"Social media has helped the business community in developing and managing their relationships with their customers or clientage. They are approaching to their beneficiaries quickly and effectively. They can check their business representatives; know their locations and monitor them. They are being promoted globally round the clock by cutting the costs on traditional advertisements. However, at the same time their family and social life seems to be transformed mechanically by loosening real-life interaction"*.

Likewise, Turkish students and academia suffer from the same problem. Both academician and students claims that, although, number of friends from social media increases, the number of friends from real life tend to decrease since students started to use social media actively. Thus, using ICT weakens the interaction between the people in Turkey. One of the AU students stated that even the kids preferred playing with tablets and mobile phones rather than playing with their peers and toys which may severely affect both their physical and mental growth and developments.

When it comes to advertisement issue, Turkish people generally complains about overwhelming burden of advertisement received from different companies. Another issue about advertisements is that content of advertisements might be inappropriate for those who are under the age of 18 since the teenagers start to use mobile phones and social media at their early ages. Thus, people suggest the idea of restricting either usage of ICT to a certain degree or restricting advertisements in order to deal with these issues.

Human factor is lost in technology enabled communication

An IUB teacher favored technology enabled communication but she did not forget to appreciate the real-life physical interactions. She said, *"We can perceive and understand a lot of [information] through body language and facial expressions in real-life face-to-face interactions and it is lost when we use social media or mobile phones"* for online communication. *"I have been using internet particularly, the social media for a long time for communication purpose, but, "I always missed human factor"* which enhances the effectiveness of the message. Now-a-days social media seems all pervasive but it cannot be alternative to the real-life interactions. She further said, *"I think social media enhances our connectivity without bringing us closer to each other and dehumanizing our real-life communication by eliminating face-to-face interactions"*.

She reminded one of her conversations with her brother and said sighing, *"Once through internet messaging I requested my brother to help me in finding a*

bachelor hostel in a city of UK who was living there for more than ten years. He simply advised me to log onto the internet and search. I think if it were real-life face-to-face communication he would have searched one for me". The use of text messages and e-mail is eliminating conversations between colleagues, friends and family members. There is lack of face time in conversation on the net leaving too substance to substantiate the lasting connection between individuals. *"I have a lot of my Facebook friends but I cannot trust on them as conversations tend to be not genuine. In this way although internet is connecting people yet I feel it is making people isolated and unconcerned towards their fellow human beings".*

Information and Communication Technologies not only hinders people's face-to-face interaction but also interaction of people with physical world surrounding them. One of the AU teacher complained about it and continued "For instance, people used to go to bookstores and examine the books, have conversation about the books. However, one can easily buy e-books via internet paying less money which appears to be more convenient in today's world. But, it cannot give the joy and pleasure of buying books from bookstores."

Another issue about technology enabled communication is chat-rooms which gives opportunity to chat with people that they haven't come across with before. Since these chats take place between opposite genders, in general, and partners do not know each other, they may cross the moral borders, utter or write insulting messages which may sparsely appear during a real-life face-to-face conversations. Thus these chat-rooms also have negative effect on moral values of society and cause losing human factor in communications.

Mobile phones and social media are disintegrating family unit

Family is a basic unit of society which is composed of individuals and interactions among them. Interactions and communication makes a family stronger and its individuals/ members committed. Commitment and loyalty develop a sense of wholeness and belongingness among family members. The use of ICTs particularly, mobile phones and social media has intervened into family life of people. One of the IUB students described that *"a woman added a person on her Facebook page and she got divorce".* Similarly, one of the female participants told that *"she received a message from an unknown number and her engagement was ended up".* Another was girl physically punished by her brother on account of a missed call from an unknown number. Besides, internet-café scandals are appearing as common cybercrimes which are ruing lives of female users. One may say it conservatism or rigidity but the reality is that all it happened because of the ICTs –internet and mobile phone technology.

On the other hand, along with participant from Pakistan, Turkish participants also asserted that social media and mobile phones prevent the family members' interaction and communication. They mostly complained about the unwanted or inappropriate comments made by family members or relatives about their sharing, political and religious views which caused disintegration within their family members. Because of that some of the students tended to reject friendship offers of their family members and relatives from social networks such as Facebook.

About all of the teachers asserted that modern communication technologies are disintegrating our family system by reducing conversation among members. They said, *"In evenings all of the family members are at home but NOT sitting together –children are viewing cartoons or playing games on cell phones and laptops, ladies watching their favorite serial(s) and male members are used to view talks shows and current affairs on television"*. Likewise, all of the students were of the voice, *"Our parents have less time to spend with us. During daytime they are busy in work and in evenings either they are with guests or television ignoring us"*. Majority of the teachers pointed out that they [family members] have less time even to have lunch and dinner together. It creates a distance between parents and children which may result in distress, detachment and tendency of being isolated.

Technology enabled communication creates mistrust

Being caring, considerate and courteous makes human relationships stronger. But when one communicates through technology these tend to be reduced. Usually, people are supportive to each other and extend help in the hour of need. However, there seems a tendency of excusing and regretting when one uses technology. It creates mistrust and misunderstanding among individuals. One of the participants described such an incident, *"Once I was in hospital in emergency ward for treatment of my brother. The doctor advised blood transfusion. I was the only male to attend my brother. I called a relative who lived near hospital and told him the whole situation. After listening to me he tenderly consoled me and said, "I am out of city" but actually he was at home"*.

Cheating through fake IDs on social media is a common fashion

One of the IUB students appeared to be shaky about social media and put forward his serious concerns. He was cur sing its misuses like bullying. He said, *"Although the use of information and communication technologies makes our connectivity possible, in many ways but it drives us apart. By using social media and cell phones, I am feeling isolation and being torn off by my family. Besides, cyberbullying has created a fearing and threatening environments"*. The availability of social media via mobile phones and other portable technologies has made youth crazy as they are clinging to it all the time. It seems to be infused into their lives making them addicted without taking any substance.

He further said, *"Cheating through fake IDs on social media is a common fashion. People don't know each other personally but through their IDs which often tend to be fake. Posting false emotional materials for excitement results in fraud and cheating"*. Similarly, almost all of the participants criticized the receiving of good news to becoming millionaires through their e-mail and mobile phone lotteries and some were looted.

On the other hand, Turkish participants suffer from cyberbullying and disclosure of their private lives in general. Similar to the aforementioned situation, people faced with fake IDs and fake accounts that ended up with their web pages being hacked or bank account being looted. Some of the participants complained of being blackmailed even by their close friends with disclosing their private lives. Therefore, they complained about feeling unsecured while using social media and were afraid of online shopping.

Another thing that make Turkish academia and students feeling unsecure is some cell phone applications that ask for the users to share their location. Because of mistrust caused by fake accounts and possibility of having friends with bad intentions, they prefer not to share their locations via social media for security reasons. One of the student said "Nowadays, smart phones enable us to access our bank account, webpages social media accounts by means of a simple application. Therefore, just losing your cell phone or sharing your password with someone else can easily cause problems that you cannot imagine and you have to be ready for the unwilling consequences."

Social networking sites and modern cell phones as tools of isolation and anti-socialization

According to a senior university academician, one becomes closer to others by spending time with them in real life situations. It is matter of concern and care which develops association. The use of social media and cell phones promotes virtual connectivity among people. The use of technology only connects individuals and may compromise their association and relationships. He sighed and said, *"The only thing which social media and cell phones are destroying now-a-days is the human relationships. Social networking sites and modern cell phones seem to be tools of isolation and anti-socialization agents which hinder real-life communication and interactions and overlook social skills"* necessary for living a successful life. *"We are forgetting mannerism and social skills even how to communicate with our concerned (youngers, elders and/or older ones) living in the same house and / or locality"*. Now-a-days people particularly, the younger generation seem to be less social because of the reason that they just sit at home and type on their computer or iPad instead of coming across with people and interacting with them. The use of ICTs enhances connectivity but on the cost of their socialization in real world.

Another issue that has to be mentioned about ICT is that it allows people to work from home which is considered to be an advantage of ICT at first glance. In fact, it hinders interaction and communication with others and cause to isolation of people from the society. As the time goes by, they get used to spend more time at home. Moreover, working from home might cause reduced physical activity which leads to health problems such as diabetes and obesity.

Conclusion(s)

The main focus of the study was on social impact of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) on relationships. Obviously, there are many uses, advantages and benefits of ICTs in different areas of life and work settings such as providing and sharing information, entertainment and creating/ promoting better learning environments (Lepicnik-Vodopivec & Samec, 2012), personal development (Markovac & Rogulja, 2009) of individulas, developing competences among children (McPake, Stephen, Plowman, Sime & Downey, 2005) and enhancing performance (Hussain, 2005) of professionals. However, perceived the social impacts of technology and said, "*the real danger is not that computers will begin to think like men, but that men will begin to think like computers"*. Now it has become reality as humans are behaving like machines even in social affairs.

This study through its qualitative data analysis of both of the countries i.e. Pakistan and Turkey; substantiated that the use of ICTs has reduced physical and real-life face-to-face human interactions. It has taken over the human emotions and sentiments rusting the feelings –affection of parents and regard of their children, and trust of/on friends and friendship. It is also evident from the above discussion that ICTs connect people on social cost ignoring their dearer and nearer ones. It causes a wedge in real and long-term relationships and disintegration in family unit(s). ICTs particularly, social media and smart phones are acknowledged as communication tools but these are appearing to dehumanizing communication process and becoming tools of isolation and anti-socialization among people. They are causing cyberbullying, smart phone addiction, nomofobia and the alike conditions. Cheating through fake IDs on social media is a common fashion now-a-days. Apparently, people seem to be connected technologically but they are being isolated physically and psychologically.

Recommendations

It was a small scale study therefore, its results may not be generalized. However, a similar study is recommended on larger scale.

References

ABC Radio. (2012). *Does Facebook Make Us Lonely?* Retrieved http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/does-facebook-make-us-lonely/4014010;

Deloitte Access Economics. (2013). *The Economic and Social Contribution of Mobile Telecommunications*. Australia, Deloitte Access Economics Pty Ltd.

Ericsson. (2012). *Traffic and Market Report: on the Pulse of the Networked Society*. Retrieved from http://www.ericsson.com/res/docs/2012/traffic_and_market_report_june_2012.pdf.

Eurydice. (2001). *ICT@Europe.edu: Information and Communication Technology in European Education Systems*. Eurydice: The Information Network on Education in Europe. Retrieved from http://www.mszs.si/eurydice/pub/eurydice/ICT.pdf.

Fottrell, Q. (2012). *Does Facebook Wreck Marriages?* Retrieved from http://blogs.marketwatch.com/realtimeadvice/2012/05/21/does-facebook-wreck-marriages/.

Frost, J. (2014). Supernanny: Families are being torn apart by social media. *The Telegraph*; September 11, 2014. Retrieved from http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/social-media/11089797/Supernanny-Families-are-being-torn-apart-by-social-media.html.

Garland, K. J. and Noyes, J. M. (2004). Computer Experience: a Poor Predictor of Computer Attitude. *Computers in Human Behavior, 20, 823-840.*

Hussain, I. (2005). *A Study of Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Teaching Learning Process.* A PhD unpublished thesis. Islamabad; Allama Iqbal Open University.

Hussain, I. & Durrani, M. I. (2012). A Study on the Role of Web Technology in Enhancing Research Pursuance among University Academia. *Journal of Educational Technology; 9(3), 32-40.*

Jacobs, T. (2014). *Facebook, Twitter Usage Linked to Higher Divorce Rates*. Retrieved from http://www.psmag.com/navigation/nature-and-technology/ facebook-twitter-usage-linked-higher-divorce-rates-8057/.

Kozma, R. B. (ed.) (2003). *Technology, innovation, and educational change: A global perspective.* Eugene, OR: International Society for Technology

in Education.

Lepicnik-Vodopivec, J. & Samec, P. (2012). Advantages and Disadvantages of Information-Communication Technology Usage for Four-Year-Old Children, and the Consequences of its Usage for the Childrens' Development. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science 2 (3), 54.*

Markovac, V. & Rogulja, N. (2009). *Key ICT Competences of Kindergarten Teachers.* In 8th Special Focus Symposium on *ICESKS: Information, Communication and Economic Sciences in the knowledge society* (p.72-77). Zadar: University of Zagreb in ENCSI database.

McPake, J., Stephen, C., Plowman, L., Sime, D., & Downey, S. (2005). *Already at a disadvantage? ICT in the Home and Children's Preparation for Primary School.* University of Sterling Retrieved from http://www.ioe.stir.ac.uk/research/projects/interplay/docs/already_at_a _disadvantage.pdf.

Papanastasiou, E. C., & Angeli, C. (2008). Evaluating the Use of ICT in Education: Psychometric Properties of the Survey of factors affecting teachers teaching with technology (SFA-T3). *Educational Technology & Society, 11(1), 69-86.*

Paraskeva, F., Bouta, H., & Papagianni, A. (2008). Individual Characteristics and Computer Self-efficacy in Secondary Education Teachers to Integrate Technology in Educational Practice. *Computers & Education, 50, 1084–1091.*

Palackal, A., Mbatia, P. N., Dzorgbo, D., Duque, R. B., Ynalvez, M. A., and Shrum, W. M. (2011). Are Mobile Phones Changing Social Networks? A Longitudinal Study of Core Networks in Kerala. *New media & society; 2011, 1-20.*

Pelgrum, W.J. (2001). Obstacles to the Integration of ICT in Education: Results from a Worldwide Educational Assessment. *Computers and Education, 37(3), 163–178.*

Sydney, J.H. (2016). *BrainyQuote.com.* Retrieved from BrainyQuote.com Web site: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/s/ sydneyjha104631.html .

Tezci, E. (2009). Teachers' Effect on ICT Use in Education: the Turkey Sample. *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences 1 (2009) 1285–1294*