Understanding the pattern of Cell Phone Use: A Study on Dhaka University Students

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Abstract

During last few years the Government of Bangladesh has been trying relentlessly to create and introduce ICT facilities in every sector of the country .As of March 2013 the country has almost 99.97 million cell phone and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) users. The number of internet users of the country is about 31.80 million. Bangladesh enjoys the teledensity rate about 64.56% and internet density 20.53% .This article deals and tries to give a snapshot of understanding the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) situation in Bangladesh. Efforts are made to understand the pattern of cell phone use and also to know the attitude of the students in this regard. A survey is conducted among 150 students of Dhaka University through a questionnaire. It is generally assumed and believed that the students of Dhaka University are more conscious and receptive to any innovation than any other section of Bangladeshi people .From the survey it is found that 33% of the students do part time job and about 94% of the students under the survey use cell phone; whereas the country's national cell phone use rate is 64.56%.The national internet density rate is 20.53% whereas the study reports that 86% of the students use internet.

Introduction

In 1870 Alexander Graham Bell first patented the invention of telephone. After that telephone and the telegram became the most essential medium of communication. Subsequently came telephone wireless. In 1973 Martin Copper came up with Motorola. The first cell phone was introduced in Chicago with a free trial among 200 people in 1977. In 1988 the big companies started producing cell phones (http://library.thinkquest.org/04oct/00047/historycell.htm). After that cell phone industry saw a boom. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reports that there were about six billion cell phone subscriptions at the end of 2011. ITU also reports that at the end of 2011 nearly 2.3 billion people (about one-third of the world's population) were in the internet use. Mobile broadband continues to be the ICT service displaying the sharpest growth rates. Between 2010 and 2011, growth continued at a high rate of 40 per cent globally, 23 per cent in the developed world and 78 per cent in developing countries. (http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/ind/D-IND-ICTOI-2012-SUM-PDF-E.pdf)First the American military used the internet to communicate with each other. In mid 80s business organizations and educational institutions got chance to use it. At present internet is available and accessible to most of the countries of the world.

Indeed mobile phone and internet are the most essential inventions of mankind in present day world. They become the part of our daily life. This trend is equally experienced in Bangladesh. It is so difficult for the cell phone and internet users to pass the day without them. The Internet has changed our life like nothing before. The young generation particularly the student community of Bangladesh is the most receptive group of new innovation of the society. We see that perhaps the students are the highest user group of cell phone in Bangladesh. As of March 2013 we find that in Bangladesh the national rate

of cell phone user is about 64.56% and the internet penetration rate is about 20.53% (Document Published on the occasion of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication, 17th May, 2013).

This article deals and tries to give a snapshot of understanding the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) situation in Bangladesh. Efforts are made to understand the pattern of cell phone use and also to know the attitude of the students of Dhaka University in this regard.

Present ICT Situation in Bangladesh

The introduction of ICT was begun in Bangladesh during late 1960's. The then Pakistan Government installed an IBM 1620 at Dhaka Atomic Energy Commission in 1967. It was the first computer installation in Pakistan (http://www.banglapedia.org/httpdocs/HT/C_0328.HTM). Computer became accessible to publishing industry in mid-70s in a very limited scale. Many organizations began using computer in mid-80s. After the end of General Ershad regime Bangladesh started its democratic journey. This time the world began experiencing globalization. Like in other parts of the world the terms/concepts - free flow of information, right to information etc. were becoming popular in Bangladesh too. In 1991 a private company named Pacific Bangladesh Limited launched cell phone business in Bangladesh first. It used to provide Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) service. At that time Bangladesh got a proposal from South-East Asia Middle-East Western Europe (SEA ME WE) to connect the country with information super highway/submarine cable. But the government refused the proposal and to open up the information window under the pretext of protecting classified state information and country's security. Ignorance and doubts in regards to use and utility of the Internet and ICT expressed by the then political leadership and bureaucrats probably influenced the government to pursue this decision. On the other hand the other South Asian neighboring countries accepted the offer. After assuming power in 1996, the then government felt the importance and first took step to activate and develop the ICT sector of Bangladesh. They agreed to connect the country with the Information Super Highway through the Bangladesh Submarine Cable Network project. The government identified ICT as a thrust sector, established an IT Task Force headed by the Prime Minister and waived taxes on computers and computer accessories.

These measures indeed paved the way for rapid computerization and ICT revolution in Bangladesh. As a result computer went to the hand of the middle class people very rapidly. To pursue the decision to connect Bangladesh with sub marine cable the government passed Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Act in 2001. BTRC started functioning from January 2002 and tried to bring all telecom and internet service providers under an umbrella.

In 2006 Bangladesh was connected with South-East Asia Middle-East Western Europe (SEA ME WE) 4 sub marine cable of length of 20,000 thousand kilometer with a capacity of 1.28 Terabits per second (1 million simultaneous telephone conversations). The army backed Caretaker Government approved cell phone service for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in 2008. It took 17 years to reach cell phone service facilities in CHT region. Before the National Election of 2008 the Awami League led coalition emphasized on making the country a Digital Bangladesh. New generation voters took this campaign seriously. Perhaps as a result they secured an overwhelming victory in 2008 election. Assuming the state power the government identified ICT as a thrust sector for the development of the country from the beginning.

From 2009-2010 academic year Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet started first ever student admission through cell phone. Dhaka Metropolitan Police started first ever online General Diary (GD) in 2010. Began in 1967 Bangladesh has experienced a remarkable change in ICT sector during last few years. Until 2000 Bangladesh was one of the lowest tele-density countries in the world (0.26 telephones per 100 inhabitants). Now-a-days the use of mobile phone has been increasing very rapidly. In 2001 there were only 0.2 million subscribers: in 2010 it became 55 million (Khan. N. Jahan: 2005). The country had almost 92.3 million cell phone users at the end of January 2012 (http://www.btrc.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=483:mobile-phone-subscribers-in-bangladesh-january-2012&catid=49:telco-news&Itemid=502) and 99.97 million in March 2013. In fact, in Bangladesh now we see a substantial ICT penetration almost in every sector like - agriculture, marketing, health, communication, education etc. To be told that at present there has been an IT generation with solid ground in Bangladesh and the country is getting ICT touch in every sector day by day.

It has to be mentioned that the ICT policy of Bangladesh was formulated first in 2002. This policy was revised in 2008 and the revised policy has been adopted by the present government in 2009. The present ICT policy put focuses on:

- To expand and diversify the use of ICTs to establish a transparent, responsive and accountable government
- To develop skilled human resources
- To ensure cost-effective delivery of citizen-services through public-private partnerships
- To support the national goal of becoming a middle-income country within ten years and to join the rank of the developed countries of the world within thirty years

The policy appropriately identifies the goals and objectives of ICT as a vehicle for the country's development. The objectives of the policy are spelt out with a view to promote, enhance, ensure and protect social equity, productivity , integrity, education and research , employment , exports, healthcare , universal access , environment, climate & disaster management and create support to ICTs etc. It has been the declared policy of the government to the nation that it would make and take every effort to prepare its generation towards that policy objectives and direction.

Theoretical Consideration

There has been an insufficient and limited studies on social effect of mobile phone until a few years ago. The previous researches on mobile phone mainly examined the engineering and policy aspects of the technology. In recent years, however, several researchers began to put attention to social aspects of cell phone diffusion and the impact of cell phone has on people's daily lives and relationships. This work suits with that. This study is carried out following a theoretical framework - The Uses & Gratification Theory. People use technology or media basically for information, communication, entertainment and education need. Uses & Gratification theory suggests that the individual uses media to obtain certain gratifications (Katz, E: 1959). Some previous works used this approach to study mobile phone usage among individuals and determined that mobile phones are mainly for interpersonal communication and gratifications. This work aims at looking

into and to find out the reasons for cell phone use- how and why do the students feel and gratify themselves by using cell phone as well as internet.

Cell phone, internet etc is a mass used new media in the world vis a vis Bangladesh. The young generation of the country and the students of Dhaka University in particular use this information technology actively. They use cell phone and choose different ways and means for using internet. All these relate and justify the theoretical aspects of the Uses and gratification theory as theoretical frame for this kind of work. Therefore the Uses and gratification theory can be applied in describing and understanding the necessity, interest and causes of using ICT devices like cell phone, internet etc by the students for this study.

Literature Review:

The present world has been largely experiencing to knowledge-based economy and the process of development. Indeed the miracle of information and communication technology has made this possible. With the establishment of World Trade Organization (WTO) which has triggered the sense of competition among countries in the fields of economy, trade, intellectual property protection, foreign direct investment, technological transfers etc. have inspired the widespread connectivity and exchange of information among the nations. Earlier the fixed phone lines (mainly provided by the government) used to put us in many procedural complexity, technical limitation, limitation in distribution etc. Comparatively they were costlier than mobile telephony. Land phone used to limit and create hindrance in many ways in the process of communication. Now a day the ICT devices are available among us in various forms. People now understand the importance and utilities of computer, cell phone, internet etc and they prefer to use all those means of ICT devices.

There is good number of researches on the usefulness of mobile telephony for improving human livelihood. People now use it as tool for poverty reduction, improving law and order situation, encouraging public participation in decision-making & development process (good governance) and also for strengthening bondage among kith and kin. In short, information technology has a great use and impact on the societies ranging from communication, employment, poverty alleviation, education, training and trade, at home arts (music, animation, visual effects, writing, games etc) and to all aspects of public administration and national defense (Rahman,MA: 2008).

In a word today we are living in ICT environment. The researchers are studying various aspects of use of ICTs. Like other parts of the world cell phone has been becoming as a tool for development and socio cultural change agent in Bangladesh. It has been expanding faster than any other technological devices. The young generation and the university/college students in particular see cell phone as a symbol of modernity. They also use cell phone for faster and more connectivity with their family and friends. A study entitled – 'Is mobile phone a socio-cultural change agent? A study of the pattern of usage of mobile phones among university students in Bangladesh' reports that 89 % of the respondents receive one to six calls in a day. Most of the calls are from and to friends. The same study shows that 94 % of the respondents use SMS and 85 % of them use missed call to pass a symbolic message to intended receivers (Aminuzzaman, S:2005). In this work the researcher tried to find out the frequency of making cell phone call or sending SMS by the students. He did not however cover internet use pattern of the students.

In another study the researcher reports that there prevails a high degree of missed call habit among the Bangladeshi cell phone users. In the same work it is seen that the prevalence of mobile telephony has lead to the development of a culture of missed call in Bangladesh (http://www.i4donline.net/issue/may04/sitakund_full.htm).

Another study of Democracywatch carried out by Khan N Jahan in 2011 reveals that the cell phone facilitates is mainly meant for maintaining interpersonal communication. A large number of respondents of this study agreed that through using cell phone they accrued benefit of increasing social communication and it could help spread one's circle of acquaintance. Most of the respondents of this study especially service holders and business people who want to optimize the use of their time agree that using of cell phone help increase proficiency in efficient delivery of responsibilities and goods (Khan, ibid) .

A study entitled - 'The Mobile Culture of University Students' shows that 76 % of Dhaka University students communicate through SMS. 58 % of them use missed call to send their message to intended receivers. 63.71 % respondents make missed call from one to 10 in a day (Ajad: 2010). We see that the main focus of the researcher was mainly to find out the frequency of sending SMS by the students.

However those studies provide us an indication that the people of Bangladesh in general and the students in particular are quite recognizable and habituated to using cell phone. The present work is a small scale study and is mainly aiming at understanding the pattern of cell phone use by the students of Dhaka University. In addition to this efforts are made to know how and why do the students use mobile phone and internet.

Methodology

This study is carried out and mainly based on survey method. Survey method is one of the most universally used research method by scholars dealing with media, communication, business, consumer groups, advertisers etc. This method is also used in decision making process. To the experts the survey research is used:

"to answer questions that have been raised to solve problems that have been posed or observed, to assess needs and set goals, to determine whether or not specific objectives have been met, to establish baselines against which future comparisons can be made, to analyze trends across time, and generally, to describe what exists, in what amount, and in what context" (Isaac and Michael: 1997).

Kraemer and Dutton (1991) identified three distinguishing characteristics of survey. First, survey research is used to quantitatively describe specific aspects of a given population. These aspects often involve examining the relationships among variables. Second, the data required for survey research are collected from people and are therefore, subjective. Finally, survey research uses a selected portion of the population and the findings can later be generalized back to the population.

The questionnaire used for this survey had both closed and open ended questions. Through the questions we collected limited aspects of demographic information/profile like - age, gender etc of the respondents. Then the survey moved on to collect usage and

behavioral character and uniqueness of the students such as the pattern of their cell phone usage, sending SMS, time spending on interne etc. The entire work was done among the students of Dhaka University. It was conducted on a one to one interview technique. The instrument for data collection was used in the form of a structured questionnaire which was designed to allure information in regards to demographic and psychographic aspects of the respondents. Basically the quantitative method has been deployed in this study. Details of the data collection procedure have been placed below:

Data Collection

A set of questionnaire was made to collect data from the respondents. The researchers consulted the appropriateness of the questions and there by no pre-test were done. The researchers distributed the questionnaire among approximately 170 respondents randomly and could collect back from 150 only.

Sampling

The respondents of this work comprised of 150 students in the age groups of 22 to 27 years irrespective of gender identity. All of them were the students of Dhaka University both residential and non-residential. The work was carried out in June – July 2011. Respondents were chosen on a random sampling basis at our own convenience.

Data Analysis

Out of 150 respondents 66% were male and 34% were female. Although the respondents were the full time students of Dhaka University it was found that 33% of the respondents were engaged in part time job/work; and 67% were not. It is to be mentioned that usually the majority of the students of Dhaka University come from middle class family. From the following table we find the income of the parents of the interviewee group (shown in Table:1)

Table :1
Monthly Income of Respondents' Parents

Income(in BD Tk.)	No. of Respondents	%
4000-8000	38	25.33
9000-13000	33	22
14000-18000	11	7.33
Above 18000	68	45.33
Total	**150**	**100**

Source: Field Survey

From the table it is observed that the monthly income of 45.33% parents of the respondents is above Tk.18000. 25.33% parents earn Tk. 4000 – 8000 per month followd by 22% of the parents' monthly income is Tk.9000 – 13000. 7.33% parents earn Tk. 14000 – 18000 per month. It is to be noted that the parents of a significant number of students (25.33%) only earn Tk.4000 to Tk 8000 per month. Indeed this is perhaps a very

minimum amount that a family needs to survive . This finding revels that even a student from poor income family is having a cell phone today. But how?

In our study we find that about 50 (33%) out of 150 students are doing part time job and they have their own income. A Bengali newspaper the Bonik Barta on 6th July, 2011 reported that students of Dhaka University earn Tk.96 crore (nine hundred and sixty million) annually from tutoring. They do other part-time jobs, irregular and small business etc too.

While analysing the responses it was found that 141 (94%) out of 150 respondents under this survey use cell phone regularly and 9 (6%) do not. It shows the high density of cell phone use tendency among the students of Dhaka University. It is to be noted that the national cell phone penetration in Bangladesh is about 64.56% (Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication,ibid).

Most of the students use cell phone to communicate with others. In response to a question 'why do they use cell phone' 70% of the respondents answered that they use cell phone as a tool for communication. 8% of the respondents told that they use cell phone as a tool of entertainment and 22% of them responded that they use cell phone for both entertainment and communication. It shows that communication has become part and parcel and one of the major needs in present days to them. On the other hand this need of communication has been boosting the use of new technology all over the world.

We then tried to understand to know how many phone sets they usually use. It was found that 86% of the students use one handset; 14% of them use more than one. It means that if not very high but there is a tendency among the students to use more than one handset. This may be due to their affordability.The other reason may be the status symbol or showing off or may be they feel it necessary.

It is relevant to see how much a student pay for using cell phone. We see that 60% of the respondents spend Tk.300 to 600 in a month for their cell phone use . 22 % of them spend Tk.600 to 900 and 10% of them spend above Tk.1500 a month. It means a student spends a good amount of money in every month for using cell phone (shown in Table:2 bellow):

Table:2
Money spent on Cell Phone per month

Answer	No. of Respondents	%
Tk. 300-600	90	60
Tk. 600-900	33	22
Tk. 31-50	12	8
Above Tk. 1500	15	10
Total	**150**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey

Usually we see that the cell phone is used random everywhere in Bangladesh.People even use them in the hospitals. In our study a question was asked if the students use cell phone in their class room or in the library. The responses we summarise that 86% of them do not use cell phone in the class room. 40% of them do not use it in the library or seminar room. It is already mentioned that the most of the students use cell phone for communication or entertainment purpose. We tried to know their feeling of using cell phone when they stay at their family. 25% of the respondents said that they feel uncomfort in using cell phone when they are with the family members. From their answers we see that 25% of them are careful when they are in road. 21% of them reported that they feel hesitate using cell phone when they are in office.

When we asked question on the nature of their phone calls (i.e. in country or foreign) it was found from the responses of the students that their communication range is quite wide. 31% of them make phone calls outside Bangladesh everyday. It means that they have friends and relatives who reside in foreign countries. 14% of the respondents told that they do not phone everyday out side the country but at least more than once in a week.

The tendency of the students to make phone calls outside Bangladesh is: Once in a day (31%), more than once in a week but not in everyday (14%), once in week (7%), less than once in a week but once in every 15 days (10%), once after 15 days (12%), no foreign/international call (26%).

In response to a question - how much does he/she pay for per minute local call, 42% of the respondents under this study reported that they pay Tk. 1 to Tk. 1.99 to phone inside Bangladesh. 32% of the respondents told that they do not know how much they pay for per minute local call. 23% of the respondents said that they pay more than Tk. 2. And 14% of them pay Tk. 0. 25 to 0.99 for per minute local call.

Earlier we found that 94% of the respondents use cell phone. We tried to know the person whom they usually make phone calls. The answers show that the respondents prefer to make phone their friends to parents. 56% of the respondents phone their parents one to three times a day. It was observed that 66% of the respondents phone their friends one to three times in a day and 20% of the respondents claimed that they phone their friends four to six times in a day.

In this study we tried to know what kinds of other form of communication (other than direct phone calls) they apply for communicating with others. We found that another form of mobile communication is Short Message Service (SMS) is practiced by them. It was found that the practice of SMS made a hit among the respondent students of Dhaka University. 100% of the respondents reported that they send at least one SMS in a day. 58% of the respondents told that they send one to four SMS every day. The data related to SMS sending is presented below (Table: 3):

Table: 3
Frequency of SMS Sending

Number of SMS sent per day	No. of respondents	%
1-4	87	58
5-8	31	21

9-12	9	6
13-16	12	8
More than 17	11	7
Total	**150**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey

Now a days life is not possible without internet. The use of internet has been increasing among the students day by day. In the mean time Dhaka University has created good facilities in regards to internet vis-à-vis ICTs. Almost every residential halls and places of student gathering are now connected with WIFI facilities. We see the same reflection in the responses of the students too. The data in regards to tendency of internet use by the students is presented in the following:

Table: 4
Tendency of Internet Using

Answer	No. of respondents	%
Yes	129	86
No	21	14
Total	**150**	**100%**
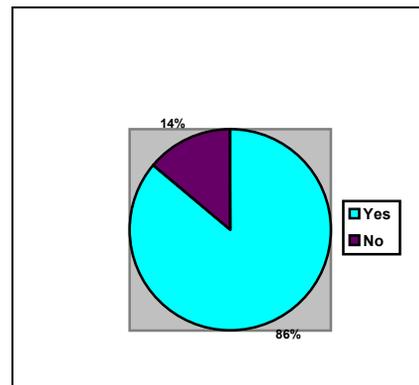
Source: Field Survey

Here we see that 86% of students use internet, whereas 14% do not. From this we can perhaps assume that the internet use density among the university students is higher than any other section of the society. As the most of the students are familiar with internet we tried to see where do they usually use internet. The students reported that they use internet at their hall or home. They have their personal computer. 43% of the respondents said that they use internet by their pc at hall or home. 10% of the students answered that they use internet at their office. 25% of them reported that they use internet in the Cyber Centre of the university (8% of them told that they have tendency to use internet at Cyber Café out side Dhaka University). This means that the internet use at Cyber Café by Dhaka university students is low. Of course cell phone is another tool or medium of using internet. 15% of the respondents replied that they use internet through their cell phone. From this responses we can assume that the majority of students use internet in their personal computer which means the dependency of the students on computer is increasing.

The students use different medium for internet. We see that 51% of the respondents prefer WIFI and it may because of the fact that most of the halls of Dhaka University have WIFI network. WIFI is a wireless internet network and provides good speed for downloading or uploading. After WIFI the students named broadband as their second

choice. 34% of the respondents told that they use internet through broadband connection. It is to be mentioned that some cell phones provide facilities of internet modem. By connecting this to computer one can use internet. The figure of students using cell phone's modem is 27%. In Bangladesh two companies named Banglalion and Qubee provide WiMAX service. 12% of the respondents said that they use WiMAX connection for using internet. The following table gives us a picture in this regard.

Table :5
Medium of Using Internet

Medium	No. of respondents	%
WIFI	66	51
Broadband	44	34
Internet modem	35	27
WiMAX	16	12

Survey ... Source: Field Survey

The students ... spend a fair amount of money for using internet. The data is presented in the following :

Table:6
Amount of Money the Students Pay for Using Internet

Amount(in BDTk.)	No. of respondents	%
100-200	38	30
201-300	19	15
301-400	19	15
401-350	3	2
Above 500	26	20
No cost	24	18
Total	**129(100%)**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey

From the table we see that 18% of the students do not spend money for internet. It is assumed that they use WIFI connection at the university halls and they don't need to spend money for this purpose.

The use of internet has been increasing day by day in Bangladesh. Nationally the country now enjoys the internet density rate of about 20.53% (Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication: 2013, ibid). People having internet connectivity spend a good span of time for using internet. In our study it was found that 56% of the students spend at least one hour in internet daily. 14% of the students spend two hours and above for using internet. Here we see that most of the students under this study use internet for a long time every day. The data is presented in the following (Table: 6):

Table : 6
Time Spent for Using Internet

Time	No. of Respondents	%
1 minute to 15 minutes	22	17
15 to 30 minutes	12	10
30 to 45 minutes	22	17
45 minutes to 1 hour	15	23
1 hour to 2 hours	38	30
2 hours and above	20	14
Total	**129**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey

Questions were asked about the favorite website of the respondents. They provided their responses to those questions. .

43% of the respondents named 'Google' as their favorite website. We assume that they prefer google.com for searching or Google as their home website. 25% of the respondents said that they visit facebook after google.com. It is regretful to mention that a good percentage of the students (11%) are now interested to browse porn or adult sites most. They named a few adult sites like- sex.com, youporn.com and debonairblog.com etc.

It was found that the students prefer to visit blog sites like - somewhereinblog.net and sonarbangladesh.net. The students usually express their opinion by these blog sites. Now a days blog sites work as an alternative and powerful social media. They also show interest of browsing news sites like - prothom alo, bdnews and banglanews24 etc. To summaries the data on favorite websites of the students are: Google.com (43%), Facebbok.com (25%), Sex.com (11%), Bloomberg.com (2%), Youtube.com (8%), Mig33.com (2%), Prothom-alo.com (2%), Bdnews24.com (2%), Wikipedia.net (4%), Dw.net (4%), Sonarbangladesh.net (2%), Game.com (2%), Yahoo.com (6%), Twitter.com (2%), Dse.com (2%), Somewhereinblog.net (4%), Banglanews4.com (2%), Bdjobs.com (2%), Yourporn.com (6%), Debonairblog.net (4%), No favorite website (4%).

In reply to a question 61% of the students replied that they choose their favorite website for information and 31% mentioned 'entertainment'. Another 31% reported that they browse their favorite website for passing time. 25% of the respondents said that they think their favorite website is educative.

Usually, we use internet for sending email and social networking. At present we can not pass our days without checking email. We found that almost 80% of the respondents check email and 20% do not. Students use email for various reasons. It was found that 85% of the respondents use email for personal need or communication.

It is assumed that their personal need is to check their mail from social network sites like facebook or twitter. Now a days most of the employer asks to send job application through email. Perhaps, that's why 25% of the respondents reported that they use email for applying a job. 11% answered that they use email for study purpose (mail to a professor or admission office of a foreign university).

The number of facebook user in Bangladesh is 3.35 million. In this regard Bangladesh is in 48th position among 191 countries of the world (http://www.internetworldstats.com/asia.htm).
The total face book user in the world is nearly 1.11 billion. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facebook_statistics#Top_50_Countries_on_Facebook). The responses received from the respondents provide the same reflections. It was found that 94% of the respondents are the regular user of facebook (shown in the table bellow):

Table: 7
Frequency of Face book User

Use face book or not	No. of respondents	%
Yes	122	94
No	7	6
Total	**129**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey

In response to our question 44% of the respondents replied that they became member of facebook more than one year back. 28% became member 6 to 9 months ago. 20% became member just before 2 to 5 months. Another 8% became facebook member 10 months to in one year ago. In this study we found that 69% of the respondents have 50 to 100 facebook friends and 24% of the respondents have friends above 200. The face book users spend a large amount of time everyday for facebooking. While asked about the spending of time for facebooking 71% of the respondents replied that they use facebook for around 30 minutes everyday. 20% of the students replied that they log in facebook for 30 minutes to one hour every day.

Discussion:

This work is indeed aimed at looking into the tendency and pattern of use of social media particularly the use of cell phone and internet among the students of Dhaka University, Bangladesh. A short discussion on the history of ICT in Bangladesh was incorporated in this work. The study was conducted to know the present ICT situation in the country as well as to understand the pattern of cell phone use among the university students. The simple survey method was used for this work. Necessary data were collected through a questionnaire as a tool.

It was observed that the ICT penetration in Bangladesh is well backed by the government and the society is quite responsive to this effort. It was also found that the cell phone density of the country is nearly 64.56% whereas the cell phone density among the students is 94%. This study shows that beside their academic pursuit a good number of students of Dhaka University earn a good amount of money.
The study reports that 33% of the respondents earn money regularly from part- time work and/or tutoring. It means that from their student life, they involve in a job/work. Besides making regular phone call within the country or abroad 58% of the students also send one to four SMS in a day. It also shows that the students of Dhaka University are more technology used to. They use cell phone to communicate with friends and family regularly; the figure is 70 %. The students fulfill their communication needs through internet too. The majority of the students (60%) spend Tk 300- 600 in every month for using cell phone. And 10% of the respondents spend Tk 1500 or above. They behave

responsible and are careful in using cell phone in the class room and library. 86% of the respondents do not use cell phone when their in the class room.

The study again shows a good dependency of students on internet and it is to be told that they are one of the most technologically advanced groups in the society. 30% of the respondents use internet one hour to two hour a day. The Internet has advantages and at the same time it has disadvantages too. The students of Dhaka University have interest on Facebook and blog sites. 94% of the respondents use Facebook. They also spend a good amount time for Facebooking. 71% of the students use Facebook at least for 30 minutes a day.

Conclusion:

From the findings we see that the ICTs and new media is getting ground and becoming popular among the students very rapidly. ICTs are becoming more and more in the reach of the students of Dhaka University. They are now almost habituated and dependent on using cell phone, internet, SMS and email etc. They spend a good amount of money for using those different tools of ICTs. We tried to link this study with uses and gratification theory for our research. To conclude the study we can say that students of Dhaka University use new technology to gratify themselves. They use cell phone and other means of ICT tolls mainly to communicate as well as for entertainment. We can conclude that the use of ICT will spread very rapidly day by day in Bangladesh in near future and our young generation will play the vital role in the process of growth of this sector. Although small in number we see a trend among the students of browsing porn sites. This habit should be discouraged through motivation and counseling.

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