Impact of Smart Phones on the Quality of Work Life of Lecturers

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ABSTRACT

A smartphone maybe defined as, "a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps."With the increase in the standard of living of people and increase in technological innovations,drastic changes have occurred in their purchasing pattern, consumption and behaviour. One such is the smart phone. It has changed the behaviour of the consumers. The following research is based on the usage of smartphones among college lecturers in India. The researcher wants to bring out the usage of smartphone among the working class and the qualitative purpose it serves. Mostly smartphones are used as no more than devices for socializing, whereas, they come with abundant usage and can be used to improve the quality of work life.

With the advent of globalization, the quality of teaching has seen a growth in the recent times on a global level. Various apps like Ted-Ed, Khan academy, Wiki How are helping take teaching to a new level. As on today, the students are diverted due to the usage of smartphones daily. With information being available at finger tips now, the lecturers should be very dynamic and through the usage of different teaching apps on the smartphones can make the class even more interesting. This can also help in widening the subject knowledge. This research is trying to find out the awareness of lecturers about different apps and how these can be used in classrooms to make teaching an interesting and fun process. The research is oriented to find the percentage of lecturers who are using the smartphones for improving the quality of their work life and how many are wasting quality time because of smartphones. The objective of this paper is:

1. *To know the effect of smartphones on the work life of lecturers*
2. *To find the impact of smartphones on the traditional teaching techniques*
3. *To know the various apps that can be utilized by lecturers.*

Keywords: smartphones, work life, lecturers, quality, apps

Introduction

A smartphone maybe defined as, "a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, Internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded apps." Smartphones are becoming increasingly popular for both personal and professional use. Due to the technological capabilities of smartphones, they can do much of what a computer can and with this people have the ability to work on a smartphone, anywhere and at any time.

App is the abbreviated form of the word "application". An application is a software program that's designed to perform a specific function directly for the user or for another application program. Apps are generally used for a specific function as it eases down the work process of searching for some information everywhere, as the same may be found under one roof itself. For example, The Times of India newspaper app keeps you posted about the day to day events in its own app and one does to need to browse through the internet to know about the current affairs. The Oxford Dictionary and Merriam Webster have nullified the use of a pocket dictionary as these apps themselves have almost 470 thousand words stored with an integrated thesaurus and

approximately 1,00,000 graphical illustrations. These apps make the intended work extremely easy and interactive.

It is quite evident that smartphones are a hit among the present youth with more than 75% of them using smartphones on a daily basis. With the increase in smartphone usage and the ever-increasing technological innovations, the world can be accessed from just a touch. This research however will focus on the smartphone usage among college lecturers in Hyderabad.

Smartphones nowadays are viewed exclusively as a platform for social interaction. It is moreover seen as a way to stay connected via social media apps with the fellow folk. However, smartphones come with a wide range of applications or apps, which can be used in much productive ways to increase ones' work productivity.

It is believed that smartphones could be used by college lecturers to keep themselves updated with the surrounding and new changes in their respective fields of study. With the outreach that smartphones have, it is easier to look into different areas and avenues related to the educational field and help explain new concepts in a better way. Through social chat forums, they can discuss about their doubts regarding the subject, new concepts discovered, present discussions going, present systems, happenings can be known, discussed etc., which will improve their capability to a greater extent. Smart phones can help them be updated with the new links in the system and can help them reach out to their target audience in a better way.

Smartphone's are now an integral part of everyone's life. With its handy usage, this device has made life much simpler. The use of various apps on a Smartphone make in an extremely efficient gadget. All the information can be accessed with just a click and is readily available on the finger tips. It helps in doubt clarification, gathering data to prepare for a class, accessing information relevant to the field of study, preparing for research work etc.

However, it is observed that every good thing comes with a price and excess usage of anything isn't good. Excessive usage of smartphones can hamper the work life of lecturers and can even disrupt the balance between work and personal life. A recent Times survey suggested that working class people show signs of work pressure and are unable to balance out their work due to the distraction of their smartphones. This is why in many institutions and companies, smart phones are not allowed. The employee is expected to deposit the same at the gates and in case of emergency can use the office phones. Excess utilization of smart phones has been seen as a negative sign.

What we notice here is that for lecturers, in particular, a smart phone can prove to be a device that would boost up their quality of work life. These devices come with a range of apps which help the lecturers in delivering their lectures in a much efficient manner.

This research paper is trying to find out whether lecturers are utilising their smart phones properly to enhance their working quality or waste their time disturb

Objectives of the study

1. To know the effect of smartphones on the work life of lecturers
2. To find the impact of smartphones on the traditional teaching techniques
3. To know the various apps that can be utilized by lecturers.

Methodology

Research method is designed to collect information from the lecturers on their daily usage of smartphones. It is designed to collect data on their usage of various apps and the purpose of using the smartphones. It looks into finding how smartphones improve the quality of work. The collected information is subjected to simple statistical method to bring out the findings. The researcher has made a deep analysis of the data collected, to know the effects of the usage of smartphones on improving the quality of work life of lecturers.

Sources of Data

Primary data was collected from a total of 100 lecturers from four different institutes in Hyderabad. The colleges were, St. Joseph's Degree and PG College, Ratna College, Hindi Mahavidyalaya and Aurora College.

Secondary data was collected from the websites, research papers and new articles.

Sampling Design

Target sampling was used in this survey. Specific target audience was selected, that is, lecturers handling the commerce subjects in the four institutes. Questionnaire was circulated along the lecturers for which the lecturers were supportive enough to give quick responses. Also interview method was used to gather more relevant information about the study.

Review of Literature

➢ Laura Mcclure in her TED Ed blog – "awesome apps for teachers recommended by teachers" has discussed about various applications which will be helpful in enhancing presentation skills of the lecturers

➢ Emily Schiola & Gloria Sin in "Digital trends "website discuss about various applications which are useful for educators. These authors also tell us how lecturers can handle the students who use smart phone in class. How bane can be changed into a boon has also been discussed.

➢ Griva patel in her website teachers with apps.com suggests some 5 apps which helps teachers in saving time.

➢ In the research study on the " I TEC- designing the future class room" discusses about the pros & cons of usage ICT.

➢ An article by Daniel Adeboye on the website "e learning industry.com " high lights about five effective uses of mobile technology in the class room.

Apps used by lecturers on a global platform

It has been observed that the Play Store and i Store are filled with numerous apps which are intended to help make teaching a fun process. However, it is observed that in India these apps are yet to be made famous and used on a large scale. The following are some of the apps which have the maximum downloads and are increasingly used by lecturers globally in their day-to-day working:

1. TED-Ed: More than 250,000 teachers use TED education tools to spark student curiosity and explore presentation literacy skills. This online platform is used to add engaging content to topics that one is studying. It also gives students the opportunity to help in the process of creating their own TED-Ed Lessons by choosing videos and creating questions to include.

2. Haikudeck: It is the easiest way to create an amazing presentation. It clears away the clutter, helping one to focus on their key idea to unlock their creative flow. One can choose from among a range of stylish fonts, layouts and image filters for the kind of polish that graphic designers charge thousands of dollars to deliver.

3. Duolingo: This app has revolutionized the way people can learn new languages. It is the world's largest online language learning platform. Its adaptive experience has gamified elements to make language learning more fun and effective. 200 million students and teachers are learning a language with Duolingo.

4. Animoto: This app helps create videos on various topics which can be shared with the students instantly.

5. TeachLearnLead: This app lets you interact with teachers from around the world who teach the same topics. It's like Facebook for Teachers. This is dedicated to supporting, celebrating and connecting the teachers as they navigate through their careers in the classroom. This app can be used to chat, message and collaborate with other teachers and get inspired from the peers.

6. Educreations: Simply put, this app helps one create an interactive whiteboard app that allows you to create easy to follow tutorials for students. You can record audio to narrate your actions as well, allowing you

to create diagrams, commentary, simple animations, or instructions with coupled audio covering any topic. Plus, you can share video via email, Facebook, or Twitter in addition to the classroom.

7. WikiHow: This app helps in connecting you with the WikiHow page of Wikipedia which concentrates on step-by-step methods of doing any particular thing. This app comes in almost 17 languages and is an open source software.

8. Khan Academy: This app allows you to learn almost anything for free. It has over 10,000 videos and explanations at your fingertips in math, science, economics, history and much more. It also includes step-by-step videos and interactive exercises. It also includes in-depth articles and helps in preparing for competitive exams.

9. Draw and Tell: This app can help in increasing the creative confidence in students of all ages. All the teacher has to do is to draw something, tell a story about it and share the creation.

10. Evernote: This is the best notetaking app and helps in getting rid of handouts. All the projects can be shared with the students through the shared notebooks and all assignments can be posted on the Assignment shared notebooks that are available on the servers.

11. Chat forums :A chat forum, or a chat room, is mainly used to describe any form of synchronous conferencing, occasionally even asynchronous conferencing. These forums are extremely popular in the West. A person can anonymously enter a chat forum and ask his questions. People from around the world can answer the questions and give their views. Common chat forums are Chat Rooms, Chat Avenue, Todays Meet, Back Channel Chat, Pro Teacher to name a few.
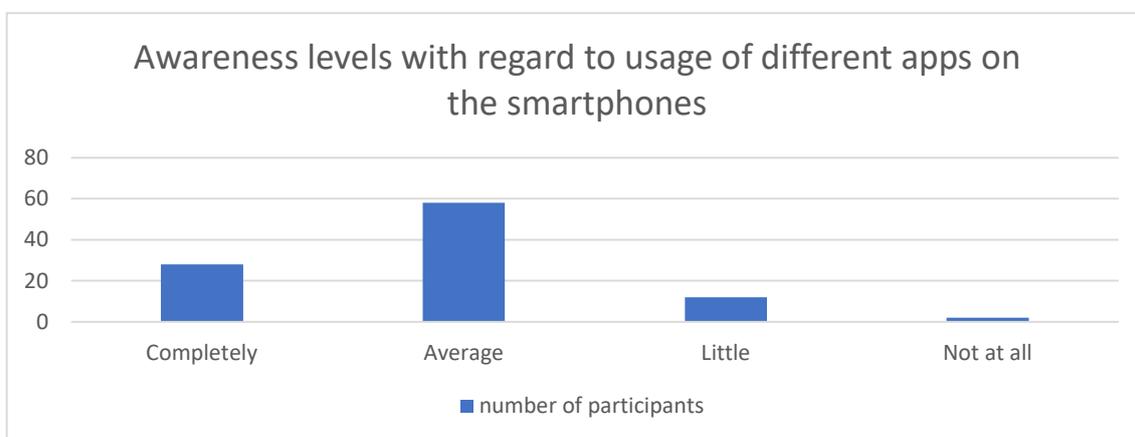
Smartphone apps like Ted-Ed, Duolingo, WikiHow, Khan Academy have more than 100 million downloads on the Play Store itself. These apps provide a platform for lecturers to gain information, and can help create and present learning in a virtually interactive manner. These apps have been used by lecturers and teachers globally to make the learning a fun process. However, we see that in India, traditional form of teaching is still quite evident. With the increase in smartphone usage, a shift can be observed in the teaching methods.

Interpretation and Analysis

All the lecturers surveyed were using smartphones in their day-to-day lives. It was found that each one of them possessed a branded smartphone which was capable of handling multiple apps. The following is the formal analysis of the various questions asked in the questionnaire with interpretations:

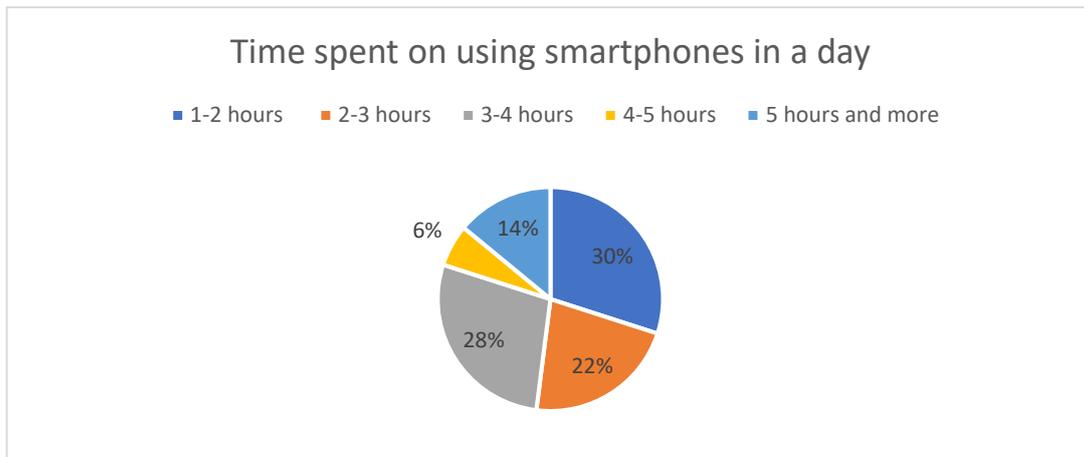1. Table 1: Awareness levels with regard to usage of different apps on the smartphones

	Number of respondent lecturers
Completely	28
Average	58
Little	12
Not at all	2

Awareness levels with regard to usage of different apps on the smartphones

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From the above table it is observed that 82% of the respondents were aware of the usage of different apps on their smartphones. This is a positive indicator.

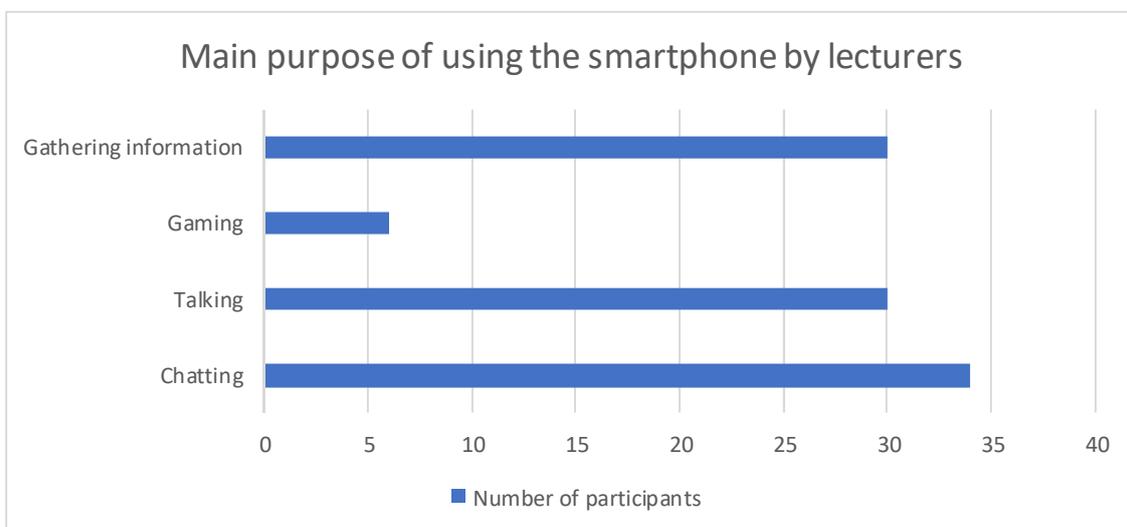2.   Table 2: Hours spent on smartphones in a day

Time	Number of respondent lecturers
1-2 hours	30
2-3 hours	22
3-4 hours	28
4-5 hours	6
5 hours and more	14

It is observed that the smartphone usage among lecturers varies mostly between 2-4 hours a day. This is the amount spent exclusively on their smartphones either to chat, talk, use various apps or for gaming purpose.

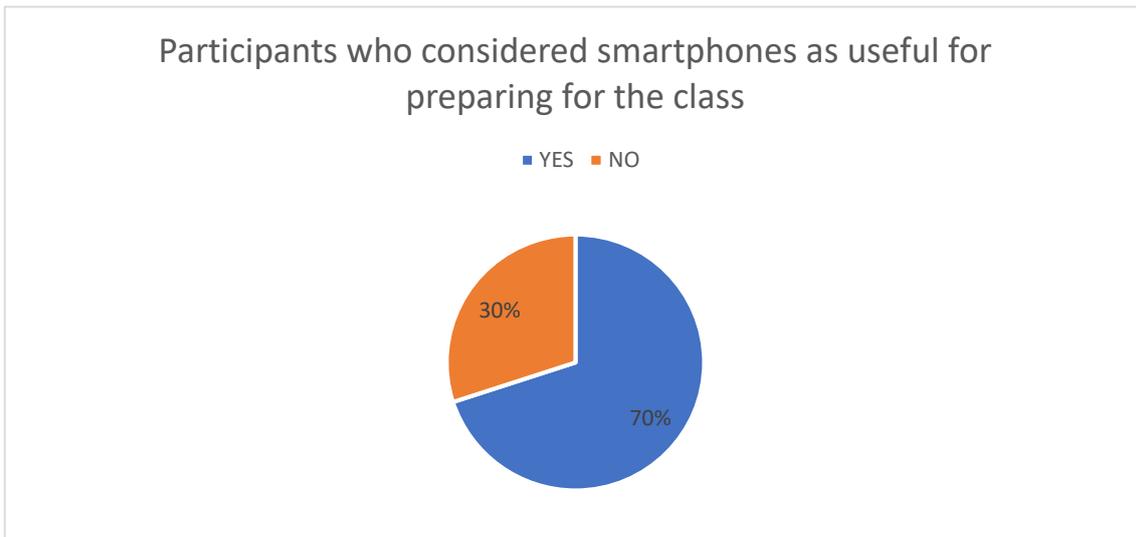3.   Table 3: Purpose of using the smartphones

Activities	Number of respondents
Chatting	34
Talking	30
Gaming	6
Gathering knowledge and reference for teaching	30

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While 34% said that they used their smartphones mostly for chatting purpose, 30% said that they used it primarily for gathering information and references related to teaching. This indicates that lecturers are utilizing their smartphones not only as devices to communicate but also as a handy device to collect and gather information.

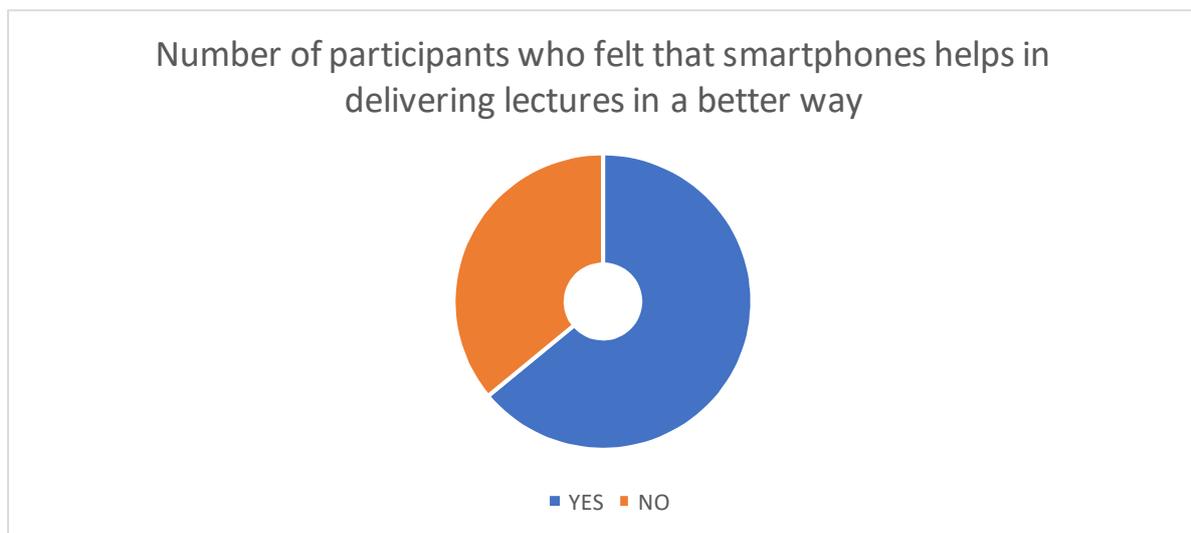4.   Table 4: lecturers who use smart phone for preparing class

YES	70
NO	30

Participants who considered smartphones as useful for preparing for the class

■ YES ■ NO

70% lecturers believed that smartphones help them in preparing for their class and 65% of them believed that their smartphones helped them to get quick information in class. This indicates that the lecturers now utilize their smartphones to directly search and gather information instead of the traditional method of referring to many books in case of a doubt.

5.   Table 5: Lecturers who feel that smart phone helps them in delivering lectures in a better way
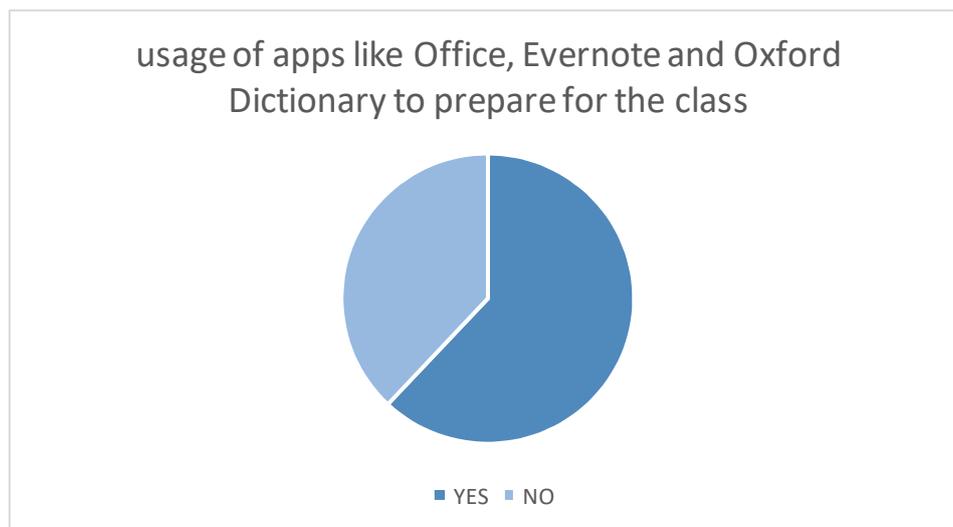
YES	64
NO	36

Number of participants who felt that smartphones helps in delivering lectures in a better way

■ YES ■ NO

The above table shows that a majority of lecturers believed that smartphones have helped them in delivering their lecturers in a better way. This includes using smartphones to prepare for a class and prepare presentations to make class more interactive.

6.   Table 6: Awareness of apps like Office, Evernote, Oxford Dictionary and usage to prepare for class
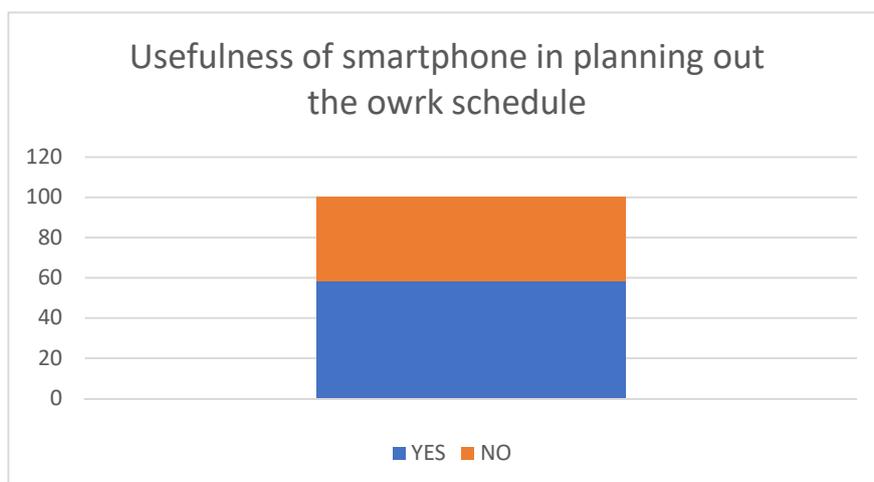
YES	62
NO	38

usage of apps like Office, Evernote and Oxford Dictionary to prepare for the class

When the lecturers were asked about utilizing apps like Office and Evernote in their day to day use, 62% cited as yes. These apps almost null down the usage of a bulky computer by providing all facilities on the smartphone itself. While still this number is less, it is good indicator as lecturers can, on-the-go, utilize these apps to create presentations or reports.

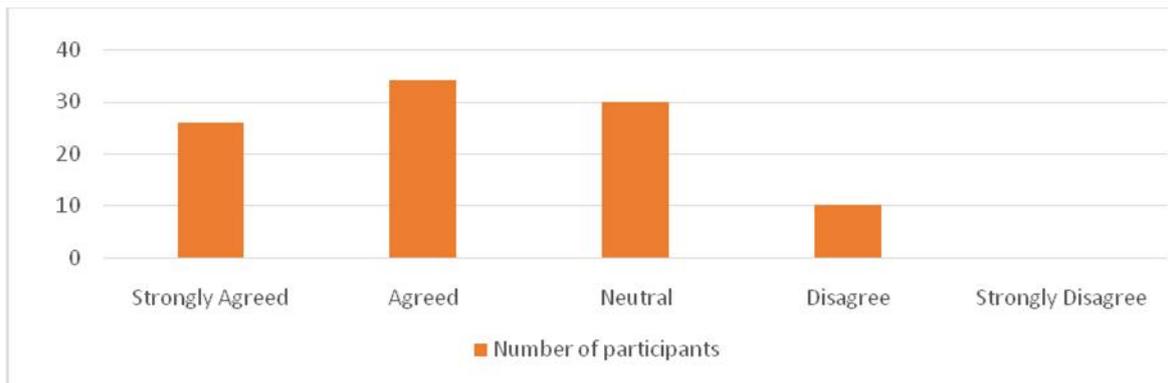Table 7: Has your smartphone helped you in planning out your work schedule?

YES	58
NO	42

Usefulness of smartphone in planning out the owrk schedule

The above table shows that most lecturers believed that smartphones helped them in planning out their work schedule. This included using apps like Weekly Planner and To Do List. These apps were seen as common among the lecturers which helped them keep a track of all the works to be done.

8. Table 8: when the lecturers were asked whether students nowadays demand to know more than just textbook knowledge, their response was like this.
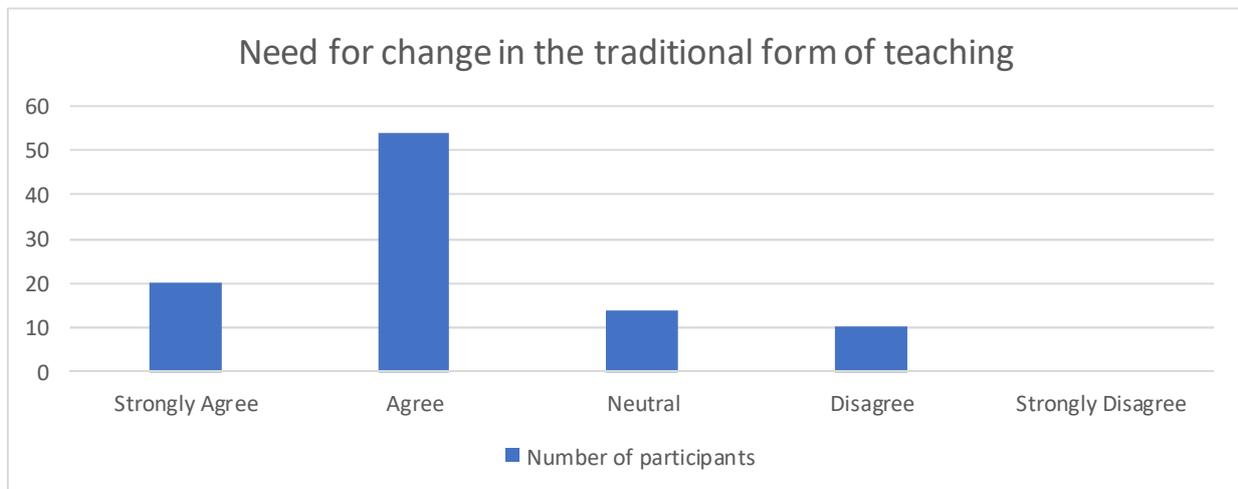
Parameters	Number of respondents
Strongly Agree	26
Agree	34
Neutral	30
Disagree	10
Strongly Disagree	Nil

It is observed from the above graph that most lecturers believed that students nowadays put up more questions and demand to know more about the subject. Almost 60% of the respondents agreed with this.

9. Table 9: the response for the question, whether they felt a need to change from the traditional form of teaching was
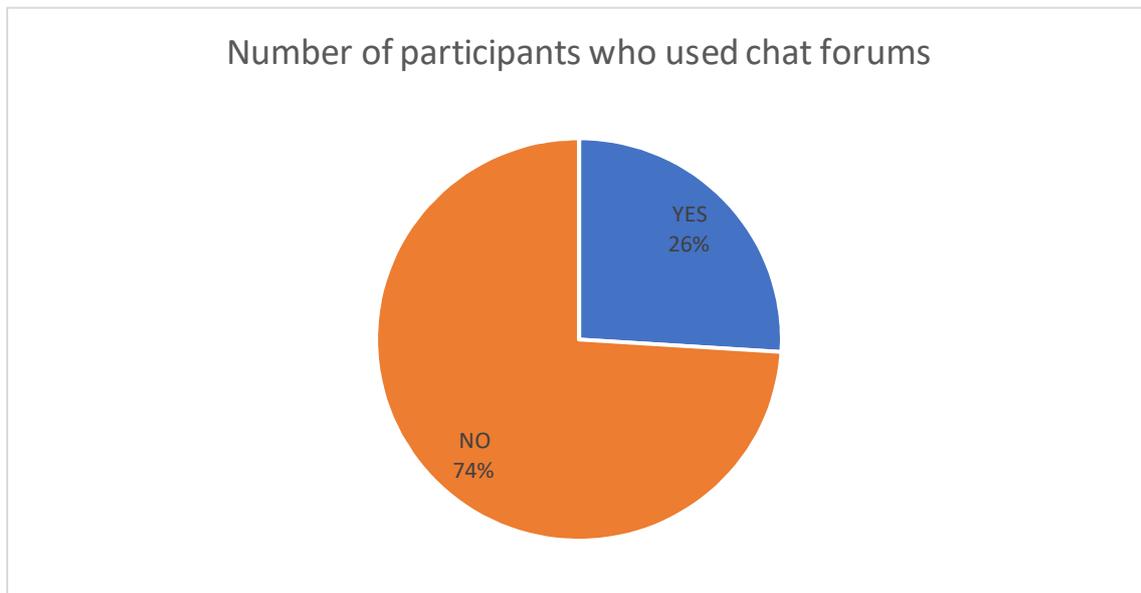
Parameters	Number of participants
Strongly Agree	20
Agree	56
Neutral	14
Disagree	10
Strongly Disagree	NIL

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Need for change in the traditional form of teaching

It is observed that 76% of the respondents felt that there is a need for a change in the traditional form of teaching. They believed that with time, technological innovations should be utilized in this field as well.

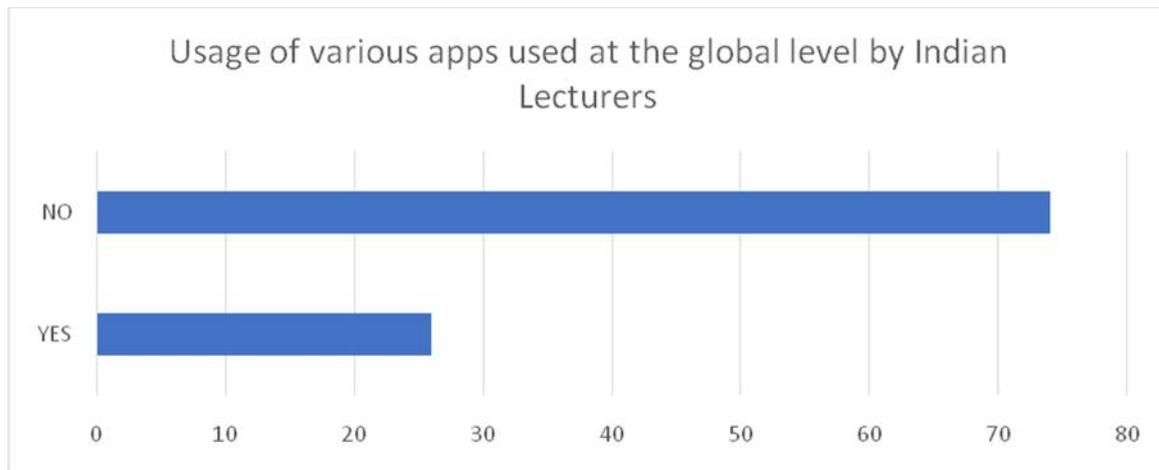10.   Table 10:When the lecturers were asked about the usage of chat forum

YES	26
NO	74

Number of participants who used chat forums

Chat forums are extremely popular in the West. However, only 26% of the respondents stated that they had used a chat forum. A chat forum helps people of same interest to come together and share their views regarding their field. This kind of platform helps in sorting out doubts faced by students and helps the teaching staff to be updated in their fields. It is seen that in India, chat forums are yet to be popularized.

11.   Table 11: Usage of apps like TED-Ed, iMovies, Duolingo by lecturers

YES	26
NO	74

Usage of various apps used at the global level by Indian Lecturers

Only 26% of the respondents stated to have used apps like Ted-Ed, iMovie, Duolingo,Instructables, ThinkCad or Khan academy. These apps are extremely common in the West and have more than 10 million downloads on the PlayStore itself. These apps are commonly used by the teaching staff to make learning a fun process. Easy videos explaining concepts can be instantly made and quick information can be gathered using these apps. However, in India, lecturers still follow the traditional way of looking up anything on Google instead of utilizing any specific app.

Findings of the study

1.   The number of smartphone users in India is expected to reach 340 million users in 2018. However, of this a majority is yet unaware of the total utilization of their smartphones. It is yet just used as a device to make and receive calls and majorly for socializing over the internet. But the research on the lecturers reveal that 82% of the lecturers are aware of the usage of different apps on their smartphones. This is a positive indicator.

2.   The study finds only 30% of the lecturers use smart phone for gathering information and references related to teaching. This indicates that lecturers are utilizing their smartphones not only as devices to communicate but also as a handy device to collect and gather information. But this also reveals that 70% lecturers don't use the phone for gathering information.

3.   Through the interview,it was noted that maximum respondents utilized WhatsApp on their smartphone. Of this, 76% stated that they have used WhatsApp to stay connected to their students and send them notes, video lecture and other relevant information. This only shows that lecturers are trying not to restrict teaching to only college hours. Many cited that they shared important news articles with their students or any relevant information which the students might find interesting. This shows that lecturers are not restricting themselves to the traditional teaching technology only. Through the smart phone , they are communicating to their students any time, anywhere .this is leading to a better development of the knowledge as well as the relationship between the student and lecturer. Particularly this healthy practice is in vogue in St. Josephs.

4.   It has been observed that the lecturers primarily use the smart phones for chatting. However, only 26% of them stated that they had used a chat forum. This shows that, unlike western countries, Indian lecturers are not discussing and sharing knowledge   in a social media.

5.   70% lecturers believed that smartphones helped them in preparing for their class and 65% of them believed that their smartphones helped them to get quick information in class. This indicates that the lecturers now utilize their smart phones to directly search and gather information instead of the traditional method of referring to many books in case of a doubt.

6.   Education is now a dynamic industry. Lecturers are expected to be in touch with latest amendments and changes in their respective field so that students now get current information rather than getting data of some 10 years back. 78% of the respondents believed that their smartphones helped them in being updated with these latest trends. Many also told in the interview that smart phones come handy in subjects like Taxation, economics where every year there are various amendments, data etc. keep on changing.

7.   76% of the respondents felt that there is a need for a change in the traditional form of teaching. They believed that new teaching techniques should be adopted and learning should be made a two-way process. They believed that technological innovations should be used even in the felid of teaching and teaching should be made more interactive.

8.   It is found that many lecturers believed that students nowadays put up more questions and **demand to know more as they can access their smartphones anytime to connect to the in**ternet. Gone are the days when teaching was a one-way process. It is now a collective effort. Many believed that students now demand to know more than just what is provided in the textbooks. The student wish to be updated with the latest know-hows of their fields of study. Smartphones come as a handy device for lecturers as doubts and clarifications can be done instantly and carry forward of doubts does not occur.

9.   While 58% of the respondents believed that smartphones help them plan out their day-to-day work schedule, 48% of the respondents cited that smartphones were a distraction when it came to their planned weekend work. Many stated that the work they had planned for the weekend, would be left undone due to their usage of smartphone and veiling away time on it. However, 42% of the respondents stated that smartphones were never seen as a distraction.

10.   Apps like Office and Evernote are few common apps utilized daily by the lecturers. 62% of them stated that they used them regularly. This shows that lecturers are utilizing smartphones to create presentations and reports, on-the-go. However, globally, apps like TED-Ed, Duolingo, TeachLearnLead, Draw and Tell are extremely popular. However, in India, lecturers are not still in touch with these new apps. In India, usage of Google is extremely common. Instead of utilizing specific apps, lecturers like to use Google to find out anything.

11.   It was found that all the lecturers found their smartphones very useful when it comes to utilizing them for their research work. Most of the lecturers work on research papers and found that smart phones are handy& quick whenever information is needed.

Suggestions

1.   Smartphones now have a variety of uses. App developers are trying to infiltrate every possible avenue. Thus, smartphones are more than just gadgets used for communication. These can thus be used for the process of learning various new techniques that can change the teaching process.

2.   Special seminars should be arranged for the lecturers where they can have sessions on the usage of various teaching apps on the smartphones. Apps like Draw and Tell will be extremely useful for Economics lecturers to draw graphs and explain concept in a much better way. Duolingo can make learning new languages (as many colleges are now putting up a second language in their course) extremely fun and interactive with videos and constant assessments. TeachLearnLead app will be useful for new lecturers as they can gain knowledge from the experienced seniors whenever in doubt. Other apps like HaikuDeck and Animoto will help in preparing presentations and interactive videos in a much faster and efficient manner.

3.   Due to the varied uses of smartphones, these are slowly replacing the traditional forms of teaching. Instead of carrying many books, all pdf documents can be saved and accessed on your smartphones. There can be seen a change from the traditional form of teaching. Making teaching a two-way process is crucial. This keeps the students attentive and involved. Thus, by using the smartphones, lecturers can create an interactive environment in their class.

4.   It is proven by psychology that images and graphics help a student understand concepts in a much better manner. Lecturers should utilize relevant smartphone apps to create an environment conducive for

learning. A student is expected to learn and understand concepts more when taught via graphics than when taught via texts.

Conclusion

It is believed that smart phones hamper the work life of many people, distracting them. Even though it distracts the lecturers a little bit, they feel that it comes handy for them in the class preparation. It keeps them updated. It helps them in supplementing the traditional teaching. But many useful apps are yet not used by the Indian lecturers. The research paper concludes that smart phone has good impact on work life of lecturers i.e. to update themselves, better their teaching, move towards non-traditional modern teaching. .

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