

THE IMPACT OF CELL PHONE USAGE ON THE EDUCATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (PARTICULARLY FOCUSING ON THE COLOMBO DISTRICT)

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This research study investigates the impact of cell phone usage on the education of school children in the Colombo District, Sri Lanka, employing a qualitative research approach. Data were collected from two Colombo-based schools, with a sample comprising 15 students, 15 teachers, and 15 parents. In this urban and developed region, cell phones have become prevalent among students, particularly outside the classroom setting, with potential implications for their academic performance and learning outcomes. Through qualitative methods, including focus group discussions with students, teachers, and parents, this research aims to comprehensively understand the experiences, perspectives, and concerns surrounding cell phone usage for educational purposes. Most students use cell phones for both educational and daily activities outside of school, prompting concerns about responsible usage and potential misuse among teachers and parents. Teachers, constrained by school policies that discourage cell phone use in class, stress responsible off-hours usage to limit distractions, while parents worry about the financial burdens of phone use. Data analysis primarily relies on thematic analysis of qualitative data from focus group discussions, extracting insights from participants' narratives and perceptions. The findings emphasize the necessity of policies, parental guidance, and strategies to maximize cell phones' positive educational impact beyond classrooms. This involves establishing responsible usage guidelines, offering parental support, and achieving a balance with academic responsibilities. By addressing these recommendations, the educational landscape can effectively harness the benefits of cell phones while mitigating potential drawbacks. This research contributes to the existing knowledge on cell phone usage in education, specifically focusing on the Colombo District, and offers valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and parents to make informed decisions. Ultimately, the study aims to enhance educational practices, promote positive learning experiences, and ensure the optimal integration of cell phones in educational settings, considering the limitations within the classroom context.

Keywords: Cell phone usage, Education, Impact, School children

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