

The Phone Revolution – Help or Hinder?

I am not the age of an average college student (average age is 18-24 years of age), I am twice the age. With this fact in mind, when growing up, computers and technology did not have a great impact on my childhood life as much as you see technologies effects on the young and old today. I was always outside playing, and you knew where your friends were by the amount and location of their bicycles gathered at either a neighborhood friend's house, the baseball field, etc. The only technology available to me currently was a loud ringing landline telephone (one in the kitchen and one in my parents' bedroom), a transistor radio (to hear Casey Kasem's American Top 40) and an over-the-air television with four channels (ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS on the good days).

As I grew into an adult, I witnessed the advancement of phone over the years with the start being the landline telephone. Of course, the landline telephone was invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell, which made a huge impact on society as the new faster way to communicate. Since then, the advancement of this technology improved with telecommunication devices transforming from the landline phone, the Beeper in 1921, the commercially approved pager in 1959 (Motorola), the first mass produced mobile phone in 1973 (this would be the big black colored heavy phone only rich people could afford), the camera phone in 2000 (thank you Japan), the 3G smart phone in 2003, and the current 5G smart phone in 2019. You can accomplish many things with today's devices. It goes to show how amazing the phone has advanced since 1876.

As with anything that is either technology or invention related will have a cost; both the positive and negative effects when released to the masses.

Some of the good things these devices bring are: You can call for help anywhere in the world, communicate with others through text, phone call, or even video chat, can take and send pictures of the interesting things (like nature or the large pizza before and after you devoured it), order pretty much anything from food to silly posters of cats hanging from trees.

The bad side are: They have changed the way we communicate in person as we have lost our interpersonal skills (the skills you pick up in school hanging out with your friends). If you are not sure what I mean, the next time you are out at a public area like a coffee bar, restaurant, park, or anywhere public; look at couples sitting together. Are they talking to one another or staring at their phones? I would say the majority are staring at their phones. Another thing is they can be nuisance when people forget to turn off the ring during class/movie theater or hearing people have loud conversations on their phones in the grocery store/bank line. Even texting while driving is has become an issue of safety.

I do not believe there is some inventor guy twisting his long black moustache hatching some evil plan. I believe that phones were invented to help make our lives a little bit easier. I think when society invents something (whether it is an object or a technology to advance an already invented object like the phone), we try to do a be more responsible at weighing the actual cost to society at a whole.

References

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