



The use of mobile phones by Generation Z: A qualitative analysis of their *whys* and *hows*

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Abstract

For this study, an in-depth analysis was attempted regarding the use of mobile phones by individuals belonging to Generation Z, which includes people born between the years 1996 and 2010. Generation Z is the generation that grew up with technology, which is why they were selected for this study. They are known to be open-minded, curious, innovative, and engaged in activities like volunteering. Additionally, they are a generation that has experienced and continues to experience social changes that directly affect them, such as global issues like climate change, global pandemics, terrorism, or economic crises. They are oriented towards making long-term decisions and smart investments. Socially, they show a strong interest in equal rights based on race and gender, and they are skeptical about advertisements, always seeking truth and authenticity in every domain. This study aims to identify specific aspects related to their personal experiences and the personal significance they attribute to their mobile devices, as they are a generation that has not experienced much of life without technology, having grown up with it since childhood. The main research method chosen for this work is a qualitative one, involving 12 interviews focused on identifying personal aspects related to phone usage. These interviews were conducted following the application of a questionnaire to a sample of 107 respondents, with the purpose of observing the general trends on this topic.

Keywords

Communication; Social networks; Social influence; Mobile phone usage;

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Upon resuming social life after a long period of pandemic, many individuals were observed using their phones in social settings. Whether they are at a terrace or a restaurant for various reasons like socializing or professional meetings; at the park or gym; at college or work; at a club or in a reading room, young people have at least one digital device nearby, and the reasons for using them vary depending on the context.

They might use their phones to gain new perspectives or knowledge through quick access to information, for communication, or to access specific information stored on their phones, such as messages, notes, or other applications used by each individual. In this social context, it is almost shocking to find an individual without at least one digital device like a phone since it has become a necessity in daily life. Knowing that smartphones are the most used and owned by almost three-quarters of teenagers, according to research by the Pew Research Center, the focus of this research is aimed in this direction, particularly among those of Generation Z, a generation where the average age of owning their first smartphone is 10-12 years. The surrounding world and devices have developed so much that a phone can be the only object you would need to survive in a new city or in a context where you are not subject to external risks (earthquakes, kidnappings, avalanches). Thus, seeing people engrossed in these devices in various contexts raises the question of whether they can be dangerous for the society we live in. The research also aims to understand how each individual personally perceives the use of mobile phones and what implications such devices hold for today's students and young people. A sociological survey is being used in order to identify aspects related to usage, such as the individuals' relationship with their mobile phone, and the social moments when the phone is used despite the context not being the most friendly for mobile phone use. To achieve the aforementioned objectives and to understand behaviors and opinions regarding phone usage, 12 interviews were conducted. This method was chosen because it is the most suitable way for individuals to express their opinions and personal experiences that have influenced their own way of acting and creating certain habits. Additionally, to create an initial overview and starting point for the interviews, an online questionnaire was applied. Its purpose was to observe general trends regarding certain habits and preferences, with the interviews serving to provide more in-depth explanations, complementing the theoretical part and the questionnaire.

This study is exploratory in nature, aiming to identify how people think when they develop a habit and what mostly drives them to resort to that particular habit. The idea that sparked this study is, in fact, a personal curiosity, as no explanation for excessive phone use was found in the researcher's personal life, raising the possibility of finding this experience in the lives of other social actors.

Literature review

Attachment to the mobile phone or the connection between the mobile phone and a person occurs when the phone becomes part of the user's self-concept. The relationship between the user and the phone occurs when the phone empowers, enriches, and satisfies the user's self. The reasons why individuals own a mobile phone are diverse, which has led

to a change in people's perceptions of self and the world. Various studies have analyzed the emotional attachment of users to mobile phones. In some cases, individuals have developed an attachment to virtual goods, such as archived messages.

Alexander Meschtscherjakov (2014) defines mobile attachment as a specific cognitive and emotional connection between a person's self and a mobile phone, which is dynamic over time and varies in strength. Attachment is the psychological state of mind in which a cognitive and affective bond links the mobile phone to an individual, making the phone an extension of the self, and considering it as part of the self. This attachment often arises when the mobile phone is used to achieve certain goals or provide specific services.

Personalized mobile phones become part of our identity, often personalized by young people or teenagers, but not only. Phone cases created for phone protection now also have an aesthetic purpose in addition to protecting the device. Coming in a variety of colors or patterns, phone cases give the mobile phone a sense of uniqueness and provide the owner with a stronger sense of connection to the distinct information and elements inside the phone. Phone cases and their aesthetics can easily match an individual's clothing but can also be associated with their mood on a given day or a stage of life.

In phone usage, different typologies have been discovered based on gender, as well as different types of communication. In social contexts, women generally use mobile phones for safety, as a shield of protection against unwanted attention, as they are often victims of violence or harassment. Another difference between men and women regarding mobile phones is that women often keep their phones in their bags or backpacks, while men keep their phones in their pockets. Studies show that the number of users over 60 years old has significantly increased, debunking the stereotype that older people do not use mobile phones due to lack of knowledge.

Globalization aimed to create a so-called global culture, incorporating the McDonald's-Jay Leno syndrome of Western commercial culture, along with the substantial use of 21st-century technology. A significant development is related to new methods of communication and behaviors. In some cultures, the phone is a major status symbol, and people try to ensure that everyone around them notices their new acquisition. In younger groups, such as teenagers, the phone is seen as an important social tool. It has become a fascinating object in Danish youth culture, available only to a few privileged individuals, used for communication, documentation, or entertainment. Young users are so attached to their phones that they find it difficult to part with them even for a short period.

As the number of mobile phone users increased, so did their dependence on these devices. Some experts consider mobile phone addiction similar to other types of dependencies, and it has become prevalent among non-substance-related addictions. The excessive use of mobile phones can lead to personal time loss, as it overlaps with important personal activities. Excessive use can also affect mental health, leading to depressive symptoms, especially among adolescents.

Methodology

This research aims to identify the relationship between individuals and their mobile phones, with the main purpose being to understand the social context in which individuals use their mobile phones. While there are many obvious reasons why people use mobile phones, such as communication, navigation, accessing information, and social networking, this research seeks to identify specific moments when individuals use their phones, such as exposure to stress or avoiding certain events in their personal lives, for example, the desire to take refuge in a virtual space. Additionally, the study aims to identify the behaviors of young people regarding mobile phone usage, their opinions on frequent usage, how they view the phone, its usage, and whether they consider themselves dependent on it. Furthermore, the study aims to uncover if they identify certain advantages and disadvantages in using the phone daily.

The sociological survey (Chelcea, 2001) is based on both questionnaires and interviews, combining the two data collection methods for a more comprehensive understanding of mobile phone usage. The questionnaire was conducted between March 21 and April 1, 2023, with the purpose of identifying various aspects related to usage, communication, feelings towards the phone, moments of usage, and the relationship individuals have with their phones. To gain a more detailed understanding, twelve interviews were conducted between April 19 and April 28. Some of these interviews were conducted online due to spatial and temporal reasons, while others took place physically, either in a familiar space to the respondents or a neutral space.

The interview guide mirrors the questionnaire, aiming to explore the same concepts and obtain a more detailed picture of phone usage, including respondents' emotions and perspectives. Respondents were selected from a group of acquaintances, with the primary selection criteria being their age and occupation. Some of them were already employed or on the path to employment, while others were students, either in their final year of study or their first year. The youngest respondents were 19 years old, ensuring they have experienced a certain reality in which they lead their lives and are capable of forming opinions without being influenced by others.

The research question addressed in this study is "What are the reasons why Generation Z young people use their mobile phones so frequently, and what significance do they attribute to their mobile phones?"

The first part of the results section discusses the questionnaire, where the research focuses on how people become increasingly lonely as the time spent on mobile phones increases. Various dimensions and indicators related to the social and personal aspects of loneliness and increased phone usage were identified. The analysis also explores the concept of increased time spent on mobile phones, examining different dimensions and indicators related to personal and global aspects. The second part of this section discusses the interviews, where the emphasis is on an in-depth analysis of how respondents use their phones, their subjective experiences, and the elements leading to frequent usage in different contexts. The interviews aim to verify the specialized literature on a population from Romania, belonging to Generation Z. Interviews were chosen as the best method for

data collection to identify the behaviors and experiences of individuals, as they may not be observable through other methods, and interviewees can freely express their thoughts in an exploratory manner.

The research acknowledges certain limitations, such as the inability to precisely identify the elements that drive individuals to use their phones based solely on direct responses from some respondents due to personal opinions and biases. However, these elements were identified during the discussion and integrated into subsequent answers to other questions.

The new perspectives provided by this study could involve observing a group of individuals spending time together in certain contexts and also observing each individual separately in their personal contexts when they are not part of the reference group. Additionally, the study could explore how mobile phones are portrayed in movies and TV shows targeting the new generation of children to understand the messages conveyed to them and the utility attributed to mobile phones in these media.

Results

After applying the questionnaire, regarding the responses in the age categories, it was noticed that respondents tend to lean in the same direction in most situations. For example, 82.4% of respondents find refuge in their mobile phones (Table 1). This tendency can be explained by the fact that Generation Z tends to follow stories of public figures on social media sites or YouTube. They spend time on these platforms to gather information about situations from people they follow and trust. Continuing in the same line of questioning, respondents were asked about the time spent on their mobile phones, and it was found that 52.3% of respondents spend approximately 5-7 hours per day using their mobile phones (Table 2).

Regarding the impressions that a phone leaves about its user, there is a slight difference among age groups: 52.6% of respondents in the 23-26 age category consider that the phone represents very little of an individual's status compared to the age group between 18-22, where only 33.3% consider the phone to be a symbol of status to a very small extent (Table 3). Regarding the need for a phone, 87.6% of those who see the mobile phone as a refuge have a very high need for a phone in their daily life. However, just over half of those who do not see a refuge in the mobile phone still need a phone in their daily life, with a percentage of 52.9% (Table 4). Regarding the price-quality ratio, among people with an income lower than 825 lei, 75% consider to a great extent and to a very great extent that the price of a device reflects its quality, while 25% consider this to a small extent (Table 5). In response to the question "How often do you communicate with your group of friends using your mobile phone", 86.5% of those aged 18-22 and 73.7% of those aged 23-26 communicate very often with friends using their mobile phones. Additionally, 2.2% of those aged 18-22 and 21.1% of those aged 23-26 communicate rarely with friends using their phones (Table 6).

Creating a ranking of respondents' attitudes towards their mobile phones, the following positions can be identified: 59.3% of respondents see the phone as a necessary

device, 25.9% view the phone as a communication device, and 13% see the phone as a device used only when needed (Table 7). However, concerning their favorite method of communication, it is observed that 73.1% of the total respondents prefer face-to-face communication, while communication through the phone is favored by only 21.3% of respondents. It is noteworthy that those aged 18-22 (77.5%) lean towards face-to-face communication, while among those aged 23-26, communication through the phone is more appreciated by this age group (Table 8). Regarding the question "Do you use any other digital devices? Which ones?" the three most mentioned responses were a laptop (63.3% of respondents), a tablet (6.5%), and a smartwatch (1.9%). Other responses included a computer, camera, game console, and others (Table 9).

Perspectives on the absence of a mobile phone - Peace or agitation?

The interviews began by exploring a crucial aspect related to including the phone in daily life: respondents were asked if they could imagine their lives without a mobile phone. The responses were divided, with some respondents expressing a desire to reduce their time spent on their phones or even give them up entirely. They mentioned feeling that the phone causes agitation, especially due to social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook, which they find toxic. On the other hand, there were respondents who couldn't imagine their lives without a mobile phone because it provides them with security and helps them communicate with their relatives and friend groups. They also find it useful for work-related purposes. Some respondents also mentioned that they feel anxious when their phone is not around, as it has become a vital part of their lives.

Anxiety caused by the absence of an essential part of oneself

Many respondents expressed feeling anxious when their phone is not nearby, even if they don't necessarily need it at that moment. The phone has become such an integral part of their lives that its absence can trigger feelings of being disconnected or vulnerable. It also acts as a safety device, providing a sense of security and the ability to quickly contact someone in case of an emergency. However, some respondents mentioned that they prefer to avoid using their phone when they are not feeling emotionally well, as they believe it might exacerbate negative feelings. For some, the phone acts as a refuge from overwhelming emotions, allowing them to distract themselves and avoid facing their problems.

The mobile phone acting as a magnet

When we are bored or unable to concentrate on a specific task, we tend to easily get distracted by every little thing we notice. Now, the focus is on observing how easily the interviewees get distracted by their phones, especially during important activities that require their full concentration, and what methods they use to reduce distractions caused by their phones. For most of the respondents, the phone is a distraction in most situations, and the activity they are engaged in does not change their attitude towards the attention

given to their mobile phones. "Yes, it's a bit of a distraction even when it's far from me. Many times I end up reaching for it" (Eliza, 22). Regardless of how much they try to avoid using the phone while working on projects or other activities, the phone remains a distraction even when they try to avoid using it, as in the example mentioned above, where regardless of the methods used to concentrate on an action, the phone continues to be a distraction.

Furthermore, the phone is just a device that provides what we want to observe, mainly entertainment. Eric is one of the interviewees who claims that this distraction comes from the desire to stay up to date with what is happening in the virtual world, to know every move of friends, or to be the first to hear gossip about certain subjects through social media networks. "Certainly! And not just the phone, everything related to social media. It's somehow normal because we are anchored in this virtual reality" (Eric, 26). Moreover, what the phone transmits, such as messages or notifications, are sometimes hard to ignore for some people. This piques their interest, leading them to check their phones, setting aside their current activity to stay connected online, with or without a specific purpose. Of course, there are moments or situations when the described behavior is not valid, for example, when people are engaged in a very important activity. "I would pause the main activity to respond to a message in most cases, but if I'm in a class or a work meeting, I definitely wouldn't pause that moment to check my phone, but I would do it at the first opportunity" (Matei, 21).

Through social media, individuals maintain their friendships to some extent with people they know, and they feel closer through their posts or by sharing certain videos or images, even if their relationship may be distant or frozen for a period.

The safety device

Sometimes, when our feelings are overwhelming, we try to anchor ourselves in something that distracts our attention, or we seek things that can lift us out of a depressive state. The phone can be a tool we use to escape from certain emotions, and it is intended to find out how and if the interviewees use their phones for this purpose. Most of the time, it helps them distract themselves from their feelings by focusing on what they see on social media, and their thoughts focus on what they see. The most commonly used methods for this purpose are watching series, movies, scrolling through social media, and TikTok. "When I have a bad problem and I'm on the phone, I try to avoid it altogether. I try not to think about problems... I don't know how I do it, honestly, because somehow my mind detaches from my body, and I am no longer very attentive to my body and my actions, so I distance myself a lot... you feel this thing when you put your phone away, because I bump into all the pains, tiredness, and it scares me because there are many emotions and states that I have postponed, and at that moment, I have to face them" (Dominic, 21). On the other hand, there are situations or respondents who disconnect from what social media and phones represent because they can feel worse emotionally while using the phone and do not feel good from an emotional point of view. "I don't find refuge in the phone. When my emotional state is not the best, I noticed that the phone somehow worsens it. I prefer to

read a book or watch a movie" (Beatrice, 21). Furthermore, social media can sometimes be the source of an emotional state that is not pleasing to the respondents, specifically the content on social media that gives a feeling of inadequacy. This feeling arises because the content on social media shows only the positive aspects of life, how some people live their lives, leading viewers to have low self-esteem as they compare themselves to that content. What people sometimes fail to realize is that not everyone has the same resources, and we should not compare ourselves to what we see on social media.

Regarding what happens with emotions after phone usage, respondents have various answers. Sometimes, the emotions are still there, but not as strong, or they remain the same, or they may even disappear altogether, depending on how they spend their time on the phone and whether they interact with friends or receive advice related to their problems.

The phone can be a refuge, a place where those who try to escape their feelings can hide for a moment, but it can also be a trigger for negative feelings for those who compare themselves with the lifestyle promoted by some people from a certain social category on social media.

Pros and cons in communication

Like any developing thing, technology also comes with its advantages and disadvantages. Here, we want to observe the advantages and disadvantages mentioned by respondents in the context of communication. The most mentioned advantage is that it allows communication over long distances. Whether it's talking to friends who live in the same city, but you can't meet them or you want to notify someone about something, or it's about communication outside the country, where in-person meetings are not feasible, respondents consider this a technological development advantage. As for disadvantages, most speak about the lack of interaction between people. They prefer to replace face-to-face meetings with video calls and messages for various reasons, but the same level of connection is not created as when they meet in person.

The evolution of communication and how it has evolved since the emergence of social media is observed by the interviewees. Depending on the person they are talking to, they behave differently, they understand differently, and there is a different energy. The connection is not as strong when communicating at a distance as when they meet in person. Besides, when meetings are face-to-face, they can observe non-verbal language and the emotions of the person they are talking to, which helps them form a more complex idea of what that person wants to convey. This is less achievable when talking on the phone or through messages.

Communication through messages is difficult because emotions and non-verbal language are not easily discernible, but using emojis can help to some extent with this issue. The way people express themselves and the meaning they give to the message can be a factor that disadvantages communication through messages. "Messages are much colder, things get lost, small misunderstandings occur. A contradictory discussion might go better and reach a resolution much faster face to face than through messages; maybe the

tone is different in person" (Ingrid, 25). Additionally, the use of punctuation can also hinder the transmission of a message. However, for the most part, respondents mention that you cannot observe the reactions and attitude of the person you are interacting with, which is also highlighted by Goffman.

The mobile phone, an extension of the human body

The mobile phone, in daily life, is used in numerous ways, but the most common use is for communication, as each of us has the need to be in touch with loved ones. The following uses of the phone cover the needs of the digital era, such as paying at the supermarket, with people using less cash or physical cards, replacing them with the phone, which is easier as it is always with you, and the chances of losing it are very low. "The phone is small, compact, easy to use, you always have it in your pocket, it has practically become a part of you" (Amalia, 21). Google maps are used quite often, especially because respondents were not born in the city where they currently live, and even cases where someone uses their phone in their hometown are for the additional information provided by GPS applications. Another use of the phone is for entertainment while having a meal. We believe this practice comes from a lack of interaction with someone, and individuals want to fill a void. Additionally, the phone is used to pass time more quickly or to support the atmosphere, for example, by playing background sounds during bathroom breaks or cleaning.

As seen in the quantitative analysis, the laptop was the most mentioned device used, and the reason for this preference is sought. Considering that these devices perform approximately the same tasks, the laptop is preferred when working on something more complex, such as a college project, due to the ease of using documents or watching a movie with a better overall view of the images.

Regarding the purchase of a phone, the majority of respondents say they would make a financial effort for a better phone, and since it is a more expensive purchase, they expect the phone to be more durable and usable for a longer period. Some of them only look at the usefulness, not the value. For example, they would not pay for a brand if two phones perform the same tasks at different prices; they would choose the cheaper one. As for the brand they choose, it is not very important, and in most cases, people opt for quality, not being swayed by the appearances of a brand or its marketing. However, what they prefer, in addition to quality, is being familiar with a specific brand, and sometimes they are forced to remain loyal to it because of the wider range of products offered by that brand.

Regarding the moment when a phone is replaced from the respondents' perspective, this happens when the device no longer meets the owner's needs or when it is broken. They do not rush to purchase the latest phone model with each release, regardless of whether they can afford it or not.

To protect their phones, respondents always mobilize by using phone cases and screen protectors in all cases. As for the phone case, it can say something about the respondent through possible inscriptions or chosen colors. Besides the protective aspect, they see the case as an accessory or a way to give a different style to the phone, making it

livelier with the chosen color. "Sometimes I choose them based on my outfit or my mood, though that doesn't happen very often because I forget. But if I know I'll be taking a lot of pictures where my phone case will be visible, like when I take selfies in the mirror, I pay attention to what case I have so it matches somehow" (Dominic, 21).

The phone: A business card and an object of social status

Considering that now everyone owns a smartphone, the aim is to identify if it can still be considered, according to the interviewed individuals, a symbol of socio-economic status. The responses to the question "Do you think that nowadays the phone can still be considered a symbol of a person's material income?" from the interviewed individuals are divided into two categories: those who consider it can be a symbol and those who are undecided. The latter do not necessarily view the phone as a symbol of income, taking into consideration that people can save a lot of time to purchase a more advanced phone, or they can access credit or buy it in installments. The opinions about this practice mostly lean toward the same side, this practice being the result of a lack of financial education, the desire to integrate into a certain group, and social pressure.

Criticisms of phone use in public

For some respondents, using the phone in public is often a necessity. Whether they want to look up an address, avoid contact with people they pass by due to anxiety or sheer habit, people do this. It is also used for communication, such as emergency situations when someone needs advice or to speak briefly, or to establish a meeting place or landmark to inform the person they are meeting about their location. Another use mentioned by the interviewees is listening to music, especially for those who are bothered by subway noise or those who want to avoid overhearing conversations, a method observed in anxious individuals who do not feel comfortable in social settings with many people.

The female interviewees mostly use their phones at night when passing by groups of people and feeling a sense of insecurity or danger. They use their phones to talk to someone, giving the impression to those around them that they are not alone, and that there is someone who knows about the event in case they are in danger or something happens. This method is also used by men when they want to avoid directly saying they don't want something.

There are situations where they observe the use of mobile phones by pedestrians or drivers, which can endanger their lives, and this behavior is not considered normal and should not be accepted as it can cause major problems. "It depends, if you're crossing the street, it's not okay, if you're driving, it's not okay, if you're riding a bicycle, it's not okay. You can use it if you don't affect other people or yourself" (Amalia, 20).

After the pandemic, the interviewees notice differences in phone use and social media content. As it was a difficult and long period, people began using the phone and technology differently. For example, the use of online meeting platforms (Google Meet) has become accessible and widely used, as they improved during the pandemic to meet user needs. However, there are also people who used their phones more after the

pandemic, out of habit, or to maintain online communication, avoiding face-to-face contact. This avoidance of meeting in person and the use of social media for communication is mentioned by several people, as it became a very common practice after the pandemic.

Conclusions and discussion

This study aimed to identify the relationship between individuals and mobile phones, specifically the social context in which they are used. Additionally, it sought to identify the moments when phones are used and the reasons why individuals use them, along with their explanations for being prompted to use them in certain contexts. To achieve the objective, a questionnaire was applied, which was completed with the support of 12 interviews.

Regarding the first hypothesis of this research, which suggests that people who are increasingly lonely spend more time on their mobile phones, it was shown that they use their phones to maintain connections with loved ones. Besides this need, the phone also covers other purposes, such as avoiding certain people at certain times, relaxation, or using it to listen to music, which can be for relaxation or to avoid interaction with others and the noise of public spaces. Additionally, talking on the phone can be used to create a sense of security at night or during difficult moments when people become anxious. For example, when they feel endangered or find themselves in an unfavorable context, women can talk on the phone to give the impression to those around them that they are not alone, and in doing so, they create a sense of calm within themselves as well.

Moreover, the lack of a mobile phone can create anxiety because young people are compelled by situations to use their phones. For instance, being able to quickly look up information is crucial, and this generation finds it very useful and convenient to do so through their phones in any situation, anywhere, which makes them highly attached to their phones.

The study also aimed to identify opinions regarding individuals who use their phones in more serious contexts or even during physical meetings with friends. The opinions on these matters are mostly aligned, with respondents believing that if people go out to socialize with someone, they should pay attention to that person and engage in conversation since they have spent time getting ready for the meeting or have been looking forward to it. Additionally, face-to-face communication is preferred by respondents as it is easier to identify elements like body language, tone of voice, or other non-verbal aspects that can be easily concealed in voice or video calls or messages, where conversations can be steered in a different direction by one of the interlocutors.

Regarding the second hypothesis, which aims to identify whether the development of technology makes young people increasingly dependent on it, it was found that technological advancement is a complex process that brings updated options to users. However, the development of mobile phones and digital devices, in reality, is a way to make daily life easier. What makes individuals dependent on phone usage are social media applications, the feelings they evoke, and the connection they provide with people on the

other end of the world through their devices. The phone is the most used device because it is the easiest and most convenient to carry, use, and hold for daily purposes. The laptop is equally useful but due to its size, it is used for more serious purposes, such as when the need to work more efficiently arises, like working on a project or task for work. Social media networks act as magnets for users when they do not necessarily need the phone for something specific. There is a constant need to be updated on the lives of friends or acquaintances, and they are always drawn to check their Instagram page to see the latest updates. In addition to this platform, TikTok is another app that, through its algorithm, keeps young people glued to their phones, making them lose track of time, as they are immersed in short videos that provide momentary satisfaction to users.

The phone is a simple object with multiple utilities, but as Latour said, each person chooses how to use it and can decide if they make the right choice for themselves. Since digital devices surround us so much, they should be given some importance, as they have a significant influence and are increasingly integrated into our social lives

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Annex: Descriptive tables

Table 1		Age		Total
		1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years	
Q6. Is the phone a refuge for you in certain situations?	1. Yes	83.1%	78.9%	82.4%
	2. No	15.7%	15.8%	15.7%
	3. DK/ DA	1.1%	5.3%	1.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 2		Age		Total
		1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years	
q14bis How many hours do you spend on average per day on your mobile phone?	1. 2-4 hours	26.1%	31.6%	27.1%
	2. 5-7 hours	52.3%	52.6%	52.3%
	3. 8-10 hours	19.3%	10.5%	17.8%
	4. DK/ DA	2.3%	5.3%	2.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3		Age		Total
		1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years	
Q24 To what extent do you consider that the telephone is a symbol of an individual's status?	1. To a very small extent	33.7%	52.6%	37.0%
	2. To a small extent	33.7%	31.6%	33.3%
	3. To a large extent	18.0%	5.3%	15.7%
	4. To a great extent	14.6%	10.5%	13.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4		Q6 Is the phone a refuge for you in certain situations?			Total
		1. Yes	2. No	3. DK/ DA	
Q4 To what extent do you need the phone in your daily life?	1. To a very small extent	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2. To a small extent	0.0%	23.5%	50.0%	4.6%
	3. To a large extent	12.4%	23.5%	0.0%	13.9%
	4. To a great extent	87.6%	52.9%	50.0%	81.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 5		Income in Romanian Leu/ month										
		<825 lei	825-1650 lei	1651-2200 lei	2201-2750 lei	2751-3300 lei	3301-3850 lei	3851-4400 lei	4401-5500 lei	peste 5500 lei	DK/ DA	Total
Q23 To what extent do you think that the price of a digital device reflects its quality?	1. To a very small extent	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
	2. To a small extent	25.0%	25.0%	33.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.6%	19.4%
	3. To a large extent	53.6%	58.3%	55.6%	66.7%	57.1%	33.3%	50.0%	80.0%	100.0%	52.9%	56.5%
	4. To a great extent	21.4%	8.3%	11.1%	16.7%	42.9%	66.7%	50.0%	20.0%	0.0%	26.5%	23.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 6		Age		Total
		1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years	
Q2 How often do you communicate with your group of friends using your mobile phone?	1. Rarely	2.2%	21.1%	5.6%
	2. Often	11.2%	5.3%	10.2%
	3. Very often	86.5%	73.7%	84.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7	Age		Total	
	1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years		
Q18 How do you report to the mobile phone? When you think of this, what comes to mind?	1. A device for communication	25.8%	26.3%	25.9%
	2. A necessary device	59.6%	57.9%	59.3%
	3. A device that I only use when I need it	12.4%	15.8%	13.0%
	4. Refuge from everyday stress	1.1%	-	0.93%
	5. A device that I use a lot and that kills me mentally	1.1%	-	0.93%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8	Age		Total	
	1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years		
Q20 Most of the time do you prefer face to face communication or the one via the phone?	1. Face to face communication	77.5%	52.6%	73.1%
	2. Communication by telephone	18.0%	36.8%	21.3%
	3. DK/ DA	4.5%	10.5%	5.6%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 9	Age		Total
	1. 18-22 years	2. 23-26 years	

Q26. Do you still use other devices? Which are these?	1. Laptop	68.2%	42.1%	63.6%
	2. Tablet	6.8%	5.3%	6.5%
	3. Smart watch	2.3%	0.0%	1.9%
	4. Calculator	6.8%	5.3%	6.5%
	5. Camera	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%
	6. Game consoles	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%
	7. TV	1.1%	5.3%	1.9%
	99. DK/ DA	12.5%	42.1%	17.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	