Effect of Late-Night Mobile Use on Sleep Quantity and Quality in Medical Students

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Smartphone is friend for human being and due to increasing dependence on media-based interaction on smartphone through various software. Our younger generation is very much dependent on their smartphones. They even take it to bed for late hour uses which is actually very harmful in the long term as it decreases sleeping time and also hampers quality of sleep. The aim of this study is to assess the relationship of late-night cell phone use with duration and quality of sleep among medical students of JNU Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Jaipur.

METHODS

This study was conducted among 170 medical students of JNUIMSRC, Jaipur. Subject's age, sleep duration, cell phone use after 10 p.m., personal habits and some physiological variables like blood pressure and pulmonary function test were also documented. Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index questionnaire was used for sleep assessment with 95% confidence interval of odd's ratio to test poor sleep quality among participants who used smartphones at bedtime by using SPSS version 21 to analyse data.

RESULTS

Overall age of subjects falls in the mean of 20.48 ± 1.73 years. Out of a total of 170 students who participated, 139 students reported extensive cell phone use after 10 P.M. apart except short duration calls. Wake-up time among late night mobile users was found to be 7:40 A.M. \pm 7.35 minutes, and 6: 36 A.M. \pm 9.34 minutes among non-users. Those who use mobile for long stretch of time continuously had higher sleep latency than their peers. There was no significant difference in sleep quality of late-night cell users and non-users by multinomial logistic regression model.

CONCLUSIONS

Late-night cell phone use by adolescents was associated with increased sleep latency and hence also poor sleep quantity. Good quality sleep is the most important part of healthy lifestyle; so, we should discourage late night mobile use among adult students. Long term health monitoring is advisable to see long term effects on health.

KEY WORDS

Late-Night, Medical Students, Cell Phone Use, Sleep

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DOI: 10.18410/jebmh/2020/326

How to Cite This Article: Lamoria M, Sharma S, Poorey K, et al. Effect of late-night mobile use on sleep quantity and quality in medical students. J. Evid. Based Med. Healthc. 2020; 7(31), 1550-1555. DOI: 10.18410/jebmh/2020/326

Submission 08-06-2020, Peer Review 12-06-2020, Acceptance 03-07-2020, Published 03-08-2020.

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BACKGROUND

We have enough data till now which suggests that good quality of sleep is essential for our cognitive and physical functionalities.^{1,2} Good quality of sleep plays crucial role in life's all aspects.³ It's very essential in children, adolescents and adults.⁴ Studies suggests that lack of sleep increase the risk of physical and mental health, in adult population.⁵ Due to more and more studies and ample amount data available at our hand in recent years, adverse health effects of lack of sleep drawn attention of clinicians.⁶

In early 90s' mobile phones start showing up in market with slowly internet is added to it and then the word "smartphone" changed the world recently with its multi functionality capabilities at your fingertips; all this available in your mobile phone which you can carry everywhere you go.⁷ Software war started in 2007, software innovation in mobile phone started and smartphones become smarter that lead to market fir smart phones boomed.⁸ Smartphones are smart; they can perform multiple task at same time attracted many people. Technology keep on growing since first cell phone introduced, leading to make it more user friendly, attractive and popular.^{9,10} Smartphones are now part of our life and we are somehow become dependent on our phones,⁹ smartphones specially popular among children and adolescents because of its interactive and guick responsive capabilities,¹¹ these smartphones are now also common means of communication too.5 Students are so much addicted to smartphones that they don't want to miss on any updates and take mobile phone to bed at sleeping time also.¹² Taking Smartphone to bed severely disturb sleep due to diversion and alertness of mind caused by mobile phone.

There are very few researches done to find out relation between bedtime mobile usage and how it affects quality of sleep in adults. Al-Khlaiwi and Meo (year) studied association between symptoms like headache, dizziness, and sleep disturbance due to continuous mobile use but didn't touch down on association of these symptoms with the bedtime usage (variable).¹³ No regional study has explored this problem and it is still untouched topic in India. Indian smartphone market is world's largest but still we are not studying hazards of its bedtime usages. In Japan nationwide study conducted on 95,680 adolescents subjects by Munezawa et al; it was found that mobile phone use after lights out was associated with symptoms like poor sleep quality, short sleep duration, narcolepsy and insomnia.¹⁴ White et al showed that there is problem using "Mobile Phone Problem Use Scale" it indicate poor sleep quality, but doesn't show sleep length in American college going students.15 A Swedish study shows that young adult population who are using mobile internet for surfing and uses mobile for late night texting and calling are showing increased risk of disturbance in sleep patterns.¹⁶ In contrast to above all studies Chinese study done on 791 secondary school adolescents showed insignificant relation between bedtime mobile use and sleep disturbance.¹⁷

All the studies worldwide till date are more focused on adolescents may be due to vulnerability of this age group to

addiction but adults are more vulnerable for mobile addiction and they have significantly more prone to excessive bedtime use of mobile phones. As we have seen in recent few years that India has become largest smartphone user but still there is no regional study related to this topic is conducted. Medical students have easy access to mobile phone and free internet connectivity which encouraged increases bedtime use of mobile phone which will eventually disturb their sleep and may causes negative impact on health so we conducted our study in the students of Jaipur National University Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Jaipur. In case if it's proven that bedtime use of smartphone is having negative impact on sleep quality, we would like to promote healthy sleeping habit and lifestyle changes to promote good quality of sleep.¹⁸

METHODS

An ethical approval was sought from the institutional ethics committee to conduct the study. This is a cross sectional study conducted over a period of four months from October, 2019 to January, 2020 in Jaipur National University Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Jaipur. All the medical students from first, second and third MBBS course in Jaipur National University Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Jaipur.

Inclusion Criteria

All medical students in Jaipur National University Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Jaipur who were-

- willing to participate in the study.
- absolutely physically well (normotensive and having no abnormality in Electrocardiogram and Spirometry).
- non-smoker, non-alcoholic, and not abusing any drug.

Exclusion Criteria

Medical students in Jaipur National University Institute for Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Jaipur who were-

- not cooperative or not willing to participate in the study.
- showed any abnormality on examination (hypotensive/hypertensive, any abnormality detected in Electrocardiogram or Spirometry, or suffering from any chronic illness).
- smoker, alcoholic, or abusing any drug (sleep quality).

The source population for the survey was all the students from First, Second and Third MBBS course in the selected private medical college. They were sensitized to participate in this anonymous survey. Thus, the total number of source population was 600, of which 526 students were present at the time of various sensitization sessions. All the students were provided all the information regarding study and consent forms in both Hindi and English languages, out of them, 462 students submitted signed consent form.

A pre-structured, pre-tested questionnaire was constructed by the lead researcher and was reviewed by an expert panel for content, validity, and reliability. Questions were derived from previous literature seeking appropriate permission with addition and deletion of few questions based on expert panel's experience. The questionnaire was selfadministered wherein it was distributed in classroom and the students were asked to submit the filled questionnaire next day with cooperation from respective departments. The questionnaires were distributed to the students in person, in a compulsory lecture schedule. Out of 462 students, submitted signed informed consent, 311 student's submitted filled questionnaires in consecutive days. On evaluation of filled questionnaires, exclusions were made on the basis of exclusion criteria. The data, obtained from the students under inclusion criteria (N=170), was used to analyse.

Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)

Sleep quality assessment is widely done by Pittsburgh sleep quality index (PSQI) scale and its unanimously considered as standardized scale for sleep guality studies.¹⁹ Pre validated questionnaire was used. In order to find out feasibility of study and to make sure that questionnaire easily understood by students' small group (consisting 20 students) pilot study was conducted. Question which are not understood easily or ambiguous were changed on basis of feedback received in pilot study. There are 19 self-rated questions and 5 other questions are to be rated by roommate in the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) questionnaire. These last 5 question which are rated by roommates are used for clinical information only. Self-rated 19 questions help us to assess factors like quality of sleep, latency and total duration of sleep. It can also assess frequency and severity of any sleep related disorders. We have designed study, to use another set of validated questionnaires to collect data on demographic variables viz. age, sex, weight, height, drug abuse history and any health problems if any present.

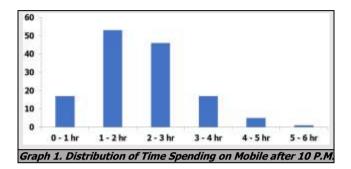
Statistical Analysis

We used 21st version of SPSS software for analysis of data.²⁰ PSQI score was calculated by using MS Excel worksheet. Previous data was cleaned every time before analysing. We used percentage and numbers to present detailed statistics. In order to study analytical statistics, we used Odd ratios 95% confident interval in late night smartphone users to test risk of poor sleep quality.

RESULTS

Smart Phone Use After 10 pm (Apart from Short Duration Calls)	No. of Students	%				
Yes	139	81.76				
No	31	18.24				
Table 1. Number of Students Using Mobile Phones after 10: 00 P.M.						

Out of total 170 students who were taken as sample population, 31 (18.24%) students either did not use mobile phones or used them only for short duration calls whereas 139 (81.76%) students used mobile phones rigorously for various activities apart from short duration calls.



Most of the students (98 out of total 139) used mobile phones between one and three hours. Some of the students (35) used mobiles for either less than an hour or 3-4 hours. Only few students (6) used mobiles for more than four hours.

On comparing mobile phone users (for more than half an hour) with rest of the students (mobile not used after 10 pm or used for less than 30 minutes), it was noted that they took more time (more than 42 minutes) to fall asleep usually and they went to bed very late (mean time 1:12 A.M.) in the night. They wake up late (mean time 7:40 A.M.) in the morning and took sleep of almost 6.5 hours (mean duration 6 hours 35 minutes). On the other hand, they took less time (less than 30 minutes) to fall asleep and usually they went to bed on an average at 11:24 P.M. in the night. They usually got up early (mean time 6:36 am) in the morning and took sleep of almost 7.5 hours (mean duration 7 hours 28 minutes). (Table 2)

Duration of mobile use was directly correlated to the duration of sleep (Table 2). Sleeping time has negative correlation with pulse rate and systolic blood pressure. This correlation was measured in physiological range of pulse (60-90 beats per minute) and systolic blood pressure (100-138 mmHg). No significant correlation was note between sleeping time and diastolic pressure.

Characteristics	Yes (124) Mean ± SD Hours	No (n = 46) Mean ± SD Hours	P - Value	Significance
During the past month, what time have you usually gone to bed at night?	1:12 am ± 28 min.	11:24 pm ± 46 min.	0.00001	
During the past month, how long (in minutes) has it usually takes you to fall asleep each night?	42.27 ± 8.31	29.32 ± 5.86	0.00001	
During the past month, what time have you usually gotten up in the morning?	7:40 am ± 7.35 min.	6:36 am ± 9.24 min.	0.00001	All are highly significance
During the past month, how many hours of actual sleep did you get at night? (This may be different than the number of hours you spent in bed.)	6:35 hr. ± 10 min.	7:28 hr. ± 17 min.	0.00001	
Table 2. Comparing Mobile Phone Users and Non-Users after 10 P.M. (Mann-Whitney U-Test)				

J. Evid. Based Med. Healthc., pISSN- 2349-2562, eISSN- 2349-2570/ Vol. 7/Issue 31/Aug. 03, 2020

Original Research Article

Variables		N	OR	95% CI	P-Value
	Not during the past month	90	1.76	(1.38, 3.14)	0.4066
Cannot get to sleep within 30 minutes	Less than once a week	39	1.7	(1.41, 3.08)	0.4678
	Once or twice a week	25	1.37	(1.12, 4.81)	0.6926
	Three or more times a week	16	Reference		
	Not during the past month	72	6.15	(3.51. 7.02)	0.0876
Wake up in the middle of the night or early morning	Less than once a week	46	7.74	5.24, 8.52)	0.0576
Wake up in the middle of the night or early morning	Once or twice a week	35	6.4	(4.91, 7.13)	0.0905
	Three or more times a week	17	Reference		
	Not during the past month	74	1.11	(0.72, 2.67)	0.868
Lieus te get up te use the bethyeers	Less than once a week	48	1	(0.65, 1.34)	1
Have to get up to use the bathroom	Once or twice a week	32	1.36	(0.89,3.72)	0.654
	Three or more times a week	16	Reference	,	
	Not during the past month	136	1.67	(1.41, 2.19)	0.6523
	Less than once a week	24	1.48	(1.13, 1.96)	0.6612
Cannot breathe comfortably	Once or twice a week	5	2.67	(2.09, 3.11)	0.4968
	Three or more times a week	5	Reference	,	
	Not during the past month	127	2.88	(2.52, 3.53)	0.3307
	Less than once a week	28	2.33	(2.01, 2.98)	0.4631
Cough or snore loudly	Once or twice a week	7	1.17	(0.74, 1.58)	0.9192
	Three or more times a week	8	2.33 1.17 Reference 1.12		
	Not during the past month	120		(0.88, 1.57)	0.9425
F (1) (1)	Less than once a week	27	1.01	(0.65, 1.61)	0.7249
Feel too cold	Once or twice a week	16	0.833	(0.49, 1.22)	0.8577
	Three or more times a week	7	Reference		
	Not during the past month	130	1.71	(1.43, 5.12)	0.6347
	Less than once a week	28	0.87	(0.51, 2.34)	0.9089
Feel too hot	Once or twice a week	7	0.67	(0.33, 2.11)	0.7942
	Three or more times a week	5	Reference		
	Not during the past month	77	1.75	(1.31, 2.27)	0.4145
	Less than once a week	52	2,471	(1.97, 4.02)	0.1962
Have bad dreams	Once or twice a week	24	0.933	(0.60, 2.38)	0.9345
	Three or more times a week	17	Reference	()	
	Not during the past month	132	2.02	(1.01, 4.73)	0.5269
Have pain	Less than once a week	16	1.67	(1.11, 2.08)	0.68
	Once or twice a week	16	1.15	(0.79, 3.56)	0.9102
	Three or more times a week	6	Reference	(0	0.0102

Variables		Ν	OR	95% CI	P-Value
	Not during the past month	150	1.61	(1.28, 2.12)	0.6751
During the past month, how often have you taken medicine to help you sleep (prescribed or "over the counter")?	Less than once a week	12	0.36	(0.13, 2.67)	0.5085
	Once or twice a week	3	2	(1.39, 3.47)	0.676
	Three or more times a week	5	Reference		
	Not during the past month	130	1.24	(0.94, 1.61)	0.8547
During the past month, how often have you had trouble staying awake while	Less than once a week	25	0.95	(0.63, 1.31)	0.9654
driving, eating meals, or engaging in social activity?	Once or twice a week	11	0.3	(0.11, 0.63)	0.44
	Three or more times a week	4	Reference		
	Not during the past month	155	1.12	(0.58, 2.51)	0.9258
I aud anaxing	Less than once a week	8	1	(0.7, 1.37)	1
Loud snoring	Once or twice a week	3	1.5	(1.02, 2.89)	0.8096
	Three or more times a week	4	Reference	,	
	Not during the past month	146	2.71	(1.58, 5.47)	0.4188
	Less than once a week	19	0.9	(0.58, 1.31)	0.9435
Long pauses between breaths while asleep	Once or twice a week	3	1.5	(1.17, 1.93)	0.711
	Three or more times a week	2	Reference		
	Not during the past month	145	2.56	(1.71, 5.97)	0.4834
	Less than once a week	16	2.12	(1.31, 4.59)	0.6024
Legs twitching or jerking while you sleep	Once or twice a week	7	2.14	(1.25, 5.68)	0.314
	Three or more times a week	2	Reference	())))	
	Not during the past month	138	1.23	(0.94, 1.71)	0.1996
	Less than once a week	16	2.17	(1.79, 2.83)	0.5759
Episodes of disorientation or confusion during sleep	Once or twice a week	13	1.5	(1.12, 1.96)	0.157
	Three or more times a week	3	Reference	())	
	Not during the past month	158	2.24	(1.98, 2.76)	0.4761
	Less than once a week	4	1	(0.68, 1.35)	1
Other restlessness while you sleep, please describe:	Once or twice a week	6	1.47	(1.13, 1.83)	0.3683
	Three or more times a week	2	Reference	(, =, =, =, =,)	
	No Problem at all	63	4.6	(2.17, 7.12)	0.1624
During the past month, how much of a problem has it been for you to keep up enough enthusiasm to get things done?	Only a very slight problem	74	2.207	(1.51, 4.86)	0.4708
	Somewhat of a problem	24	2.67	(1.71, 5.23)	0.3981
	A very Big Problem	9	Reference	(, _, 3.23)	0.0501
Table 3b. Association between Mobile Phone Users after 10 P	, 3			nistic Pograd	sion Mod

Variable	Correlation with Sleeping Time (r)	T - Test	P - Value	Significance	
Pulse Rate	0.1266	1.655	0.04995	Cignificant	
Systolic Blood Pressure	0.18	2.32	0.01069	Significant	
Diastolic Blood Pressure	0.071	0.91	0.1811	Non-Significant	
Table 4. Association between Sleeping Time with Pulse Pressure and Blood Pressure					

DISCUSSION

Objective of conducting this study was to find out whether there is any relation between late night mobile use (after 10 P.M.) particularly in medical students of Jaipur with quality and quantity of sleep. Medical students are always thought to be stressed and getting good quality sleep is always helpful. On analysis of data collected from students of JNUIMSRC, Jaipur it was found that there was no direct association found between late night (after 10 P.M.) and

poor sleep quality but at the same time it was found that it shows increased sleep latency and later wake-up time. It's implied that increased sleep latency and increased wake up time eventually result in disturbing sleep quality.

Young generation in present time somehow convinced that it's mandatory to use social media continuously so that they won't miss on any updates. They unknowingly made it ritual to use social media on their smartphone before sleep in bed. It was suggested by Fobian et al²¹ that bedtime media use by adolescents can lower overall sleep quality by affecting sleep onset, offset and efficiency. Another study by Lemola et al,²² suggested social media use on smartphone can lead to disturbed sleep and it can lead to depression in long term. Insomnia was also reported in another study done in America on 3139 adolescents due to use of smartphone at bedtime.²³

As we all must have also experienced that when we connect with world over internet we are exposed to good and bad content. Sometimes we come across things which can upset us and can create stress which will ultimately impair our sleep.14 Sleep disturbance is noticeable in late night users who have used smartphone after 10 P.M. It was consistently observed that their sleep related parameters changes and increases sleep latency and they have difficulty in waking up time in morning compared to those don't use smart. Though there is no significant evidence of decrease sleep guality. A study conducted in United Kingdom showed that the late-night use of smartphone reduced Total Sleep Duration (TSD) for significant amount up to 21 min.24 Similarly one more study in United Kingdom (UK), showed that smartphone use caused decrease in sleep duration around 45 min.25

As per PSQI questionnaire, data collected and evaluated shows that smartphone use after 10 P.M. leads to decreases sleep duration and increased heart rate and systolic blood pressure which clearly indicates increased sympathetic activity which in long-term can make these individuals more prone to heart related disease. Using smartphone after 10 P.M. in night has negative effect on sleep parameters; it also has negative impact on respiratory and cardiovascular health of a person.

Limitations

Firstly, cross-sectional design of study is a limitation in itself. We are not able to evaluate the effect of late-night smartphone use with sleep quality deterioration. Secondly the study is limited to particular group of people who are studying in medical college with very limited sample size. Lastly questioners were self-administered, which can lead to bias but due to time and manpower constraints, we were not able to organise personal interviews. After so many limitations we have conducted study in order to contribute knowledge on this important behavioural change which can further inspire other researchers to look further in sleep complexities.

CONCLUSIONS

Late night use of smartphone phone after 10 pm and taking smartphone to bed at bedtime can expose to some major risks like cardiovascular diseases and immune system malfunctioning in the future. Sleep deprivation can be a major risk factor in these diseases which needs to be explored further and molecular level changes should be evaluated in the future.

This is a cross-sectional study. We could not determine the mortality. More studies should be conducted with larger sample to evaluate the mortality.

Financial or Other Competing Interests: None.

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