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Cellular phone has opened a new horizon of socioeconomic development: A case study of Bangladesh

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Abstract

Now a day use of cellular phone has become a part of human life. It has a great contribution to make the life modern. Not only on human life cellular phone has a large impacts on socio economic development. As a developing country Bangladesh cannot ignore the contribution of cellular phone to its continuous development. In this paper, the objective is to find the impact of cellular phone on every part of development in the case of Bangladesh. For this purpose this paper has given its attention on agriculture, employment opportunity, banking system, social networking, admission process, entertainment and government revenue of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Cellular Phone, Development, Employment, Revenue, Poverty, Economic.

1. Introduction

Bangladesh is a young country with burgeoning population. But from the number of cellular phone user Bangladesh has the top position in South Asia. Though cellular phone was introduced in Bangladesh as only the way of communication but at present it has various uses. Internet browsing agricultural and educational information, video system are available in cellular phone. At present the fast three G internet system has increased the use of cellular phone. Currently the cellular phone industry of Bangladesh is the largest infrastructure provider in the private sector and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). From this industry as of September 2008 is worth BDT 30,000 (thirty thousand) crore.

2. History

History of cellular phone in Bangladesh

Year	Events
1853	Telegraph branch under Posts and Telegraph Department, British India.
1971	Reconstructed as Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Department under Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.
1975	Reconstructed as Telegraph and Telephone Board.
1979	Reconstructed as Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) with right to issue license for telecom and wireless services.
1981	Digital Telex Exchange in Bangladesh.
1983	Automatic Digital ITX started in Dhaka.
1985	Coinbox Telephone service introduced in Bangladesh by BTTB
1989	GENTEX Telegraph messaging service introduced in Bangladesh
1989	Bangladesh Rural Telecom Authority got license to operate exchanges in 200 upazilla
1989	Sheba Telecom got license to operate exchange is 199 upazilla.
1989	Cellular mobile phone company Pacific Bangladesh Telephone Limited and Bangladesh Telecom got license.
1995	Card Telephone service introduced in Bangladesh by BTTB and TSS.
1995	1995: Regulatory power of BTTB transferred to Ministry (MoPT).
1995	2nd and 3rd ITX installed in Dhaka.
1996	GrameenPhone got cellular mobile Telephone license.
1996	Telecom Malaysia International Bangladesh got cellular mobile license

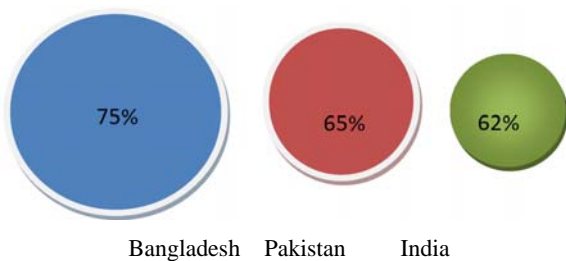
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1998	Telecom Policy.
2000	Global Telecom Service (GTS) Telex Exchange venture with British Telecom.
2001	Telecommunication Act, to establish Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).
2002	ICT Policy
2004	Teletalk cellular mobile launched.
2005	2005 : Egypt-based Orascom acquired Sheba Telecom
2006	NGN introduced in BTTB.
2008	BTTB converted into Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL) with 100% shares owned by Government. The Submarine Cable Project transformed into Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL)
2008	Japanese NTT DoCoMo bought 30 percent stake in Aktel
2009	Bharti Airtel acquired 70 percent stake in Warid Telecom
2009	Internet Protocol Telephony Service Provider (IPTSP) Operators launched
2012	3G mobile service is introduced by state owned Teletalk in October.

Source: Report of BTCL

3. Present Condition

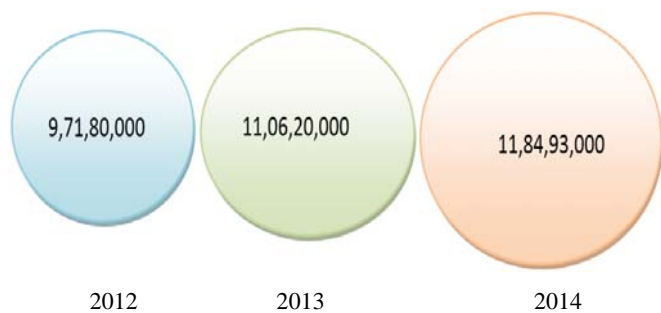
In 1853 land phone was introduced in Indian sub-continent. After that in 1997 use of cellular phone was started in Bangladesh. At present the percentage of cellular phone users is 75%, 65% and 62% in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India respectively. From this perspective Bangladesh has the first position in South Asia.



Source: The Prothom Alo

Fig: Present condition of cellular phone in Bangladesh

The number of cellular phone user is increasing day by day.



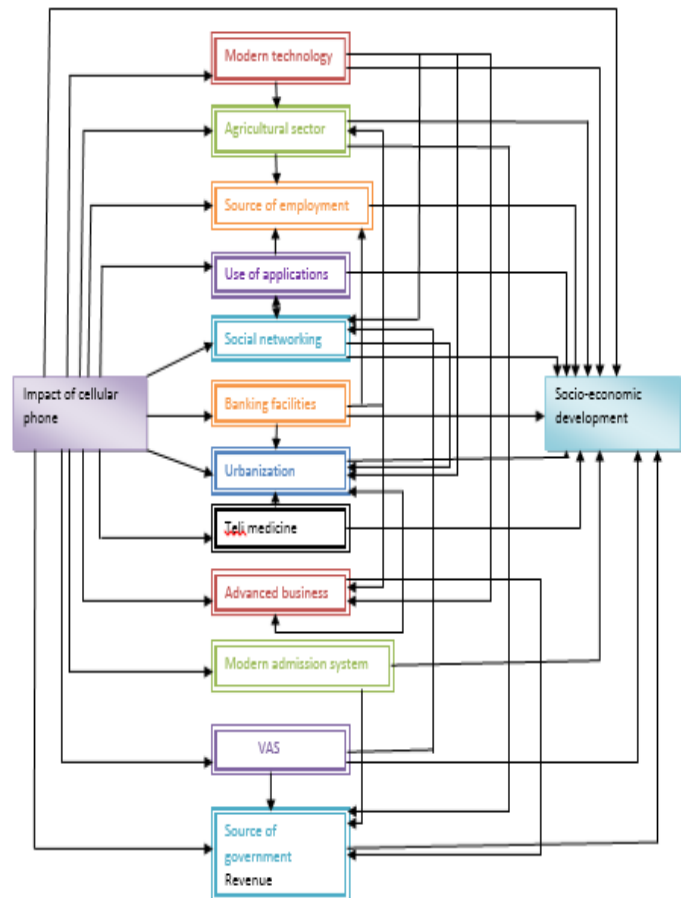
Source: The Daily Star

Fig: Number of cellular phone user in Bangladesh in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

4. Impact of cellular phone in socio-economic development of Bangladesh:

Bangladesh starts the journey of using cellular phone through general cellular phone which was used only as the medium of communication. But at present future cellular phone is using which is not only the communication way but also way of capturing photo, recording pictures and songs. Introduction of internet has insured the facilities of banking, admission system, travelling ticket purchasing and paying the bill of different sections.

Impacts of cellular phone



a. Source of Employment

At present the unemployment rate in Bangladesh is 5%. Cellular phone has given 0.2% unemployed person the chance to become self-dependent. By taking the training about cellular phone servicing many unemployed have become employed. It has generated direct and indirect employment of more than 6,75,000 (six lac seventy five thousand) people. Interestingly 15% of these jobs are held by women thereby significantly contributing to women empowerment.

b. Agricultural Sector

Bangladesh is an agro based country. At present 84.1% farmers have their own cellular phone. They take the picture of the insecticides and the consult with the specialized of WIN Incorporated to solve the problem. To solve the different agriculture problems a data base information center has made.



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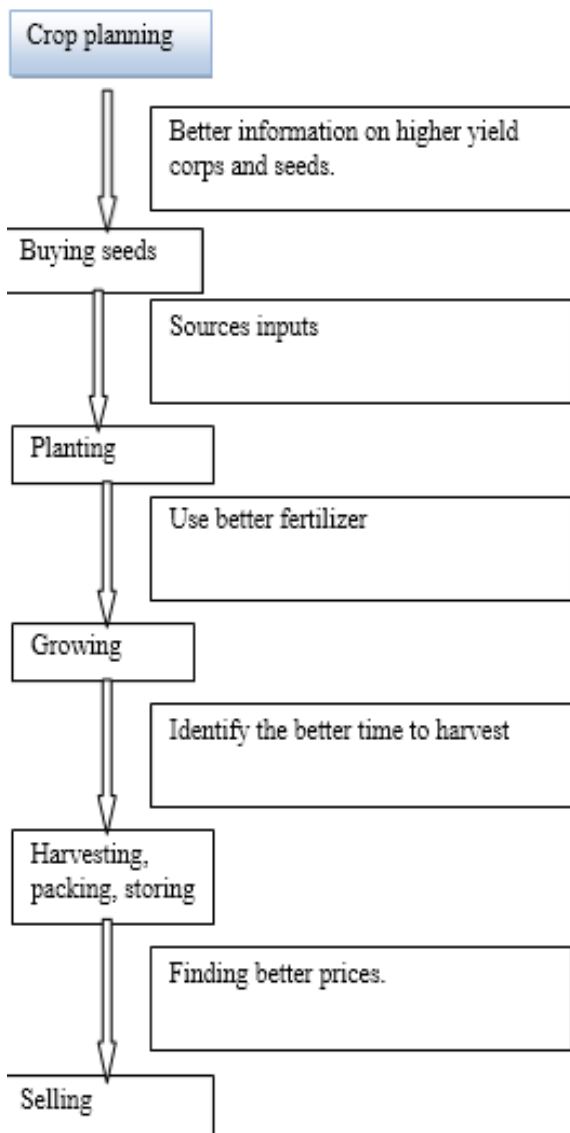
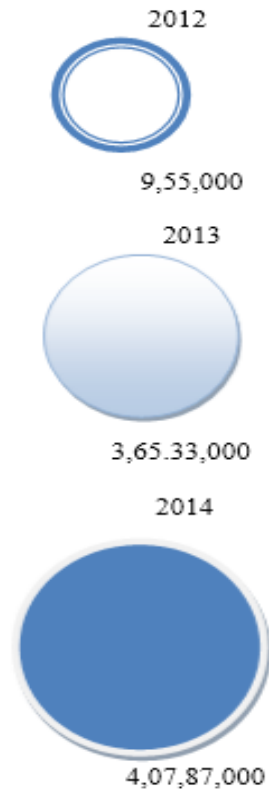


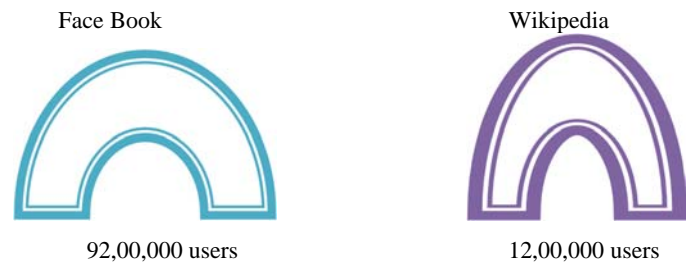
Fig: M-Agriculture system

c. Social Networking

Cellular phone has increased the use of internet which is the way of social networking. In Bangladesh the number of internet user is increasing day by day. The number of internet user in 2012,2013 and in 2014 are 9,55,000, 3,56,33,000 and 4,07,87,000 respectively.



Free internet has made the well-known social network such as face book, Wikipedia more popular.



d. Vas (Value Added Services)

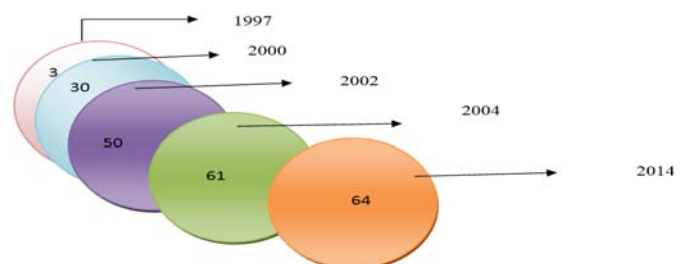
Vas means Value Added Service. More than 25% cellular phone users are regularly using VAS. This service is used in money transaction, SMS and SMS advertisement.

e. Advanced Business

In case of cellular phone the activities and future of business have found a new challenging way. The new generations are involving themselves as the technician and sellers of complementary parts of cellular phone locally. The facilities of listening and recording songs and showing video have also become the base of business.

f. Urbanization

Use of cellular phone has made it difficult to draw a difference line between urban and rural. In 1997 only three districts were under cellular networking system but in 2014 the number is 64.



Like urban the rural people are also communicate with the abroad by using face book, email, Skype, twitter, viver and whatsapp. Cellular phone has brought the whole Bangladesh under a single roof where there is no way to make difference between village and town.

g. Modern admission system

Mobile Industry believes that fate of people cannot be changed without education and skill development. They are sponsoring schools, arranging training for skill development to locals and offering Local and foreign scholarships for under-privileged children. Checking the result of all public examinations, collecting admission forms of college and university and paying the admission fees are also done by cellular phone now a day in Bangladesh.

h. Use of applications

Application is a new technology which is made by using computer program. In the present world about 120 crore people are using application. This use is also increasing in Bangladesh day by day. This application is being made under government and non- government rules for health, education, games, news, social media and entertainment. Under government intervention all ministries have already made their own applications.

i. Teli-medicine service

Health Line service through mobile phone has achieved world over recognition and GSMA award for the best use of mobile for Social and Economic Development. Mobile industry has also given donations to Cancer hospital, Child Care Hospital, provided free healthcare service for mothers and infants and conducted awareness on immunization program. Under this service the patient tells the problem to the doctor over cellular phone. After hearing the problem the doctor mail the prescription to the patient. This system has opened a new horizon of treatment.

j. Banking system

Cellular phone is giving the facilities of banking. Money transaction, ticket purchasing, paying different household bill and other facilities are available in cellular phone now.

k. Government revenue

The mobile cellular industry of Bangladesh is currently the largest infrastructure provider in the private sector and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from this industry as of September 2008 is worth BDT 30,000 (thirty thousand) crore. Contributions of Mobile Industry to the National Exchequer as of September 2008 is worth BDT 20,000 (twenty thousand) crore. Around 8% of the National Revenue in 2008 came from this industry.

National Revenue includes: NBR revenue, Non NBR Revenue and Bangladesh Railway (One-off charges BDT 452 crore in 2007 & BDT 433 crore in 2008 and spectrum charges BDT 351 crore has not been considered)

5. Conclusion

Our Government is committed to build “Digital Bangladesh” by 2021. The Mobile industry is best placed to become an integral partner in this noble mission owing to the industry’s countrywide network coverage, ability to invest, commitment to innovation and the general importance of an enabling communications infrastructure for IT development in general. The mobile industry has a goal to pursue the development of IT industry and IT profession and extend its wholehearted cooperation to relevant authorities (e.g. SICT, Planning Ministry etc.) towards achievement of this mission. This may include partnership for higher education in communications and information technology, joint communications and IT pilot and full scale implementation projects, participation. In think tanks and task forces for ICT development, investments in and establishment of IT companies for mobile services, General IT product development, local software packages etc.

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