A CASE STUDY OF FAMILY COMMUNICATION
AND SMART PHONE USE AMONG
SELECTED FAMILIES

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Abstract

People nowadays rely on different media such as smart phones – in communicating with others. As a result, this has changed the way individuals communicate; from face-to-face interactions to mediated communication produced by the advancement of technology, including its features such as call and text, Internet, instant messaging and social networking applications. The innovation of smart phones made it a popular communication tool especially among family members. This paper explores the association of smart phone use by family members in interaction with one another. The researchers conducted group interview to six different households and analyzed the data using Social Information Processing and Technological Determinism Theories. Past researches and information from books and online articles were used to validate the gathered information. The results of the study found out that smart phones help them to contact each other efficiently particularly for monitoring and emergency purposes. Stickers and emoticons are used by the participants which made them express their feelings easier, making communication more intimate even if it is only through text or chat. The study provides information to the parents to help them understand how technological innovation that smart phones have brought became a part of modern family style of communication.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Vitae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Framework of Family Communication Using Smart Phones in Line with Technological Determinism Theory and Social Information Processing Theory

................................................................................................................. 10
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1. Profile of Garan Family ................................................................. 13

Table 1.2. Profile of Bravante Family ............................................................. 14

Table 1.3. Profile of Estrella Family ................................................................. 14

Table 1.4. Profile of Villon Family ................................................................. 15

Table 1.5. Profile of Cabizares Family ............................................................. 15

Table 1.6. Profile of Bascuguin Family ............................................................. 16

Table 2.1. Ways in which Smart Phones are Used in the Communication Exchange among Family Members ................................................................. 18

Table 2.2. Ways Smart Phones Affect the Communication among Family Members ................................................................. 22

Table 2.3. The Importance of Smart Phones for Communication Determined by the Family Members ................................................................. 25

Table 2.4. Changes that Members Noticed in Their Communication in Family Using Smart Phones ................................................................. 28

Table 2.5. Problems Experienced by the Family Members Using Smart Phones ................................................................. 31

Table 2.6. Unique Communication Experiences of the Family Members in Their Use of Smart Phones ................................................................. 34