The primary aim of this study was to establish a link between smartphone overuse and Present Absence within romantic relationships. It also sought to establish if the age that a smartphone is first used can predict Present Absence levels. The findings suggest there is a strong correlation between smartphone overuse and Present Absence and that the age a smartphone is first used correlates with Present Absence levels. 

Participants: 107 participants consisting of college students and general public. Inclusion criteria was smartphone ownership and aged 18 years or older.

Materials: Demographic questionnaire followed by four self-report scales, Pphubbing scale, Present Absence Scale, Satisfaction with Life Scale and Smartphone Addiction Scale.

Procedure: Hardcopies of the questionnaire were handed out to be completed. All participants were advised that participation was non-compulsory and anonymous.

Design: This study is correlational in design and used purposive sampling.

Hypotheses

H1 - Those with high levels of smartphone use will have high Present Absence scores

H2 - Those with high levels of smartphone usage will have low Satisfaction with Life

H3 - Those with high levels of Pphubbing will have lower Satisfaction with Life.

H4 - There will be a significant difference in Present Absence scores, depending on the age a smartphone is first owned.

Significant Results

The scatterplot above shows the strong positive significant relationship between smartphone overuse and Present Absence.

The above scatterplot shows the strong negative significant relationship between age of 1st ownership and Present Absence.

Notations:

- \( \text{Pphubbing} \)
- \( \text{Smartphone Addiction Scale} \)
- \( \text{Present Absence Scale} \)

References


Misra, S., Cheng, L., Genevie, & Yuan, (2014) found, conversations held while simply having a smartphone device present, but not in use, were less empathetic than conversations with no smartphone present.

Additional aim it established if there is a difference between adults who have grown up with smartphone technology and those who adopted technology later in life and Present/Absence scores.