



Green Schools Network

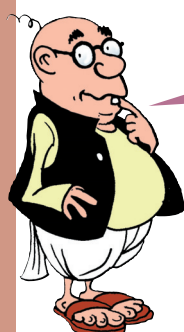
ACTIVITY SHEET

August 2013

Why talk about Mobile Phones?



We cannot imagine a life without our cellphones. Can you? No, right. We use high-tech cellphones everyday, but never stop to think about questions like: how are they made? What happens to the old ones after we throw them away to opt for a better one? How much power does it take to keep all the cellphones of the world buzzing? Well, the toll it takes is enormous. Dumping of discarded mobile phones is dangerous to the environment. Millions of batteries that are thrown away as waste are leaking poisonous toxins into the environment. This is not even taking into consideration the energy costs of the manufacturing process. But before raising the alarm bell, let's take a close look at them.



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Name

School Name

Class Date

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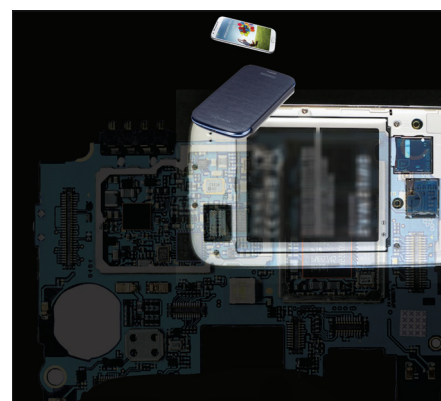
Thanks to refined technological advances, cellphones go obsolete very quickly. The average cellphone is now used for only 12-18 months before it is replaced. Most of those discarded mobiles are simply thrown away adding to the burden of toxins, that already ails the planet by an updated version.

What can be done to lighten this load? Reuse, Reduce and Recycle.

Reuse: If we must upgrade our phone, we could give our old phone to someone who would use it.

Reduce: Think twice before you upgrade your new phone. If the old one still does the job, you could save money and resources required to make a new one. In other words, give your phone a longer lifeline.

Recycle: Give your old phones for recycling once it completely stops working.



ACTIVITY 1

Go to the nearest mobile shop and talk to the shopkeeper and record how many mobile phones are sold each day; how many people bid adieu to their old instruments and buy a new one; how many people often give the old ones for recycling.

Make a list of this and estimate the amount of mobile phones thrown away in a month.

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Scientists claim that they have found out the reason behind the steady sinking of the bee population. And they blame the cellphone- yours and mine. Research has shown that the signals from cellphones not only confuse bees, but also lead to their death. Study has found that bees react to cellphones that are placed near or on hive in a call making mode. They sense the signals transmitted when the phone rings and emitt heavy buzzing noise during the calls. The calls act as an instinctive warning for them to leave the hive but frequency confuses the bees, causing them to fly erratically and falling dead.

ACTIVITY 2

Interview your family members and friends and find answers for the following questions:

Name of the person interviewed:

1 Do you use a mobile phone?

2 Since when have you been using a mobile phone?

3 How often do you change your phone?

4 When you buy a new phone, what do you usually do with the old one?

5 What do you know about the environmental hazards caused by mobile phones?



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Modern cellphones are capable of much more than just sending and receiving phone calls. They can be used to send and receive text messages, emails, photos, graphs and video. One can play games, listen to music, use GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and more.

Cellphones have become an important communication tool that are used by people all across the world to connect with each other at any time. Although initially the instrument was bulky and unsightly, now it has undergone an outstanding makeover and are sleek to appear to be an accessory completing the user's over all get up!

Applications that cellphone owners can take advantage of include word processing, calendars, mobile banking, web surfing, alarms, memos, video streaming, games and much more. Applications have exploded in popularity in recent times and thanks to the iPhone Application Store which allows iPhone users to download a wide variety other applications.

Despite all positive benefits of cellphones, there are also some negative side effects which include the dangers of cellphones being used while driving to invade ones' privacy unnecessarily. Cellphones are often banned in classrooms or other school locations due to the distraction they cause.

ACTIVITY 3

With the help of your eco-club, organise an event (which goes on for a week or so) where you can ask the students to give away all their unused mobile phones and gadgets and old batteries. And once you have collected everything, you could deposit the whole lot to an electronic recycling unit.

Celphones pose a serious burden on environment, guzzling power and precious metals (that they are made of) before heading to the landfill. In developing countries where they are dismantled, they end up in the rivers and soils, where they help contribute to cancer, damage to the nervous systems and brain development in children.



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If you found the activity sheet interesting, email us at eeu@cseindia.org or write to:

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