

Cellular Phone Has Opened a New Horizon of Socio- Economic Development: A Case Study Of Bangladesh

Malaya Tashbeen Barnamala

Senior Lecturer, Mirpur-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh

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 can not ignore the contribution of cellular phone to it's continuous development. In this paper , the objective is to find the impact of cellular phone on every part of development in 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.

Introduction:

Bangladesh is a young country with burgeoning population. But from the number of cellular phone user Bangladesh has the top position in South Ashia. Though cellular phone was introduced in Bangaldesh 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.

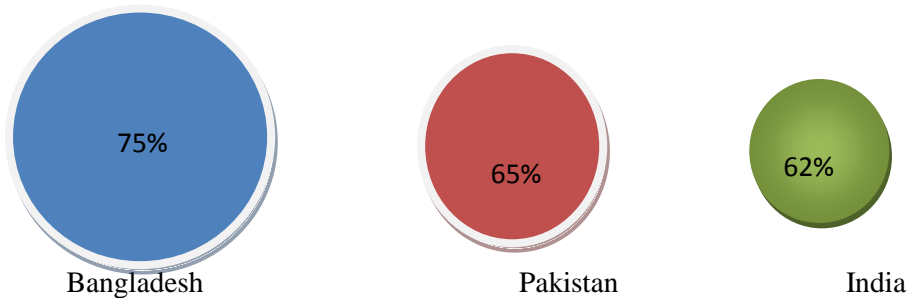
History: History of cellular phone in Bangladesh

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	<u>GrameenPhone</u> got cellular mobile Telephone license.
1996	Telecom Malaysia International Bangladesh got cellular mobile license
1998	Telecom Policy.
2000	Global Telecom Service (GTS) Telex Exchange venture with British Teleco.
2001	Telecommunication Act, to establish Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).
2002	ICT Policy
2004	<u>Teletalk</u> cellular mobile launched.
2005	2005 : Egypt-based <u>Orascom</u> 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 <u>DoCoMo</u> bought 30 percent stake in <u>Aktel</u>
2009	<u>Bharti Airtel</u> acquired 70 percent stake in Warid Telecom
2009	Internet Protocol Telephony Service Provider (IPTSP) Operators launched
2012	<u>3G</u> mobile service is introduced by state owned <u>Teletalk</u> in October.

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 : Prothom Alo]

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

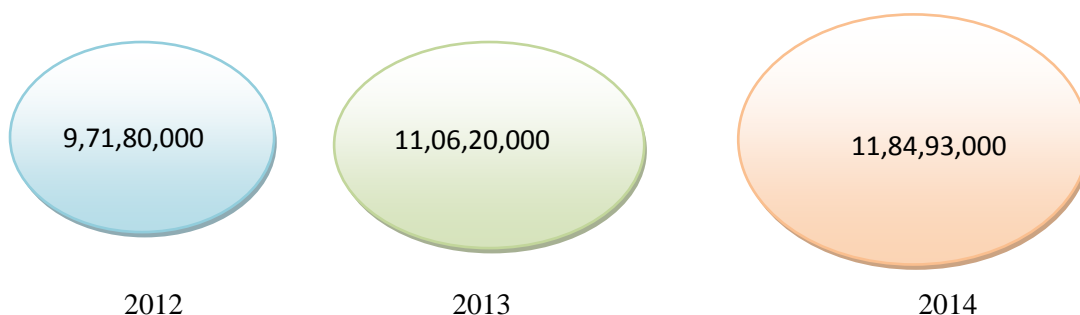


Figure : Number of cellular phone user in Bangladesh in 2012,2013 and 2014.

[Source : The Daily Star]

Companies in Bangladesh who are providing the cellular phone networking facilities

Total users	Name of company	No of user	No of active user
11,84,93,000	Grameen Phone	5,02,91,000	42%
	Banglalink	3,02,18,000	25%
	Robi	2,49,66,000	21%
	Airtel	37,68,000	7%
	Telitalk	13,49,000	3%
	Citycel	89,00,000	1%

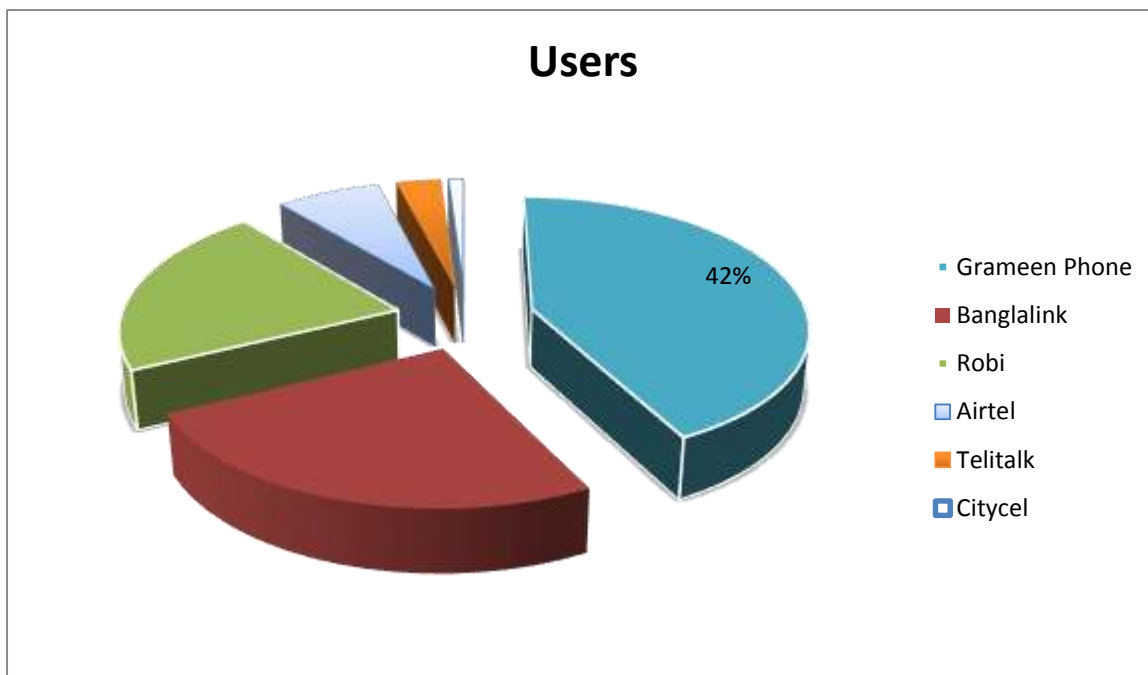
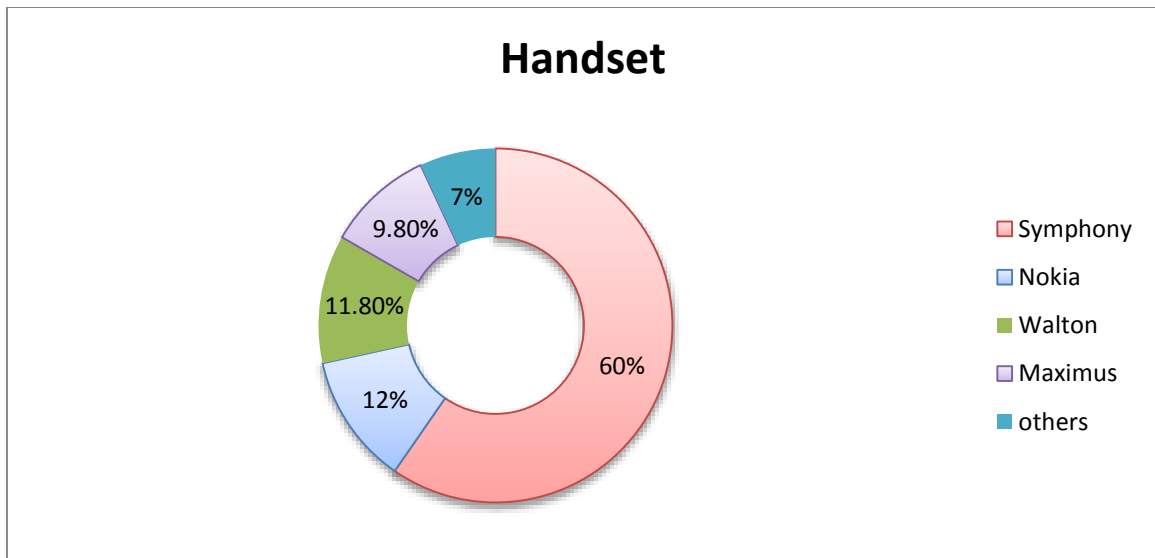


Figure : Active users of cellular phone

From the Pie Chart we see that Grameen Phone company has the largest number of users. With the increase the number of user the cellular phone handset has become more available. In Bangladesh the most popular handset company is Symphony and the second position is occupied by Nokia brand.



[Source : Prothom Alo]

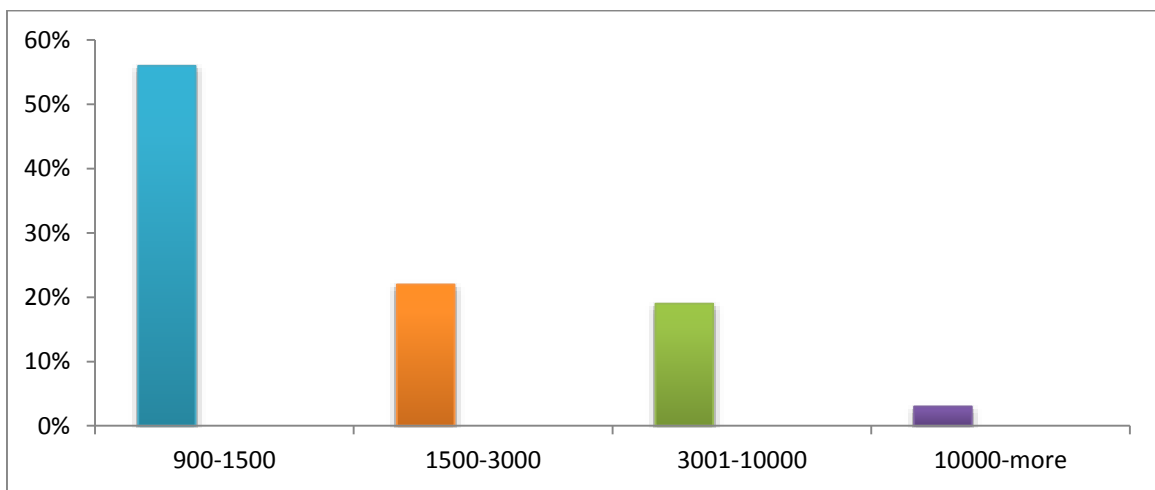
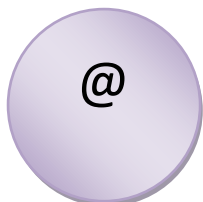


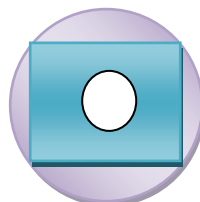
Figure : The price range and demand of hand set

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

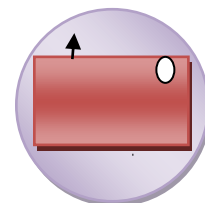
Bangladesh starts the journey of using cellular phone through general cellular phone which was used only as the medium of communication. But at present future cellular phone is using which is not only the communication way but also way of capturing photo, recording pictures and songs. Introduction of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



37% users use internet

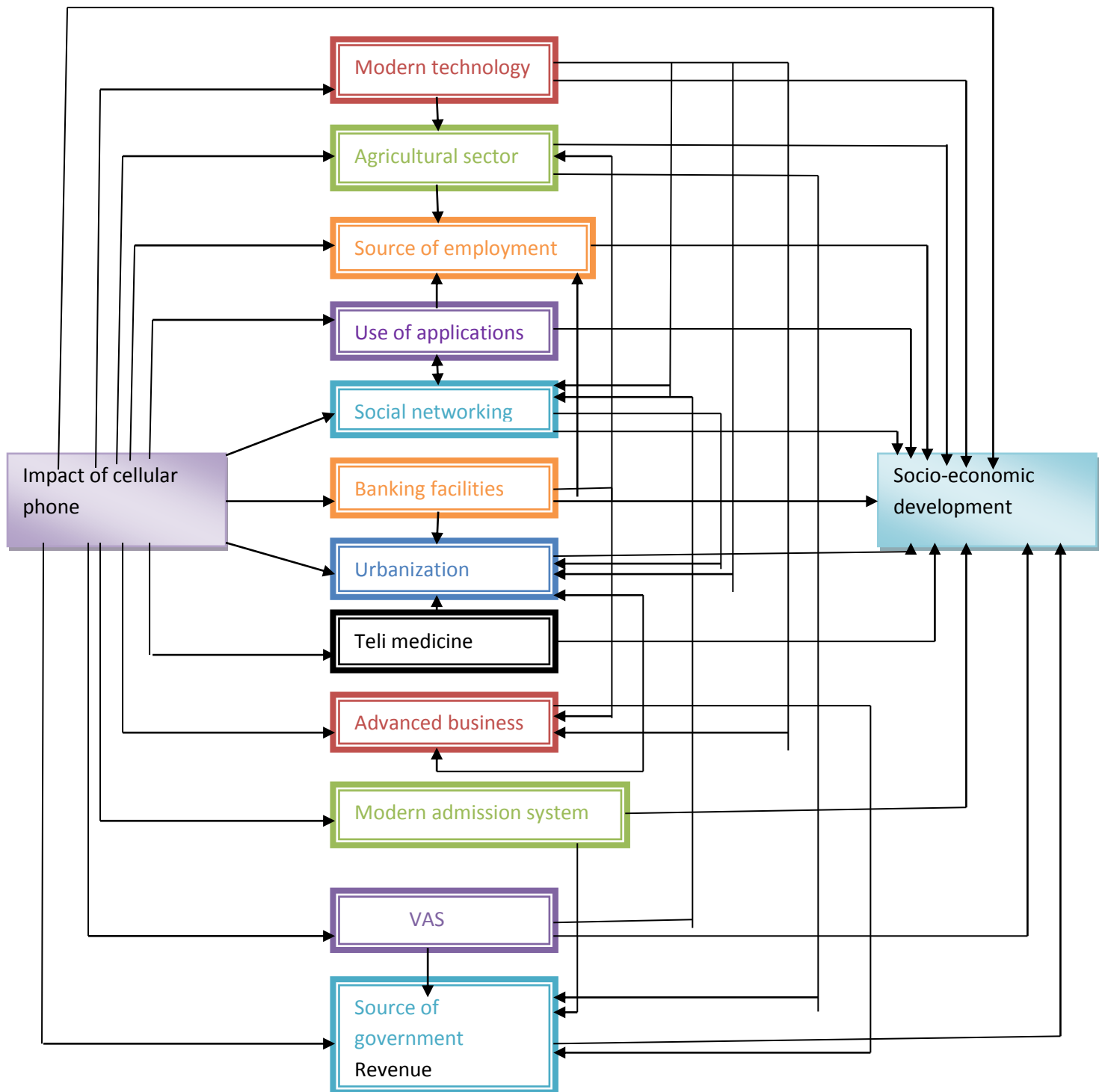


57.4% users use camera



64.1% users use radio

Impacts of cellular phone



1. 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.

2. 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.



84.1% Farmer are cellular phone users

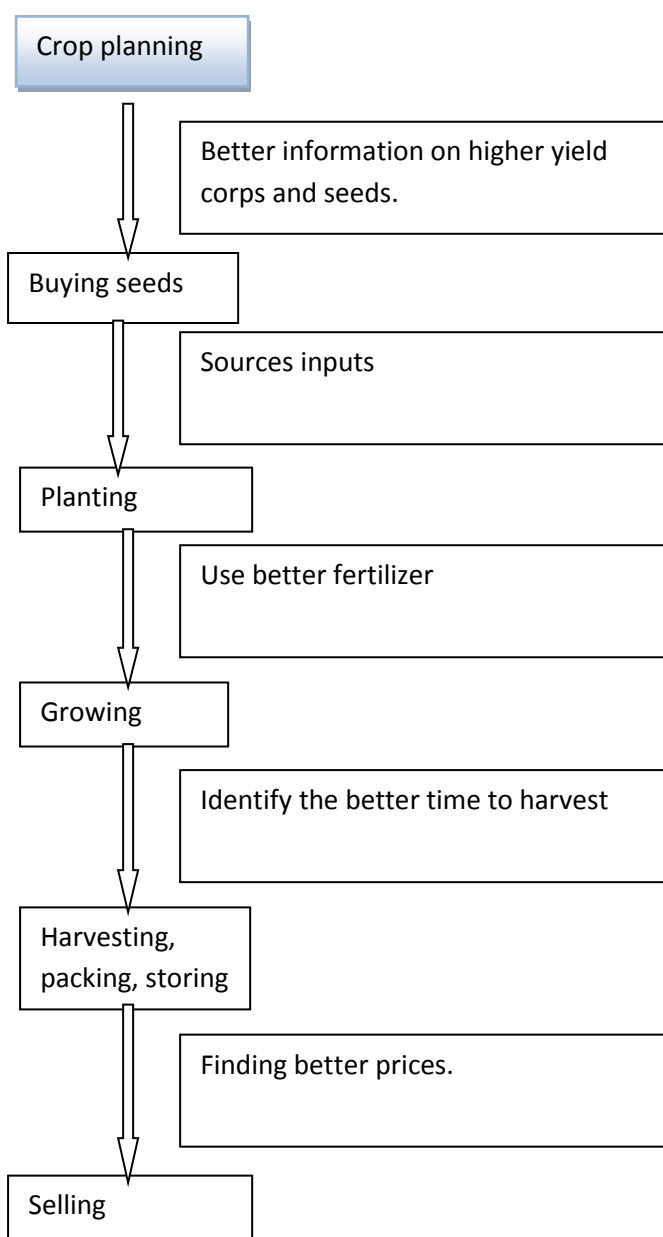
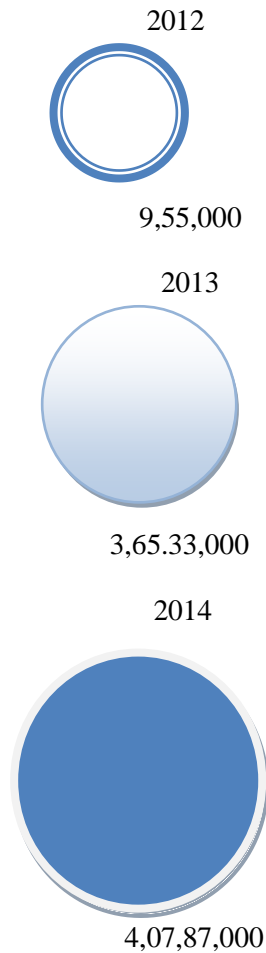


Figure : M-Agriculture system

3. 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.

Face Book



92,00,000 users

Wikipedia



12,00,000 users

4.Vas (Value Added Services) :

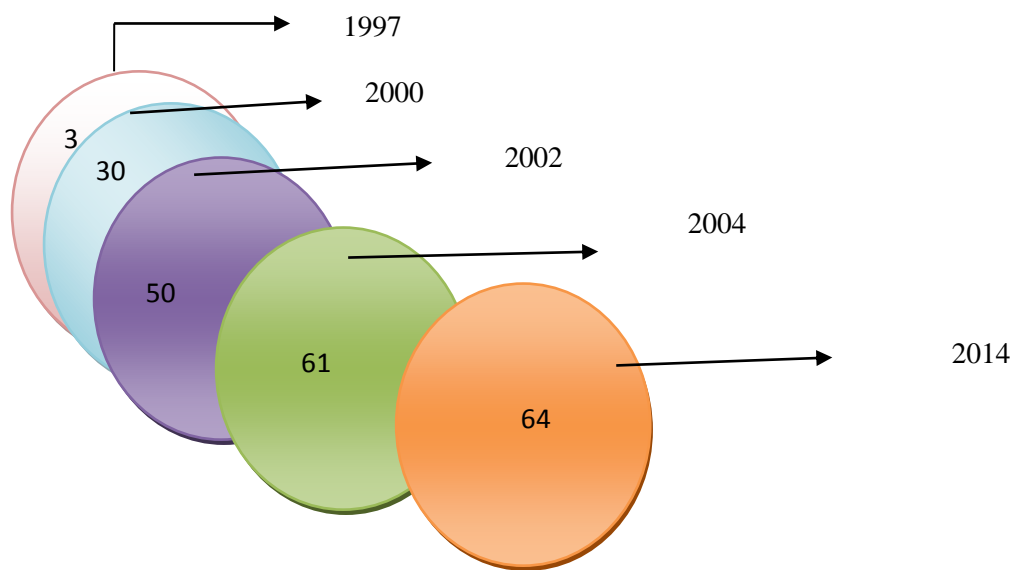
Vas means Value Added Service. More than 25% cellular phone users are regularly using VAS. This service is used in money transaction, SMS and SMS advertisement.

5. 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.

6. 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 , viber 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.

7. Modern admission system :

Mobile Industry believes that fate of people can not 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.

9. 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.

10. Teli-medicin service :

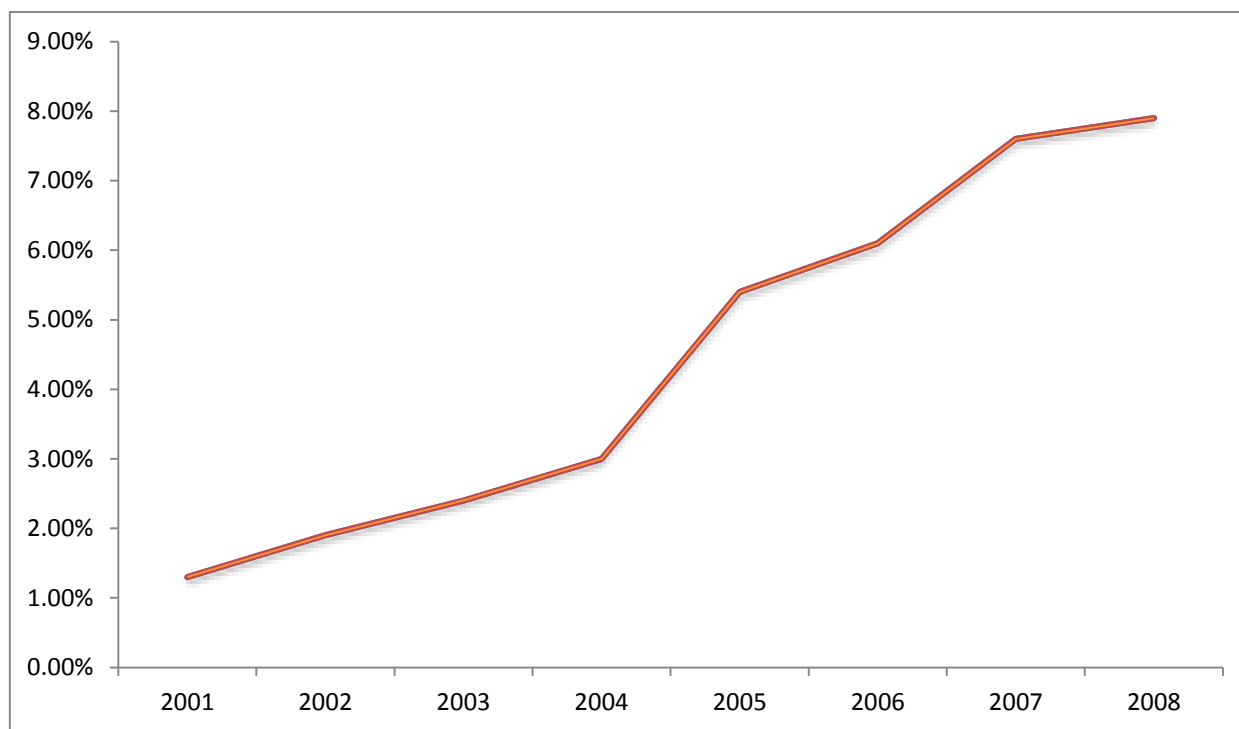
Health Line service through mobile phone has achieved world over recognition and GSMA award for the best use of mobile for Social and Economic Development. Mobile industry has also given donations to Cancer hospital, Child Care Hospital, provided free healthcare service for mothers and infants and conducted 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.

11. 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.

12. 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)

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.