

Role of Texting in Communicative Confidence Boosting: A Comparative Inter-Gender Study

Dr. Rana Faqir Muhammad Aslam¹ Obaid-ur-Rehman² Dr Muhammad
Rashid Hafeez³ Dr Ali Ahmad⁴

Abstract

Technology has played a significant role in improving users' confidence and giving them power of expression. This is true of all factions of society; however, the students especially the female students have utilized the present day technology in a much better way. The present research has attempted to find the answer to the question 'Does texting give more power of expression to male and female students than they get in Face-to-face Communication?' To find the answer to this question, the students at under-graduate, graduate and post-graduate levels were involved as participants. The data have been collected using questionnaire from two educational institutes in Multan. The participant students were asked to give their opinion whether they felt more empowered while communicating in text messaging as compared to the Face-to-face (FTF) communication. The collected data have been analyzed quantitatively applying Chi-Square test in SPSS-15. The quantitative method of analyses provided objective foundation for the results and discussion. The finding has revealed that text messaging plays a vital role in enhancing communicative confidence. It has also been found that gender discrimination is lessened to a greater degree in the use of text messaging as compared to the face-to-face communication.

Key Words: Face-To-Face Communication, Text Messaging, Gender Discrimination, Technology, Empowerment

Introduction

In the post-modern era technology has affected almost all aspects of human life. Mobile phone has played a significant role in this regard. It is one of the most remarkable things that human beings have ever produced and it has brought about revolutionary changes in communication. During the last few

¹ PhD Linguistics

² Department of English, Government K. A. Islamia Degree College, Jamia Mohammadi Shareef, Chiniot, Pakistan

³ Department of English, Government College Women University Sialkot, Pakistan

⁴ Department of Humanities, COMSATS University Islamabad, Vehari Campus, Pakistan

years, the popularity of mobile phones has augmented exceptionally. Today, there are more than 5000 million subscribers of mobile phones in the world (Mobile Economy, 2018). “More than two-thirds of the global population is now connected to a mobile service” (GSMA Press Release, 2017). The number is expected to grow by almost 1 billion which is equivalent to more than 70% of the world’s population, by the year 2025. The growth is expected to be driven by a number of developing countries, including Pakistan (Mobile Economy, 2018).

For the last decade or so, mobile phones have been used extensively for the exchange of text messages. In 2007, the GSM world reported that people were spending more on SMS as compared to voice services (GSM Press Release, 2007). Confirming this claim, Luo (2014) found that 31% of text-messaging users preferred texting over voice calling. According to a study conducted in the United States of America in 2011, approximately 83% of American adults owned cell phones and 73% of those who owned cell phones reported that they used those for texting (Smith, 2011).

Mobile phone users communicate via Short Messaging Service, abbreviated as SMS, and texting via chat applications, like *Whatsapps*. Texting is a form of asynchronous communication through mobile networks. The recent advancement in technology allows an extra facility of return receipts (or delivery reports) to the users. The sender receives a delivery report as soon as the short message reaches its destination. On the other hand, *Whatsapp* not only provides the delivery information, it also informs the sender if the message has been read or not.

Text messages can be sent over the mobile networks around the world. Messaging through the mobile apps requires internet connectivity for sending and receiving messages. There is no fee for sending and receiving messages via mobile apps. However, the service provider mobile companies charge for sending SMS.

In Pakistan, the unprecedented increase in popularity of texting among mobile phone users indicates that this media is the most suitable one for sharing small bits of information. There are many reasons for the enormous popularity of texting. One of these reasons is that this mechanism of sending and receiving messages saves time and money. Also, the users feel relatively more comfortable sending a message than talking over phone in many situations (Zaidi, 2007). The popularity of texting among the younger generations of Pakistan has been the motivating factor behind this study.

Literature Review

Linguists have been studying electronic communication, including text messaging, for more than two decades. Since 1997 'The Information Society Research Centre at the University of Tampere in Finland' has been researching the mobile communication (Thurlow, 2003). Kasesniemi and Rautiainen (2002) studied mobile communication culture of children and young people. They recognised the fact that "the unique writing style [in texting] provides opportunities for creativity" (p. 03).

Ling (2005) discussed the sociolinguistics of text messages and the ways in which the urge to communicate overcomes the technological limitations of the system. In his study, he found that the women and the teens/young adults were the most enthusiastic users of SMS. He analysed his corpus from different angles; the themes used in the messages, most frequently used words, message complexity, use of abbreviations and rural dialects, capitalisation and punctuation, openings and closings. Asif and Zahra (2006) studied the main features of the *netspeak* (Crystal, 2001) used by the young Pakistani net users in online social network called 'Orkut', a website operated by Google and named after its creator, Orkut Büyükkökten. Orkut was an asynchronous method of communication, where the interlocutors dropped their messages in the recipient's scrap book.

Lenhart et al. (2010) studied text messaging behaviors among teenagers. In their study, 54% of all teens reported communicating with their friends daily through text messaging, while 38% of them made verbal phone calls, and 33% talked with their friends face-to-face. Xia (2012) researched how the Chinese used texting for relationship maintenance, social network construction, social coordination, emotional support, and business interaction.

Gender discrimination in Face-to-Face (FTF) communication

Society makes humans internalize its defining social facts, beliefs, norms and values (Schiffrin, 1996, 309). This is done through observation and conditioning. For example, in group-centered cultures, personal identity is linked with the social identity inside the community where an individual lives as a part of the society. To locate the relationships between the individuals and the society, we have to analyze the social processes, which "are embedded in the situations, occasions, encounters, and rituals of everyday life" (ibid: 308). Gender discrimination is one of the core issues in this regard. In fact, it is something that people learn first, and the lesson is repeated continuously in school and society (Sen, 2001:61).

Gender discrimination is a logical behavioural expression of prejudice against women. Prejudice against women reaches all aspects of their lives up to and including the educational context. For example, male and female comparative study of face-to-face (FTF) interaction can help better understand the relative communicative behaviors of the genders. Patriarchy plays a significant role in affecting women's conversational strategies (Lakoff, 1975) since the powerlessness expressed by women in such strategies usually has such features as exaggerations and super-politeness (Rodino, 1997).

As against male's speech, which tends to be more dominating and controlling, female's speech ensures responses (Yates, 2001). In addition, the paralinguistic features like nodding, moving hands eye contact, and facial expressions also play a major role in reinforcing gendered behaviour in the FTF interactions. Such gender inequality is not confined to the Western contexts; instead it is a global phenomenon, and is quite evident in the Asian contexts as well, resulting in discrimination of women and girls (Gill & Stewart, 2010). According to Global Gender Gap Report (2017) "the average progress on closing the global gender gap stands at 68.0%, which means an average gap of 32.0% remains to be closed worldwide in order to achieve universal gender parity" (p. vii). Pakistani society lies under a patriarchal system, where men are the primary authority figures and women are subordinate (Ali, et al., 2011). Male dominance prevails in the society at all levels (Qaisrani, Liaquat, & Khokhar, 2016). Women are not given much liberty to express themselves in mixed group situations. However, the use of mobile phones for text messaging provides equal opportunities to both male and female students to express themselves in a more confident manner.

Empowerment through technology

'Empowerment' is widely used term, and it has been interpreted differently in different disciplines (Lincoln, et al., 2002). Cambridge Dictionary defines empowerment as "the process of gaining freedom and power to do what you want or to control what happens to you" (Cambridge Dictionary). Empowerment means "granting of the power, right, or authority to perform various acts or duties", and "promoting the self-actualization or influence of" [someone] (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Johnson (1976), in his study found that there is a social expectation about men that they will be more powerful as compared to their opposite gender. However, the women are also expected to outperform so that they are taken seriously (cited in Carli, 1999). Using mobile phones, people feel more empowered in communication as their needs to communicate freely are fulfilled using texting. "Texting has shown a great deal of promise to remain indispensable

to people's communication needs across their life span" (Chiluwa, et al., 2015, p. 15).

There have been a number of researches on the technological empowerment; especially the use of computers and mobile phones. Technology empowers the people who use it. Those who do not use it or have no access to technology face problem of economic inequality. Khan (2006) conducted his research on the use of Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) by the women in Oman. His research shows that the use of CMC empowers the Omani higher education female students. The respondents in his research found themselves comfortable using the CMC more than when involved in FTF communication. On this basis, the researchers hypothesize that the use of text messaging empowers the female students than male students and they get more freedom of expression than they have in face-to-face communication. Chiluwa, et al., (2015) found that "texting can possibly keep relationships at various levels active and up to date" (p. 31), and in a sense empowers the users to maintain and enhance their interactional relationships.

Guerra (2015) observed communication patterns between male and female students in a face to face and online undergraduate level class. She studied how a classroom environment (face to face versus online) impacted the ability of student participation, and whether there was a difference in gender of the participants when comparing a face to face course to an online course. By applying a qualitative methods approach through an observational study with the examination of the data using thematic analysis, she found that male students were more likely to draw attention to the class and played more participatory role. Females were not called on as often as male students. More often their opinion was dismissed by being interrupted and feeling as if they did not matter. On the other hand, the online class allowed for female students to become more comfortable with voicing their opinions through online discussion posts. Female students were more likely to utilize self-disclosure and were more open to participation and providing feedback (Guerra, 2015).

Okonowsky (2016) studied the effect of text messaging on the satisfaction of romantic relationship. The study was conducted on individuals of age group from 18 years to 45 years. The researcher made use of the Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS) (Hendricks, 1988) to investigate the co-relation between text messaging and romantic relationship satisfaction. An inventory of participants' text messaging behavior was prepared and it was evaluated whether or not (1) frequency of text messaging and (2) preference for a particular method of communication were related to romantic

relationship satisfaction. Significant statistical results were not found to reach conclusions about relationships between text messaging frequency or preference for voice communication over texting and romantic relationship satisfaction.

Research Methodology

The theoretical concepts related to this study consisted of technology, communication, empowerment and gender. The different genres of research consider the study to be applicable to different areas that are observed in academia. The studies in computer mediated communication (CMC), face to face (FTF) communication and social presence of gender differences have been surveyed in order to develop the research methodology for the present research.

Participants

The study has been conducted on the forty students coming from two educational institutes of Multan. Majority of respondents (35 out of 40) belonged to the age group of 20-25. All of the females (n=20), while majority of male respondents (n=15) belonged to this group. The rest of the respondents (n=5), all males, were more than 25 years of age. So, the majority of the participants were in the age group referred to as “Generation Text” i.e. 17-25 years (Okonowsky, 2016). All the respondents in this survey used mobile phones for text messaging. The educational profile of the participants showed that a majority of them, (n=17) (i.e. 42.5%) were graduate students, while 35% of them (n=14) were the post-graduate students, and nine (i.e. 22.5%) of them were under-graduate students.

Data Collection Tool and Method of Analysis

Survey method has been used to collect data for the present study. For practical reasons the researchers have resorted to the questionnaire as the main tool for collecting data. The questionnaire of this research consisted of four sections: General Information, Information about Interaction in FTF Conversations, Familiarity with text messaging tools, and the comparison between FTF communication and texting. The collected data has been analysed using quantitative methods of data analysis. The SPSS 15.0 software for quantitative analysis applying Chi-Square test has been used for analysis. The findings have been shown in tables and graphs along with detailed descriptions in the sections to follow.

Analysis

The results of the quantitative analysis are presented in the form of tables and graphs followed by discussion in the sub-sections to follow:

Face-to-face (FTF) interaction

A large majority (n=37) of the participants interact ‘face-to-face’ with the opposite gender, while only 3 of them do not do so. In percentage terms, this translates into 92.5% ‘yes’ as against the 7.5% of them belong to the ‘no’ category as shown in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1. face-to-face interaction with opposite gender

Answer categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	37	92.5	92.5	92.5
No	3	7.5	7.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Gender-wise division reveals that all the females (n=20) and majority of males (n=17) interact face-to-face with opposite gender, while three male students have given their responses in the negative, as elaborated in the figure (Fig. 4.1) in the following:

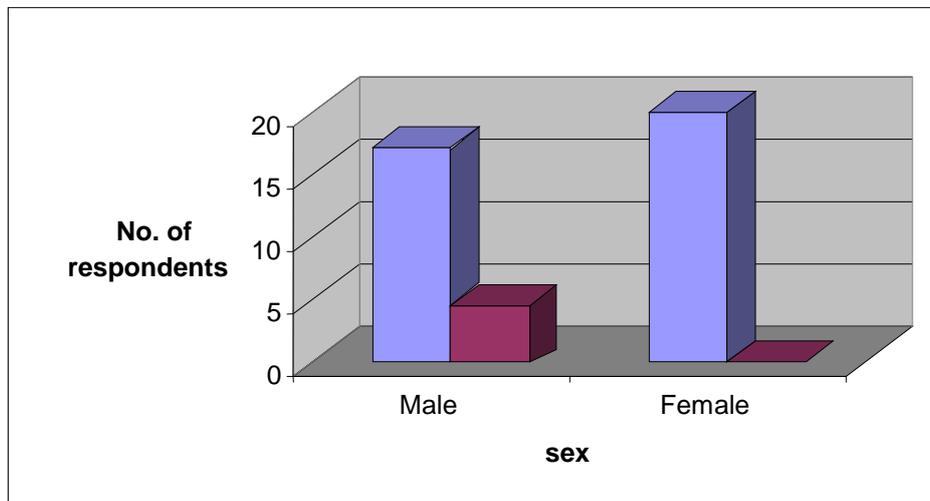


Fig. 4.1. Gender-wise categories

It is important to note that in this category members of opposite sex do not include family members of the respondents.

Feelings in face-to-face interaction with opposite sex

As far as the feelings at the time of face-to-face interaction with the opposite sex was concerned, out of 40 respondents, 14 (35%) felt confident, 7 (17%) felt shy, 12 (30%) felt confused, 5 (12.5%) felt afraid of being misunderstood, and 2 (5%) felt afraid of being laughed at. This is illustrated in the following table (Table 4.2):

Table 2 Feelings while face-to-face interaction with opposite sex

Confidence level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
I feel confident	14	35.0	35.0	35.0
I feel shy	7	17.5	17.5	52.5
I feel confused	12	30.0	30.0	82.5
I feel afraid of being misunderstood	5	12.5	12.5	95.0
I feel afraid of being laughed at	2	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Inter-gender analysis of responses indicated that on the confidence continuum, greater number of males (n=10) opted for ‘a’ category which was ‘I feel confident’ than did females (n=4). The number of respondents who felt shy while interacting face-to-face with opposite sex was almost equal. This shows that even now when inter-gender barriers are collapsing due to communication revolution, there are some people, though small in percentages, who feel shy while communicating with opposite sex in face-to-face communication. While 20% of the respondents in the male group reported feeling confused, greater number of female respondents (40%) belonged to this category. For the category ‘I feel afraid of being misunderstood’, none of the male respondents have opted it, while 25% of the females belonged to this category.

This finding of the survey clearly shows the deep impact of the patriarchal framework that is embedded in situations, occasions, encounters, and rituals of everyday life (Schiffrin, 1996). None of the female respondents falls under the category of ‘I feel afraid of being laughed at’, whereas, 10% of the male respondents belong to this category. This has been illustrated in the following figure (Fig. 4.2):

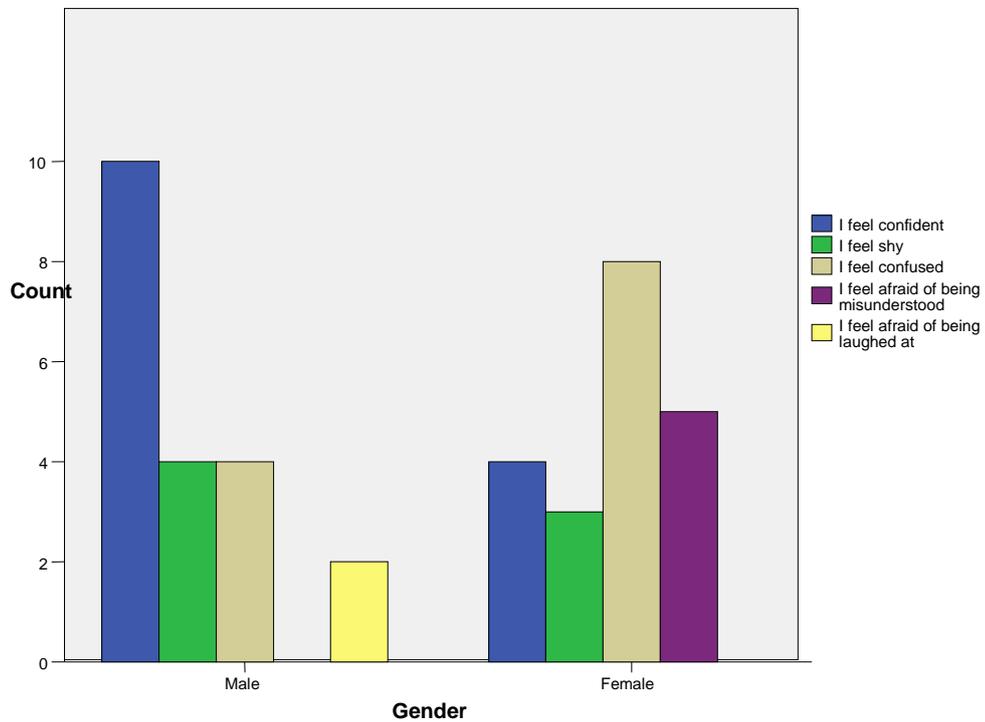


Fig. 4.2. Gender-wise description of feelings in FTF interaction

This indicates that on the confidence continuum a smaller percentage (20%) of female respondents feel confident as against the 50% of male respondents opting for this category.

Another interesting point that emerges from this study is that the higher the educational level, the higher the confidence level. Three out of four female and six out of eleven male respondents, who reported feeling confident in inter-gender communication, are post-graduate students.

Texting for communication with opposite sex

Not only in face-to-face communication, but in text messaging as well, an overwhelming majority of our young generation is engaged in using this mode of communication. As shown in the table below (Table 4.3), 82.5% of the total respondents use texting for communication with opposite sex.

Table 3 Texting for communication with opposite sex

Answer categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	33	82.5	82.5	82.5
No	7	17.5	17.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Gender-wise analysis indicates that all females (n=40) and 65% of males (n=13) used texting for communication with opposite sex. The rest of the male respondents (n=7) did not use this facility for such communication. Probably this can be accounted for by the traditional social restrictions on females in this society regarding inter-gender face-to-face communication that the number of females using texting for inter-gender communication is increasing. In other words, it can be deduced that texting helps them overcome the barriers imposed by social norms. The gender-wise bifurcation is illustrated in the following figure (Fig. 4.3):

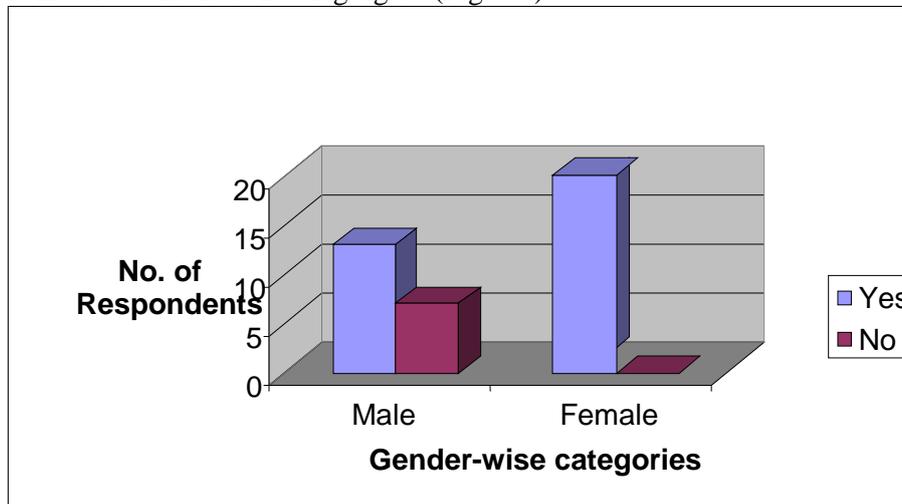


Fig. 4.3. Texting for communication with opposite sex

Purpose of communication through text messaging

This survey has revealed several purposes for which mostly youngsters use text messaging. The most frequently reported category of purpose was what was labelled as 'general communication'. Among the 13 given answers, the 5 most frequently given purposes were 'general communication', 'gossiping', 'chatting', 'information sharing', and 'clarification' as shown in the following table (Table 4.4):

Table 4. Purposes of Communication

Purpose Categories	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
--	2	5.0	5.0	5.0
Chatting	3	7.5	7.5	12.5
clarificat	1	2.5	2.5	15.0
communication	19	47.5	47.5	62.5
confiden	1	2.5	2.5	65.0
Discussi	1	2.5	2.5	67.5
Econo, S	1	2.5	2.5	70.0
Gossipin	4	10.0	10.0	80.0
Informat	3	7.5	7.5	87.5
Jokes	1	2.5	2.5	90.0
Jokes, e	1	2.5	2.5	92.5
Time Pas	1	2.5	2.5	95.0
Typing	1	2.5	2.5	97.5
Waste of	1	2.5	2.5	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Feelings while communicating with opposite sex through text messaging

As regards the feelings of respondents while communicating with opposite sex through text messaging was concerned, a clear majority of them (75%) reported that they felt confident, while 5% felt shy, 15% confused and the rest 5% felt afraid of being misunderstood. None of them reported that they felt afraid of being laughed at. This has been shown in the following table (Table 4.5):

Table 5 Feelings while communicating through SMS with opposite sex

Confidence level	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
I feel confident	30	75.0	75.0	75.0
I feel shy	2	5.0	5.0	80.0
I feel confused	6	15.0	15.0	95.0
I feel afraid of being misunderstood	2	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Category-wise division on the basis of gender has been shown in figure (Fig. 4.5) below.

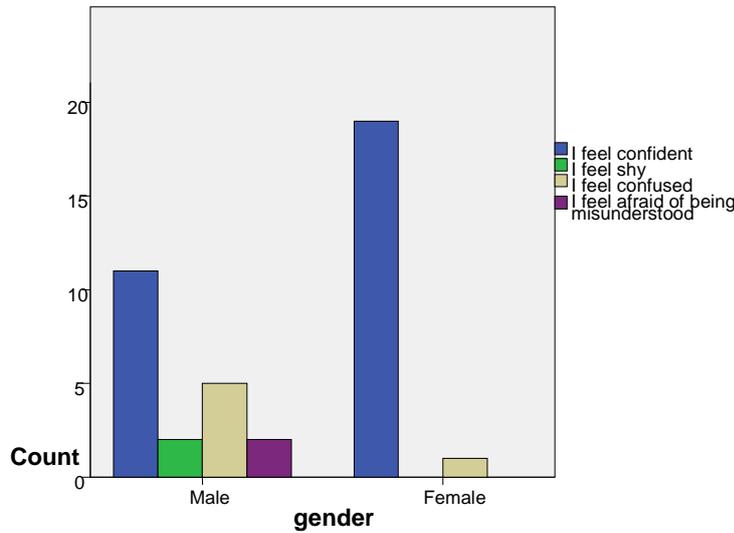


Fig. 5. Feelings while communicating through SMS with opposite sex

The figure shows that 19 out of 20 (i.e. 95%) females and 11 out of 20 (55%) males felt confident. The male respondents who felt ‘shy’, ‘confused’, and ‘afraid of being misunderstood’ were two (10%), four (20%), and three (15%) respectively as shown in the above-given figure.

The findings explicitly point to the confidence level among the respondents in general and in females, in particular. Here, the comparison with a previously mentioned category of ‘feelings while face-to-face interaction with opposite sex’ (shown in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2) would be well in place. While in the previously mentioned category, only four (20%) females felt confident, 19 (95%) females felt ‘confident while texting for communication with opposite sex’.

Similarly, in the previously mentioned category, eight (40%) females had reported that they felt confused, while, in the present category, only one of them felt confused. The outcome illustrates that text messaging is a very effective tool particularly for females in inter-gender communication. This is evident from the findings that as against the face-to-face interaction, the confidence level among females increased almost five times in the interaction through text messaging.

Another interesting point to note is that if we compare the confidence level of females with that of males, we conclude that there is visible

difference between the two genders on this account. While females outperformed males on ‘confidence continuum in text messaging’, males outperformed females in ‘face-to-face communication’ (FTF).

More freedom of expression in texting than FTF

The analysis indicates that texting mode of communicative gives more freedom of expression as compared to face-to-face communication. Out of the total (n=40) respondents, 32 (80%) opined that it did, while eight (20%) responded in the negative as illustrated in the table (Table: 4.6):

Table 4.6. Freedom of expression through text messaging

Answer categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	32	80.0	80.0	80.0
No	8	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

The breakup of outcomes on gender basis reveals that all females (n=20) were of the opinion that it did give freedom of expression in inter-gender communication as against 60% in the male (n=12) group, in this matter. For more clarity the results are shown in the form of a bar graph (Fig. 4.6) in the following:

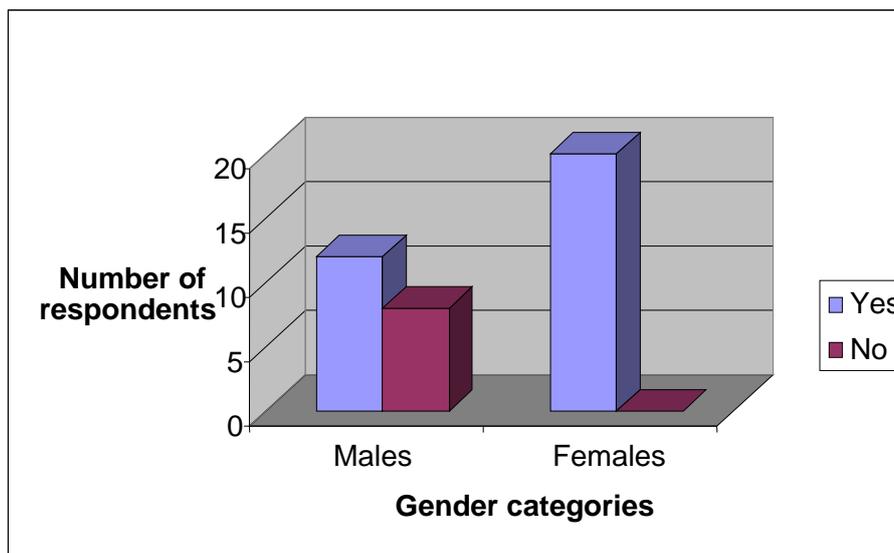


Fig. 6 Freedom of expression through texting

These responses reveal that females prefer texting to face-to-face communication while interacting with opposite sex more than the male respondents do.

FTF or Text messaging: which one is better??

When asked about the better mode of communication for inter-gender communication, majority of the respondents (55%) favoured ‘communication through text messaging’, whereas, 45% preferred ‘face-to-face communication’ as elaborated in the table (Table 4.7) in the following:

Table 7 Better mode of communication: texting or FTF?

Mode categories	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Face-to-face communication	18	45.0	45.0	45.0
Communication through SMS	22	55.0	55.0	100.0
Total	40	100.0	100.0	

Representation in gender terms reveals that only three (15%) female respondents were in favour of face-to-face communication as against 17 (85%) favouring communication through text messaging. Whereas, in the male group, 13 (65%) favoured ‘face-to-face communication’ as against seven (35%) who favoured ‘communication through text messaging’ in inter-gender communication settings. The same results are shown in bar graph in the following figure (Fig. 4.7):

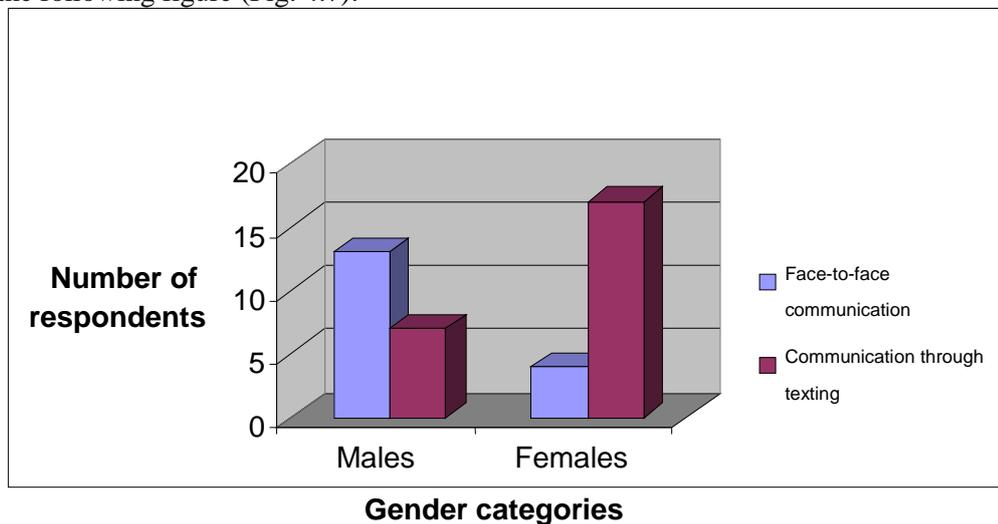


Fig. 7 Better mode of communication for male and female students

Analysis further points out that more males (65%) prefer face-to-face communication in inter-gender communication than females (15%). As against this, females are overwhelmingly (85%) in favour of communication through text messaging.

4.8. Significance of differences in inter-gender outcomes

In most of social science as well as in natural science research, a researcher needs to compare two or more samples chosen from populations that have been treated somewhat differently. She/he needs to discover whether these samples do indeed differ significantly with regard to some measured but important characteristic or property.

In order to determine whether the difference between observed characteristic and expected characteristic is significant or the mere result of chance happening, the statistical test of Chi-Square was employed. The significance value in this test is 'calculated by finding the difference between each observed and expected frequency for each possible outcome, squaring them, dividing each by the theoretical frequency, and taking the sum of the results'.

In our research, we wanted to find out whether the frequency of confidence level in communication through text messaging among respondents with respect to the variable of gender differed significantly or it was the result of mere chance happening. In order to determine the significance level in the frequency distribution of variables, we made use of software called SPSS 15.0 (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). For this purpose, we hypothesized that there was difference between male and female respondents with respect to confidence level while communicating through text messaging. But, according to scientific conventions, we disprove rather than prove. So, we devised a null hypothesis that there was no significant difference between the confidence levels among male and female respondents while communicating through text messaging and tested whether there was a significant difference or not.

Our outcome, as indicated below, showed that the expected count of males in categories 'I feel confident', 'I feel shy', 'I feel confused', and 'I feel afraid of being misunderstood' was 15, 1, 3 and 1 respectively and their percentages within the male gender, 55.0%, 10.0%, 25.0%, and 10.0% respectively. For females, the expected counts in the above-given categories was 15, 1, 3 and 1 respectively and their percentages within female gender were 95.0%, .0%, 5.0% and .0% respectively. (*Table 4.8: Cross tabulation*)

Table 8 gender * Feelings while texting with opposite sex Cross tabulation

		Feelings while texting with opposite sex				Total
Gender		I feel confident	I feel shy	I feel confused	I feel afraid of being misunderstood	
Male	Count	11	2	5	2	20
	Expected Count	15.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	20.0
	% within gender	55.0%	10.0%	25.0%	10.0%	100.0%
	% within Feelings while texting with opposite sex	36.7%	100.0%	83.3%	100.0%	50.0%
	% of Total	27.5%	5.0%	12.5%	5.0%	50.0%
Female	Count	19	0	1	0	20
	Expected Count	15.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	20.0
	% within gender	95.0%	.0%	5.0%	.0%	100.0%
	% within Feelings while texting with opposite sex	63.3%	.0%	16.7%	.0%	50.0%
	% of Total	47.5%	.0%	2.5%	.0%	50.0%
Total	Count	30	2	6	2	40
	Expected Count	30.0	2.0	6.0	2.0	40.0
	% within gender	75.0%	5.0%	15.0%	5.0%	100.0%
	% within Feelings while texting with opposite sex	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	% of Total	75.0%	5.0%	15.0%	5.0%	100.0%

Table 9 Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	8.800(a)	3	.032	.013
Likelihood Ratio	10.616	3	.014	.020
Fisher's Exact Test	7.838			.020
N of Valid Cases	40			

a 6 cells (75.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.00.

As P- value for Pearson Chi-Square statistic is .032 which is less than .05, the typical acceptable value for a difference to be significant, the Null Hypothesis stood rejected, and our hypothesis stood proved that there existed significant difference between the confidence level among male and female students while texting in inter-gender communication.

Conclusion

Gender discrimination is so extensively practiced in society that it makes it appear like a natural law. The stereotypical behaviour of gender discrimination becomes a norm in the society so much so that men and women internalize it and always act in different ways. Thus, the society always seems to hold the opinion that males and females think differently, so they behave differently; they do not hold the same attitudes and beliefs. As a result, social distance is created and maintained between the two sexes. Hence, as the above mentioned stereotypical behaviours are everywhere internalized in society, it is generally believed that all the conditions and resources provided for the emancipation of women will prove fruitless.

FTF interaction is burdened with negative features as it evidently shows the females' powerlessness. For example, 'the feeling of shyness', 'the fear of being misunderstood' in FTF communication prove that the person the respondent faces is like a stranger to her or that she has to behave in a very conventional formal way, not only because of the person she is interacting with but also because of the others who may witness their interaction. 'The feeling of shyness' may also show the feelings in the heart of the respondent(s) that whatever she is saying, is not up to the required standard of the interaction.

All the respondents of this research have been using texting for a long time. So, the data obtained from them sustain them as reliable sources of judgments. Most of the respondents express positive feelings towards using texting as compared to using FTF interactions. Thus, the outcomes of this study amply demonstrate that the use of text messaging play a pivotal role in enhancing inter-gender interaction.

This study further point that social distance between the two genders still exist as far as face-to-face communication is concerned. However, when it comes to texting, there has been a tremendous shift in conversational patterns. Technology has not only added confidence, especially to female students, it has also facilitated inter-gender communication.

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