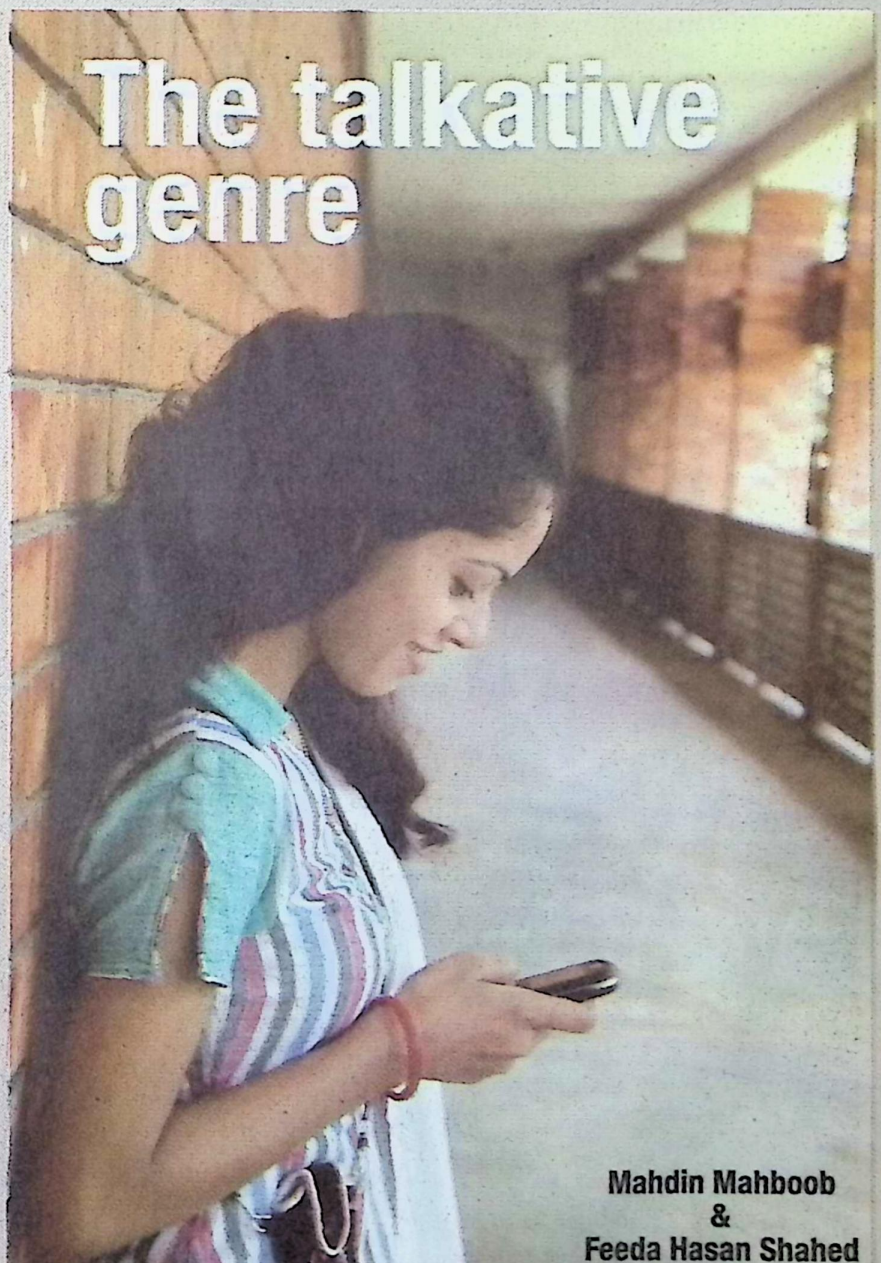
The talkative genre



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&
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ABIR woke up by the sound of the alarm from his cell phone. After connecting the phone to the charger he got ready for a long day classes, assignments, quizzes, projects and things of the sort. On his way to the university, he tuned in to the radio stations and started checking all the new sms that he'd received. Anila's sms made his day! She'd finally agreed to have lunch with him. But the next message brought down the skies upon him. Today was the last day of submission of the Finance project and he was not even half way through it!

For most of the university students like us today, cell phone has become a part and parcel of our lives. Like it or not, it has become almost unthinkable for us to imagine a day without the cell phone. How else can we maintain contact with friends or family? Is it really possible to function without it? After making a quick survey in some universities in Dhaka city, we have tried to find the answers to some of these questions.

The advantages are too many...

Cell phone has come as a blessing for many people in Bangladesh, especially for students, since this handheld device has made communication easier compared to earlier days. Starting from keeping contact with friends and family to discussing topics before the exam, and maintaining all other contacts, the cell phone has become an essential commodity in our everyday lives. Parents, who constantly remain worried about our well being, call us to know our whereabouts when we are late for home, stuck in some work or the other. Lots of students come to Dhaka from different parts of the country to attain higher degree in the different universities of the capital city. They usually live in dorms or rented hostels where the number of land phones is quite inadequate. Now, with most of the students having a personal means of communications, parents can stay relieved, being able to call their sons and daughters whenever they please. On the other hand, students can remain connected with his or her family. This also allows them to seek help whenever needed regarding financial support to buy academic materials and pocket money as well as moral support before exams. We saw many of our friends calling their mother after giving a bad exam.

Apart from these, cell phones are used for a variety of reasons by the university students. The friendly atmosphere of the campus helps create new friends. Slowly but steadily the phonebook starts getting bigger as the number of friends grows higher. No doubt, cell phones are a very successful instrument to maintain friendship all over the campus.

At the same time many choose their life-partners from this educational time-period. As a result, cell phones carry high responsibilities among girl friends and boy friends. Not just calling, missed-calling and text messaging is equally popular among students. It is not uncommon to see a group of students sitting at tables in canteens or beside food courts with their mobiles out on the table or in front of them.