Abstract

Frequency of cell phone texting now exceeds the frequency of all other major forms of print and electronic communication. This has led to a popular belief that texting and other forms of electronic communication are associated with lower levels of moral thinking and moral decision-making. This has been referred to as the "Moral Shallowning Hypothesis." However, the evidence for this hypothesis is mixed, and the link between electronic communication and moral shallowness remains contentious. This study aims to re-examine the relationship between texting frequency and moral shallowness to provide a clearer understanding of the impact of electronic communication on moral thinking.

Introduction

In recent years, there has been much debate about the relationship between electronic communication and moral shallowness. This is largely due to the widespread use of smartphones, which has led to a significant increase in texting frequency. The "Moral Shallowning Hypothesis" suggests that the increased use of electronic communication is associated with a decrease in moral reasoning and moral decision-making. However, the evidence for this hypothesis is mixed, and the link between electronic communication and moral shallowness remains contentious. This study aims to re-examine the relationship between texting frequency and moral shallowness to provide a clearer understanding of the impact of electronic communication on moral thinking.

Method

Participants were psychology students at the University of Winnipeg, and the sample consisted of 94 participants (59 females, 35 males, 1 other). Participants were recruited through an online survey, and the survey was hosted on the university's online survey platform. The survey included questions on demographics, texting frequency, moral reasoning, and moral decision-making. The survey was anonymous, and participants were guaranteed to receive feedback on their results. The survey took approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Results

The results of the survey showed that there was a significant negative correlation between texting frequency and moral reasoning. Specifically, participants who reported texting more frequently had lower scores on moral reasoning tests. This finding supports the "Moral Shallowning Hypothesis," as it suggests that increased use of electronic communication is associated with a decrease in moral reasoning.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the results of this study suggest that the "Moral Shallowning Hypothesis" may be valid, as there is a significant negative correlation between texting frequency and moral reasoning. However, future research is needed to further explore this relationship and to understand the underlying mechanisms behind the relationship between electronic communication and moral reasoning. This research is important as it can help us better understand the impact of electronic communication on moral thinking and decision-making.