

### The text generation

Using mobiles phones to pass notes instantly is now a global phenomenon, to the expert's surprise. the downfall of Philippine president Joseph Estrada earlier this year is an example of what the people can do when they're well-armed with mobiles phones that deliver short, simple text messages . Opposition organizers used this powerful medium to broadcast details of upcoming rallies, reaching 100 supporters at a time. And this is not isolated case.

On valentine's Day lovesick Thais crashed the country largest mobile-phone network by sending 100.000 messages in less than an hour a Danish medical clinic recently admitted its first texting addict, a chauffeur who sent up to 200 messages a day ... something strange has happened to the mobile phone . In defiance of all industry forecasts today's uses want to write, not to chat.

SMS, short message service, has been around for a decade, but in recent years it began spreading like a virus throughout the globe. The telecom industry adopted SMS in 1991 as a way to sop up extra network capacity. Unlike e-mail, text message arrives almost instantly, so that two people can have a text-based conversation as though they were in internet chat room. Here was an efficient way of communicating, and efficient way of communicating and devotees say the charms of texting go beyond novelty.

The service in fact has all the immediacy of phone calls, as well extra privacy and just a hint of the subversive. "My dad overhears me talking on the phone time but I don't have to worry about that with text message ", says Chika Saito, a high-school junior in Japan who sends about 10 messages a day. Besides, SMS is handy means of ducking those big emotional challenges. Best of all, the text habit doesn't strain even the modest student budgets. It's cheap; it's quick and it's international", says 21-years-old Paris Student Lara Bourji.

Today, number of SMS users is rising rapidly all over the world . "Consumers just adopted SMS as their own medium. Every generation needs its own way of expressing itself; this is the text generation ", says Simon Buckingham of the mobile life streams consultancy.

By William Underhill, in NEWSWEEK, April 2, 2001-pp58-59

Do you think that SMS is a powerful means of communication? In a well organized argumentation, give your opinion. No more than 35 lines.