

Review of: "Mobile Phone Recycling and Stockpiling Behaviour in the UAE: A Gender and Age Study"

1 Beijing University of Technology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This article tried to explore the factors influencing the intention of mobile phone users to recycle their devices. It is an interesting research topic. The innovation of this paper seems to be the creation of a new framework for mobile phone users' behavior to recycle their mobile phones. However, in practice it was dealt with only superficially by a questionnaire that analyzed gender and age factors influencing mobile users' willingness to recycle their mobile phones. So I think a major revision is needed before publication. My main comments are as follows:

- 1. In the introduction, the author mentioned that "The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reported that the number of mobile phone subscriptions in the UAE was 186 per 100 people in 2020, with 18,374,332 mobile cellular subscribers. In 2020, the UAE ranked first in the ME region and third worldwide, following China and Hong Kong, in terms of mobile device penetration". However, I visited the Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people) | Data (worldbank.org) website but didn't find the UAE data, and the top two places in 2020 are Macao SAR China and Hong Kong SAR China, not China and Hong Kong.
- 2. The article contains a few descriptions of the current state of research on the topic, and it is hoped that the authors will add to them.
- 3. Can the conceptual framework in Figure 1 be explained in detail? What is the role of this framework in this paper? The design of the questionnaire and later analysis seem to have little to do with it.
- 4. In the research data and methodology, the author claimed that "data collection was carried out using a self-administered questionnaire based on a five-point Likert scale" and "the questionnaire examined in this paper includes open-ended questions with multiple options". A Likert scale asks how much a person agrees or disagrees with a particular statement or question, but the questionnaire shown in Table 1 is not like this. And all the questions shown in Table 1 are single options without multiple options.
- 5. In the second line on page 7, "18.3%" is incorrect. According to the previous description, there were 280 women and 321 men in the survey, so the ratio is 51/280 = 18.2%. There are also a number of incorrect proportions in the analysis that follows, so the author should double-check.
- 6. "Most respondents (42.3%) stored their EOL devices in their homes or offices, while 28.8% gave them to friends or family" on page 7 is similar to "The majority of respondents (42.3%) were storing their end-of-life (EOL) or end-of-use



(EOU) mobile phones in their homes or offices. This was followed by 28.8% who gave their EOL or EOU mobile phones to friends or family" on page 4. The same problem appears on pages 8 and 9.

- 7. The statement "Men were more likely to hoard their EOL devices than women" is incorrect. The ratio of women is 43.6% (122/280), and the ratio of men is 41.1% (132/321). Because of the different numbers of men and women in the survey, proportions rather than simple numbers should be used when analyzing the differences between men and women.
- 8. Overall, this paper simply organizes the results obtained from the questionnaire and focuses on the differences in the willingness of UAE men and women to recycle their cell phones, lacking in-depth analysis and innovation.