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**Common Barriers to Effective Communication and Solutions.**

**Introduction.**

Communication plays a pivotal role in our lives. It involves the dissemination of information from one person to another. People would always wish to circulate information for diverse purposes such as informing, advising, warning, and instructing. Regardless of the communicative purpose, the transfer of information is necessary to get things done. Notably, recipients of the message need to comprehend the message passed to them for appropriate communication reaction. Contrarily, the flow of information sometimes becomes turbulent due to various communication barriers which communication ineffective. The paper will elucidate common effective communication barriers and possible solutions.

**Barriers to Effective Communication.**

Barriers to effective communication are costly for their hindrance have far-reaching effects. These obstacles are numerous and they occur both in formal and informal settings. Below are the common ones.

**Language Barrier**

Language is an overriding component in communication and its impediment hampers communication. It is practically impossible to convey information without utilizing it. It is a vehicle that people utilize to relay their information to others (Kapur 5).Communication is only triumphant when the speaker meets his communicative goal. For instance, speakers who use a language to give instructions to a certain audience in a language that the audience is unacquainted with is unlikely to achieve their objectives of that particular speakership. (Rani 76) posits that language barrier can be evident when the speaker and the hearer do not share a common language that can be utilized at the time of discourse. Apparently, effective communication is possible when the hearer deciphers the language of the communicator.

There have been cases where people travel abroad for academics, business, exploration, and medical where communication is inevitable. Such travelers face communication hurdles once in foreign states. (Kapur 6) cites that Students who pursue education in India from other nationalities may find it exigent to freely interact with Indians due to language barrier. Conversely, they can perfectly converse in English. In this case, English serves as a unifying factor that makes communication complete and effective. This barrier can also be realized at different linguistic levels. A speaker may use jargons of a language which render communication ineffective (Jureddi 115). It is therefore imperative for people to familiarize with languages for communication to be effective.

**Cultural Barrier.**

People have diverse cultures that are products of race, tribe, ethnicity, nationality, geographical region, education, and religion which hinder communication. People tend to live according to their cultures. These cultures are expressed through both verbal and nonverbal communication (Kapur 6). Human beings are social and they interact in various formal and informal social contexts like schools and places of work. These places generally accommodate people of diverse cultures and instances of communication obstacles are relatively prevalent. This has coerced some institutions to initiate a language that many people are conversant with to balance the varied cultures and achieve communication objectives. (Sisk et al 2134) notes that people from foreign countries tend to have difficulties in communication in the country due to their native cultures. Evidently, cultural diversity obstructs effectual communication.

Previous intercultural studies have revealed that people with dissimilar cultural practices are vulnerable to communication impediments. (Fomenko et al. 158) posits that stereotyping, prejudice and racism lead to such phenomenon. Conversely, they underscore that people with common cultures converse more easily than those who are culturally diverse. Culture also influences one’s view on various subjects. Recipients who are deeply accustomed to their cultural beliefs do not pay heed to any message that contravenes their opinions as culturally instituted. (Kapur 6). Culture affects one’s perception and cultural differences impede smooth communication.Clearly, communication is only efficacious when the interlocutors are not culturally distant.

**Psychological Barriers.**

Psychological barriers can be marital, academic culture or communication flow. Marital barriers are revealed when there is a communication breakdown between spouses. This is caused by insecurity, fear, and information about divorce (Kapur 9). A spouse who expects to divorce becomes fearful and insecure hence, lacks interest in communication with the partner. This distorts communication. Academic culture barrier becomes psychological when students have a different opinion concerning a certain topic in a learning institution, this distracts their comprehension ability. (Jureddi 115) notes that stress and anger impede communication for people experiencing these cannot listen actively. Nevertheless, the manifestation of this is not universal. Indeed, psychological disorientation breeds ineffectual communication.

**Environmental and Physical Barriers.**

The geographical distance and physical setting determine the effectiveness of communication. (Rani 76). Geographically distant interlocutors have disparities brought by their immediate environment which obstructs communication. (Jureddi 115) posits that people with physical challenges may not receive information. Also, Time-consuming communication channels distort the information, rendering time factor, a barrier. (Kapur 5) argues that regardless of the form of communication, the channel used for communication should be accurate and intelligible for effective communication to be realized. Apart from that, the physical place should be checked to ensure its calm for effective communication. In any case, environmental and physical obstacles hinder streamlined communication.

**Attitudinal Barrier.**

This barrier is demonstrated when people have their perceptions regarding people or situations. Different attitudes breed different interpretations of life (Rani 75). When communication starts, some recipients jump to conclusions based on their previous experience about what is communicated to them. This brings with it issues of perceptions and stereotyping which distorts information. It does not give the hearer room to think or gather facts about the subject under discussion. (Jureddi 115) notes that attitude can arise from animosity or one’s unwillingness to change. With this mentality, the recipient becomes a victim of selective attention which renders communication ineffective.

**Solutions to Ineffective Communication Barriers.**

Communication is a necessity in our lives. For life to be productive, we need to have effective communication skills. For language barrier, it can be avoided by the use of less complicated language that can be understood by the receiver (Kapur 12). For non-verbal communication, the use of pictorial messages like diagrams and drawings can be effective in passing information (Rani 76). Cultural barriers can be solved by being empathetic. This means the receiver needs to respect the cultural beliefs of the communicator. The hearer can ask questions that do not intrude on the communicator’s cultural privacy for clarification. Seemingly, use of simple language by the communicator and pictorial messages makes verbal and non-verbal communication possible.

Psychological disturbances like stress and anger do not only affect the communication system but also the person experiencing it. (Jureddi 115) notes that calmness and self-esteem are remedies for psychological barriers. To avoid environmental barriers. (Rani 76) emphasizes the need to have a conducive room where communication is done. It should be calm and well lit and any source of noise should be corrected using correct measures. In terms of place, the interlocutors should use an appropriate medium of communication that suits the geographical distance and time. (Kapur 12) also underscores the need for receivers to exercise the skill of active listening to understand what the speaker communicates. Precisely, calmness, self-esteem and using the correct communication medium warrants effective communication.

**Conclusion**

Communication takes place in various in work places, schools, business enterprises. Effective communication is an important skill whose effects are prevalent in all spheres of life. Language, culture, attitudinal, physical and psychological set up can impede successful communication. Nevertheless, solutions can always be applied to streamline the communication.

**Works cited**

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