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Course

Date

Common Barriers to Effective Communication and Solutions.

Communication is the process of exchanging information, ideas and thoughts between individuals or groups. It plays a crucial role in various aspects of life influencing personal relationships, professional success and societal interactions. However, numerous barriers often hinder the seamless exchange of information and ideas impending the achievement of desired outcomes. Understanding and addressing these barriers are crucial for fostering clearer, more meaningful communication. In this essay, we will explore common barriers to effective communication and propose viable solutions to overcome these challenges. By delving into the intricacies of communication obstacles and offering practical remedies, we aim to illuminate the path toward enhanced interpersonal connections and more successful collaborative endeavors.

To start with distortion of information is a major barrier of effective communication. This is mainly brought about by filtration or withholding of information to manage a person`s reaction. An example of filtration is that the deputy principle is not being transparent about the teacher`s attendance to the principal. The deputy principal tells the principle that the teacher`s attendance is great but he is not specific that not all teachers are attending their classes. The Deputy principal is not open to the principal that not all teachers are attending classes because he is afraid he will make the principal mad. The same report that the principal gets from the deputy principal is the same report he will give the school board hence causing miscommunication. As you can see filtration prevents the members of the school board from knowing the real situation in the school. To maximize chances of getting the correct information it is advisable for the principle to bring automatic biometric which will automatically manage the teacher`s attendance together with the deputy principal`s handwritten records. Filtration is only curable if you instill may sources of receiving the same information. It will enable you to compare the message and know if it is correct. Every listener translates the message into his or her own words, creating his or her own version of what was said

On top of that Information overload is a major barrier of communication especially between a teacher and his student`s. If a teacher has a syllabus of twelve topics and he is left with only two weeks before his students do the main exam, therefore his only option is to overload and teach two topics everyday so that he may complete the syllabus in time and be able to revise the previously learnt content. Two topics a day will be a lot of information for the students to store therefore they will end up forgetting some information in the process. This shows that the time we are overloaded with a lot of information at once you are likely to forget. If a child is sent to the shop with a long list of orally told items he is likely to only remember half of the list the moment he reaches the shop. To solve this problem, it is advisable for one not to break down the information into small bits which are understandable and write them down this will prevent one from forgetting hence enabling effective communication.

On top of that there is emotional disconnects. This barrier is internally faced by the receiver and the sender of the message. A good example is when if when students are angry at the teacher because she has extended her lesson for another twenty minutes. The student`s emotional state is affected because the teacher is consuming their break time. All the information that the teacher will give will not be understood because the student`s concentration to the information is distracted by their emotions of anger towards the teacher. The same way if you and your friend are not in good terms, when you meet it is difficult to communicate to each other because both of your emotions have clouded your understanding of what the other is saying hence affecting your communication to each other. An effective communication requires aa sender and a receiver who are open to speaking and listening to one another, despite possible differences in opinion or personality. Once or both parties may have to put their emotions aside to achieve the goal of communicating clearly. A receiver who is emotionally upset tends to ignore or distort what the sender is saying. A sender who is emotionally upset may be unable to present ideas or feelings effectively.

In addition to that difference in language and culture is a core barrier of communication. According to Block and Trager is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group operates. The social group are people who speak the same language. If one is not part of a certain social group, it is hard for him to understand what the other person is saying. Cultural difference influences language barrier because, people of different culture tend to speak their own language. A good example is the Kikuyu and the Somali. The Kikuyu speak kikuyu and the Somali speak the Somali language. One there is a great difference in the way of life between the two groups. The Somali are pastoralist while the Kikuyu are farmers. When a Gikuyu man tries to communicate to a Somali man they cannot understand each other because they speak different languages. This will cause misunderstanding between the two groups because they lack a common language. What means something in one culture, may have a different meaning in another. Words can easily become lost in translation or there may be a misunderstanding because of cultural `norms`. Even in the same language, regional dialects or industry-specific jargon can easily lead to confusion. What may be okay in one culture may have negative connotations in others. To solve this problem, it is advisable for every country to adapt a common national language which is to be learnt by everybody in the state so that we can have a common language that unites us and makes us a social group. This will enable understanding and influence effective communication between people of different cultures. One can also use a translator who understands both languages to act as an intermediary between the sender and the receiver of the message.

However physical barriers also hinder communication. A physical barrier in communication refers to obstacles that hinder the transfer of information due to distance, noise, or tangible factors. For example, a noisy environment or geographical separation can impede effective communication. To overcome physical barriers, utilize technology like video conferencing, instant messaging or email to bridge the distance gap. Employing clear and concise messages can help mitigate noise-related issues, ensuring effective communication despite physical obstacles. Additionally, establishing regular communication schedules and using collaboration tools can enhance coordination and information sharing. When faced with geographical challenges, consider alternative means such as virtual meetings or teleconferencing to maintain consistent and clear communication. Adequate infrastructure and technology support can significantly minimize the impact of physical barriers on the flow of information within a team or Organization.

Nowadays technology is a new generational barrier affecting effective communication especially among the new generation. The young people have highly adapted technology in everything even communicating. Face to face communication is dying off due to adoption of WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and other social media platform are now the most used communicating mediums. Some opt they would rather create a relationship with someone online than physically create one face to face. One way to bridge this gap is by balancing face to face interaction with technology. Face to face communication allows a better exchange of ideas and is often more effective in resolving conflicts or misunderstanding. Knowing when to use technology and when to opt for a more personal interaction is key in recognizing barriers of communication and how to overcome them. The impact of technology on communication is complex, offering both solutions and new challenges. Being mindful of its advantages and limitations can help us navigate this area more effectively.

In conclusion, understanding and addressing barriers to effective communication are crucial for the fostering of a productive interactions in various settings. Whether it`s overcoming physical obstacles, navigating cultural differences, or mitigating environmental challenges, proactive measures can enhance the clarity and efficiency of communication.

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