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1. Define small group communication and also discuss characteristics of small group communication.

=Small group communication refers to interactions among three or more people who are connected through a common purpose, mutual influence, and a shared identity. Communication in small groups consists of three or more people who share a common goal and communicate collectively to achieve it. During small group communication, interdependent participants analyze data, evaluate the nature of the problem, decide and provide a possible solution or procedure.

Different groups have different characteristics, serve different purposes, and can lead to positive, neutral, or negative experiences. While our interpersonal relationships primarily focus on relationship building, small groups usually focus on some sort of task completion or goal accomplishment. A college learning community focused on math and science, a campaign team for a state senator, and a group of local organic farmers are examples of small groups that would all have a different size, structure, identity, and interaction pattern.

The characteristics of Small Group Communication are:

## Equal Opportunity to communicate

## Interdependence

## Shared identity

## Immediate feedback capability

## Concentration on single task

## Small sized

## Actively working together

## Common goal

## Equal Opportunity to communicate:

## Equal opportunity is a state of fairness in which job applicants are treated similarly, unhampered by artificial barriers or prejudices or preferences, except when particular distinctions can be explicitly justified. Due to small sized group, everyone in the group get the equal chance to express their feeling and idea.

## Everyone can communicate with each other and everyone can share their idea in the group.

## Interdependence:

## Small groups exhibit interdependence, meaning they share a common purpose and a common fate. If the actions of one or two group members lead to a group deviating from or not achieving their purpose, then all members of the group are affected. Conversely, if the actions of only a few of the group members lead to success, then all members of the group benefit. This is a major contributor to many college students’ dislike of group assignments, because they feel a loss of control and independence that they have when they complete an assignment alone.

## Shared identity:

## The shared identity of a group manifests in several ways. Groups may have official charters or mission and vision statements that lay out the identity of a group. Group identity is often formed around a shared goal and/or previous accomplishments, which adds dynamism to the group as it looks toward the future and back on the past to inform its present. Shared identity can also be exhibited through group names, slogans, songs, handshakes, clothing, or other symbols.

## Immediate feedback capability:

## feedback is offering and receiving information in various forms that enables adaptation and learning, both for individuals and the group as a whole. Feedback lets us know what's working and what's not, helping us stay on track for achieving our goals. As the size of the group is small, the feedback comes fast and immediate.

## Small sized:

## There is no set number of members for the ideal small group. A small group requires a minimum of three people (because two people would be a pair or dyad), but the upper range of group size is contingent on the purpose of the group. When groups grow beyond fifteen to twenty members, it becomes difficult to consider them a small group based on the previous definition. An analysis of the number of unique connections between members of small groups shows that they are deceptively complex.

## Describe types of small group with suitable examples.

## =Small group communication refers to communication among a small group of people who share a common purpose, who feel a sense of belonging to the group, and who exert influence on one another.

## The types of Small Group are:

## Assigned Groups

## Emergent Groups

## Task-oriented Groups

## Relationship-oriented Groups

## Assigned Groups:

Groups to which the article assignee is assigned or name of the group to which the current assignee belong. The assignee is the person who is responsible for the article at the current stage. The exact meaning of assignee changes as the article progresses through the life cycle. Working in assigned groups gives students the opportunity to work with and get to know other students that they may not know as well. This could be the start of a new friendship!

Working in assigned groups helps students work on their communication and problem-solving skills as they learn to delegate the work and navigate different styles of learning.

Using assigned groups provides a sense of fairness. If the groups are selected in class by random grouping (such as drawing names out of a hat), then the students can see that the selection process was random and the same for everyone. Assigned groups are based occur when members are appointed to a group or a team. Being appointed to a work committee is an **example** of an assigned group

## Emergent Groups:

## Emergent groups are individual citizens coming together to deal collectively with disasters, forming new and informal groups to do so. Many different local groups and organizations (formal or informal) that are not normally involved in emergencies may respond to a disaster by extending their regular tasks: For Example, a restaurant giving out meals to disaster victims, or a women’s group providing a safe space for displaced children. The key characteristic of emergent groups in disasters, however, is that they are new forms of collective activity, in terms of their structure *and* their actions: the group did not exist before, so the relationships between the individuals are new; and the individuals in the group are carrying out tasks that are new to them, working in ways that are unplanned and unanticipated.

## Task-Oriented Group:

## A group primarily devoted to solving a problem, providing a service, creating a product, or engaging in other goal-directed behavior is called Task-Oriented Group. In a task-oriented group, there usually is one leader who delegates. The leader assigns tasks and keeps everybody moving toward the goal. When there is true teamwork, however, each person leads and delegates in his own way. People take advice and direction from each other, recognizing the skills, abilities and insights each person has. For example, if one person is responsible for the group's documentation and another is responsible for investigating the viability of ideas, both individuals can ask other members of the group to produce specific records or initiate specific contacts based on the access to the data and people group members have.

## Relationship-Oriented Group:

## Relationship oriented groups are long term and are characterized by affiliation and affection. Relationship-Oriented Group focus on relationships, well-being and motivation. Relationship-oriented group prioritize the welfare of everyone in the group, and will place time and effort in meeting the individual needs of everyone involved. They still care about getting tasks done, however they believe that work culture is more important.

**Relational-oriented** groups are formed to promote interpersonal connections and are more focused on quality interactions that contribute to the well-being of group members. Decision making is directed at strengthening or repairing relationships rather than completing discrete tasks or debating specific ideas or courses of action. **For example**: family is a group of relationship-oriented groups.

## Discuss different reasons for people joining a group.

= A small group is a combination of more than two people who are interdependent on one another.

So communication among the members of a group consisting of a small number of members is known as small group communication.

Every organization employs small groups to collect, process, and produce information, solve problems and make decisions.

Group communication helps to get a synergistic benefit. Synergy means combined efforts of a group result in greater output than the sum of the individual output.

That is, groups can do more for individuals than individuals can do for themselves. People join groups for many reasons.

Some group members are motivated by working in a group and others are motivated by creating interpersonal relationships with other members of the group

Since most people belong to many groups, it is obvious that different groups offer different attractions and benefits to their members.

The most popular reasons for joining a group are related to our needs for **security, esteem, affiliation, power, identity, huddling, and task functions.**

* **Security.**
* **Esteem.**
* **Affiliation.**
* **Power.**
* **Identity.**
* **Huddling.**

## Security.

Probably the strongest reason for group formation is the people’s need for security. By joining a group, we can reduce our insecurity – we feel stronger, have fewer self-doubts, and are more resistant to threats.

## Esteem.

An individual can increase his self-esteem through group membership.

First, one may gain esteem by becoming a member of a high-status group. Associating with high-status people is reinforcing, and one who belongs to such a group is usually accorded a high status by outsiders.

Second, the close relationship an individual can develop as a group member provides opportunities for recognition and praise that are not available outside of the group.

## Affiliation.

Another reason why people join groups is that they enjoy the regular company of other people, particularly those who possess common interests. Individuals may seek out others at work who shares common hobbies or common backgrounds.

## Power.

Membership of groups offers power to members in at least two ways.

First, there are sayings such as “united we stand, divided we fall” and there is strength in numbers.” These are driving forces behind unionizations. Workers enjoy much greater power collectively than they do as individuals.

Second, the leadership of an informal group enables an individual to exercise power over group members, even if he does not enjoy the formal position of authority in the organization.

## Identity.

Group membership contributes to the individual’s eternal quest for an answer to the question “who am I”. It is common knowledge that’ tries to understand ourselves through the behavior of others towards us.

If others praise us, we feel we are great, if others enjoy our jokes, we see ourselves as funny persons, and so on. Groups provide several “others” who will laugh, praise or admire us.

## Huddling.

One more reason why individuals want to join groups is for huddling.

Because of the way bureaucracies work, individuals, particularly executives, make use of informal get-togethers called huddles. There are intimate task-oriented encounters of executives trying to get something done. Huddling enables executives to deal with emerging matters and minimize the amount of surprise.

It also serves to reduce red tape by cutting through hierarchical channels of communication and minimizing misunderstandings.

Because organization charts represent real duties, huddling can compensate for a lack of leadership by taking collective and unofficial responsibility for getting things done.