

Barriers of Communication

There are many reasons why people may fail to communicate. In many communications, the message may not be received exactly the way the sender intended, and therefore it is important that the communicator seeks feedback to verify that his message is clearly understood. Active listening skills, clarification and reasoning, may help, but a skilled learner must also be aware of the barriers to effective communication. There are many barriers to communication and may occur at any stage of the communication process. Obstacles can distort your message and therefore you risk wasting time and / or money by causing confusion and misunderstanding. Effective communication involves overcoming these barriers and conveying a clear and concise message.

Some common barriers to effective communication are –

1. Physical Barriers

Communication is a two-way process, and the distance between the sender and recipient of the message is an important barrier to communication. They include barriers such as noise, closed doors, defective communication equipment, enclosed cabins, etc.

Sometimes, in a large office, the physical separation of different employees with faulty equipment may present severe barriers to effective communication.

2. Semantic or Language Barriers

Semantic is the science of meaning. The same words and symbols have different meanings for different people. Communication difficulties arise when the sender and recipient of the message use words or symbols with different meanings. The intended meaning of the transmitter may be completely different from the meaning followed by the recipient. People interpret the message in terms of their behavior and experience. Sometimes, the recipient may not follow the language used by the sender at all.

3. Personal Barriers

Personal factors such as differences in judgment, social values, complexity, deficiency, bias, position, time pressure, inability to communicate, etc., widen the psychological distance between communicator and communicate.

4. Organizational Structure Barriers

Effective communication depends to a large extent on the proper organizational structure. If the structure is complex that includes several layers of administration, then collapse or deformation of the contact wall arises. It is an established fact that each layer cuts a little bit of information.

Moreover, the information transmitted through the formal structure provides rigidity and causes delay due to long lines of communication. Likewise, the lack of instructions for further transfer of information to subordinates and severe work pressure at certain levels of authority serve as barriers to effective communication.

5. Psychological Barriers

There are many mental and psychological problems that may be obstacles to effective communication. Some people have stage fear, speech disorders, phobia, depression, etc. It is very difficult to manage all these conditions at times, and it will definitely limit the ease of communication.

6. Emotional Barriers

The emotional IQ rate determines the ease and comfort of communication. An emotionally mature person will be able to communicate effectively. On the other hand, people who have allowed their emotions to control will have some difficulties.

A perfect blend of emotions and facts is essential for effective communication. Emotions such as anger, frustration and humor can obscure a person's ability to make decisions and limit the effectiveness of his communication.

7. Cultural Barriers

As the world is becoming increasingly globalized, any large office may have people from many parts of the world. Different cultures have a different meaning for many fundamental values of

society. Dressing, Religions or lack of them, food, drinks, pets, and the general behavior will change drastically from one culture to another.

Hence, we must take these different cultures into account while communicating. This is what we call being culturally appropriate. In many multinational companies, special courses are offered in the orientation stages that allow people to get to know other cultures and how to be polite and tolerant of others.

8. Attitude barriers

Some people like to be left alone. They are introverted or just not very social people. Others like to be social or sometimes very sticky! Both conditions can become a barrier to communication. Some people have behavioral problems, such as a huge ego and an inconsiderate behavior.

These employees can cause extreme tension in the communication channels they are in. Some personal traits such as shyness, anger, and social anxiety may be removable through appropriate courses and training. However, problems such as selfishness and egocentric behavior may not be correctable.

9. Perception Barriers

Different people perceive the same things differently. This is a fact that we should consider during the communication process. Knowledge of audience perception levels is crucial for effective communication. All messages or communications should be easy and clear. There should be no room for a diverse interpretative group.

10. Barriers Due to Inadequate Attention

Insufficient attention to the message makes communication less effective and potentially misunderstood. Lack of attention may arise because of the overwork of communicate or because the message is inconsistent with his expectations and beliefs. The simple failure to read notifications, minutes and reports is also a common feature.

Whatever the reason, the connection remains only one-way operation and there is no understanding of the message, if the receiver does not pay much attention to the message.

11. Premature Evaluation

Some people tend to make a judgment before listening to the entire message. This is known as premature evaluation. A premature evaluation distorts understanding and acts as a barrier to effective communication.

12. Barriers Due to Lack of Mutual Trust

Communication means sharing common ideas. "When we communicate, we try to establish commonness." Consequently, one will only transfer information and understanding with the other when there is mutual trust between them. When there is a lack of mutual trust between the communicator and the communicatee, the message is not followed.

The credibility gap, i.e. inconsistency in words, also leads to mutual distrust that is a fundamental obstacle to effective communication.

13. Technological Barriers & Socio-religious Barriers

Technology is developing rapidly, and as a result, it becomes difficult to keep pace with the latest developments. Thus technological progress may sometimes become a barrier. In addition, the cost of technology is sometimes very high.

Most organizations will not be able to afford the technology for the purpose of communication. Thus, this becomes a very crucial barrier. Other barriers are social and religious barriers. In patriarchal society, women or transgender people may encounter many difficulties and barriers while communicating.