Communication Gap and its impact on Medical Students' Studies

Zaryab Ansari

Junaid Saleem

Dr. Salahuddin

Software Engineering

BSE

BUKC

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**Introduction**

Communication is a very significant component of delivering and expressing what is needed to be conveyed. With its two types verbal and non-verbal, communication is greased to ease and made well defined to be easily understood. It has its daily life usage and simultaneous importance in every field; hence it can be concluded that without communication each core of daily life would be disrupted. In a field like education both verbal and non-verbal communication play an important role for developing a good teacher-student relation, while we know that education is a tool through which an individual can be turned into an asset for not only oneself but for the welfare of a society. This is something that can ultimately advent the lives and living styles of people. Now that we know that in a country like Pakistan education is rare, a desire of all, but it has been unable to grow and reach to most of the population of the country. With a literacy rate of 58% as per reports of 2022, Pakistan stands too low at the indices of education. Keeping in consideration of the literacy rate, it's really hard to believe that the country only addresses 15000 medical students annually, a field that is responsible to saving lives has such a limited structure in the country. Talking about communication gap in such a sensitive field like medical studies is unspoken, unsung and unheard. A problem that has its roots dug deep into the ground but, remained undiscovered yet.

The purpose of this research is to put forward the problem of a communication gap in classrooms in medicinal studies which would subsequently lead to highlight how does this affect studies and what exactly are the measures of students to deal with it. Poor communication gap between learners and educators is another crucial barrier. (Asrar et al., 2018) This is a problem that is being faced by the student community since a huge time, but the problems and impacts on medical students have not been highlighted before.

The complications in communication gaps can lead to the unstructured educational attitudes. Communication gap can only lead to cracks open in the minds of students and those can be unrecognized by the tutors or the teachers or the facilitators. These cracks can lead too much higher exposure of unfamiliarity and foreignism. The impact of communication gaps on students can be significant, affecting their academic achievement, social-emotional well-being, and overall school experience. Communication plays a crucial role in conveying messages effectively, whether through verbal or non-verbal means. Its significance is evident in various aspects of daily life and across different fields, as it ensures smooth functioning and understanding. In the field of education, both verbal and non-verbal communication are vital for fostering a positive teacher-student relationship. Education, being instrumental in shaping individuals and benefiting society, has the potential to transform lives and improve living standards.

However, in a country like Pakistan where education remains scarce and inaccessible to a significant portion of the population, the literacy rate stands at a low 58% as of 2022. It is astonishing to note that only 15,000 students are admitted annually into medical studies, a field that holds the responsibility of saving lives. Addressing the issue of communication gaps in the context of medical education is an unspoken and overlooked problem. Despite its deep-rooted existence, it has remained unnoticed.

The objective of this research is to shed light on the communication gap problem within medical classrooms and explore its impact on students' studies. The study aims to highlight the measures students can take to cope with this challenge. Poor communication between learners and educators is another significant barrier that needs to be addressed (Asrar et al., 2018). While this problem has been persisting for a long time, the specific issues and impacts on medical students have not been brought to the forefront previously.

Complications arising from communication gaps can result in a disorganized educational environment. These gaps act as invisible cracks in students' minds, often going unrecognized by tutors, teachers, or facilitators. They can lead to heightened feelings of unfamiliarity and alienation. The impact of communication gaps on students can be profound, affecting their academic achievements, social-emotional well-being, and overall school experience.

Academic achievement

Communication gaps can make it difficult for students to understand the material being taught, ask questions, and get help when they need it. This can lead to lower grades, increased frustration, and a decreased motivation to learn.

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Social-emotional well-being

Communication gaps can also make it difficult for students to build relationships with their peers and teachers. This can lead to feelings of isolation, loneliness, and anxiety. In some cases, it can even lead to bullying or violence.

Overall school experience

Communication gaps can make the entire school experience more challenging for students. They may feel like they don't belong, that they're not understood, or that they're not getting the most out of their education.

Some of the specific impacts of communication gaps on students include:

* Lower academic achievement: Students who experience communication gaps are more likely to have lower grades and to fail classes.
* Increased frustration: Students who have difficulty communicating with their teachers or peers are more likely to become frustrated and to give up on learning.
* Decreased motivation: Students who feel like they're not understood or who don't have a voice in their education are less likely to be motivated to learn.
* Social-emotional problems: Communication gaps can lead to social-emotional problems such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.
* Behavior problems: Students who experience communication gaps are more likely to engage in disruptive or aggressive behavior.

There are a number of things that can be done to address communication gaps in schools, including:

* Providing training for teachers on how to communicate effectively with students from different backgrounds.
* Creating opportunities for students to practice their communication skills.
* Encouraging students to use active listening skills.
* Providing students with access to interpreters or other resources that can help them to communicate effectively.

By addressing communication gaps, schools can help to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

There have been a number of research studies on communication gaps. Some of the most common areas of research include:

* The impact of communication gaps on individuals, teams, and organizations.
* The factors that contribute to communication gaps.
* How to prevent and overcome communication gaps.
* The role of communication in different cultures.
* The use of technology to improve communication.

One of the most well-known studies on communication gaps was conducted by the Harvard Business Review in 2006. The study found that communication gaps cost businesses an estimated $62.4 billion per year in lost productivity. The study also found that communication gaps can lead to conflict, decreased morale, and even turnover.

Another study, conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles in 2010, found that communication gaps can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of individuals. The study found that people who experience communication gaps are more likely to experience stress, anxiety, and depression.

These are just a few examples of the research that has been conducted on communication gaps. The research on this topic is ongoing, and there is still much that we don't know about communication gaps. However, the research that has been conducted so far provides us with a valuable understanding of the impact of communication gaps and how to prevent and overcome them.

Here are some of the key findings from the research on communication gaps:

* Communication gaps can have a significant negative impact on individuals, teams, and organizations.
* The factors that contribute to communication gaps include different communication styles, language barriers, cultural differences, and emotional factors.
* There are a number of things that can be done to prevent and overcome communication gaps, such as being aware of your own communication style, being clear and concise when you communicate, being an active listener, and being respectful of others' points of view.
* Communication is an essential part of any successful relationship, and understanding the factors that contribute to communication gaps can help us to improve our communication skills and avoid misunderstandings.
* Communication gaps can have a significant adverse effect on individuals, teams, and organizations.
* Various elements contribute to communication gaps, including diverse communication styles, language barriers, cultural disparities, and emotional factors.
* To prevent and bridge communication gaps, several measures can be taken, such as recognizing and adapting to one's own communication style, ensuring clarity and conciseness in communication, actively listening to others, and respecting different perspectives.
* Effective communication is crucial for building successful relationships, and by comprehending the factors that lead to communication gaps, we can enhance our communication abilities and minimize misunderstandings.
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**Research methods and sources**

The researches will be using mix method, a form of triangulation to carry out the research. The researcher will be using next method from form of triangulation to carry out the research process. The mix method will be including formation of focus groups, interviews and surveys. The snowball process can also be used to conduct the research, these methods can help the researcher reach the conclusion or the significant evidence to show that communication gap exists and how does it impact the studies of not only medical students but also how does it equally compromise the teaching profession. Face to face interviews would also be useful in this type of research. A total of 10% of total medical students in Karachi would be a part of the research, while the researcher would be strictly following the rules set by the IRB. Anonymity and confidentiality would be equally and indiscriminately offered to all the male and female participants. The research will adopt a mixed methods approach, specifically utilizing triangulation as a means to conduct the study. The researcher will employ various methods within this triangulation framework. These methods will include the formation of focus groups, interviews, and surveys. The snowball technique may also be employed to facilitate the research process. By utilizing these methods, the researcher aims to gather substantial evidence and reach conclusive findings regarding the existence and impact of communication gaps on both medical students' education and the teaching profession. Face-to-face interviews will be particularly valuable in this type of research. Approximately 10% of the total medical student population in Karachi will be included in the research, while the researcher will strictly adhere to the guidelines set by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Anonymity and confidentiality will be provided uniformly and without discrimination to all male and female participants.

**Timeline**

A sum of three months would be given to conduct the research. This is an ample time to get the conclusion that the researcher has taken responsibility of to highlight. Multiple universities of government sector in Karachi would be in focus for the research. A generous duration of three months will be allocated for conducting the research, providing sufficient time to draw the desired conclusions. The researcher will undertake the responsibility of emphasizing the findings during this period. The study will primarily concentrate on various government sector universities in Karachi. The research will be granted a period of three months, which is considered sufficient to reach the conclusions that the researcher aims to highlight. The responsibility of emphasizing the findings during this timeframe lies with the researcher. The focus of the study will predominantly be on government sector universities located in Karachi.

**Conclusion**

Communication gap is an ocean of waves that can with its repeated occurrence can dig holes into stones, brains. Is classroom communication is not greased and smoothed, it would lead to measure setbacks causing a huge crack in the educational process and welfare of a society ultimately. This problem seems really little but as if we talk about its consequences, it's growing and we exactly cannot measure the far and wide spread of this fire but we can by some means handle this by keeping an eye on it focusing on this problem and bringing it into vision. A lack of effective communication in the classroom can have profound and long-lasting effects on education and society as a whole. It may seem like a minor issue, but its consequences can be significant, leading to setbacks and disruptions in the educational process. If left unaddressed, this problem has the potential to create a deep divide and hinder the progress and well-being of a community. While it is challenging to fully comprehend the extent of its impact, we can take steps to mitigate this issue by being attentive, acknowledging its existence, and actively working towards resolving it.

**References**

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