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COMMUNICATION SERVICES

All of us know that man is a social animal. He cannot survive in isolation. As a member of the society he is dependent on others. For most of the things he has to take help from others. But the question is, how does one know what the other wants? One has to convey his feelings, thoughts, ideas, requirements, experiences, etc. to another in such a way that the latter understands those correctly. The same thing happens with business also. It provides information to the customers, government, owners, and employees. etc. and at the same time receives information from them. In this lesson let us know, how people convey their feelings, thoughts, ideas, messages, etc.



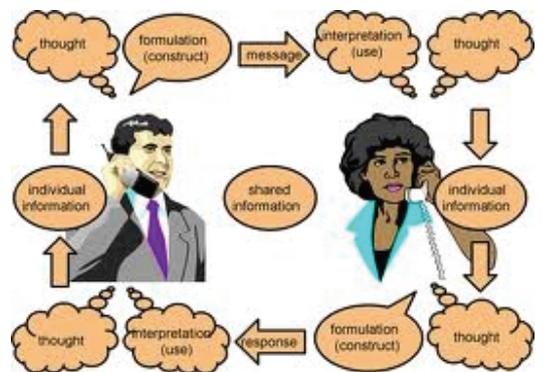
OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to :

- define communication;
- state the elements of the communication process;
- explain the importance of communication in business;
- identify the types of communication;
- describe different means of communication; and
- explain barriers of communication.

7.1 MEANING OF COMMUNICATION

Every day you talk to the members of your family, friends and relatives on various matters. You receive letters from your friends and relatives on different occasions. You also reply to their letters. Sometimes to convey urgent message you send telegrams or make telephone calls. In this process you are able to share the information with others.



Picture Showing Communication



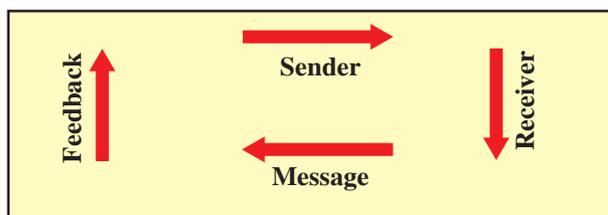
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Similarly they also share their experiences with you. You must have observed that in an office the officer rings a bell to call the attendant, people stop their vehicles at road-crossings after looking to the red light of the traffic signal and then start moving after seeing the green light. In a school, students assemble for prayer after hearing the school bell. Through these means some message is conveyed and understood even without speaking or writing. All these activities of sharing or exchanging information, ideas and experiences between two or more persons are known as communication.

Communication may be defined as – “A process of sharing facts, ideas, opinions, thoughts and information through speech, writing, gestures or symbols between two or more persons”.

This process of communication always contains messages, which are to be transmitted between the parties. There are two parties to communication – one is “**Sender**”, who sends the message and the other ‘**Receiver**’, who receives it. Generally the process of communication is said to be complete when the receiver understands the message and gives the feedback or response. At road-crossings red light of the traffic signal sends the message to stop the vehicle. When people stop their vehicles by seeing the red light, it is the feedback or response. This feedback may be in any form. Even while talking to your friend ‘nodding of the head’ is treated as feedback. Thus, feedback becomes an essential element in the process of communication along with message, sender and receiver.

Hence ‘Communication Process’ includes the following elements :



Communication Process

Sender – The person who sends the message. Also known as the source.

Receiver – The person who receives the message

Message – Subject matter of communication. It may contain facts, ideas, feelings or thoughts.

Feedback – Receiver’s response or reaction or reply to the message, which is directed towards the sender.



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For sending the message to the receiver or getting the feedback from the receiver we need a medium, which is called as a medium or means of communication. It carries the message to the receiver and brings the feedback from the receiver.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 7.1

- I. Write ‘T’ against a true statement and ‘F’ against a false one.
 - (i) Sharing or exchanging information, ideas and experiences between persons means communication.
 - (ii) The process of communication may not always contain a message.
 - (iii) Feedback is one of the elements of the process of communication.
 - (iv) A traffic police showing a stop sign to the public is the sender of message in the process of communication.

- II. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words/terms :
 - (i) A person who sends message is known as _____ .
 - (ii) Receiver’s response to the message is termed as _____
 - (iii) A person who receives message is called as _____
 - (iv) Subject matter of communication may contain _____
 - (v) The feedback of any message is always directed towards _____

7.2 IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

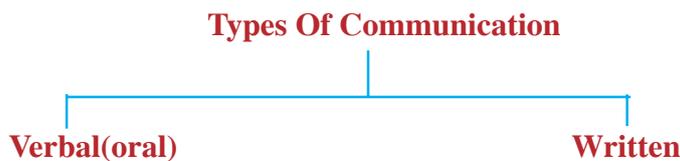
1. It is used to express facts, figures and ideas.
2. It is used within the firm as a means of controlling its operations, coordinating the activities of departments and employees and motivating personnel.
3. It provides important external links between the firm, its suppliers and customers.
4. Communication helps business to operate efficiently, as well as creates a good public image .
5. Communication educates people, widens their knowledge and broadens their outlook.
6. It tries to overcome the barriers of language and personal contact.
7. It helps people to know about new discoveries, new techniques, new products etc.
8. Due to communication more and more people are able to take advantage of achievements made by others.

7.3 TYPES OF COMMUNICATION

When we talk to others or write to them, communication takes place between us. But for such a communication, language is essential. Communication with the help of words known as **Oral/Verbal** communication is made through words spoken. Communication through spoken words is known as oral communication, which may be in the form of lectures, meetings, group discussions, conferences, telephonic conversations, radio message etc. In written communication, message is transmitted through written words in the form of letters, memos, circulars, notices, reports, manuals, magazines, handbooks, etc.



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Written communication may be ‘Visual’, ‘Aural’, or ‘Gestural’. Sometimes you look into some pictures, graphs, symbols, diagrams etc. and some message is conveyed to you. All these are different forms of written(visual) communication. For example, the traffic policeman showing the stop sign, a teacher showing a chart of different animals are visual communication.

Bells, whistles, buzzers, horns etc. are also the instruments through which we can communicate our message. Communication with the help of these type of sounds is called ‘aural’ communication. For example, the bell used in schools and colleges to inform students and teachers about the beginning or end of periods, siren used in factories to inform the change of work–shift of the workers are examples of aural communication.

Communication through the use of various parts of the human body, or through body language is termed as gestural communication. Saluting our national flag, motionless position during the singing of national anthem, waving of hands, nodding of head, showing anger on face, etc. are examples of gestural communication.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 7.2

- I. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words :
 - i. Communication with the help of words is known as _____
 - ii. Communication through spoken words is known as _____
 - iii. Communication through the use of various parts of human body is known as _____



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- iv. Communication with the help of pictures, symbols, diagrams etc. is known as _____
- II. Write 'V' to the phrase that illustrates Verbal Communication or 'NV' to the phrase that illustrates Non Verbal Communication.
 - i. A person reading a letter.
 - ii. A teacher looking to a student with anger.
 - iii. Saluting the national flag.
 - iv. Talking to a shopkeeper
 - v. Nodding head silently.

7.4 MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

There are various ways through which we communicate with each other. These may be called as the means of communication. In face-to-face contact we use different parts of our body or we directly talk to others while communicating our message. Where face-to-face communication is not possible, we take the help of some other means through which we usually convey our messages. For example, we may use letters to convey written messages; talk to others over telephones; send telegrams and use various other modern other modern machines like computers, fax machine, etc. to communicate our messages. The means to be used in our communication process depend upon the purpose of communication. For example, to send any urgent message we generally use telephone; for any important matter for which a written document is required, we use letter, telegram, fax, etc. Now-a-days modern technology has given us a wide option to choose the means according to our requirement and liking. Let us discuss some of the important means of communication commonly used in business.

Letters : Letters are a written form of communication. These can be sent or received by individuals or organisations. Written messages in the form of letters can be delivered to the receivers through special messenger, post offices or private couriers.

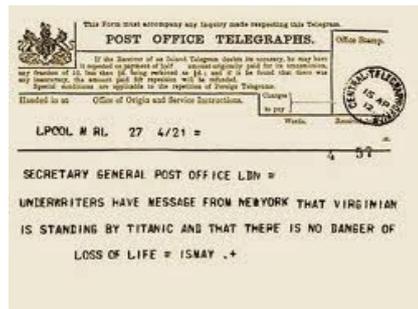


Letter Writing

This method is mostly used where fact-to-face communication is difficult or other means are not easily available. It helps in keeping a record of the communication. The cost involved is low in this means of communication.

Telegrams : It is also a form of written communication by which messages can be sent quickly to distant places. It is generally used when there is an urgency of communicating any important message. It transmits message much faster than

ordinary postal mail. This facility is available in all telegraph offices, where on payment of specific charge, we send our message. Charges are payable on the basis of number of words used in writing the message including the address of the receiver and sender's name. Hence, telegraphic messages are written in brief.



A figure of a Telegram

Telegrams can be sent as ordinary or express. Express telegrams travel faster than ordinary telegrams, for which extra charge is to be paid. To send telegrams to foreign countries cablegrams are used. Telegrams can also be sent by using telephone, which is called as phonogram. Here by ringing up the telegraph office through a telephone, the message can be recorded and later the telegraph office transmits the message to the receiver.

Telephones : Telephone is a very popular form of oral communication. It is widely used for internal and external business communications. Long distance communication is facilitated by STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialing) while

international communication can be made through ISD (International Subscriber Dialing) facilities. Both government and private agencies provide telecom services. Telephone is mostly preferred as it helps in establishing instant contact between the parties to communications. In business firms as well as government and private offices automatic switchboards



A figure of Telephone

known as private automatic branch exchange (PABX) are installed to facilitate internal as well as external communication.

Now-a-days mobile phones are very popular as they give an access to the receiver at any time, anywhere. This is an improvement over the fixed line telephone. It possesses many modern features like Short Messaging Services (SMS), Multi Media Messaging Services (MMS) etc., by using these services written messages can be sent to the receivers. Both private as well as government organizations provide these services. MTNL, BSNL, Airtel, Idea, Hutch, Reliance and Tata are the leading mobile service providers in our country through CDMA (code division multiple access), and GSM (global system for mobile communication).



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Telex : Telex provides a means of printed communication using Teleprinter. Teleprinters consist of machines installed at different places which are connected to a central exchange through cable. In each machine a standard keyboard is fitted. Any message typed by using those keyboards at one end is automatically typed at the other end. Hence instant transmission is possible.



Telex Machine

Fax : Fax or facsimile is an electronic device that enables instant transmission of any matter, which may be handwritten or printed like letters, diagrams, graphs, sketches, etc. By using telephone lines this machine sends the exact



Fax Machine

copy of the document to another fax machine at the receiving end. For sending any message, the documents on which message, diagram or drawing is typed or drawn has to be put in the fax machine and the fax number (a telephone number) of the other party has to be dialed. Then the fax machine at the receiving end will instantly produce the replica of the matter. This is the most

commonly used means of written communication in business. The main advantages of Fax system are easy operation, instant transmission of handwritten or printed matters, over any distance Telephone machine also records each transaction of communication. The only limitation is that fax machine accepts document up to a standard size. Again, as a usual practice, a copy of the same document is sent to the receiver through post for their record. Telephone receiver at the other end also makes a photocopy of the document immediately after receiving the message through fax machine, because there may be chances that the ink used by the machine may fade away after some time.

E-mail : Electronic mail, popularly known as e-mail is a modern means of communication. The system makes use of electronic methods of transmitting and receiving information. In this case individuals, through the internet, open an e-mail account in their name from any ISP (Internet Service Provider). Then letters,



E-mail Communication

messages, pictures or sounds can be sent through their computer to the e-mail accounts of other individuals. Whenever the other person will access his e-mail account he receives the message. The information is communicated audio visually and the process is extremely fast. This method is gaining popularity with increased use of internet among the users.

Voice Mail : It is a computer-based system for receiving and responding to incoming telephone calls. It records and stores telephone messages through computer memory. The call can get the required information by dialing the voice mail number and then following the instructions of the computer. The individuals can also record their messages through voice mail. The receivers at their own convenience can get the message from the machines and take action accordingly. You can get information regarding admission, examination and result of NIOS through an interactive Voice Mail System, which has been installed at its headquarters at NOIDA. You can dial any of the two telephone numbers, 0120-4626909 or 0120-4626910 to get information from the voice mail.



Voice Mail System

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Teleconferencing : Conference generally refers to meeting of people for consultation or discussion regarding any common issues. Here people sit together and interact face to face with each other. But, teleconferencing is a system through which people interact with each other without physically sitting in front of others. People can hear the voice and see the picture of others and also respond to their queries even if sitting in different countries.



A Scene of Teleconferencing

It requires the use of modern electronic devices like telephone, computers, television etc. For every teleconferencing a central controlling unit is required that facilitates the entire process of communication. There are two different types of teleconferencing one, audio-conferencing and other, video-conferencing. Let us know more about them.

Audio-Conferencing- It is a two-way audio communication system in which the participants listen to the voice and respond immediately sitting at different places. People may listen to the voice through radio or television and put their queries by using telephone.



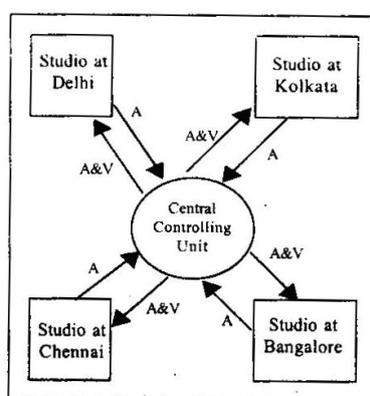
A Scene of Audio Conferencing



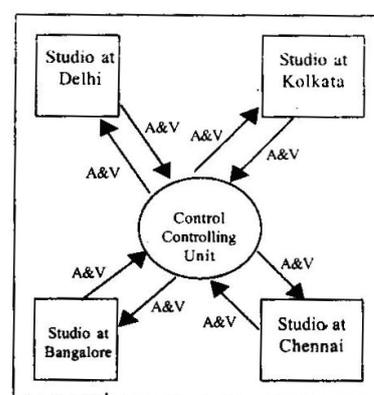
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Video-conferencing– Besides listening to the voice, the participants of the conference can also see the picture of each other while talking themselves. This is called video-conferencing. There are two different types of video conferencing process.

- i. **One-way video and two-way audio :** In this system, the participants can listen to the voice and see the picture of the persons sitting in the studio. The audience maintains a contact with the studio through telephone and the persons in the studio listen to the voice of the participants.
- ii. **Both way audio and video :** Here participants at both the ends i.e., studio as well as audience end, are able to listen to the voice and see the picture of each other while talking amongst themselves.



One-way video and two-way audio



Both way video and audio

7.5 BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATION

Though communication is a pervasive activity, it is often unsatisfactory in practice. The interchange of ideas and information is blocked by several barriers. The barriers to effective communication are described below :

1. **Badly Expressed Message:** Often the message is expressed in poorly chosen words or empty phrases. There is lack of coherence, inadequate vocabulary and inappropriate language. This lack of clarity and precision leads to unnecessary clarifications, costly errors and misunderstanding. Often the translation of the information is faulty and the message is irrelevant. This *language* or *semantic problem* may also arise because different people interpret the same words or symbols differently due to difference in their education, perception and background. This semantic barrier can be overcome by broadening the outlook of every manager so that he can understand the mind of other persons.
2. **Screening or Filtering:** Successive transmissions of the same message may be rendered less accurate because of its filtration. At each level



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the message is screened by the receiver and only such information is passed further which gives a favorable impression of the sender. This premature evaluation of the communication distorts the message. Some managers fail to communicate due to their laziness or on the assumption that everybody knows. A manager must develop cooperative relationship with his subordinates. he should listen to and understand their attitude to avoid filtering of information.

3. **Inattention:** Sometimes, people fail to read bulletins, notices, minutes and reports. They do not listen the communication attentively. Subordinates may believe that the information is not important enough to communicate. Such errors of judgment make communication ineffective. Superiors have the tendency of non-listening. There may be lack of motivation to communicate due to poor facilities or delay in transmission.
4. **Unclear Assumptions:** When the assumptions underlying the message are not clarified, misunderstanding may arise between the sender and the receiver of the message. For instance, a customer sends a message that he will visit the vendor's plant at a particular time assuming that the vendor will provide transportation, boarding and lodging facilities. But the vendor assumes that the customer is arriving to attend a wedding and will make a routine call at the plant. These unclarified assumptions will spoil their relationship.
5. **Resistance to Change:** Human beings by nature prefer to avoid disturbances in their daily routine and generally resist new ideas. They want to maintain the *status quo*. Everybody likes to receive that information which confirms his present belief and tends to ignore any thing that is contrary to such belief. When the communication involves a change that seriously affects employees, they may not take the message seriously. Changes affect different people differently and one may take time to think through the full meaning of a message. A manager should provide sufficient time and assistance to enable employees to adjust themselves to change.
6. **Mutual Distrust:** Effective communication is impossible when there is lack of confidence and mutual understanding between superior and subordinates. *Ill*-considered judgment or illogical decisions may prompt subordinates to delay action. In the absence of an open mind and willingness to see things through the eyes of others, people perceive same things differently. Management should create an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence to enable people to appreciate each others point of view.



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7. **Status and Position :** Subordinate may not disclose the facts fully because of the fear of the consequences of such disclosure. They may deliberately mislead the superior or may hesitate to seek clarifications due to the feeling that it will lower down their prestige. Superiors tend to keep maximum possible information with them to avoid listening to the subordinates. The barrier created by differences in status or position and fear can be removed through a free and fair two-way flow of information throughout the organization.
8. **Complex Organization Structure:** An organization structure involving several layers of supervision, use of staff specialists and a long chain of command is a major barrier to effective communication. Communication may break down at various levels of supervision. Organizational distance between workers and top management inhibits a free and fast flow of information and ideas along the chain of command. Management must improve the organization structure to remove this barrier.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 7.3

I. Match the columns correctly

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| a. Telegram | i. Receiving and sending mails through internet |
| b. Mobile Phones | ii. Instant transmission of a printed document. |
| c. Fax | iii. Short Messaging Service |
| d. Voice Mail | iv. Payment according to number of words used. |
| e. E-mail | v. Computer based system of receiving and responding to incoming telephones calls. |

II. Multiple Choice Questions

- i. A system of communication in which payment is made according to number of words used, is called.

(a) Mobile Phones	(b) Telex
(c) Telegrams	(d) Pager

**Notes**

- ii. Which of the following is an example of visual communication?
(a) A person saluting the national flag
(b) A person reading a letter
(c) A peon ringing a bell in the school
(d) A traffic policeman showing the stop signal.
- iii. Which of the following is not an element of communication process?
(a) Sender (b) Receiver
(c) Message (d) Feedback to other than a sender
- iv. The communication with the help of pictures, symbols, diagrams is called as:-
(a) Verbal Communication (b) Oral Communication
(c) Visual Communication (d) Written Communication
- v. Which of the following means of Communication is used for short messaging service?
(a) Fax (b) Telegram
(c) Voice Mail (d) E-mail

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

- Process of sharing facts, ideas, opinions, thoughts, information through speech, writing or gestures and symbols between individuals is known as communication.
- Elements of communication process are sender, receiver, message and feedback.
- Communication can be verbal or non-verbal.
- Communication with the help of words is known as verbal communication and without using words is called non-verbal communication.
- Verbal communication may be oral or written.
- Non-verbal communication may be visual, aural or gestural.
- There are various ways through which we communicate our message. These are called means of communication.
- Letters, Telegrams, Phones, Telex, Fax, E-mail, Pages, Teleconferencing are means of communication normally used to send the message to distant places.



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TERMINAL EXERCISE

1. Define 'communication' in about 20 words.
2. Name the elements of the communication process.
3. What is meant by Business Communication?
4. "Letters are the best means of communication". Do you agree with this statement? Give reason.
5. Give a short description of Voice Mail in about two sentences.
6. Explain the meaning of 'verbal communication'.
7. Give any four points highlighting importance of communication in business.
8. "Telephone is a very popular form of oral communication". Do you agree? Give reasons.
9. Differentiate between Verbal and Non-Verbal communication.
10. Illustrate the communication process with the help of a diagram.
11. Explain the meaning of communication and its process.
12. State the different types of Non-verbal communication.
13. "E-mail is the fastest method of transmitting written messages". Explain.
14. You are an exporter and you want to mail an exact copy of a quotation to an importer in USA. Which means of communication would you use and why?



ANSWER TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

- 7.1** I. (i) T, (ii) F, (iii) T, (iv) T
 II. (i) Sender, (ii) Feedback, (iii) Receiver, (iv) Facts, ideas, feelings or thoughts, (v) Sender
- 7.2** I. (i) Verbal communication (ii) Oral communication, (iii) Gestural communication, (iv) Visual communication
 II. (i) V, (ii) NV, (iii) NV, (iv) V, (v) NV
- 7.3** I. (a)-(iv), (b)-(iii), (c)-(ii), (d)-(v), (e)-(i)
 II. (i) c, (ii) d, (iii) d, (iv) c, (v) b

ACTIVITY FOR YOU

- Make a list of various means of communication available at your locality. Give priority to any one means as per your requirement. Consider the cost involved and the benefits you derive from that means of communication while giving priority.