Intercultural Communication

Name

Institution

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Human beings are the social ones. At any point of time they are likely to interact with each other. Socialization, hence, is one of the factors that gives people identity, the identity of being a human. Diversity, on the other hand, is a factor that is encountered by most of those who interact. Consequently, the importance of intercultural communication can never be overlooked. With the advent of technology, globalization has brought people of different identities together, making the interaction between the various individuals a necessity in the different spheres of life. The advantages attached with the above undertaking range from those applicable in the cooperate world to those that can benefit from on a personal level. In the light of above, intercultural communication can be taken to mean the exchange of information between individuals who are of a diverse background. This process can also be viewed in a continuum in some ways. In communicating with one’s parents, for example, it can be contended that intercultural communication is lower as compared to a scenario in which individuals across borders as well as those of different races are communicating.

The importance of intercultural communication cannot be overlooked. There are few advantages accrued with the above method of exchange of information. They include:

* the enhancement of business effectiveness through the ability of an individual who is knowledgeable in the field above to interact with individuals from market segments of different domains. The above enhances one's business through the acquisition of not only the market segment, but also the borrowing of ideas from individuals with different mindsets.
* improved relations between groups. I concur with the fact that there is a need for cultural diversity in different groups, especially in the cooperate world. Without the possession of the primary factor that allows understanding between the individuals in an organization, a conflict will always occur. Intercultural communication hence remains a top priority among such individuals.

- self-awareness enhancement. I have always thought I knew about myself until I met a friend in college who would point out factors that I have never thought were central to me. In interacting with individuals with a diverse background, they can point out aspects that are likely to increase the understanding of who we are. The above is impossible without intercultural communication.

Intercultural communication also plays a crucial role in the improvement of intercultural contact. Forced as well as self-imposed immigration is one of the common factors in the world today. The probability of thousands of people who are culturally diverse to interact in a day is higher than anticipated by many. What more could make such contact fruitful except for a higher understanding of intercultural communication?

Today, the borders of different countries can be viewed as virtual as a result of the increased cohesiveness and political understanding between different countries. There is a higher chance of interaction between border dwellers through avenues such as travel, socialization, and relationships. The negotiation of cultural tension that could arise as a result of the interaction is a crucial factor. The above can be deemed almost impossible if not for social penetration theory.

Intercultural communication has not been without problems that need to be approached from different angles of view. The dialectical method is one of the strategies that can be used to solve different types of conflict that are likely to arise as a result of cultural diversity.

The interrelation between intercultural communication, political factors, history, and power cannot be overlooked. The above are diverse fields but those that cannot exist without the presence of intercultural communication to aid in undertakings such as dissipation of power in different political contexts. Closely related to the above, there is also a high likelihood of encountering ethical issues in the fields mentioned.

Communication in different contexts is a crucial tool in not only studying but in the application of real-life situations. In light of the above, various theories can be explored to increase individual knowledge between the interrelation between communication and relationships. Examples of such approaches include evolutionarity, attraction, uncertain reduction, equity, predicted outcome and social exchange theories. Communication is of central importance in the explanation of the theories above. As a result, some communication models can be used in the in-depth analysis of the methods presented, most of which are witnessed in everyday life. Knapp stage model, for example, has a capability of dividing a theory into phases whose growth can be analyzed.

While relationships progress through different stages such as initiation maintenance and termination, there is a high likelihood of encountering problematic situations. However, communication is an asset in all the problems that could be encountered.

In conclusion, I presume that inability to interact with other individuals as a result of barriers such as those brought about by intercultural communication can kill a person internally. In contrast, intercultural communication has an ability to build people through interaction avenues, hence resulting in factors such as self-awareness, increase in effective contact between different individuals, and also increase in business opportunities as a result of ability to explore new markets when a person has an in-depth knowledge of intercultural communication.

References

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