

INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION





Intercultural communication is a form of dialogue between different cultures. It is effective when on both sides there are people who are available and ready to listen. On an individual level, intercultural communication offers enormous benefits, such as enriching one's cultural background.

Faced with traditions, customs and habits different from those we follow, our knowledge, our awareness and our mind expand. At national and international level, intercultural communication is mainly based on mutual collaboration and the sharing of agreements.



Globalization

In recent years, this form of communication has become increasingly important, thanks above all to the processes of globalization. Collaboration and dialogue between different cultures has undergone considerable expansion at different levels: at the local level, for example through the mutual solidarity of communities of different ethnic groups often present in large metropolises. In recent years, multiculturalism and the idea of contacts with people from foreign countries, often with cultural, social and religious traditions different from their own, has developed thanks also to the advent of the web, mail and social networks, all tools that make it possible to establish contacts between individuals who also live very far from each other.

Multi-ethnicity

Interculturality is often synonymous with multi-ethnicity, since communication and collaboration between individuals, associations or states with different cultures do not only take place at a distance, but also occur within the same multi-ethnic society, which includes individuals from different states and that coexist within the same territory. When we talk about multi-ethnicity and interculturality, we are referring to very broad areas that involve culture, religion, language, customs and legal guidelines.



History of assimilation

Forced assimilation was very common in the European colonial empires of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Colonial policies regarding the conversion of religion, the removal of children, the division of community property and the change of gender roles have mainly impacted North and South America, Australia, Africa and Asia. Voluntary assimilation has also been a part of history dating back to the Spanish Inquisition of the late 14th and 15th centuries, when many Muslims and Jews voluntarily converted to Roman Catholicism in response to religious persecution while secretly continuing their original practices. Another example is when Europeans moved to the United States.

The communicative competence

Communicative competence is a skill that allows us to establish which is the best strategy to achieve the fundamental objective of making the subject of a culture or language different from ours with whom we are interacting understand what we want to express. The achievement of the communicative objective occurs when our interlocutor decodes the message we have sent him through the various means we have to communicate. Often, this skill also includes the use of politically correct language, since the topics covered and the terms used should not contain discriminatory expressions, especially in a context where one is dealing with different ideologies.

Interdisciplinary orientation

Intercultural communication strives to bring together relatively unrelated areas such as cultural anthropology and established communication areas. Its core is establishing and understanding how people of different cultures communicate with each other. Its task is also to produce some guidelines by which people of different cultures can better communicate with each other. The study of languages other than one's own can serve not only to understand what we humans have in common, but also to understand the diversity that underlines the methods of construction and organization of knowledge of our languages. This understanding has profound implications for developing a critical awareness of social relations. Understanding social relationships and how other cultures function is the basis for the business success of globalization.

Verbal communication

Verbal communication consists of messages being sent and received continuously with the speaker and the listener, it is focused on the way messages are portrayed. Verbal communication is based on language and use of expression, the tone in which the sender of the message relays the communication can determine how the message is received and in what context. The way a message is received is dependent on these factors as they give a greater interpretation for the receiver as to what is meant by the message. By emphasizing a certain phrase with the tone of voice, this indicates that it is important and should be focused more on. Along with these attributes, verbal communication is also accompanied with non-verbal cues. These cues make the message clearer and give the listener an indication of what way the information should be received

Nonverbal communication

Nonverbal communication refers to gestures, facial expressions, tone of voice, eye contact, body language, posture, and other ways people can communicate without using language. Minor variations in body language, speech rhythms, and punctuality often cause differing interpretations of the situation among cross-cultural parties. Nonverbal communication has been shown to account for between 65% and 93% of interpreted communication. Minor variations in body language, speech rhythms, and punctuality often cause mistrust and misperception of the situation among cross-cultural parties. This is where nonverbal communication can cause problems with intercultural communication.

Misunderstandings with nonverbal communication can lead to miscommunication and insults with cultural differences. For example, a handshake in one culture may be recognized as appropriate, whereas another culture may recognize it as rude or inappropriate