

What Are the Positive & Negative Effects of Using Technology to Communicate?

by Shannon Webster, Demand Media



With communication, technology can be a positive and a negative in today's society.

Communication is an essential part of life. The ability to communicate clearly and effectively is one of the skills that businesses look for in employees. The use of technology can be a great help to people in communicating, reducing the time it takes. But technology can have consequences of reducing person-to-person interaction without the device as an intermediary.

Electronic mail, or email, was one of the first changes in how companies use technology to communicate with individuals. The ability to release information to many different people at once, without calling a meeting or requiring printing of the materials, turned into a money- and time-saving device. The positives of email were the speed of delivery and the reduction of paper costs. Negatively, more people spend more time on email than on other projects. The sound of a new email being received and the tendency to check email frequently have led to distracted workers. A poorly written email can lead to confusion, rather than clarity, in the workplace.

Text messaging is one of the most popular ways to communicate. Rather than seeing or talking to a person face-to-face, you can talk to a person over the phone at your leisure. It can be an effective tool for locating a person in a crowd or talking to someone far away. Text messaging also has its own language, an abbreviated form of speech that has found its way into classrooms and businesses. People are more likely to pull out their phone and start texting while sitting at the table for dinner or while having a conversation in person. The actions of texting may seem rude

Instant messaging has been around since the 1990s. It was primarily used by people to communicate while doing homework and just to keep in touch. It was texting before text messaging became affordable. Businesses realized the potential of real-time communication at the computer between employees and implemented it. Instant messaging, or IM, has allowed people to reach other people without having to use the phone. The ability to have questions answered immediately allows customer support staff to work faster without irritating the customer. The downside is that employees are less likely to engage in social activities away from their computers. Water cooler talk now takes place by IM, rather than face to face. Many people sit at home talking via IM rather than on the phone or in person.

Social media have been a revolution in how people plan events and communicate with one another. Rather than talking to their friends in person, they can post a comment about their life. The revolution of social media has allowed people to rekindle friendships, make new friends and gain new interests. Some people will use social media to connect new relationships in person, while other people will never meet anyone from the sites used. Cyber bullying is one of the problems with social media. The content posted, though personal, can be used to fire or deny people work and promotions. Social media can help you stay in touch with friends, but it can be dangerous to your career and life. The amount of information you put out on the Internet over social media, intended or not, affects you in the real world.

Impact of Technology on Communication

By Hemangi Harankhedkar

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The development of technology has considerably improved our lifestyles. It has made its impact felt on each and every aspect of life, also on the communication techniques. The development of communication has seen huge progress; from the symbols to the latest swanky mobiles! Each century has seen a new addition to the ever-growing list of means of communication. The invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in the year 1875 was the first technological invention that impacted communication in humans to a massive extent. Other subsequent inventions like that of the Internet, cell phones, etc., further eased and changed the communication process.

Effects of Technology on Communication: Everything has both a positive and negative impact, and the impact of technology on the communication process also comes as mixed baggage. In this article, we would be discussing the impact of popular technological elements like emails, telephones, cell phones, etc., on our means of communication. Mobiles and the Internet are literally the basic necessities these days. A majority of us would feel something missing in life, if there were no mobiles or Internet (Agreed?).

Take the daily routine of a person in this tech-savvy world. The day begins with a "good morning message" on social networking sites and ends with a "goodnight" on the same website. The social networking sites are a world in themselves, like a virtual world! There is the incessant use of mobiles and the Internet for communication, the whole day. To make the process quick and easy, there are modes like emails, teleconferencing, video conferencing, networking sites, etc., among other tools. Mobiles, emails, and social networking sites are the most popular means of communication among the current generation.

Positive Impact: Technology has transformed the once big and far world into a tiny global village. Thanks to technology, we now have the power to communicate with anybody on the other side of the world. The points below summarize these benefits.

- No barriers: Communication is now easy; in case of situations when you want to convey something urgently to someone, mobiles and emails come in handy.
- Strengthened relations: Technology has made it easy to keep in touch with old contacts, and has also helped strengthen relationships.
- Better solutions: Technology has brought the world closer and promoted exchange of thoughts to find better solutions to any problem.
- E-schools: Services like video-conferencing has made it possible to give best education to students via expert faculty on the web.
- Impact on relations: Finding someone to date was never so easy, thanks to the dating and chatting websites! No one would disagree if I say - Technology is the rational behind the success of long distance relationships. Video chats and social networking sites have played a big role in keeping people in touch.
- Development: Technological advancements in the modes of communication have promoted faster decision-making, and led to the development and progress of the world. Video conferencing has played a considerate role in promoting faster decision-making. Most of the businesses depend on technology for communication.

Negative Impact: The most prominent negative effect of technology - the charm of the good old world is missing. The letters, and lengthy face-to-face conversations have gone away, and have been replaced by texting or chatting. See the below given points for details.

- Impact on interpersonal communication: The current generation lacks essential interpersonal skills (the ability to express the ideas and thoughts to others face-to-face). A major reason for this tendency is increased frequency of communication through texting and chatting on websites.

-Effect on nonverbal communication: Technological means have also affected nonverbal communication. Lack of face-to-face interaction has reduced the nonverbal grasping power of individuals.

-Near yet far: Teenagers especially are always hooked to the social networking sites. They are more close to online friends, but the gap between parents and kids has increased considerably. Communication is missing, parents are not technology savvy and not used to the communication styles of their kids, and this has increased the generation gap.

-Reduced social interactions: Consider the socializing among people. Life has changed a lot; there are no social meetings and get-togethers (the frequency has reduced). People are more bothered about their online life rather than the real social life.

-Has led to many addictions: People have literally become addicted to the Internet and cell phones, and this addiction has led to many anxiety disorders. People addicted to the Internet feel lonely and isolated.

-Malicious motives: Many people abuse the social networking sites and communicate to unsuspecting beings pretending someone else. This tendency of people has done more harm than good.

As you can see, the impact is both positive and negative. But logically thinking, technology has bettered the communication process and has done negligible harm. The positive points of the technological advancements cover up the negative points. It all depends on how we use these means; use the technological means of communication for sane purposes, and don't abuse them for malicious motives.