

Sukurat Jawando

Professor Jean Carlton

SWK 246

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Week 2 Activity

After observing my communication for an entire day, I realized that my day-to-day activity is planned out not by choice but by stroke of design which has left me with very little room for face-to-face interaction. I am thousands of miles away from home, family and friends, therefore communication is limited to hello's and hi's on mediated channels like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and the likes. Moving to a different location and working from home due to the effect of the pandemic has considerably impacted one on one interaction for me. When viewed in-terms of the percentage of interaction, I would say I have 85% mediated interaction and 15% face-to-face interaction on a daily basis.

My preferred mode of interactions are through texting, chatting via any mediated channels, email if it's official, video conferencing and calling. I still value face-to-face communication when interacting hence why I would not pass it over if the opportunity presents itself.

The communication channel changed for me when I moved to the United States over four years ago. To remain connected to my family and friends, I had to constantly find a cheaper and easier way to connect if I still want to be in touch with them. Our relationship has changed due to these channels of communication, rapport has decreased overtime and interaction has deteriorated to a pattern of mindfulness. I therefore use mediated channels more now. This is the same with co-workers, most of whom I have not even met in-person yet because we work from home. We communicate through mediated channels and can only have work relationships that do not have an opportunity to develop beyond that. In Spite of these challenges, I am still able to have face-to-face communication with my husband, son and with people at my son's daycare on a daily basis.

Whatever choice of mediated channel I use is mostly dependent on what I want to achieve with that situation. To reach my Dad, I'd have to call him directly. He is not technologically savvy so using an international call service app like Boss resolution would be ideal to achieve that purpose. However, my siblings have had to adjust their technology savviness so I can reach them through calls, texting or video calls on most social media platforms. Staying up to date with friends and family required checking them out on their social networks and liking, commenting or chatting with them. In all, change being the only constant thing in life, we are all adjusting to this change and making the most of it.