

History of communication.

Communication is the process of sharing ideas, information and messages with others. The most basic communication methods that are known to man are speech and non-verbal expressions such as facial expressions and body language. Apart from these basic methods of communication there are other methods of communication. These methods began to evolve and become complex as the wants and needs of human beings became complex.

One of the major means of communication is writing. Most languages do have a written form. It can be written down and someone else may read it and understand the meaning. Writing has been used from the time of the Mayans and Egyptians. The oldest record of writing is some 5000 years old. Writing in the early days was used to mark down the major events of history. It was also used inside temples and burial chambers of kings and other important rulers to state who and what took place during the relevant time period. Visual communication also goes hand in hand with writing. The first paintings found were drawn more than 5000 years ago, well before words were written down. Paintings were used in the past like writing, to preserve the memory of someone or some event so that future generations may come to know of the might, majesty and power of the rulers and past civilizations.

Other than these methods of communication there were other methods used to signal and communicate with in a distance. Our ancestors developed systems for sending simple messages or signals over a distance through drumbeats, fire or smoke signals, lanterns, birds and arrows. Birds carried messages through a long distance. The message was attached to a foot of a Pigeon or a Falcon who flew home with the message. This specific method of communication was used to a great extent during World War I.

The Semaphore system of flags or flashing lights was used to send messages over a moderate distance where traveling was difficult. In the early 1790s the French scientist and engineer Claude Chappe persuaded the French government to install a system of towers that used semaphore signals to send visual telegraphs along approved routes throughout the country. The system was copied in Great Britain and the United States.

Electronic communication is what expanded the horizons of communication and really boosted the communication industry. This path was shown to us by the founder of the telephone "Alexander Graham Bell." The telephone was the first step towards all the modern methods of communication such as telephone calls, electronic mail or e-mail, satellite broadcasting, cable television and the internet. The internet has become the number one source of information and communication throughout the world. You can see what is happening while it's happening. The internet is linked to almost every major organization, business and government.

All these methods of communication have evolved and today it is impossible to imagine a world without it. Households, businesses, organizations and entire countries depend upon the level of communication. Miss-communication can cause catastrophic outcomes especially when it comes to global marketing, finance, economics, trade and war. Today communication has reached a multi-sensory level where any and every thing is possible. The simple act of exchanging ideas has become one of the most important parts of human life.