

The Ecology of the Mobile Worker

Excerpt 3 - Mobile Work and Communications

Becker, F., Quinn, K. L., & Callentine, L. U. (1995). *The Ecology of the Mobile Worker*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University International Workplace Studies Program.

Employee feedback indicated that there were two important components of communication: the ability to communicate about work with co-workers (professional communication) and the ability to socialize with co-workers (social communication).

Over 77% (n=81) of the respondents reported that professional communication at work was somewhat or much worse since the mobility program began, while slightly over 14% (n=15) reported professional communication as unchanged. Nearly nine percent (n=9), however, rated professional communication as better or much better.

Eighty-eight percent (n=93) of the mobile workers rated their ability to socialize with their co-workers as worse or much worse, 9% (n=9) reported it as unchanged, and 3% (n=3) said it was better or much better.

Employee acceptance of an integrated workplace strategy where one key component of the workplace system is the opportunity to work at home (as well as in other workplace settings) is largely unaffected by household composition (whether or not the employee has children or family members at home) or the nature of the home workspace (whether or not work at home is done in a dedicated room or a dedicated area within a room used by other family members for family activities).