

Determination of the correlation between the degree of proficiency in CW and on-air discipline of amateur radio operators

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Amateur radio is a disciplined hobby governed by the rules and regulations setup by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and local authority of each country and practice adopted by individual operators. Communication using continuous wave (CW) is an established mode of digital communication for several decades. A high level of proficiency in CW was a compulsory universal requirement for obtaining license for high frequency (HF) operation. This has been relaxed during the last few years by the governing authorities in some countries. This study determines its effect on the discipline of operators.

Data were collected by copying amateur radio broadcast in single side band mode in 20 m and 40 m amateur radio bands two hours per day for six months. The level of discipline was quantified by giving weighting factors to each attribute. These factors are as follows:- non-transmission of call sign: 10; abrupt end of transmission: 3; communication on inappropriate topics: 7; general misconduct: 5. Data were separated into five collections giving an equal number of stations to each set. Five classes of amateur radio operators were defined according to the proficiency in CW. A completely randomized design was used to test the significance of the relationship. Following malpractices were observed: non-transmission of call sign in the required duration, abrupt end of transmission, dialogues on inappropriate topics and general misconduct. The relationship is significant at 5%. A distinct relationship exists between the level of proficiency in CW and discipline of amateur radio operators.

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