ROLL OF SKILL BASED EDUCATION IN SELF RELIANCE

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Researching job-specific skills that are needed to pursue a career path can cause you to overlook the role that foundational skills play in their development. By taking the time to review the habits you currently possess, you can identify areas that need more attention, and in doing so improve your job-specific skills.

What are learning skills?

Learning skills are habits that can be used throughout your life to complete projects and communicate effectively. They can continuously be developed and improved to help you accomplish daily tasks or achieve your career milestones.

There are a variety of learning skills that can be beneficial for you to have, whether you are a student or a seasoned professional in the workforce. It is important to note that many of the below skills could be applied to one or more skill categories, but for simplicity, the following section will separate these skills into five distinct categories:

Communication skills

1. Active listening
2. Situation analysis
3. Technological competency
4. Media literacy
5. Empathy
6. Persuasive argumentation
7. Clarification
8. Respect
9. Public speaking
10. Writing

Collaboration skills

1. Leadership
2. Team-oriented
3. Conflict resolution
4. Compromising
5. Engagement
6. Reliability
7. Resource allocation
8. Project management
9. Task delegation
10. Goal setting

Organizational skills

1. Organization
2. Time management
3. Multitasking
4. Strategy development
5. Information management
6. Notetaking
7. Cleaning workspace
8. Schedule planning
9. Event coordination
10. Productivity

Critical-thinking skills

1. Critical-thinking
2. Attention to detail
3. Evaluation
4. Analytical-thinking
5. Inferencing
6. Self-regulation
7. Annotative reading
8. Text interpretation
9. Decision-making

10. Comparing and contrasting

Creative skills

1. Problem-solving
2. Adaptability
3. Overturning
4. Curiosity
5. Innovation
6. Brainstorming
7. Entertaining
8. Open-mindedness
9. Repurposing
10. Creative writing

Skill-based learning is about planning, implementing and analyzing skills gained through knowledge-based learning methods. The students are motivated to think logically, analyze concepts and apply their insights. The idea behind this innovative and most in-demand learning method is to develop learners into independent thinkers and prepare them for the challenges in the future.

The world changes and so do economies along with it, the need for a skill-based workforce is on the rise.

In India, skill-based education is considered to be a vocational skill that is obtained through short-term training or courses not part of the formal education sector and which provides employment in informal sectors. Such skills are also a part of the government's Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) scheme, which aims to promote recognition and standardization. However, expertise needs to be developed in the formal learning system as well.

When the Indian economy opened to the outside world through liberalization and globalization, it created a great demand for graduates with skill across vital industries, which led to a huge race to secure more marks and more degrees. After the internet and mobile revolution, job-seekers in the formal sector saw new opportunities to learn necessary skills from the internet and through internships prior to a full-time job. The reliance on formal education to obtain job-ready skills saw a slow decline.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has advanced the use of local products and has helped people recognize the importance of a skill-driven society. Being a young nation with 75% of the population in the working age, employment becomes a major concern. With the help of schemes such as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), the students can receive both security and benefit as it aids in an equivalent acknowledgement of both informal and formal learning.

The students are the human capital of the country and it is essential to empower them for the development of the economy. Some of the benefits of skill-based education include:

1. Skill-based education places the ownership of learning in the hands of the students and helps them restrict the big gap of understanding. The assessment demonstrates their competency rather than grades and the education process is a great boon for drop-outs, as they can easily move ahead without a gap.

2. It scintillates creativity along with critical thinking, making the learners analytical. It focuses more on synthesis, evaluation and application of the learnt facts.

3. Skill-based education is definitely more effective and purpose-driven, which helps the students receive a clear objective along with a vibrant culture. It is a perfect mixture of opinions, values and routine to form a solid foundation. It promotes and develops the art of learning and development hence empowering the students to become successful in their chosen field.

4. It promotes synergetic problem solving. The students learn how to work in a constructive manner to solve problems in a collaborative manner. Skill-based learning helps to integrate the learners with real life experiences and promotes effective communication skills: oral and written, in situational contexts, unknowingly enhancing the relevance and appropriateness in their behavior patterns.

5. It also 'hones leadership'. The skill-based education helps the students become altruistic, chivalrous and gracious. Through activities and events, the students build adroitness that helps them listen, organize and inspire the team, thereby building leadership qualities in them.

Several educational reforms in form of continuous and comprehensive evaluation, age-appropriate admission, and focus on activity-based learning have been introduced at the elementary level, yet rote learning and periodic pen and paper test are still being

practiced in schools. The children have little opportunity to ask questions in the classroom discuss among themselves and took participation in debates.

In some schools it has been found out that instead of removing social stereotypes and beliefs such as caste system and discrimination against girl child are being strengthened and nurtured. In such a situation, it's doubtful whether campaigns like Make in India and Skill India will be successful.

The need of the hour is that the teachers themselves be aware of all these and go ahead and try to remove existing flaws in the education system. It is evident that there are many obstacles in the path, and it's very daunting to achieve the goal. But one step at a time will make the journey happen. If the teacher comes forward and asks for help, rest assured, there are many people and organizations who are more than happy to help them and undertake all possible measures to make their journey smooth.

Skill-based education guides the students where to look, doesn't limit their world to what to see and so it is the true celebration of inquisitiveness of future seekers of the Millennium.

Definition of *self-relianc*: reliance on one's own efforts and abilities.

Self-Reliance is important for children. Learning to be self-reliant is important to be taught when a child is at a young age so it can develop, as they grow older. Being self-reliant is presented to be the ability to take control over your life, being motivated from within, and being able to take care of yourself.

How to Develop Self-Reliance

- Accepting yourself, and being your own best friend. ...
- Inner confidence. ...
- Making our own decisions. ...
- Recognize and manage dependence. ...
- Accept yourself for who you are. ...
- Having your own values. ...
- Not relying on 'things' to feel happiness. ...
- Decide who you want to be, and how you want to get there.

Why Is Skill-Based Learning Important?

To put it simply, skill-based learning is acquiring knowledge through practical things/ by doing things yourself. It's more about planning and practice, and

students are encouraged to think smart, logically and find new ways to strengthen the concepts they've learnt through knowledge-based learning. Here are some reasons why this is important and why some of the best schools in India make students practice skill-based learning.

- **To enhance creativity:** In skill-based learning, students are pushed to think out of the box and innovate to find new ways to approach matters.

- **Promotes independence:** In an environment that merges knowledge and skill-based learning beautifully, students tend to become independent thinkers. They're encouraged to think higher and deeper, and solve problems on their own. When skill-based learning is introduced at a young age, such as in schools like Podar International, it fine tunes students' minds, and they grow up to be a lot more self-assured.

- **Encourages teamwork:** Collaboration is key to good output. And through skill-based learning, children are taught to think and work together as much as they're taught to be independent. This way, they can play on each other's strengths.

- **Makes students fast learners:** When students have multiple avenues to learn through, their speed of learning and grasping automatically shoots up. Using a skill-based approach can help students grasp concepts faster and also strengthen what they already know.

- **Develops social skills:** Social skill development is imperative for any child, and through skill-based learning, children learn the basics of how to be in different social environments and react appropriately.

- **Makes them better at communication:** Through skill-based learning, children are taught to push the boundaries and develop their vocabulary, which in turn also makes them better orators and communicators.

The Future of Education is Skill-Based

Moving away from the conventional pattern of teaching and learning, the present age is witnessing a paradigm shift in the way teachers are teaching and students are assimilating information. This change in educational patterns is all set to open up newer avenues for the teaching and learning groups, paving the way for a modern school of thought. If you are

curious to know about the futuristic trends in education that will shape the lives of the global student fraternity, here are the driving forces that you should watch out for:

- **Practical Learning Strategies**

- **Focus on Students' Choice and Preferences**

- **Collaboration – The Powerful Tool of Sharing and Connecting With Others**

- **Edutainment**

- **The Emergence of A Holistic Change**

- **Skill-Based Education Paves Way for Trained Professionals**

- **Learning On the Go is Fun**

- **Appreciating Students**

- **Internships – Another Promising Tool For Career Readiness**

- **Adaptive Learning Platforms**

Developing Self-Reliant Learners

It is important to help students become self-reliant. Self-reliant students learn to become independent in decision-making. They are likely to be focused, goal-oriented, confident in their abilities and committed to their learning. While some students become self-reliant on their own, others may require some direction. Here are four important skills that can help students become self-reliant learners:

Assuming responsibilities

Encourage students to take responsibility for their lives. Responsible students:

- Are aware of their roles, duties, tasks and schedules. This enables them to plan and prepare for their days.

- Are committed to tasks from start to finish.

- Own up to mistakes and shortcomings.

- Avoid blaming others or making excuses for their actions.

- Take corrective actions on their own.

- Persist in doing tasks even if they are tedious or boring.

- Face the consequences of their actions.

Being responsible empowers students to feel confident and in control of their lives.

Be skilled and knowledgeable

Equip students with skills and knowledge that can help them accomplish tasks on their own. Teach them:

- How to set realistic and attainable goals.

- Strategies and tips that can help with their learning.

- Organizational and time management skills to help them plan and schedule routines efficiently.

- To learn through exploration and experimentation to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

- To ask for assistance when required. For this, teachers must create a safe and positive learning environment. Students must share rapport with their teachers, have trust and confidence in them, and feel safe to confide and ask for help.

Be purposeful

From an early age, students must be encouraged to be purposeful with their actions. This can help them channel their time, actions and efforts towards that purpose.

Be confident

Present-day students may measure their self-worth based on their social media profiles. Students often rely on "likes" and "number of views" to feel validated and confident about themselves. This may sometimes be unhealthy, as students may struggle to differentiate their *real* lives from their "reel" lives. Teachers must therefore help students to:

- Be intrinsically motivated.

- Accept themselves for who they are.

- Be confident in their skills.

How can teachers help?

Here are some ways by which teachers can help students develop the skills required to be self-reliant:

Incorporate project-based learning: Project-based learning activities encourage students to:

- Be proactive in forming an action plan and implementing it.

- Practice time management and higher cognitive skills.

- Socialize and develop group dynamics.

- Gain confidence in their skills.

Allow choice: Give students the freedom to choose their own activities or methods of learning. When choices are given, students learn to:

- Assess and choose based on their strengths.

- Be responsible and accountable for their choices.

- Learn from their mistakes.

Grade activities: Initially, teachers can plan for short, optimally challenging activities to help students succeed and stay motivated. As skills and confidence increase, students can be encouraged to engage in more challenging tasks. Grading activities helps students to stay focused and complete tasks despite challenges and instill them with a sense of accomplishment.

Teachers must remember to reinforce and appreciate success.

Arrange for chores: Teachers can allot class chores to students to help them assume responsibility. Every week, teachers can arrange for a team of students to manage the classroom.

Time for self: Schedule in a "me" time for students to help them unwind. Students can be encouraged to use this time to explore and pursue their interests, reflect and re-energize themselves.

Encourage socialization: Encourage students to socialize and form friendships with their peers. Help students break the peer strata boundaries by mixing them up in group and paired activities. This is particularly important as it can help students to:

- Understand, accept and respect each other.
- Understand different points of view.
- Learn about different cultures.
- Resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Treat each other diplomatically.

Conclusion

In today's world, it is crucial that teachers encourage students to be self-reliant, as this encourages emotional strength, value of self and others, and confidence in the face of challenges.

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