

A STUDY OF PRESENCE OF LIFE SKILLS IN THE FRESHLY GRADUATED YOUTH

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Abstract :Life skills are behaviors used appropriately and responsibly in the management of personal affairs. They are a set of human skills acquired via teaching or direct experience that are used to handle problems and questions commonly encountered in daily human life. The subject varies greatly depending on social norms and community expectations. It has been found in spite of educating self for 15 years, still most of the freshly graduated youth lacking these life skills. For Economic development of our country we need skill development i.e. work skill, life skills, livelihood skills etc. Hence researcher felt a need to study about the presence of life skills among the freshly graduated youth. Hence researcher through this paper, tried to present his research study on Presence of life skills in the Recently Graduated Students.

Keywords: Life Skills, Freshly Graduated Youth

INTRODUCTION

Life skills are behaviors used appropriately and responsibly in the management of personal affairs. They are a set of human skills acquired via teaching or direct experience that are used to handle problems and questions commonly encountered in daily human life. The subject varies greatly depending on social norms and community expectations. It has been found in spite of educating self for 15 years, still most of the freshly graduated youth lacking these life skills. Life skills have been defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life”. They represent the psycho-social skills that determine valued behaviour and include reflective skills such as problem-solving and critical thinking, to personal skills such as self-awareness, and to interpersonal skills.

Practicing life skills leads to qualities such as self-esteem, sociability and tolerance, to action competencies to take action and generate change, and to capabilities to have the freedom to decide what to do and who to be. Life skills are thus distinctly different from physical or perceptual motor skills, such as practical or health skills, as well as from livelihood skills, such as crafts, money management and entrepreneurial skills. Health and livelihood education however, can be designed to be complementary to life skills education, and vice versa.

For Economic development of our country we need skill development i.e. work skill, life skills, livelihood skills etc. But researcher found dearth of these skills in the recently graduated youth. It was quite shocking to see that yet in spite of graduating, schooling for years, yet basic life skills essential for growth, development many of the freshly graduated youth lacked. Hence the researcher felt a need to do a systematic study of presence of life skills in the recently graduated students of all different streams/ faculty (Arts/Science/Commerce)

NEED OF THE STUDY:

Researcher had been employed in an Film laboratory, as an teacher in secondary section, as an teacher educator, more ever often have discussions with various offices, bank managers, company managers, on informal discussions with them found that they all were not happy with the educational system, nor the out put obtained in totality. They were complaining about lack of livelihood skills, life

skills, work ethics in these freshly graduated youth. More ever researcher even had informally interviewed , observed various young graduates to check for the presence of life skills in them .It was quite shocking to see that yet in-spite of graduating, schooling for years, yet basic life skills essential for growth, development many of the freshly graduated youth lacked. Hence the researcher felt a need to do a systematic study of presence of life skills in the recently graduated students of all different streams/ faculty (Arts/Science/ Commerce)

Uniqueness of the Study/ Review of related literature:

A number of studies researcher had viewed during the literature review but found many similar studies on the life skills were done but not on presence of life skills that too on recently graduated students .

Significance of the Study :

This study will be useful to all the educational institutions offering courses to the youth , to the curriculum developers, policy makers.

Title of the Study :

A study of Presence of life skills cum Livelihood skills in the Recently Graduated Students .

DEFINING THE TERMS :

Life Skills: Life skills are behaviors used appropriately and responsibly in the management of personal affairs. They are a set of human skills acquired via teaching or direct experience that are used to handle problems and questions commonly encountered in daily human life.

Freshly Graduated Youth : A fresh graduate is a person that has just recently graduated. They usually have little to no skill sets, making them ideal for apprenticeships, entry-level positions.

Limitations of the study:

Study is limited only to freshly graduate students , those who completed B.Ed just recently.

Students were restricted to thane district only.

Students who recently completed graduation recently / fresh graduates form the sample of the study.

Sample: 160 graduate students from thane region, out of which only 100 responded fully.

Sampling Method: Purposive Sampling , Random Sampling

Methodology of the Research : Descriptive Analysis.

Tool of the Study : Self made tool to assess presence of life skills . Reliability and validity of the tool was done. Reliability was done by test-retest method. It was found to be 0 .56. Validity of each statement was done by experts.

Tool used for the Study :

Sr. No	STATEMENTS	SA	A	UN	SD	SDA
1.	I always accept constructivist criticism without making inappropriate gestures and comments.					
2.	I never like to accept my mistakes as I am confident of my self.					
3.	I try to seek help of my peers or my acquaintances when needed.					
4.	I use various body language like eye movements, gestures etc while communicating.					
5.	I complete tasks on time ,working at an acceptable speed for a given task.					
6.	I use self check method to evaluate my work.					
7.	I like to work cooperatively with my peers , my colleagues.					
8.	I sometimes never use appropriate language and manners with peers.					
9.	I adapt to increased demands in workload by attempting new tasks without demonstrating frustration.					
10.	I stay on tasks most of the times by completing a task without being distracted.					
11.	I sometimes is unable to makes appropriate choices and decisions by choosing an inappropriate solution when given options.					
12.	Mostly I respond to a problem situation with reasonable alternative solutions.					
13.	I always prioritise activities , duties as per their importance.					
14.	I am good at money management.					
15.	I am able to convince , influence others.					
16.	I recognise my strengths and weaknesses.					
17.	I never hesitate to evaluate my personality.					
18.	I never feel bad for my colleagues/ peers problem/s.					
19.	I never tactfully handle the situations/problems I encounter.					
20.	I am unable to withstand pressure be it family or job or peer pressure.					
21.	I am able to identify problem correctly and its source.					
22.	I get upset (tearful at times) when met with stress and continuously sit in one situation.					
23.	I never care for my colleagues / peers needs, their feelings.					
24.	I like to interact with my peers.					
25.	I know strength and weakness of most of my colleagues / peers.					
26.	I like to make friendships , make network with others.					
27.	I often speak in right tone , according to the listener, his understanding , age level.					
28.	I always try to analyse the information, try to study the cause and effect relationship in it.					

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

- ❖ 52% disagreed to the statement ' I always accept constructivist criticism without making inappropriate gestures and comments' whereas 23 % agreed to the statement and 25% were confused , responded ' can't say'
- ❖ 78% agreed to the statement ' I never like to accept my mistakes as I am confident of my self' from this it is very clear that most of the respondents had not critical thinker , neither possess life skill ' self awareness' , necessary to be developed among them as these are very important for growth and development of the personality.
- ❖ 67% disagreed to the statement ' I try to seek help of my peers or my acquaintances when needed' , 30 % disagreed to the statement , whereas 3% responded can't say. From here it can be concluded that lack of interpersonal relationships, communication skills and adjustment skill is found among the respondents.
- ❖ 52% agreed to the statement ' I use various body language like eye movements, gestures etc while communicating' whereas 42% disagreed , and 6% responded can't say to the statement. 42% disagreed to the statement which makes it clear that nearly 40-45% of the respondents do not use effective body language like eye movements, gestures etc while communicating.

- ❖ 65% agreed to the statement 'I complete tasks on time, working at an acceptable speed for a given task', whereas 34% disagreed to the statement from which it is clear that nearly 1/3rd respondents may be weak in life skill like management of time, creative thinking, decision making, problem solving of the respondents
- ❖ 56% agreed to the statement, 'I use self check method to evaluate my work'. Whereas 44% disagreed to the statement. From here, it can be said that the respondents were lacking in life skills like self awareness, critical thinking, problem solving etc.
- ❖ 67% agreed to the statement, 'I like to work cooperatively with my peers, my colleagues', from here it can be said that nearly 70% of the respondents possessed basic communication skill, empathy, interpersonal relationship skill which is very much essential for better adjustment, personal and future professional development of the youth.
- ❖ 72% responded positively to the statement whereas 21% disagreed to the statement, 'I recognise my strengths and weaknesses,' which shows that maximum of the respondents possessed the basic self-awareness skill as they were aware of their self. yet there were 21% of respondents who were unaware of them self.
- ❖ 59% agreed to the statement, whereas, 31% disagreed to the statement, 'I never hesitate to evaluate my personality'. This shows that major portion possessed the life skill critical thinking, yet 31% of the respondents, graduate youths lacked the skill of thinking critically, ability to analyse self.
- ❖ 79% disagreed to the statement, 'I never feel bad for my colleagues/ peers problem/s', this shows that major respondents possessed empathetic potential, emotional intelligence.
- ❖ 64% disagreed to the statement, whereas 31% agreed to the statement, 'I never tactfully handle the situations/problems I encounter', which clearly shows the lack of ability among the freshly graduated youth in handling difficult situations / problems. This clearly shows lack of problem solving ability / coping of stress, critical creative thinking among the fresh graduates of thane district.
- ❖ 56% agreed, whereas 28% disagreed to the statement, 'I am unable to withstand pressure be it family or job or peer pressure'. This clearly shows the inability of most of the respondents i.e. nearly 60% to cope stress, emotions, problem solving ability.
- ❖ 73% of the freshly graduates disagreed to the statement, 'I am able to identify problem correctly and its source,' whereas 22% strongly disagreed to the statement. 2% were unable to respond. This clearly indicates that yet though graduated but are unable to analyse the root cause of the problem, hence can be said that they lack problem solving ability.
- ❖ 62% agreed to the statement, 'I get upset (tearful at times) when met with stress and continuously sit in one situation', which shows lack of skill of coping with emotions among the respondents, fresh graduates.
- ❖ 77% disagreed, to the statement, 'I never care for my colleagues / peers needs, their feelings', which clearly shows that most of the respondents possessed empathetic potential, skill required for adjustment.
- ❖ 65% agreed to the statement whereas nearly 35% disagreed to the statement, 'I like to interact with my peers'. This shows 35% respondents lacked communication skills and interpersonal skills, due to which they are unable to interact with the peers.
- ❖ 56% of the respondents agreed to the statement, 'I know strength and weakness of most of my colleagues / peers', this clearly shows, the interpersonal relationships, peer awareness, presence of communication skills, etc but still 44% of the respondents, showed lack of presence of interpersonal relationships, peer awareness, presence of communication skills among the fresh graduates, which need to be developed among them.
- ❖ 54% of the respondents agreed to the statement yet a large portion i.e. nearly 46% disagreed to the statement, 'I like to make friendships, make network with others'. From here it is very much clear that many of the respondents lacked interpersonal relationships and effective communication skills, empathetic potential.
- ❖ 67% disagreed to the statement, whereas 29% disagreed to the statement, 'I often speak in right tone, according to the listener, his understanding, age level', this shows / represents that major portion of respondents many of the respondents lacked interpersonal relationships and effective communication skills, empathetic potential.
- ❖ 70% agreed, whereas 27% disagreed to the statement, 'I always try to analyse the information, try to study the cause and effect relationship in it,' inability of presence of life skill critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking among the freshly graduated youth.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES :

A Study Of Presence Of Life Skills In The Freshly Graduated Youth At Work
A Study Of Presence Of Life Skills among the secondary school students .
A Study of attitude of parents towards life skill education in the school .
A study of presence of life skills among the adolscents.
A study of life skills among the street (out of school) children .

SUGGESTIONS:

Most of the youth , those freshly graduated , may possess livelihood skills but not all. Among the 10 life skills laid down by WHO , only few may be present among the youth. Our educational system does give more importance to marks/ scores obtained by the students, Very less weightage yet was given for development of life skills. Value education had been given weightage over years but not throughout . There are gaps found / were found in promotion of value education among the school children, teenagers. There need to be given weightage to development of the following skills. There need to rethink on the reformation of curriculum , wherein livelihood skills, life skills, vocational skills, professional skills, soft skills, values all the youth need to be trained for.

CONCLUSION :

From the above research study , the researcher- author was able to study the presence of life skills among freshly graduated youth at work , which are needed to be developed among the graduates right from the school level to the higher secondary to the degree level , before they are exposed to the world after graduation for work.

There need to rethink on the reformation of curriculum , wherein livelihood skills, life skills, vocational skills, professional skills, soft skills, values all the youth need to be trained for. Hopefully , with joint effect really programmes should be chalked out, new curriculum is required to be framed where life skills should be given prominent prime place in the curriculum.

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