



Strategies for the Skill Orientation Among Engineering Students in Esl Context-Express Yourself: an Overview

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Communication skills, Hard skills, Soft skills, 7D Success formula, Express yourself, Sample format etc.

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ABSTRACT *Technical competence and communication skills are two essential components must go hand in hand. Of course effective communication skills with excellent academic performance are supplementary and complementary. No professional student can meet his/her goal without any of these pre requisite skills. There is the constant growth and importance of skill acquisition in the modern age of science and technology. No doubt it is the fact that in impending times effective orientation can be much emphasized on skill acquisition where English practiced as a second language (ESL) a backdrop.*

Introduction

Communicating in English is a major problem for many engineering graduates applying for IT jobs. MeritTrac, a skills assessment company points out that only twenty percent of the candidates evaluated met the overall English criteria required by the industry (Business Line, 2008).

A number of engineering students have not been successful in job interviews just because of their lack of communication skills and there are cases of rank holders in engineering studies who could not go for higher studies to the United States and other English speaking countries because of their lack of proficiency in English. It is just because those aspirants did not get score on their Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) because of their poor English communication skills.

Understanding Skill

Skill is defined as a practical ability in a given context. Robins and Hunsaker (1966) defined skill as 'a system of behavior that can be applied in a wide range of situation'.

Skill → **Hard skill**
→ **Soft skill**

Hard Skills

Hard skills are required to fulfill the functions of a specific job or a task. It includes technical abilities obtained through academics and practical hands on experience. For example the skill of a doctor can be represented

Doctor → **Diagnose**
→ **Operate**
→ **Treat etc.**

Hard skills are achieved through learning over a period of time. Constant practice and training in educational program in schools, colleges, academic institutions, universities and other higher halls of learning tend to be the centers for acquiring hard skills. These hard skills help the professional students to get employment opportunities. Besides that human skills are also required to add glamour to their professionalism.

Soft Skills

In general soft skills are interpersonal skills consists of diverse range of abilities include LSRW skills, Communication skills, Presentation skills, Team building skills, Time management skills, Decision making skills, Conflict management skills, Problem solving skills, Leadership skills, Negotiation skills, Argumentative skills, Mentoring skills, Motivational skills, Counseling skills etc.

Why these skills are important?

It is always an important question aimed to every professional student to know the importance of the real value of skill acquisition in real time learning. Of course this is a valid question that every professional must know the priorities and importance of acquiring skills for not only grabbing an opportunity in job winning events but also to polish their abilities in their career development. These are essential and vital to handle

- Interpersonal relations
- Responsibilities smoothly
- Take proper decisions
- To communicate effectively
- To be successful in career
- To maintain self esteem
- To find suitable solutions to problems
- To sustain integrity, harmony and balance among working groups
- To win the situations which lead to professional growth

As these are vital in molding professional's attitude in assimilating all related situations in everyday life, topmost priority is given to these skill acquisition can also be named as life skills.

7D Success Formula

"As you sow, as you reap". It's you to decide your fate and destiny with the use of effective interpersonal communication skills. Here is 7D success formula...

- ✓ Dream
- ✓ Deserve
- ✓ Decide
- ✓ Design
- ✓ Determine

- ✓ Discipline
- ✓ Dedicate

Success is an outcome of the above steps. Interpersonal skills include a wide range of needs of an individual helps to maintain relation in the group. Of these the first and foremost prominence is given to make own impressions on others. It is well known and widely popular saying that "the first impression is the best impression" and also it is to know that "the good beginning is half done". So it is always important to begin interpersonal relation in acknowledging effectively addressing with adherent procedure. It can be practiced and gained momentums in the event of speak yourself or express yourself. In other words it's also familiar as introduce yourself or SD (self description). This normally consists of the following as mentioned.

Sample Format

Introduce yourself/ Speak yourself/ Express yourself/ Briefing/ Self description

- Name:
- Father name:
- Mother name:
- Siblings:
- Native place:
- Parental background:
- Academic description:
- Schooling/College:
- Hobbies/Interests:
- Likes & Dislikes:
- Strengths & Weaknesses:
- Dream:
- Goal/Aim in life:
- All favorites (actor/ actress/ author/ sports person /politician/ scientist/ national leader etc.).
- Favorite color/food/number:
- Role model:
- Inspiring/motivating person:
- Attitude:
- The book I like best is:
- The person I like best is:
- The place I like best is:

Conclusion

English language and communication skills for engineering students are recognized as essential in the academic life and career for the engineering students. It requires making use of integrated methods to facilitate communication skills, which is the demand of industry as well as society. The rural area engineering students should be given prominent focus in order to bring latent abilities in them effectively and suggested to make use of the faculty, multimedia language labs and other amenities provided.

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