



“BUILDING COMPETENCIES IN CHALLENGING TIMES”

Puneet Krishna
Sharma

ABSTRACT Shifting from conventional to skill-based approach demands various types of style, pedagogical structure, and traditional approach, and students' learning outcomes are thought of. It will provide an opportunity to ponder over an essential question of 21st Century how future-ready students can be prepared and how the discussed skills are going to help them lead society in a better way by being a great human being in the process of preparing them for the careers they wish to opt.

KEYWORDS :

Real success demands a higher range of character-building from a student, the aspirant, than an ordinary one. He is the one who should know well how to uplift himself in demanding and challenging times. Though it is said, “Sweet are the uses of Adversity,” yet here only begins the role of the educators who have to strive hard in preparing the students to be well abreast with all required skills appropriately instilled in their mind and soul to thrive in their future course of action in such times.

Furthermore, this brings the ball in educators' court on the playfields of teaching, training,[1] and preparing them for life to consider the present situation as the high time to give it a second thought how students must prepare themselves to look into the face of the repeated challenges, the world which is full of uncertain and unpredictable things throws at them time and again. Ratan Tata, the great business tycoon of India,[2] has rightly said that students should learn that ups and downs are essential as the world will never be a stable one.

The introduction of 21st-century skills in the school curriculum will surely help them to become successful human beings. These skills are essential for them to grow personally and professionally. Some of the most prominent and essential skills are Technological edification, Collaboration, Creativity, Communication, Critical thinking, Information literacy, Flexibility, Leadership, Social skills, Media literacy, Decision making, and Cognitive intelligence. These skills can be further broken into sub-categories like Learning skills, Literacy skills, Life skills. In today's era, the 4C's [3] are the most popular among which first of all comes the **critical thinking** skills, which means finding solutions for problems by analyzing all the aspects of the same, which is the process that eliminates the problems and replaces them with desired results; **Creativity** skills which stand for thinking about the problem differently which empowers a student to perceive it from a different angle which is a different viewpoint ultimately giving way to the innovation of new ideas and thought processes; **Collaboration** skills gives the idea of the teamwork, getting students to work in groups and attains the results by solving a problem; **Communication** is the fourth and the last of the 4C's which trains them how to talk not only to their peer groups but also to the rest of the world using different techniques and mediums of communication.[4]

Hence, students need to know how to convey different information to others effectively with the required impact. Effective communication has been one of the uncredited soft skills. So far, there has been an emphasis on rote memorization of the content rather than their expression being given due emphasis. Without instilling the software of communication skills in their minds and hearts, in the 21st Century students will be deficient in critical skills to keep going with their chosen career paths.

Apart from the 4c's discussed above, there are a few more skills like **Literacy skill** which helps everyone get the information in terms of facts, figures, statistics, and data and trying to find out the results from it. To solve this problem, computers, cloud computing, and electronic gadgets have been condemning everywhere;

Technology edification provides mandatory knowledge that students require to know which of the instrument are useful for them to perform

the task better in an advantageous and impactful way. This perceptive eliminates threatening feeling that technology ignorance tries to create on the human mind and heart. There is but the apparent reason behind it, if they understand how the technology works, it may work wonders; in fact, it will be a magic wand in their hands, provided with a positive mindset. Nevertheless, it exposes the latest technology that is in present era.

As a consequence, one must adjust to society more constructively as they will play a vital function in its ever-going process of evolution. One can even advise the world in future course of action.

Next to discuss is **information literacy**, which has taken the place of foundation skill. It will help students to understand the reasons, mainly data points that they will come across online. **Media literacy** is the preparation of classifying and ways of publishing sources when differentiating between the sure and not sure.

Life skills are the vital category that pertains to one's individual's life as they can change the professional surroundings and the professional. **Leadership Skills** are the desire for setting achievements, moving with them during the course and collectively getting these aims. Following them, understanding the consequences of the particular decisions. This provides them capability that is required to learn for their growth of profession and to win the world.

However, headship alone will not work to get through, in any case. Real success needs **inventiveness**, wants one to be bootstrapper. The instinct comes naturally to few students. As a consequence, one needs to achieve it. Hence one must expertise it. The accolade for them with farthest inventiveness depends on case to case.

Inventiveness is bound to fail without **Social skills**, which are crucial for students; it is usually done through the connections people make with others around them. Social skills are superb tools for forging enduring relationships. It is said that 80% of the success comes from how one deal with people and attains the required skills of dealing. There is a dire need to have proper social skills without sounding gauche. Although these may have been suggested in formerly generations, the increase of social media and fast interactions have changed the nature of interface of students.[5] As a consequence, a student of the present-day world possesses a large variety of social skills, but the cruel reality is that just a few of them are more social savvy than others. Few may be behind their peers. Moreover, a few fortunate may be far ahead, as socializing is by birth to them. Decorum's, manners, courteous, and short talk play significant roles in today's world [6, 7].

CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, it can be very well concluded that a 21st-century student will need to be equipped with all the skills as discussed above since the absence of any one of these sends the impression of being maladroit who though has acquired the required degree or diploma yet remains a fugitive from every challenging task or situation.

REFERENCES:

1. Jaswant Singh (1964): Successful Headmasters: A practice Guide to Educational Administration, Delhi University Publishers, Jallundhur.
2. Raghunath, Safaya and Shaيدا, B.D.(1981) : School Administration and Organisation,

- Dhanpat Rai & sons, Jallundhur.
3. Aggarwal , J.C.(1995) : Essentials of Educational Technology- Teaching – Learning Innovation in Education , Vikas Publishing House, Delhi .
 4. Jangira, N.K. and Jangira, Pinki (1995): Effective Teaching Child Oriented Approach , National Publishing House, New Delhi
 5. Verma , Ramesh and Sharma , K. Suresh (1998): Modern Trends in Teaching Technology ,Anmol Publication Pvt.Ltd., New Delhi
 6. Elliott, K., & Hollingsworth, H. (2020). A case for reimagining school leadership development to enhance collective efficacy. Camberwell, Australia: Australian Council for Educational Research.