

Importance of Forming the Soft Skills Club at Entry Level of Engineering Graduation for Rural Indian Students

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Abstract- Soft Skills are very essential now-a-days. It is becoming the demand of corporate sector that whoever they hire for job position, he must have some basic soft skills such as Inter Communication skill, Intra Communication skill, Teamwork, Leadership skill, Adaptability skill and so on. But it is the fact that there is less awareness among rural students about these soft skills and which becomes the main reason that they get set back most of the time when they appear for campus drives. They meet difficulties to acquire these soft skills because of lack of trainings and guidance found especially in rural engineering colleges of India. Therefore, it can be a big task and challenge to the rural engineering students to get into the required processes of skill acquisition and all with the lack of communicative environment in both places school or colleges and home as well. It becomes really barrier to students when time comes to them to present something in front of an audience, while delivering seminar to other people or interacting with professors or colleagues or other professionals at all levels that becomes the main cause to produce inferiority complex about acquisition of soft skills. Because of such terrific situations, they meet failure in getting recruited in campus selection or meet failure in facing an interview or any other activities which are conducted to test their soft skills. Such poor competent students easily meet failure in achieving the higher expectations of corporate world afterwards.

Therefore, in order to resolve such issues of students who belong to rural sector-based engineering colleges, there is a need to produce some platforms like Soft Skill Club under which some speaking-based activities, group activities, presentations can be conducted to improve their communicative competence, stage daring, body language and

personality traits as well. Therefore, this research paper highlights the importance of Soft Skill Club to the First Year of Engineering but rural students in India.

Indexed Terms- Soft Skill Club, Skills Acquisition and Corporate Expectations.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is observed that parameters such as lack of sound environment for soft skill development in both school and college, neutral attitude towards soft skills fear and passive minded learners, and less emphasis given on skill acquisition in Indian context are responsible to have such critical and complex situation of professional in the training of engineers specially rural Indian based engineering institutes where emphasis is given on technical courses rather than soft skills as far as educational outcomes are concerned. Those learners who are having poor competency over soft skill face a lot of difficulties while giving presentations on various topics, delivering seminars as a part of continuous assessment of their teaching-learning processes and so on.

It is the fact that sometimes we come across some students who have a good knowledge of English language and its grammar. It is the fact that traditional teaching approach does not bring anything in term of skill acquisition to learners and learners become unskilled. These kinds of students fail when they are invited to communicate or interact with other students or professionals. It is found that most of them become shy and hesitate to converse with huge audience or their subordinates too, which becomes a real challenge to them when they are shortlisted and invited for campus interviews after couple of years to get recruited. When any HR team of any MNC visits a

campus to recruit people, they observe that in compare to urban based students, rural based students they are having negative approaches to communication in English language and proving their appropriate soft skills. It might be happening because they might not have got right platform to showcase their skills, or it might be happening because of some skill acquisition barriers in the learning experiences and processes. Whatever reason, but there must be a something in the form of platforms like Soft Skill Club at their entry level of engineering graduation that has to be formed in campus to develop their hidden skills and meet industry demands by conducting some productive activities such as PPT Presentations, Group activities, activities on Communication skills and so on. Therefore, it is proved that to inculcate soft skills in rural Indian engineering students, there is a need to have a club like Soft Skill club in place.

• **IMPORTANCE OF FORMING SOFT SKILL CLUB AT ENTRY LEVEL OF ENGINEERING GRADUATION FOR INDIAN RURAL STUDENTS:**

Considering the importance and need of SOFT SKILL CLUB at entry level of engineering graduation for rural Indian students, we can come across its several advantages such as:

1. To enhance Soft Skills in freshers who are admitted to engineering discipline
2. To let students getting familiar with skill acquisition environment.
3. To produce a suitable and sound Communicative culture at department of first year engineering.
4. To develop all kind of soft skills required for industry in students.
5. To remove the fear about communication skills and make them more confident about their speaking abilities.
6. To make available a platform where students can unite together to interact with each other and perform their given tasks as well.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

(Methods, Findings and Analysis)

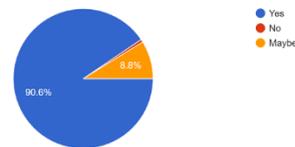
Survey method for this research study has been used to collect reliable data Survey has been made on purely

online basis of first year students of the most popular & autonomous engineering institute in the western Maharashtra, India named ‘Annasaheb Dange College of Engineering and Technology, Ashta. Survey has been taken of 307 students of First Year, wherein some questions based on the importance of forming Soft Skill Club at entry level of engineering graduation for rural Indian students were asked. Based on the students’ responses got, the analysis of survey has been done.

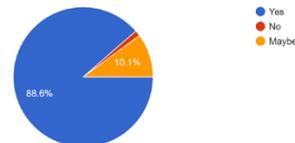
• **Online Survey:**

Google form, having total Five questions, had been spread among these target students who already worked and performed under this Soft Skill Club established for first year engineering students. Total number of students whose survey has been done is 307 and all of them were first year engineering students. The questions in the questionnaire/google form used in the survey are as follows:

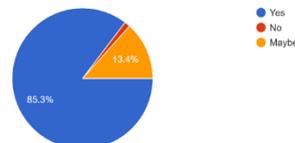
Do you think that Soft Skill Club is really essential to form for entry level of Engineering Graduation?
307 responses

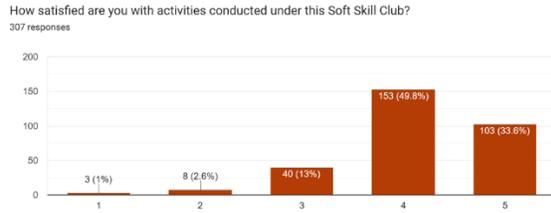


Will the activities conducted under this Soft Skills Club be beneficial to you in your future academic and professional career?
307 responses



Do you think that the activities conducted under this Soft Skills Club are helpful to improve your personality?
307 responses





III. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

As far as the importance of forming soft skill Club at entry level of engineering graduation for rural Indian students is concerned, it is proved that by this survey around 90% students who participated in this survey are agreed that soft skill club is really needed to form at entry level of engineering graduation. 88% participants are agreed with the benefits got to make their future academic and professional career. 85% participants saying that Soft Skill Club is very useful to develop their personality traits and to make them successful professional. Around 83% participants are believed that competency to communicate in English and cultivation and acquisition of some needed soft skills can be grown up by involving into several activities and tasks that can be given under such clubs.

CONCLUSION

In this way, based on the research survey done with 307 students, we believe that there is really a need to establish Soft Skill Club at entry level of graduation for rural Indian students to enhance their Soft Skills, Communication competency, to have a great english communicative environment and culture around to meet industry expectations and get recruited in MNCs on higher position by proving their skills and knowledge to serve society.