

SIGNIFICANCE OF SOFT SKILLS AT WORK PLACE

Dr. P. Rajitha Nair¹

¹Department of English Hyderabad Telangana State, India.

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.58257/IJPREMS36057>

ABSTRACT

Technical proficiency is no longer sufficient for people to compete in today's fiercely competitive global workplace. Soft skills are of fundamental importance. The research study was built on a multiple-case-study design viewed through the emotional intelligence lens. Finding effective soft skills training methods in the logistics sector was the main goal of the study. Businesses are shifting their focus to employee knowledge in order to obtain a competitive edge. Workers' hard and soft skills are now more important than ever thanks to this change. Soft skills are a collection of character traits, routines, dispositions, and social graces that contribute to an individual's suitability as a worker and as an employee. Hard skills and soft skills are the two categories of skills. Soft skills are crucial for efficient communication, preserving intellectual property, and career advancement. Soft skills are interpersonal and personal qualities that improve a person's ability to communicate with others, perform well at work, and advance in their profession. Numerous essential soft skills must be used in the workplace. Hence, in order to do effectively in their academic and future employment environments, a person should start soft skills training while still a student.

Key Words: Soft skills, technical proficiency, communication, intellectual property.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the extremely competitive 21st-century business, technical abilities alone are no longer sufficient for employees. Individual soft skills are now more important than ever. Hard and soft skill competences are combined in the most valued people in the company. Soft skill deficiencies were cited by 50% of employers worldwide in a survey of workers with a skills gap (Hurrell, 2016). Some workers lack soft skills, which is a general business problem; nevertheless, some executives in the logistics sector lack employee training methods for soft skills. "People's skills," "interpersonal skills," and "transferable skills" are all synonyms for "soft skills." Soft skills are character traits that improve a person's ability to communicate with others, perform well at work, and advance in their profession. Stated differently, these are the nuanced actions and modes of communication that contribute to the ease of managing a work environment or interpersonal interactions.

People skills are another name for soft skills. These can include effective interpersonal and communication skills, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving abilities, a strong work ethic, and time management. These are qualities that are transferable to any role. Hard skills are the technical abilities a person needs on a daily basis to carry out their profession. Examples include procedural knowledge used in a work or computer abilities. Soft skills are elusive and challenging to measure, but they are important in fostering interpersonal connections—unlike hard skills, which can be demonstrated and assessed. While soft skills are generally applicable, hard skills are typically task-specific. Effective communication with co-workers, superiors, and subordinates is crucial to preventing miscommunication and misunderstandings in the workplace. Language is a communication tool for members of the same group to use with one another.

Soft Skills in the Workplace

Retaining and upskilling top personnel are becoming more and more important as businesses realize the importance of their people. Putting money into soft skills training is one creative way to get traction. This paradigm change is not only changing the employee experience, but it is also showing to be a smart strategic move for businesses trying to get the most out of their human resources. It is important to learn more about how developing soft skills can improve the employment experience.

These days, the phrase "soft skill" is used to refer to a broad range of necessary competences, including attitude, social skills, life skills, and aptitude skills. It also includes character attributes including the ability to form and uphold professional relationships at work, perform well in a team, and maintain amicable relationships with others. Soft skills are supplementary to hard skills, which are used to complete a task, according to soft tradition. Acquiring soft skills is essential for success in life and in the workplace. It is only via education that these abilities can be developed. There are significant differences between an illiterate, unskilled, and untalented person and an educated, skilled, and talented person. In the absence of appropriate planning and skill application, work execution becomes unsuccessful. These days, possibilities and tasks can only be completed by skilled people. In general, skills relate to a person's capacity to finish

any given activity or an assigned duty. It can also mean having the ability to complete a task flawlessly. With these abilities, people will be able to complete the activities and advance their competencies at their own speed. It is the capacity to generate the intended outcomes within the allotted period. Technical, social, personal, and life skills are the general categories into which skills are separated. The abilities needed to complete a task are known as technical skills. Conversely, interpersonal skills encompass inspiring others, organizing and planning abilities, problem-solving abilities, and more. Leading a group of people, negotiating, motivating, and other social skills are included. Additionally, life skills include things like training, work-life balance, and time management.

Hard skills and soft skills are the two categories of skill sets. Soft talents are arbitrary since they deal with other people's perspectives. Not every competency is closely related to a particular task. Conversely, hard skills are a particular collection of competencies needed to finish a task. While soft skills are the vital interpersonal abilities required to carry out the responsibilities of a work, hard skills are the technical know-how required to execute a task. Soft skills, which include leadership qualities, ethics, optimism, communication skills, and social skills, are frequently defined as necessary personality attributes. It is possible to acquire all of the aforementioned skills with intense practice. The distinctions between hard and soft skills are numerous. Hard skills are lifelong once they are mastered. By going to the training courses, kids are, for instance, learning how to drive a car. Soft skills, on the other hand, are unique and emotion-based; their quality is quantified.

A few of the soft skills can be learned through training, but most of them come innately. Another significant difference is hard skills are mandatory for specific jobs. Soft skills are equally necessary for both life and career, although few job roles demand more of hard skills. Hard skills can be easily measured, and tangible and soft skills are demonstrated according to the arisen situations. Generally, schools, colleges, and universities variedly identify and understand the importance of soft skills. It is one of the widely debated topics of the twenty-first century, thereby concluded that to lead a happy life, soft skill are imperative. Soft skills are well-thought-out as a strategic, pre-emptive, and tactical element at any workplace. The foundation of any professional job is these talents. Strong, soft skills are the foundation for any industry's or organization's growth and profitability. Soft skills, sometimes referred to as life skills, are widely, appropriately, and suitably used to handle competent concerns. These abilities are either imparted or freely acquired so that people can learn how to deal with any issue that arises in daily life. Soft skills frequently help in problem solving and trying to come up with workable solutions. Other leadership attributes like sociability, self-worth, self-confidence, tolerance, open-mindedness, and other critical abilities can be absorbed, swallowed, and imbibed with the aid of life skills, also known as soft skills.

The majority of businesses and sectors in the twenty-first century are looking for workers with exceptional skill sets. An organization hires workers with dependable, strong, and exceptional soft skills for their advantage. Early in the 20th century, soft skill adoption increased in all training facilities and educational establishments worldwide. In the very competitive world of today, having great, first-class, and remarkable soft skills is essential, as hard skills alone will not fulfill an individual's aspirations. In order to make an impact, the worker or learner must upskill and upgrade to match the skills and expertise of the market. The well-known adage "Survival of the Fittest" serves as the foundation for soft skill development initiatives in industrialized nations like China, America, Japan, Europe, and others. In India, soft skills have not received as much attention despite the country's high literacy rate. Thus, the purpose of this essay is to offer a thorough justification of the significance of soft skill development for individuals. Despite the technological advancements of this day, soft skills are becoming more and more in demand. Soft skills are lacking in both professionals and students from all backgrounds. Soft talents started to be seen more as a commodity than a requirement. They believe that soft skills are solely necessary to succeed in interviews and excel in the workplace.

The most elite companies of the modern era want their workers to do their jobs flawlessly. The staff is very capable of doing the jobs that have been delegated to them. It is for this reason that they ought to have both hard and soft talents. Since the development of soft skills and personality go hand in hand, employees' professional conduct and manners are closely related to developing their soft skills. Maintaining a constant relationship with consumers at work requires upholding professional ethics, even when engaging in meaningful interactions. Maintaining ties with coworkers, friends, family, clients, suppliers, and so forth is also facilitated by it. This brings up the need of developing soft skills, often known as social skills or life skills, which are crucial to the organization's success.

Training in soft skills is the main focus of schooling. It goes without saying that soft teaching techniques ought to start early, in primary school. Soft skill development begins even before a child is accepted into school; it happens at home. The state of the labour market is uncertain in the twenty-first century. Therefore, it is crucial to teach, guide, and advise the younger or upcoming generation about the value of these talents throughout the job search, during the interview process, and ultimately in the workplace. The acquisition of soft learning abilities would be very beneficial for living a

calm, happy life. Consequently, in order to help students acquire soft skills, educational institutions and training facilities should start focusing on various approaches and strategies. In actuality, they will be able to utilize these skills in every situation. In support of the opinions expressed, a recent study found that a child is fully formed with a well-balanced and composed set of social, cognitive, and emotional skills, enabling the child to meet a plethora of obstacles in the modern world. Additionally, it is said that having a cohesive set of abilities improves skills and reduces discrepancies of all kinds. Above all, soft skills should be cultivated in the school system so that individuals can enhance their social animal qualities and succeed in the workplace. In other words, soft skills act as a source of happiness to all lives. Almost all the countries demand soft skill training as it increases the annual revenue of the nations. At the same time, individuals feel free to cope up with others in peace. To expertise in soft skills, every human being mandatory climbs the ladder of emotional intelligence.

2. CONCLUSION

The following results from the research study can be easily achieved:

In the life of an individual, soft skills are crucial. These abilities characterize a person in relation to their environment. Hard skills and soft skills are combined and merged. Hard skills are easily learnt, however soft skills are challenging to teach. Only with the guidance and support of instructors or training sessions can soft skills be developed. An individual can only acquire soft skills if he establishes the groundwork for them. In other words, people ought to be dedicated to the learning process. Lifelong learning is a soft skill. It's an exhausting and never-ending procedure. It might be seen as a source of life as well. There are a variety of methods that educators can employ to teach soft skills, including case studies, projects, seminars, academic writing, and games. Even in the corporate sector, there is a great need for workers who can definitely get along with others. That is the capacity to communicate directly and with humility with others.

3. REFERENCES

- [1] Johar, Siti Saraswati. "Emotional Intelligence in Soft Skill: First-Class Human Domain Generating." *International Journal of Engineering & Technology* 7.4.28 (2018): 1-5.
- [2] Rani, Saritha. *Soft Skills: Need for Modern Era*. International Journal of Applied Research. Vol 3(3). 2017.
- [3] Naineni, K., et al. "Addressing the challenges of training in communication skills in medicine in India." *Journal of Research in Medical Education & Ethics* 6.1 (2016): 10-14.
- [4] Burns, T. (2012). *Essential study skills: the complete guide to success at university*. 3-rd edn. London: Sage.
- [5] Engelberg, S. (November 2015). A developmental Perspective on Soft Skills. Speech at "Soft Skills and their role in employability – New perspectives in teaching, assessment, and certification," workshop in Bertinoro, FC, Italy.