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Empowering Students In Digital Era Through Life Skill Education Programme

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ABSTRACT

Technological developments in the Digital Era have conquered the minds of the students. These developments focus on the quality assurance in Education. Though these developments lead to knowledge society there is a need to develop life skills among the students in order to empower them. In this digital era students right from Primary schools up to College level are able to learn everything technological equipments. Even after utilizing these facilities they are subjected to lot of social evils like terrorism, drug abuse, sexual harassments, corruption etc. This is the right time to empower the younger generation to attain life skills utilizing the technology in the digital era. Ten life skills are prescribed by World Health Organization which are divided as Thinking Skills, Emotional Skills and Social Skills. Tamilnadu state is developing these skills among the adolescents by three programs. Now this forum may take some initiatives to create technological measures to bring digitalized Life Skill Education Program. Then we can confidently say that the generation will be empowered holistically in the digital era.

KEY WORDS

Thinking Skills: The skills needed to think creatively, critically and Positively to solve problems and to take decisions.

Social Skills: The skills needed to develop good relationship with the society and to live for ourselves and for others.

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Emotional skills: The skills needed to balance our emotions and manage the stress

INTRODUCTION

By the advent of Digital Era lots of Technological Developments have invaded into education system. They have greatly conquered the minds of students. The developments have very vastly spread out in the Educational Management System. The main focus of education system is concerned with Quality Assurance. To visualize this concern different schemes of the Government have brought the knowledge on the top of the desk. Multimedia Technology, Digitalization, Globalization and Liberalization in education system has made tremendous development in the knowledge society right from Primary education upto Higher education. Knowledge alone will not cater the needs of the present youth. At the same time skills are very much needed for them to lead a successful life in the society. Specifically, **Life Skills such as Thinking skills, Social skills and Emotional skills will empower the students to tackle the emerging problems in the Digital Era**. This can be achieved positively through the Assessment, Conducting Competitions and Training Programmes on Life skills. The following recommendations will futher help to empower the students in this digital era.

DIGITAL ERA AND EDUCATION SYSTEM

Intrusion of Multimedia Technology, Digitalization, Globalization and Liberalization into education system has made tremendous development in the knowledge society. Right from Primary education upto Higher education the digital technology has influenced a lot. Primary children have started to learn through computers, using educational softwares. Secondary students learn through Internet. Moreover, Multimedia Labs and Smart classrooms are supporting the learning to students. In Higher education many technological facilities are available for learning. This is the scenario of education system in the digital era. **Here is a question in front of all of us to think whether the digital knowledge alone will empower the present generation to survive successfully in this digital era.**

EMPOWERING THE STUDENTS THROUGH LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION

In spite of having knowledge in the digital technology, many students are exploited by the evils of the society i.e. Terrorism, Drug abuse, Sexual Harassments, Corruption etc. Even when the students are placed in the Multinational and Software companies after their higher education, they are exploited Physically, Mentally and

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Intellectually. Generally the students are not trained to tackle these problems which they meet in the society due to the fact that they lack the life skills. **Now as Educational Managers, Administrators and Academicians our role is to develop the Life Skills recommended by WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO).** The life skills are under three categories, which are

Thinking skills	Social Skills	Emotional Skills
Self Awareness	**Interpersonal Relationship**	**Coping with stress**
Problem Solving/Decision making	**Effective Communication**	**Managing Emotions**
Critical Thinking	**Empathy**	
Creative Thinking	**Assertiveness/Refusal**	

When these skills are inculcated among the students right from class VIII they would be able to tackle social evils and live confidently.

THE BEST PRACTICES IN TAMILNADU IN DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS AMONG STUDENTS

Tamilnadu state is taking this task through three ways.

1. Through **Co-scholastic Assessment.**

2. Through **competitions like Role play, Folk Dance, and Poster Presentations**.

3.Through **Life skill Education Programmes (LSEP)**

1. THROUGH CO-SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT

Under Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) one of the areas in Co-scholastic assessment is **Life Skills, which are assessed through Observation and Selected Activities** using specific descriptive indictors which are given in the CCE-Co scholastic activities –Teachers Handbook – class IX, 2013, SCERT, Chennai.

2. THROUGH COMPETITIONS

Competitions like **Role play, Folk Dance and Poster Presentation are conducted to students of class IX of all High and Higher Secondary Schools from school level to National**

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level as in the Proceedings of the Director, SCERT, Chennai, 2015. The themes are based on the Life Skills under which some situations have been given. Students choose any situation. The themes are

a) **Healthy relationship among adolescents**

b) **Beauty and challenges in Adolescence**

c) **Discrimination of HIV/AIDS Positive persons and its effects**

d) **Cause and Effect to Drug Addiction.**

The first, second and third prize winners are awarded with cash from district level to national level. Not only that but also they realize how they can apply the life skills in real life situations.

3. **THROUGH LIFE SKILL EDUCATION PROGRAMME(LSEP)**

Every year this programme is conducted to class IX and XI students of all High and Higher Secondary schools along with teachers. **This programme has ten activities pertaining to the ten Life Skills which are prescribed in the Training module on LSEP, TANSACS and SCERT - 2015. Students take part for sixteen hours per year and learn how to use life skills in different situations.** Teachers conduct, guide and counsel the students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrating Technology with lifeskills and empowering the students is the urgent need of the nation. Using technology the following can be created emphasizing the application of life skills in real life situations.

1. Documentary films

2. Video shows with imaginary situations

3. Anecdotes and Incidents-video shows

4. Debate and Discussion on Life skills with experts-video shows

5. Training through Power point and video shows

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Through these men and material resources training should be given to students to further empower their life skills.

CONCLUSION

Student empowerment in digital era include both Knowledge and Skill Development through digital technology. Knowledge development has its rapid growth but the life skills development needs enoumous growth. To achieve that the ideas under recommendations should be implemented. So that **we can create a society with really empowered students in this digital era.**

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