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 Email:- Mo. 9429429550 ctefeduinspire@gmail.com

Approaches and current Issues in Higher Education Integrating 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' Principles in English Language Teaching: A Framework for Soft Skills among Students

Ms. Simran Simon

Researcher

BA.MA. B.Ed

Abstract

This study explores the integration of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' principles in English language teaching to foster global citizenship and soft skills among students. It proposes a framework for teachers to incorporate cultural sensitivity, empathy, and cooperation in their teaching practices, aligning with the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Keywords: Education, English Language, Soft Skills, Higher Education.

Introduction

The integration of Vasudev Kutumbakam principles in English language teaching offers a unique framework for developing soft skills among students, aligning with the Indian government's ambitious initiative, Viksit Bharat, which aims to transform the country into a developed nation by its 100th anniversary of independence. Viksit Bharat's primary goals, including economic growth, social equity, environmental sustainability, good governance, global infrastructure development, and women empowerment, can be effectively achieved by incorporating soft skills in education.

Soft skills play a vital role in achieving these goals, particularly in social equity, where individuals with strong soft skills can contribute to healthcare, infrastructure development, and women empowerment. For instance, empathy and communication skills are essential for healthcare professionals to provide effective care, while workers in infrastructure development projects need to possess teamwork and problem-solving skills to ensure successful project execution. Moreover, soft skills like leadership, time management, and conflict resolution are crucial for women's empowerment, enabling them to participate effectively in the workforce and contribute to national development.

The integration of Vasudev Kutumbakam principles, which emphasizes the interconnectedness of all beings, can help inculcate these essential soft skills among students. By incorporating this philosophy into English language teaching, educators can foster a sense of global citizenship, empathy, and social responsibility among learners. This, in turn, can promote peace, understanding, and cooperation at the international level.

This study explores how teachers can effectively integrate Vasudev Kutumbakam principles in English language teaching to develop soft skills among students, ultimately contributing to the realization of Viksit Bharat's vision by 2047. The research will examine the role of soft skills in achieving Viksit Bharat's goals, the impact of Vasudev Kutumbakam principles on soft skill development, and provide a framework for incorporating these principles in teaching practices.

Review:

Christian Villegas (2024) To ensure soft skills are taught in the curriculum, the study recommends “skillfying the syllabus” or “skillification”. By skillfying the syllabus, higher education institutions may bridge the gap between academic learning and industry demands. This approach helps students become more job-ready and enhances their employability by providing hands-on experience, problem-solving opportunities, teamwork exercises, and exposure to industry-relevant projects. Skillfied syllabi aim to integrate practical skills, including soft skills and technical competencies, into the academic curriculum thereby producing graduates who possess a comprehensive skill set, combining both academic knowledge and practical expertise. **a Aiman Khalid, b Samina Akhtar, c Ayesha Sultan (2024)** This research provides proven strategies to effectively teach soft skills through university curriculum because interpersonal competencies and communication and problem-solving abilities permanently gained importance within educational institutions and professional workplaces. The study may inform curriculum developers, university administrators, and educational stakeholders on strategies to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical competencies, ensuring students are equipped for both academic excellence and career success. **Kirti and Nisha Pawaria (2023)**. Skill is defined as the ability, talent to do a job or an activity in a better way, especially due to well. To sustain in the current dynamic and competitive corporate world, everyone must possess two types of skills i.e., hard skill and soft skill. Soft skill refers to the grouping of qualities, attitudes, perceptions, habits, attitudes, languages, self-awareness and hard skill refers to experiences, technical skills, education etc. Soft skills are those vital skills that make any individual smart in dealing with the environment; these are the non-technical, personal-specific skills that

ascertain one's strengths such as a leader, manager, communicator, listener, speaker, negotiator etc. Every individual must have a proper mix of hard skills and soft skills for fulfilling of their duties and responsibilities in various areas. **Nirbhay Pandey(2025)**. The integration of soft skills into education is imperative for preparing students for the complexities of the 21st-century world. While academic knowledge provides the foundation, soft skills empower individuals to thrive in a rapidly changing and interconnected global society. By fostering strong communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence skills, educational institutions can equip students with the tools they need to succeed in both academic and professional pursuits.

Research Title:

A Framework for Soft Skills among Students

Framework- Framework is a planning that helps to execute a plan step by step.

Soft Skill – Soft skills are personal traits, qualities to deal or interact well with others.

Students -Students means the learners who are growing and acquiring knowledge.

Research Objectives:

To explore the relevance of Vasudev Kutumbakam principles in developing soft skills among students.

To examine the impact of the proposed framework on students' soft skills development.

Exploring the opportunities in implementing the framework in Indian educational setting.

To propose a framework for integrating Vasudev Kutumbakam principles in English language teaching to enhance soft skills.

Research Methodology:

This research employs a multi-method approach, combining analytical, descriptive survey method, and comparative methodologies. The study draws on a diverse range of sources, including books, journals, newspapers, online databases, and expert opinions from writers specializing in competition law.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Data analysis shows a growing need for students with strong soft skills like communication, teamwork, and adaptability. These skills are crucial for future careers and can boost employability by over 10% each year.

Soft skills that every teen should know.

Soft skills are essential for teenagers to navigate the challenges of adolescence and set themselves up for success in their academic, personal, and professional lives. One of the key soft skills teens should develop is self-awareness, which involves understanding their

strengths, weaknesses, and emotions. By cultivating self-awareness, teens can identify areas for improvement, set realistic goals, and make informed decisions about their future.

A growth mindset is another crucial soft skill for teens. By believing that their abilities can be developed through hard work and dedication, teens can overcome obstacles, learn from failures, and achieve their goals. This mindset is particularly important during the transition from primary to higher secondary studies, where academic expectations and pressures increase.

Focus and attention are also vital soft skills for teens. In today's distracted world, it's easy to get sidetracked by social media, technology, and other distractions.

Self-advocacy is another important soft skill that teens should develop. By speaking up for themselves and expressing their needs and wants, teens can build confidence, assert their rights, and get the support they need to succeed as illustrated in **image1.1** below.

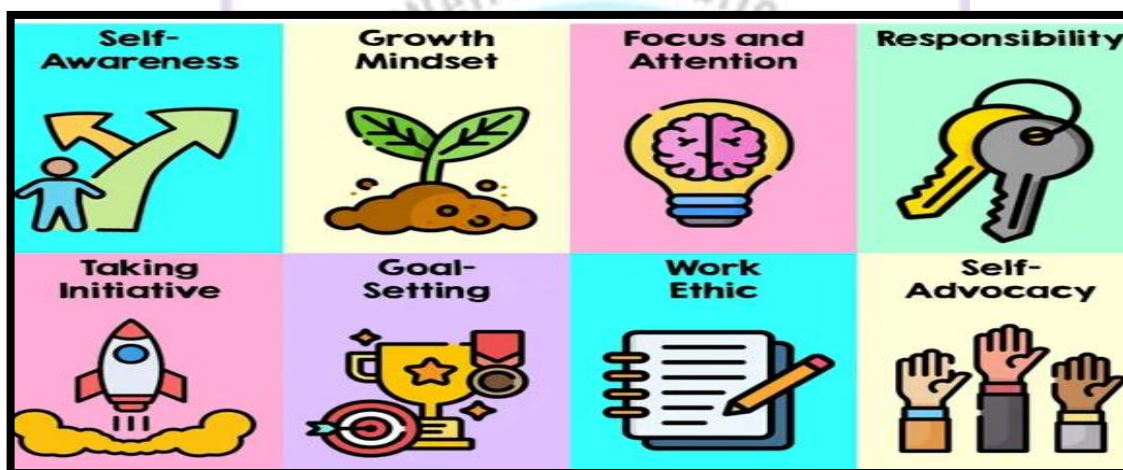


Image 1.1 (Source:www.pathway2success.com)

Important soft skills for education:

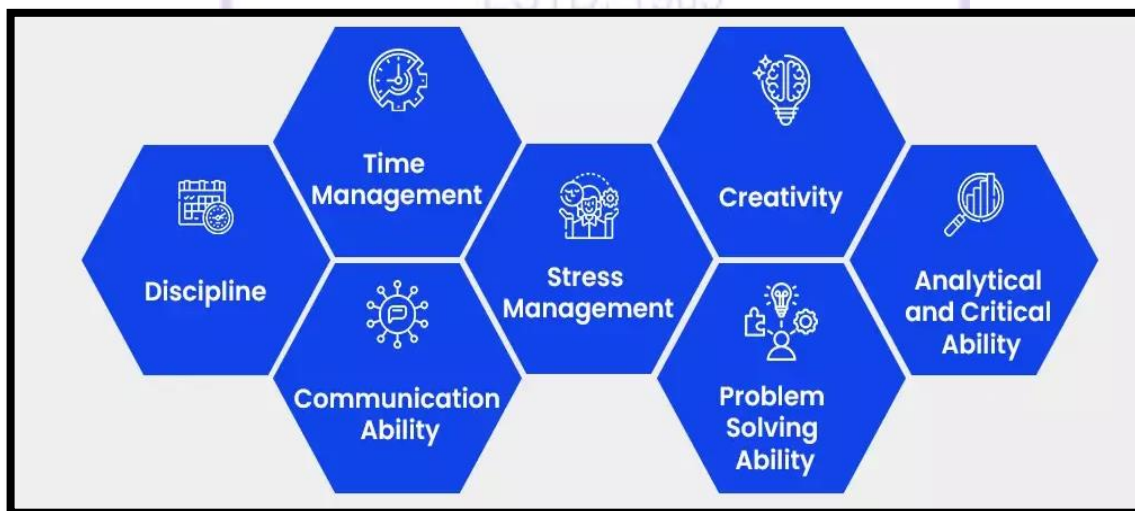


Image (source: collegevidya.com)

Soft skills play a vital role in education, extending beyond academic performance to shape students' personal and professional lives. By incorporating soft skills into their daily routines, students can enhance their academic performance, prepare for future careers, and foster holistic development.

One of the key benefits of soft skills is time management. By prioritizing tasks and creating a schedule, students can stay on top of their work and develop a sense of discipline. This discipline is essential for achieving goals and succeeding in life. As the saying goes, **"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment."**

Effective communication is another crucial soft skill that enables students to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. By communicating clearly and confidently, students can build strong relationships, resolve conflicts, and convey their needs and wants. Emotional awareness, a key aspect of communication, helps students recognize and manage their emotions, leading to better decision-making and relationships.

Soft skills like creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking also play a significant role in education. Creativity allows students to think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions, while problem-solving skills help them tackle challenges and overcome obstacles. Critical thinking enables students to analyse information, evaluate options, and make informed decisions.

To inculcate these soft skills in their lives, students can start by developing a daily routine that includes time for study, relaxation, and physical activity. They can prioritize tasks, set achievable goals, and practice mindfulness to stay focused. Engaging in group activities, joining clubs or organizations, and participating in community service can also help students develop essential soft skills like teamwork, leadership, and communication.

Framework for Teachers

Integrate soft skills into lesson plans: Identify opportunities to incorporate soft skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving into existing lesson plans.

Model soft skills: Demonstrate soft skills yourself, as teachers are role models for students this will help them connect.

Create a supportive classroom environment: Foster a safe, inclusive, and respectful classroom environment that encourages students to practice soft skills.

Use real-life scenarios: Use real-life scenarios to teach soft skills, making them more relatable and applicable.

Provide feedback and reflection: Provide regular feedback and encourage students to reflect on their soft skills development.

Factors Influencing the Gender Gap in Higher Education Enrolment:

Cultural sensitivity: Incorporating local and global cultural contexts to promote empathy and understanding.

Collaborative learning: Encouraging teamwork and cooperation to foster a sense of community.

Emotional intelligence: Developing self-awareness, self-regulation, and social skills.

Contextualized learning: Using real-life scenarios to teach language and soft skills.

Inclusive pedagogy: Catering to diverse learning styles, needs, and abilities.

Technology integration: Leveraging digital tools to enhance engagement and accessibility.

Feedback and reflection: Regular feedback and self-reflection to promote growth.

Authentic assessment: Assessing students' ability to apply soft skills in real-world contexts.

Interdisciplinary approach: Integrating soft skills with other subjects to enhance relevance.

Global perspectives: Incorporating diverse viewpoints to broaden students' understanding.

Recommendation:

To enhance soft skills in education, the following initiatives can be undertaken:

Integrate soft skills into curriculum: Incorporate soft skills like communication, teamwork, and time management into English language courses.

Activity-based learning: Use role-plays, group discussions, and presentations to develop soft skills.

Real-life scenarios: Use real-life scenarios to teach soft skills, making them more relatable and applicable.

Feedback and reflection: Provide regular feedback and encourage students to reflect on their soft skills development.

Technology integration: Leverage technology to enhance soft skills, such as online collaboration tools and language learning apps.

By implementing these initiatives, we can make significant changes in enhancing soft skills, promoting interdisciplinary approach, global perspective and inclusive pedagogy.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, soft skills play a vital role in shaping students' academic, personal, and professional lives. By incorporating soft skills like communication, teamwork, time management, and critical thinking into English language teaching, we can equip students with the essential skills to succeed in all areas of life. These skills not only enhance academic performance but also foster holistic development, preparing students for future careers and

personal growth. Soft skills like creativity, problem-solving, and emotional intelligence help students navigate challenges and make informed decisions. By prioritizing soft skills, we can create a generation of individuals who are confident, adaptable, and globally aware. They will be better equipped to build strong relationships, work collaboratively, and contribute to the growth and development of our country and the world. To achieve this, it's essential to integrate soft skills into the curriculum, making learning fun, engaging, and relevant. Teachers and mentors should model good soft skills, providing opportunities for students to practice and apply them in real-life situations. Regular feedback and self-reflection can help students identify areas for improvement, guiding them towards holistic development. The benefits of soft skills are numerous. They enhance academic performance, leading to better grades and academic success. They also prepare students for future careers, making them more employable and successful professionals. Soft skills like communication, teamwork, and leadership help build strong relationships, fostering a sense of community and global citizenship.

In today's fast-paced, interconnected world, soft skills are crucial for personal and professional success. By making soft skills a priority, we can unlock students' full potential, creating a brighter future for all. It's time to recognize the importance of soft skills and integrate them into our education system, empowering students to succeed in all areas of life. By doing so, we can create a generation of individuals who are not only academically sound but also emotionally intelligent, socially responsible, and globally aware. They will be the leaders, innovators, and change-makers of tomorrow, driving growth, progress, and success in all spheres of life.

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