



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA

2395-2636 (Print);2321-3108 (online)

ENHANCING SOFT SKILLS THROUGH EPICS

Dr.M.VANISREE

Associate Professor, Department of English, S.V Engineering College for Women,Tirupati.

E-mail: vanisrinivas14@rediffmail.com



Dr.M.VANISREE

ABSTRACT

Life throws many challenging situations that put the learner's impasse. They search the ways in which can solve them. Teacher plays a crucial role in molding and facilitating the learners to screw up their courage and intelligence and go through with it through literature. Literature helps the students to learn, to use the language, to relish them and to teach useful things for betterment in their life. It also helps the students to inculcate *Soft skills* as they are the ladder for success. When we think about soft skills the common words that come to our mind are LSRW Skills, interpersonal and intra personal skills. Managing things, fulfilling their goals and achieving success are not so easy in today's corporate world. So, the most significant epic of India - *Mahabharata* is considered as the most consistent epic for the learners to handle and resolve certain issues and helps the learners to achieve success in this corporate world. The facts of this epic confers divulge diverse facets like diligence, solidarity, leadership qualities, allegiance, communication strategies, etc.

Keywords: Soft Skills, Corporate world, Resolving issues, Diverse Facets

Introduction

Life throws many challenging situations that put us in an impasse and we search the ways in which we can solve them. A teacher plays a crucial role in molding and facilitating the learners to screw up their courage and intelligence and go through with it through literature. Literature helps us to solve different problems.

Objective

The main objective of this paper is how we can teach English language through literature which helps the students to learn, to use the language, to relish them and to teach useful things for betterment in their life. In what way literature help the students to inculcate Soft skills - as they are the ladder for success. When we think about soft skills the common words that come to our mind are LSRW Skills. Apart from LSRW skills the learners will learn interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.

Importance of Epics

Literary critics have described Mahabharata as the longest epic of the world. To overcome problems in the corporate sector and to achieve success learners needs an intimate support of soft skills. This epic narrative is a perfect example to the modern world's problems. So, the facts of this epic confer divulge diverse facets like diligence, solidarity, leadership qualities, allegiance, communication strategies, etc.

Many classics, as well as the contemporary writings across the languages, are helpful in instilling certain soft skills among the learners. But, managing things, fulfilling our goals and achieving success is not so easy in today's corporate world. So, the most significant epics of India are Ramayana and Mahabharata is considered as the most consistent epic for the learners to handle and resolve certain issues and helps the learners to achieve success in this corporate world.

Importance of communication

Effective Communication is necessary for learners/engineers to enable them to learn the necessary writing, speaking and critical thinking skills to succeed in their careers. Even for a small project a learner has to involve in a team work with faculty, peers and later with company people. The competence to collaborate and communicate effectively with a distinct team as well as he/she has to express complex concepts. The problem occurs if the communication is in an improper way. Miscommunication leads to disaster.

For instance in Ramayana, because of miscommunication Sugreeva thought that his brother Vaali killed by a demon and went back to the kingdom (Kishkinda) and became its ruler. Vaali thought he had been betrayed by his brother and there was an antagonism between two brothers. So, this is a lesson to the learners to beware of miscommunication at any stage. Even in Mahabharata, Draupadi didn't choose proper words when Duryodhana and his family invited to Mayasabha. She wrongly communicated with her words that as Dhritarashtra is blind his son Duryodhana is also blind which leads to the devastated Kurukshetra war.

Thus, the learners need rich communicative competencies to communicate their ideas to others clearly. Effective communication helps students in developing them into proficient writers, speakers and communicators.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning is the process of setting a vision for a student and then realizing that vision through small and achievable goals. Learner who works in strategic planning will set their goals and decide what actions need to be taken which in turn helps them to achieve those goals. It is an important skill to achieve success. A position needs strategic planning skills which help us to reach their goals. For instance, in Ramayana Dasaradha plans to entrench Rama on the throne of Ayodhya but it becomes topsy-turvy because of the lack of clear succession plan. When the time comes to Rama, he divides the

kingdom equitably between his two sons – Lava and Kusha.

Another instance is from Mahabharata where Pandavas goal is to defeat Kauravas and to achieve success in the war. If Lord Krishna's proper strategic planning wouldn't have been there, Pandavas wouldn't have tasted the victory in the Kurukshetra war. Before going to war Lord Krishna made Pandavas to learn more about themselves, exploring themselves i.e., self-assessment at first need to go with their self assessment - their values, interests, skills, needs, etc. Thus, good plans and strategies make Pandavas to hit a home run.

Discerning Approach:

In the literature concerning leadership, vision has a variety of definitions all of which include a mental image or picture, a future orientation, and aspects of direction or goal. Vision provides guidance to an organization by articulating what it wishes to attain. Vision not only describes a goal but it also represents how to accomplish it. In 1992, Seeley describes vision as a goal-oriented mental construct that guides people's behaviour'. Vision is an image of the future. It has a compelling aspect that serves to inspire, motivate and engage people.

In the current scenario, **turning vision into action** for the teachers is being challenged. It became a requisite to the teachers' to focus primarily on the learner to meet the present needs of the students as well as preparing students for the 21st century. They must meet this challenge by the attainment of continuous collaborating with the learners to develop a shared vision.

For instance, In Ramayana, Rama's clear vision was to defeat the evil forces and to rescue his wife Sita. His vision into action and his clarity about the goals as well as the process enabled his army to put its heart and soul in the battle to rescue Sita. A foreseen vision will always be a motivating factor to focus on the goal and to not get deviated. Every leader needs to have a clear vision of what he is aiming for and what will it bear him in future. Also he needs to think in parallel to his followers who will support him to achieve his goals.

In Mahabharata, the blind Dhritarashtra loved his children blindly that he never chastised his sons. When they go astray he will not insinuate them deeming that his love will become less. This makes them to commit blunders. Thus, to have a clear vision of your actions is very important in life. Being blind is not a problem but being visionless is a very big problem.

Strewn Supervision:

A good leader will share the responsibilities and make all to work towards a common goal. Working together as a team and make decisions as a group leader for better results. For instance in Mahabharata, Pandavas fought in a war with a concept of distributed leadership working in different operations in war. Even though they all fought with different individuals with their individual targets, with their own agenda but they all work towards a common goal with a team spirit by sharing the responsibilities which leads them to win. But, Kauravas has no team spirit. The whole army is under one person's command i.e., Dussasana and all fought their individual wars with their individual motives.

In the same way, in Ramayana the moment when Sri Rama and Lashmana lost consciousness there was a chaos in the Vanara army. They were confounded and began to ask one another and began to sob in dismay. But, when Vibhishana said Sugreeva to arose himself so that the army can come out of that despair so that the army will not be confounded. Later when Srirama and Lakshmana regained their consciousness and rose all the Vanara warriors with lot of zest they renewed their energy and went to the battlefield.

Another instance is Jambavanth motivate Hanuman to go to Lanka by making him to realize his potential.

Allegiance:

Teachers wanted a front-loaded process that would allow them to intervene to improve every student's achievement and to do so in a way that was effective, meaningful, and manageable. The Walled Lake's new process **The Student Instructional Planning Process (SIPP)** helps the teacher to identify a struggling student based on

achievement data, classroom observation, and environmental changes. Based on this data a teacher can create an intervention plan to the learner and assign responsibilities and review the student progress. This SIPP process has made a lot of difference in the learners. Teachers involved in ongoing professional development of the learners to build their skills and expand their repertoire of strategies. The best student is not only with the best capabilities but he/she is the one with the greatest commitment. The learner must always transform their weaknesses to strengths like how Pandavas transformed their weaknesses to strengths during the years of exile.

SWOT Analysis

The SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunities and threats) analysis is one of the most important aspects of modern day management. First the learner needs to ascertain the goals to be done. Then, he should be mentally prepared for it and have a right plan. And then, analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the competitor and what threats they have to overcome such as over confidence, not selling skills, expectations, experiences does not match expected role, economic outlook, lack of self knowledge, not having a knowledge of employer expectations, etc. and opportunities like informative interviews, academic resources, using on campus career centres and so on. For instance, in Ramayana how Hanuman planned by using this SWOT analysis like after reaching Lanka he analysed the situation of that place, study about the people, assessing their strengths and weaknesses, the various threats and opportunities which he had in Lanka.

Conclusion

Soft skills are the ladder to success. When we go back to the olden and golden ages, people understood the importance of communication skills and managerial skills. Through the each and every incidence of Ramayana and Mahabharata epics, learners will learn many lessons like – they are able to know the leadership qualities, team work, the power of communication, innovative ideas, good decision making, loyalty, etc., with many examples.

Works Cited:

Murthy, G.R.K, Soft Skills for Success, Viva Books, Kerala: 2016. Print

Alex, K, Soft Skills: Know Yourself & Amp; Know the World, 1st Edition, Schand Publishers, New Delhi: 2014. Print

<https://www.amle.org/BrowsebyTopic/WhatsNew/WNDet/TabId/270/ArtMID/888/ArticleID/192/A-Strong-Commitment-to-Student-Success.aspx>.Web

<https://www.accaglobal.com/in/en/student/sa/professional-skills/personal-swot.html>.Web

<https://news.engineering.utoronto.ca/why-effective-communication-is-important-for-21st-century-engineers/>. Web

<https://www.drdo.gov.in/drdo/pub/dss/2009/main/46-ITM.pdf>. Web

<https://www.speakingtree.in/blog/management-lessons-from-ramayana>.Web

http://www.academia.edu/15495333/Essential_of_Life_Skills_Learning_from_Ramayana. Web
