

Usefulness of 21st Century Skills for Secondary Students

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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt that the population is continuously increasing everywhere, and employment opportunities are decreasing due to which competition is increasing in every field.

In today's time, even if you go to the best institute and get the best degree, there is no guarantee of getting a job and in the case of business, the competition is even more.

There are companies manufacturing almost every kind of goods in the market and many people are working at many levels to sell them, so in today's time, to earn better or even get something, some skills are required. is needed.

If you want to achieve success and move forward, then you will need cutting-edge skills.

There are some skills which are considered essential for the people of the 21st century and those essential skills are called **21st century skills**.

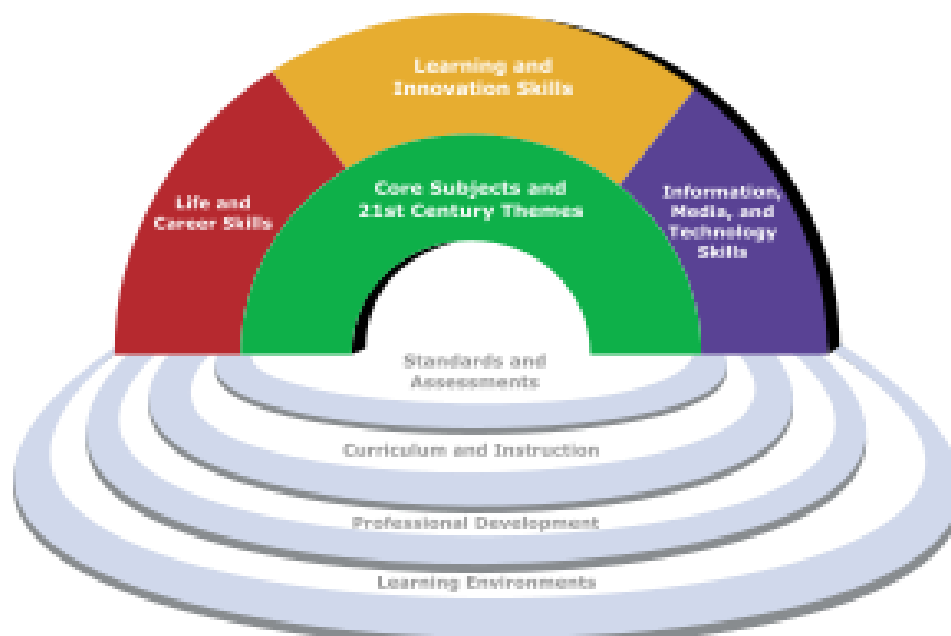


Figure 1 - P21 Framework for 21st Century Learning

Many things change with time, be it business, government job or any other place to work.

Today, lakhs of jobs are associated with the field of technology, but if we go back 50 years, how developed was this field?

What this means is that today's demand has changed a lot as compared to before and necessary changes are necessary to get employment as per the time.

Learning and Innovation "The 4 Cs"	Digital Literacy	Career and Life
Critical thinking & problem solving	Information literacy	Flexibility & adaptability
Creativity and Innovation	Media Literacy	Initiative & self-direction
Communication	ICT Literacy	Social & cross-cultural interaction
Collaboration		Productivity & Accountability
		Leadership & responsibility

Table 1 - P21 Skills

To highlight the above-mentioned skills among the students, the medium of question-and-answer method and other projects were used. 50 students (secondary level) were given the chance to complete some tasks related to life through question-and-answer method.

Students answered multiple choice questions which enabled them to understand the usefulness of 21st century skills and were able to demonstrate these skills to the best of their ability. The other 50 students were divided into groups and asked to work on projects.

Keywords: 21st century skills, learning skills, literacy skills, life skills

Introduction

In today's time, the skills which are considered necessary for students to get employment are called 21st century skills. If you are a student then it is important for you to have these skills, which will not only sharpen your study skills but will also provide many good employment opportunities in the future.

Although there are many types of these skills, but they are mainly divided into 3 categories, which are as follows:

Learning Skills: This is a skill in which a student learns something quickly. You must have seen many people who are very fast in learning. Such people possess some special skills. This type of skill proves to be very beneficial for any kind of career option.

People with excellent learning skills learn and remember things easily, which helps them to progress in any field. Under this

Critical thinking, creativity, working with others and communication skills also count.

All these skills prove to be very beneficial for making a career in any field, but according to the field, each skill has its own importance.



Literacy Skills: -This is a developed and considered essential skill in today's time. Literacy skills are considered essential skills for reading and writing. They include awareness of the sounds of language, awareness of print, and relationships between letters and sounds.

Other literacy skills include vocabulary, spelling, and comprehension. Literacy skills include being aware of one's surroundings, being aware of information related to media and information related to technology.

Literacy Skills



information



media



technology

Life skills:-Life related skills are those skills which will be useful to you at every turn of life and at every age, whether you are living the life of a student or you are a working professional. This type of skill not only improves your personal life but is also very beneficial in your work field.

These types of skills include flexibility, leadership, initiative, productivity, social skills etc. These are the skills that you get from the environment around you and your own experiences. These types of skills help make your life easier.

Life Skills



flexibility



leadership



initiative



productivity



social skills

The 21st century has seen more changes than previous decades. Today there are many types of challenges for the students but if they adopt these skills in their life then they will be able to get solutions to some of the problems which are as follows:

Critical Thinking: Critical thinking means thinking important. Critical thinking skills are a way of thinking in which we find the appropriate solution to a problem with logical and independent thinking.

Collaboration: If you do not know about collaboration, then working together and moving forward is called collaboration. No work can be done in any field without cooperation. Lack of this skill is seen in the students nowadays, the result of which is that they do not know how to cooperate in any work and remain entangled in every problem.

If students are given a group activity, they will be able to work collaboratively and help others as well.

Information Skills: This skill is an advanced skill which in today's time, every person should have who wants to stay ahead of others and wants to be a little different from the competition. Information literacy skills include the ability to understand facts, figures, statistics and data.

Media Literacy: In today's time almost, everything has become digital. Even if you want to learn some advanced thing, you will have to go digital for that also. Perhaps this is the reason why media literacy has also been considered very important today.

Technology Skills: In this age full of technology, various machines and equipment are used everywhere. In today's time, computers, cloud programming and mobile phones have become very important. So, if you are living in the 21st century then you should have knowledge about these correct concepts.

Flexibility: Your same behavior, same thinking, same behavior cannot help you survive everywhere. You must change according to circumstances.

If ever you make a mistake, you should know how to apologize and if ever you are right, you should also know how to protest what is wrong. At some places self-respect is necessary and at other places one has to work even by bowing down. This is called flexibility.

Leadership: In today's time, if a person wants to do business or wants to start anything big, then the first important thing that he should have been leadership quality.

Due to leadership quality, students or professionals can work with other people, due to which they also get profit and the people working with them also get profit.

Working ahead: In today's competitive world, perhaps there is more problem in running one's own business than in getting a job. There are crores of people in our country who want to do their own business or start their own startup again. But it seems a little difficult to achieve success with something that is already in the market and doing well.

But if we come up with something new or go ahead and enter the market with our ideas, then perhaps the work can become easier. Perhaps this is the reason why in today's time it is very important to come forward and express your views.

Productivity: Many people also know productivity as efficiency. Productivity is the most important skill these days. The world is moving forward rapidly. No matter how much we do better, there will be doing better than us.

So, in such a situation, the more time you spend on productive work today, the better it is. Students should also be more productive today and spend maximum time on learning.

Personal Development Skills: We know very well how much competition there is in today's time. No matter how important a degree you get from any institute, in today's time the value that your skills can give you is unlikely to be equal to the value that your degree can give you.

Even after completing your graduation, if you apply for a job in a better company, the company will look at your skills as much as it looks at your degree.

This means that the course you have done has been done by many other people too, so if you want to get ahead of them and get hired by the company, then skills are necessary for this.

There are many students who do not want any limitations in their life, so such students think it is better not to do a job but to do their own business.

Many students move towards startups and adopt entrepreneurship, so these are some of the places where your degree does not matter! If anything matters, it is your skills and your knowledge.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills (P21)

In 002 the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (now Partnership for 21st Century Education, or P21) was founded as a nonprofit organization by a coalition that included members of the national business community, education leaders, and policy makers. Included: National Education Association (NEA), United States Department of Education, AOL Time Warner Foundation, Apple Computer, Inc. , Cable in the Classroom , Cisco Systems, Inc. , Dell Computer Corporation, Microsoft Corporation, SAP, Ken Kay (Chairman and co-founder), and Dins Golder-Dardis.

To foster a national conversation on "the importance of 21st century skills for all students" and "positioning 21st century readiness at the center of US K-12 education", P21 identified six key skills:

- Main topics.
- 21st century content.
- Learning and thinking skills.
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) literacy.
- life skills.
- Assessment of the 21st century

Need for study

The 21st century is a rapidly changing world facing the demand for new ideas and skills in technical and other fields. Here are some skills and areas to consider that may be useful to 21st century students:

1. **Technical knowledge and digital skills:** The world is going digital, so digital skills like computer networking, data science, computational thinking and coding are very important.
2. **Cyber Security:** The importance of security is increasing in the digital world. It is important to develop skills in cyber security so that one can work safely in the digital world.
3. **Building lasting and family relationships:** The art of building right relationships is very important in society, which can help in both personal and professional life.
4. **Understanding of current issues:** The ability to understand and reflect on events happening at the national and international level is important.
5. **Creativity and Innovation:** Creative thinking and innovative approaches are extremely important to find solutions to new problems.
6. **Social and cultural awareness:** It is very important to understand, respect and cooperate with the awareness and cultural beliefs in society.
7. **Self-Management and Time Management:** Students learn how to manage their time, conduct themselves, and spend time properly – all these skills can be very important in their future.

This is a most wonderful and interesting time for the students of the 21st century. The advent of new technological products in the world opens new possibilities for students. They can learn in new and unique ways and take their thinking to a new level.

Students of the 21st century should have modern and safe technological knowledge as well as an understanding of their role and responsibilities in society. They should think about social relations, personal development and cultural richness.

Students should develop organizational abilities, the ability to find solutions to problems, collaboration, and interest in innovation.

It is extremely important that they understand and believe in the values of justice, equality, and harmony.

Ultimately, 21st century students must have the ability to face problems and have the confidence to improve. This will not only enhance their personality, but they will also be able to bring a positive change to their community and society.

Objectives of study

The objectives of studying the usefulness of 21st century skills for secondary students can be many, such as:

1. **Preparation in the modern age:** Preparing students with skills they can use in their lives to expand their thinking and give them confidence.
2. **Contemporary Awareness:** Making them aware of the changing world, increasing their understanding and awareness of social issues, technological developments, and other important issues.
3. **Encouraging innovation and ideas:** To promote creativity and innovative thinking of students, so that they can understand and encourage new and amazing ideas.
4. **Self-advocacy and organizational skills:** To help students develop their ability to self-advocate as well as cooperative and organizational skills.
5. **To create good social citizens:** To make them understand the role of social responsibilities and the importance of cooperation, as well as to promote active participation in society.
6. **Prosperity and future preparation:** To prepare them for their future, expose them to various career options, and help them achieve prosperity as capable citizens.
7. **Inculcation of right moral values:** To lead the students towards inculcation of moral values, good ideals, and right attitudes.

These objectives can help students become prosperous, thoughtful, and capable citizens. Appropriate processes and curriculum can be developed to explain and develop these well.

It can be difficult to achieve success without education. Education is the only medium that takes us towards new perspectives, understanding, and thoughts.

The study of 21st century skills for secondary students prepares them to contribute to a new and global society. Through this they not only get information about their injustices but also develop the ability to think in new and innovative ways.

This type of study gives students independence, positive thinking, and awareness of social responsibilities. It helps them to make themselves cooperative, understanding, and responsible citizens.

This type of study also increases feelings of acceptance, respect, and equality. Students are taught the importance of cooperation and unity in society, which is the foundation of a strong and secure society.

By using such education, we can lead our new generations towards a better and prosperous society. Therefore, study of 21st century skills play an important role in the development of secondary students.

Design of the study- Under this process, students answered the questions according to their intellectual capacity and learned about the formality of 21st century skills. Students learned that every skill is essential for success in their future life. With these skills, by establishing harmony with everyone, you will be able to earn your name in the world.

Some hypotheses can be made to further enhance the usefulness of 21st century skills for secondary students.

1. **Digital Education Programs:** Starting digital education programs in schools and secondary education institutions. This may include training on issues such as the use of technical tools, Internet security,

use of online resources, and computer programming.

2. **Special Teams and Projects:** Giving students the opportunity to collaborate through special projects and group work. This can enhance their collaborative abilities, problem solving, and organizational skills.
3. **Social Awareness Projects:** Students can be encouraged to participate in programs and projects organized on social issues to bring positive change in society.
4. **Skill Development Programs:** Organizing skill development programs which can include self-management, time management, creativity, and teamwork skills.
5. **Individual Guidance:** Guiding students to various career options based on their individual interests and abilities.
6. **Social Service Programs:** To encourage social service programs in schools and secondary education institutions, so that students can acquire the values of contributing to society.
7. **Promotion of international relations:** To give students an opportunity to understand different ideas and cultures of the world through international relations.

These concepts can help secondary students to develop skills as well as boost their thinking in various areas. With this, they can not only develop personally but can also be helpful in bringing a positive change in society.

Study method

1. Question Answer Method-50 students
2. Use of technologies: Students use websites, online resources, and digital courses. (10 students)
3. Organized study groups: Providing opportunities for group discussions by encouraging students to form different groups. (10 students)
4. Independent Study: Giving students the freedom to learn on their own and the opportunity to use stored learning resources. (10 students)
5. Practical Experience: To give students experience in different disciplines, giving them a chance to use their skills in real life, for example. (10 students)
6. These students will become a part of social work by joining some social organization.
7. Motivational Competition: Organizing competition among students, which can give them a chance to think in new and thoughtful ways. (10 students)

By using these technologies, secondary students can be better and well prepared so that they understand and apply 21st century skills.

Sample

In the sample of this study, 50 students were divided into groups and given a questionnaire, and some students were given such problems during the interview and an attempt was made to know which 21st century technologies they could use to solve that problem. Use skills from Additionally, 50 other students will be divided into groups and given other projects to work on.

study work

Each student was given a questionnaire of 50 questions and the interviewees were asked 5 questions. The questionnaire was based on multiple choice questions in which students were required to choose the correct option.

S.NO	TOPIC	QUESTION NO	TOTAL QUESTION
1	based on the art of learning	1-10	10
2	based on knowledge	11-20	10
3	based on life	21-30	10
4	based on creative thinking	31-40	10
5	based on cooperation	41-50	10

Provided collection

Students at Genesis Global School were contacted for handout collection. The questionnaire was administered through Google Form. 1st December was fixed for handout collection and 15 days' time was given for other projects.

Objective analysis: The results of each skill were analysed through various tables.

learning outcome:

Based on the study the following results were observed.

- It was difficult for some students to understand 21st century skills.
- For some students it was easy to achieve the desired results by applying the skills.
- Applying the skills proved to be very important for some students.
- Improvement in skills: The study found students improved in various skills, such as digital literacy, contemporary awareness, collaboration, job-related skills, and social or personal skills.
- Contemporary Awareness: By this study, students get information about various technological and social changes taking place in society, so that they can be well prepared.
- Career Preparation: By studying this, students get a chance to develop skills in various fields which can be useful for their career.
- Health: By studying this, students have learned skills to preserve their health and wellness using modern technologies.
- Direction to Prosperity: Students can discover the competencies in different areas, which can lead them in a more structured way towards good career and personal prosperity.

With these results, students get a chance to address themselves in a good manner and make them competent in various fields. This not only helps them to grow personally but also increases their contribution to the society.

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