

# Awareness on Life Skill Education for Employment Opportunity among Prospective Teachers

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## Abstract

*The tasks of globalization in the modern era make the higher education institutions to struggle hard to produce employable prospective teachers as creative and dynamic human assets. In India the rate of unemployment of prospective teachers keeps on rising because the academic and technical skills provided by an educational institutions are not adequate and satisfactory to achieve the demands of the personnel. Academic- skills alone do not promise upcoming job perspectives of prospective teachers. The current analysis of literature vibrantly echoes that the absence of life skills is one of the main reasons for unemployment of them. In this background, a survey was conducted to find out the level of awareness of the prospective teachers on 21st century life skills such as Critical thinking, Problem Solving, Communication, Cooperation, Creativity, Leadership, Effective Guidance, Character Development, Professional Ethics and Technology literacy. 300 prospective teachers from three Colleges of Education in Salem district, Tamilnadu were selected as sample, by simple random sampling method. The findings of the study revealed that the awareness of prospective teachers on life skills was Low. Hence life skills training could be integrated in their curriculum which in turn give them proper employment opportunity.*

**Keywords:** *Awareness Level, 21st Century Life Skills, Employment, Unemployment of Prospective Teachers, Higher Education Institutions.*

## Introduction

The global working atmosphere favors prospective teachers with blended knowledge of technical expertise with life skills. The modest world postures several challenges to the job pursuing prospective teachers passing through the doorways of numerous institutions and universities. The soft skills preparation will develop the relationship level of the leaders at various levels of the organization (Pereira & Costa, 2017). Since the globalization challenges affect all sectors including education, the employability package should be focused on the soft skills required for the job with a contextual approach (Aida, Norails; Rozaini, 2015).

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The increasing demands of the globalized economy insist that institutions of higher education must empower the undergraduates with soft skills (Gibb Stephen, 2014). In India fairly a few of the undergraduates suffer from unemployment and under-employment mainly due to the absence of life skills. In the year 2015, the first integrated national policy for skills development and entrepreneurship was announced in India. Though the dimensions of soft skills and life skills are interrelated, the 21st century life skills are tested in this research. Hence this research paper is an attempt to study the awareness of prospective teachers on life skills.

### Review of Literature

Edward David, M.Vakkil (2020) conducted a survey to find out the level of awareness on soft skills of undergraduate students. They revealed that the impact of soft skills is immense and further research will make the soft skills training even more vast and practical.

The descriptive study of Sunita Mangla (2018) assessed the challenges and reasons for unemployment and it revealed two major reasons, namely, the outdated curriculum with outmoded pedagogy and lack of knowledge of soft skills. Vanitha and Jaganathan (2018) focused on employability of engineering students and on enhancement of employability of engineering students and on enhancement of employability opportunities and skills, while the conceptual paper of Santhi (2018) suggested some teaching methods such as lectures, case study in order to enhance the employability skills of the students. Jagdish Prasad (2017) made an exploratory research based on the secondary data related to Make-in-India program of the Government of India announced in 2014. It revealed that the future course of action to reduce the gap between demands of skills required and existing skills. Muralidhar Reddy and Hanuman Kennedy (2017)

conducted a survey to find out the perception of the employers on employability skills. The employability program of the graduates must focus on the soft skills needed for the job with a contextual approach since globalised challenges are affecting all the sectors including education (Aida, Norails and Rozaini, 2015). Esa, Ahmad; Padil, Suhaili; Selamat, Asri; Idris, Mohammad Talha Mohamed (2015) revealed that knowledge of soft skills was very relevant in the job market. The technical graduates and polytechnic graduates were expert in technical skills but lack far behind in the soft skills needed for employment (Mahesh Kumar; Santhosh Kumar, 2015).

### Need of the Study

Each year higher education institutions in India try to improve the excellence of graduation learning to create productive human wealth in the society. The existing teacher education lacks to guarantee employment opportunities, sustainability, and growth in the competitive teaching community. The literature review of recent years reveals the fact that the awareness level of the prospective teachers regarding life skills is not high to compete in the job market. In this context, employers demand prospective teachers with life skills along with their regular teacher education degree. This research paper, aims to study the awareness level of prospective teachers on life skills needed for employability in this competitive world.

### Delimitations of the Study

1. This study is limited to prospective teachers only.  
The investigator has selected only 10 life skills for this study.
2. The sample of the study is restricted to 300 prospective teachers.
3. The area of the study is limited only to three college of education situated in Salem District, Tamilnadu.

## Objectives of the Study

To find out the level of awareness on life skills of prospective teachers.

## Hypothesis

The level of awareness of the prospective teachers on life skills is high.

## The Research Question of the Study

Do the prospective teachers have the awareness of life skills for employability in this competitive world?

## Methodology

The researcher has used survey method to find out the awareness level of prospective teachers on life skills needed for employability in the competitive world. The total samples of 300 prospective teachers were selected from three B.Ed. colleges situated in Salem District using simple random sampling technique. Only percentage analysis were done to find out the awareness level.

## Analysis of Data

**Table: Level of Awareness on Life Skills among the Prospective Teachers**

Life skills	Low		Moderate		High	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Critical thinking	225	75	68	23	7	2
Problem Solving	202	67	88	29	10	3
Communication Skill	270	90	24	08	6	2
Cooperation	247	82	48	16	5	1.5
Creativity Skill	244	81	51	17	5	1.5
Leadership	208	69	82	27	10	3
Effective Guidance	205	68	86	29	9	3
Character Development	269	89	28	09	3	1
Professional Ethics	267	89	31	10	2	0.4
Technology literacy	252	84	44	15	4	1

The above table shows that 75% have low level Critical thinking skill, 67% have low level Problem Solving skill, 90% have low level Communication Skill, 82% have low level Cooperation Skill, 81% have low level Creativity Skill, 69% have low level Leadership skill, 68% have low level Effective Guidance Skill,

## Tools of Data Collection

The awareness of life skills of the prospective teachers was measured by a questionnaire with three options. The questionnaire includes questions on 10 life skills: Critical thinking, Problem Solving, Communication, Cooperation, Creativity, Leadership, Effective Guidance, Character Development, Professional Ethics and Technology literacy. The content validity was acknowledged in discussion with experts. The recommendations given by the experts were carried out by modifying a few items in the questionnaire. The final tool had 50 questions and it was managed suitably to 300 prospective teachers from three B.Ed. colleges in Salem. The reliability was established using split half reliability test and the reliability coefficient was found to be 70.63. The secondary data includes journals and internet materials, related to life skills and employability in globalization.

89% have low level Character Development Skill, 89% have low level Professional Ethics skills, 84% have low level Technology literacy Skill. Hence it is concluded that the majority of the prospective teachers have a low level awareness on life skills.

## Discussion

The review of literature, such as the studies of Sunita Mangla (2018), Vanitha and Jaganathan (2018), Jagdish Prasad (2017), Anbuthambi, Chandrashekaram (2017), revealed that the soft skills for employability under globalization clearly point out the lack of awareness on soft skills. The present survey also proves that the majority have low level awareness on life skills. The lack of awareness of life skills is one of the major resources for employment and under employment that affect their future life skill and thus fail to contribute to the national economy.

## Suggestions and Educational Implications

1. The awareness level of the prospective teachers requires to be increased through an integrated curriculum or adding a paper on life skills as one of the electives.
2. Life skills training program must be implemented blending with academic and technical education of the prospective teachers.
3. Organizing and arranging seminars, conferences, workshops related to life skills may help the prospective teachers to update their awareness level on life skills which would pave a smooth way for their employability.

## Conclusion

In the current situation, the Higher Education Organizations (HEO) are suggested to involve and interact with employers in the

preparation and implementation of life skills advance training to make it more effective and productive. Moreover, HEOs as effective agents of national development are anticipated to enhance the prospective teacher's life skills so as to make them donors to Indian economy. The impact of life skills is enormous and additional research in this regard will make the life skills preparation even more massive and useful. Hence life skills training could be integrated in their curriculum which in turn give them proper employment opportunity.

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