

## DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

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### **Abstract**

Twenty first century is termed as knowledge era. Indian Higher Education is the engine for economic growth and brings enthusiasm and vision in the young generation to learn the various skills. There are some issues with Higher Education in India like teaching quality financing, privatization, political factor and moral issues and challenges are to develop quality institutes, research oriented learning, project based learning, creating jobs and to develop various strategies. 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are 12 abilities that today's students need to succeed in their future carrier. These skills are critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, information literacy, media literacy, technology literacy, flexibility, leadership, initiative, productivity, and social skills .By mastering 21<sup>st</sup> century skills , students will be better equipped to start and grow in careers path they choose, to prepare the students for their future career and it will also help them to become better learner.

**Key words :-**21<sup>st</sup> century skills, Issues, Challenges, Media literacy, Technology literacy, social skills.

### **Introduction:**

Twenty first century is termed as knowledge era, for the transformation of India for 21<sup>st</sup> century India become economically and socially stable and it is the responsibility of Indian Higher Education. Indian Higher Education should have global outlook, ICT based, promoting research and innovation, value orientation, scientific temper, scientific attitude, creativity based curriculum with perfect objectives and with best outcomes because it is the need of our young generation and they must acquire these skills. Indian Higher Education is the engine for



economic growth and brings enthusiasm and vision in the young generation to learn all the above skills and to become successful doctors, engineers, technologists, scientists, managers, teachers, researchers, writers, philosophers, psychologists, social workers, good leaders, good politicians, administrators and many skilled and creative people to take the country forward. Then brain drain will stop and all skills will be used for strong India, powerful India.

### **Higher Education Curriculum : Issues and Challenges**

Higher Education is very important for growing Indian economy. Higher Education in India has many challenges and issues.

#### **Issues with Higher Education in India**

Following are some issues related to Indian Higher Education.

##### **1) Teaching Quality**

Teachers are not well trained and qualified for the job, they are assigned to. Many of the teachers have no experience or knowledge.

##### **2) Financing**

India is already spending much on higher education and it can't spend more, so it is also an issue with higher education. More financing is needed to improve the quality of higher education.

##### **3) Privatization**

Privatization is not the solution to solve the problem. We need to develop the culture of creativity, imagination and learning new skills.

##### **4) Political Factor**

Political influence is a big obstacle in developing quality of education. Governing bodies do not want any political influence or interference in their affairs.

##### **5) Moral Issues**

Young generation is running behind hefty pay packages, they are not ready to serve their country



Higher Education in India is in nutshell to say it is neither good nor it is that bad. Following are some challenges of Indian Higher Education.

**1) Gap in supply and Demand**

India's gross enrollment ratio is not too good – it is much below than the other developed countries.

**2) Mushrooming of Low Quality Institutes**

To open an educational institutes is now a days become trade to gain money , is the main motto of many institutions and are not ready to provide quality education.

**3) No Research Oriented Learning**

New learner need research oriented education. we have to develop research skills of the students ,only exam oriented education is provided for hundred percent exam result that is why students fail in research.

**4) No Project Based Learning**

We are giving much importance to theory and not to practical .Hence we are unable in giving job to them.

**5) Not Creating Jobs**

After doing UG,PG and even Ph.D. our students are not able to get job.

**6) No Strategy**

Indian higher education does not havestrategies to attract the foreign students.

**What are 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills ?**

21<sup>st</sup> Century skills are twelve abilities that today's students need to succeed in their future careers. All these 12 skills are divided in to three broad categories.

- 1) Learning skills
- 2) Literacy skills
- 3) Life skills

Learning skills enables students to activate mental process essential to adapt and improve upon a modern work environment. Literacy skills enables students how to use technology and to interpret and analyze the media information . Life skills



concentrate on the personal and professional qualities of individual. All these skills are universal and every stakeholder know the importance of it in carrier or in work.

Learning skills are 1) Critical thinking 2) Creativity 3) Collaboration 4) Communication

Literacy skills are 1) Information literacy 2) Media literacy 3) Technology literacy

Life skills are 1) Flexibility 2) Leadership 3) Initiative 4) Productivity 5) Social skills

- 1) Critical Thinking :--It involves assessing information to make informal decisions. Critical thinking find the solutions to every problem. It is important in profession, learning and in everyday life because it gives the fruitful substitute to solve problem.
- 2) Creativity:-- Creativity means divergent thinking and it helps the learner to think in various and novel way and find the solutions or to solve the problems in a different way. It empowers people to see concepts in a different light , leading to innovative thinking and problem solving.
- 3) Collaboration:--It involves multiple people working together to achieve common goal. Willingness is the key component of collaboration and it helps the learner together and put their own ideas and make corrections and work together and it is successful teamwork.
- 4) Communication:--It is the practice of conveying ideas using variety of methods. Without proper and effective communication students will lack behind in their carrier in the 21<sup>st</sup> century . Communication is the skill that brings the other skills and qualities together, hence communication is very essential to express the ideas effectively at different situations.
- 5) Information Literacy:--It gives our students the tools needed to distinguish fact from fiction. Information literacy is the basic skill for 21<sup>st</sup> century . Today to find truth and identify honesty from the vast treasury is a difficult work.



- 6) Media Literacy:--It helps students analyze media and understand potential issues that can arise when using digital tools .Media literacy is a term which helps the learner to identify the truth from a flooded world of information
- 7) Technology literacy:---21<sup>st</sup> century is the age of information, and computers ,mobiles , tabs becomes more important ,hence it is the need to understand these devices easily. It reduces the learner's fear of technology. Technology literacy involves students understanding of different applications and the best ways to use them.
- 8) Flexibility: --Flexibility is the center of learner's long term success in a carrier and accepts the changing environment . Flexibility is someone's ability to adapt to change and understand in views that impact decisions.
- 9) Leadership:--Leadership involves someone's ability to influence and guide others towards a common goal. It is very essential to work as a team to achieve goal collectively.
- 10) Initiative:--Initiative sometimes called intrinsic motivation ,related to employees ,starting projects ,creating plans and executing sttatagies on their own . Initiative is essential with leadership to gain success for start up . It is the hardest skill to learn and practice.
- 11) Productivity:-- Productivity measures how well someone is able to prioritize plan , and manage their work. Productivity keeps efficiency in an age of distractions It is the learners ability to do work within time with proper way.
- 12) Social Skills:--Social skills refers to the skills needed to interact effectively with others, especially when working with a diverse group of people. Social skills include assertiveness ,coping , communication and friendship making skills ,so it is essential to employee to maintain positive social relationship with others. The purpose of social skills is to facilitate positive interaction with peers.

### **Importance of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills**

21<sup>st</sup> century skills are essential for getting in any field. Our students need to have the foundational knowledge to set themselves up for success. By mastering 21<sup>st</sup> century



skills ,students will be better equipped to start and grow in whatever career path they choose, to prepare the students for their future careers and it also help the students be better learner. Collaboration and leadership skills can help the students to work better in groups. Critical thinking and communication can make meaningful discussion in classroom. Teaching information , media and literacy skills can make students struggle effectively and appropriately use technology in and out of the class.We can't teach 21<sup>st</sup> century skills separately to the students but to convey that these skills are intertwined. Critical thinking and communication skills can help students to improve leadership skills.In India Higher Education is responsible to provide an education as per the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century. It should be job oriented and provider of skilled employees having application knowledge ,creative and critical thinking abilities, leadership abilities, decision making abilities, problem solving abilities and written plus oral communication skills. So it will fulfill the need and demand of 21<sup>st</sup> century, 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are always been important .They are essential in India and worldwide also .It will also reduce the problem of unemployment. Students should always adaptive as per the situation otherwise students will fall behind ,becomes outdate.Alvin Toffler , American writer and futurist very correctly said that the illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who can not read and write but those who can not learn, unlearn and relearn.

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