



Analysis of Softskill Training for Engineering and Pharmaceutical Students in Chennai

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ABSTRACT

Soft skills play an important role in all the sectors of employment. Conflicts in Organizations can be handled efficiently by employing the right set of soft skills. Training on soft skills has to be nurtured right from the college level among all the students. The study deals with the factors that affect the soft skills training among the college students of Engineering and Pharmaceutical domain. Thus this paper has been focused on analysis soft skills Training of engineering and Pharmaceutical students.

Keywords: Soft skills, Training, engineering students, pharmaceutical students, aptitude skills, leadership skills, team building.

INTRODUCTION

As per the Aspiring Minds Employability Report 2014 only 18.43% of engineers were employable for the software services sector, 3.21% for software products and 39.84% for a non-functional role such as Business Process Outsourcing. Unfortunately, we see no massive progress in these numbers. These numbers as of today stand at: 17.91%, 3.67% and 40.57% respectively for IT Services, IT Products and Business Process Outsourcing. With increasing number of educational institutions, the employability of graduates has become a serious problem. Training the students with the right skillset and domain expertise is significant positive change in the employability among them. The paper deals with the analysis of factors affecting the soft-skills training among pharmaceutical students.

Review of Literature

Technical and professional skill training helps students not only in placement but also for enhancing entrepreneurship skills. Training of college students should focus on innovation, creativeness, flexibility, perseverance, optimism, risk-taking, group work and leadership¹. Mindfulness meditation training has been shown to reduce stress and improve mood and academic performance in both college and graduate students¹². Counseling based skill training found to have great impact on the college students⁶. Training methods has high influence on the skillset of the students and found to have a great impact on after training effects⁷. Group training found to improve career decision-making self-efficacy among the college students⁸. Practice ability is an effective measure for testing the level of college students' professional knowledge and evaluating the educational work results of the institutions of higher learning¹⁵. In order to enhance the physical quality among college students, learning and training of skills are required¹⁰. Cloud computing is found to be an effective tool in

training college students on various skills¹⁶. Skill training in colleges provides significant improvements in college students helping their recruitment¹⁴.

Research Methodology

A survey had been conducted from 252 students of Pharmaceutical department. Convenience sampling technique was employed and the primary data extracted is analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software.

Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Gender wise Distribution of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	131	52.0	52.0	52.0
	Female	121	48.0	48.0	100.0
	Total	252	100.0	100.0	

From the above table we could understand that 52 percentages of the respondents are male and 48 percentage of the respondents are female

From the above table, we could infer that the maximum number of respondents 37.7 percentage are aspiring for job after completing their graduation and only 32.1 percentage of the respondents are preparing for competitive exams.



Table 2: Choice after Completion of the course

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Job	95	37.7	37.7	37.7
	Higher Studies	76	30.2	30.2	67.9
	Preparing competitive exams	81	32.1	32.1	100.0
	Total	252	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: C.G.P.A. wise Distribution of the Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 6	74	29.4	29.4	29.4
	6.1 to 7	67	26.6	26.6	56.0
	7.1 to 8	64	25.4	25.4	81.3
	8.1 and above	47	18.7	18.7	100.0
	Total	252	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we infer that 52 percentage of the respondents have a CGPA between 6 to 8 and 18.7 percentage of the respondents have a CGPA of 8 and above.

Table4: Time Spent on Enhancing Aptitude skills

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	less than 2 hours per week	47	18.7	18.7	18.7
	2 to 4 hours	55	21.8	21.8	40.5
	4.1 to 6 hours	50	19.8	19.8	60.3
	6.1 to 8 hours	52	20.6	20.6	81.0
	8.1 hours and above	48	19.0	19.0	100.0
	Total	252	100.0	100.0	

21.8 percentages of the respondents spend 2 to 4 hours on enhancing their aptitude skills whereas 18.7 percentages of the respondents spend less than 2 hours per week.

Factor Analysis

Table 5: Exploratory Factor Analysis

Rotated Component Matrix ^a				
	Component			
	1	2	3	4
Oralskill	-.020	.700	-.256	.087
Writskill	-.022	-.028	-.212	.333
Honest	.039	-.023	.612	.007
Teamskill	.115	-.037	.188	.567
Timeskill	.094	-.011	-.042	-.551
Prblemslve	-.062	.299	.062	.443
Approachability	.329	-.060	-.074	.442
Risktak	.143	.332	-.536	-.114
Followrules	.320	-.361	.103	.064

Leadership	-.375	.340	.325	-.141
Timemgmt	-.605	.080	.113	-.147
Update	.262	.194	.469	-.161
Communicate	.469	-.016	.228	.004
Solvingprblem	.303	.325	.078	.243
Compterskills	.044	-.231	-.394	-.172
Orgskills	-.101	-.337	-.059	.057
Trainingskil	-.544	-.381	-.194	.291
Concentrate	.388	.165	-.092	-.110

After performing factor analysis using varimax rotation, four factors are extracted based on the communalities. These Four Factors comprising of the corresponding items are termed as follows.



Factor 1 – Aptitude Skills comprising of items Time skills, following rules, ability to communicate, computer skills, concentration.

Factor 2 –Leadership skills comprising of Oral skills, risk taking skills, leadership, solving problem,

Factor 3 – Integrity comprising of Honesty, Time management, Knowledge updation.

Factor 4 – Written skills, team skills, Problem solving, approachability, Organizing skills and Training skills.

Chi Square test

H0: There is no association between Gender and Time spent on enhancing aptitude skills.

H1: There is association between Gender and Time spent on enhancing aptitude skills.

Table 6: Chi Square test Gender and Time Spent on Enhancing Aptitude skills

		Time spent					Total
		less than 2 hours per week	2 to 4 hours	4.1 to 6 hours	6.1 to 8 hours	8.1 hours and above	
gender	Male	27	25	24	28	27	131
	Female	20	30	26	24	21	121
Total		47	55	50	52	48	252
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)			
Pearson Chi-Square		2.241 ^a	4	.691			
Likelihood Ratio		2.245	4	.691			
Linear-by-Linear Association		.102	1	.750			
N of Valid Cases		252					
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 22.57.							

From the above table we could infer that there is no significant association between Gender and time spent on aptitude skills.

CONCLUSION

Softskill training for the pharma students considered to bring significant change and enhances placement. Need analysis of training among the students and specific training targeting specific skillset of the students must be employed for better results. Key areas of focus may be given for Aptitude skills, Team skills and leadership skills. As there is no relationship between Gender and Time spent on Aptitude skills, general training can be given to all the pharmaceutical students irrespective of their gender.

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