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Essential Skills in The 21st Century

Abstract

The destiny of our country is designed and defined in the classrooms by the teachers and there is no doubt in this statement that the teachers shoulder has greater responsibility of providing the learners with the suitable instructional materials which would help them to derive the maximum benefit. So being 21st century educator we have to enrich more skills to equip our students.

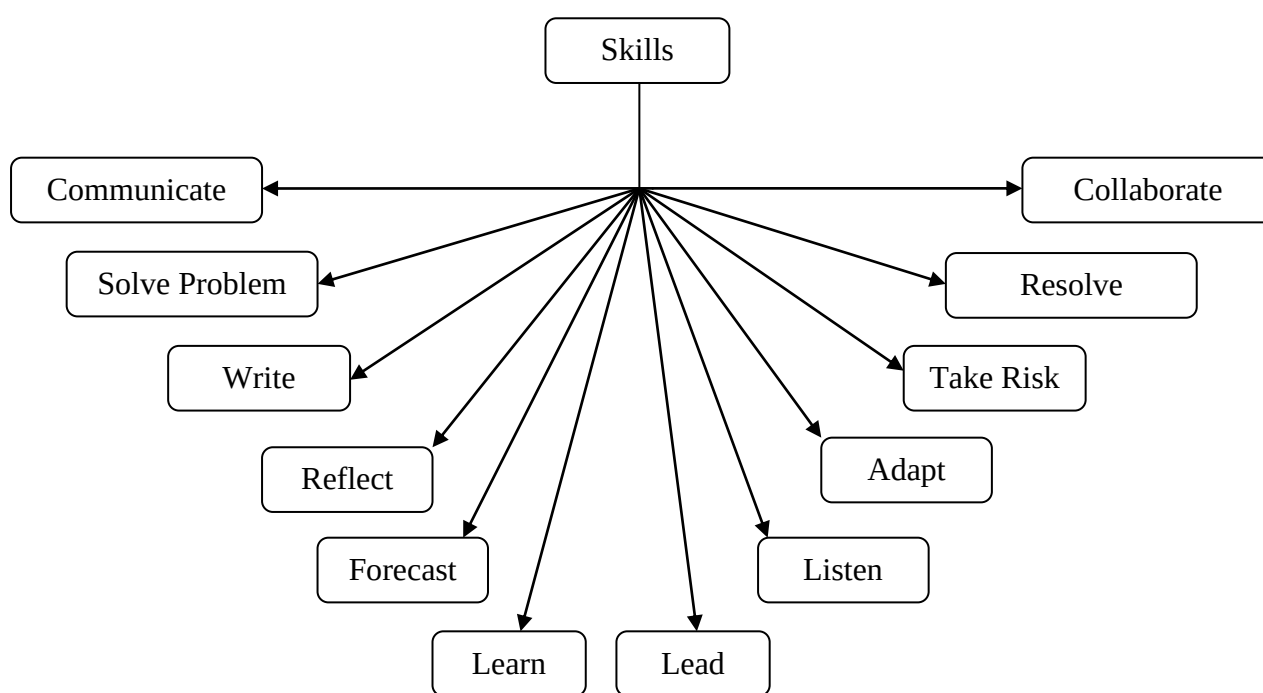
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Introduction

The 21st-century educators must be fluid thinkers, ready to look at situations with fresh, creative eyes. They must go beyond the obvious to see the underlying patterns and core issues of a given circumstance. Today's educators have the daunting task of preparing

students for a future in the global 21st century. As the educators begin to lag behind other countries in the areas of mathematics, science, engineering, and technology, they need to be educated and transmit this information to their students.

Education is necessary in all grades in order to remain competitive in this global society. The first challenge for educators is to attract students towards education, and the second is to keep them interested. Today's students are our future, and our future depends on their success. To be effective 21st century teachers, teachers must possess the very same 21st-century skills that their students are expected to have. And, in addition to those skills, they must be able to help all of their students obtain and develop 21st-century skills.



Communicate

Teaching is generally considered as only fifty percent knowledge and fifty percent interpersonal or communication skills. For a teacher, it is not just important to give a quality lecture but it is more important for the presentation of a lesson or lecture in class. Communication skills for teachers are thus as important as their in-depth knowledge of the particular subject which they teach. It is only through communication skills that teacher can

introduce creative and effective solutions to the problems of the students. Thus, a teacher can be expected when communication skills for teachers is given due importance. Thus, it is important that communication skills become an important ingredient of a teacher's professional competency.

Problem solving

Solving problems effectively requires students to identify, define and solve problems using logic, as well as lateral and creative thinking. In the process, students arrive at a deep understanding of the topic area and construct new knowledge and understanding on which they are able to make decisions. Good problem solving skills empower students in their educational, professional, and personal lives. The ability to solve problems in a range of learning contexts is essential for the development of knowledge, understanding and performance. Requiring students to engage with complex, authentic problem solving encourages them to use content knowledge in innovative and creative ways and promotes deep understanding.

Write

Strong written communication skills are paramount to success. It is important to be able to concisely convey the message in multiple formats including reports, letters, e-mail, online work and more. To improve the writing skills, teachers should take the time to proofread what they have written. Often many small mistakes can be corrected with a quick review. They can utilize the built in spell check and grammar functions found in many productivity software applications. Other tips to improve the written communication skills include having another person proof read documents, submitting white papers to professional publications, and reviewing grammar rules online.

Reflect

The ability of teachers to step outside of the experiences that make up teaching, and to analyze the impact of the experiences from multiple perspectives. It means looking at what has been done in the classroom, thinking about why we did it, and thinking about if it works – a process of self-observation and self-evaluation. By collecting information about what goes on in our classroom, and by analyzing and evaluating this information, we identify and explore our own practices and underlying beliefs. This may then lead to changes and improvements in our teaching. Reflective teaching is therefore a means of professional development which begins in our classroom.

Forecast

Imagination is a crucial component of the educator of today and tomorrow. Educators must look across the disciplines and through the curricula; they must see the potential in the emerging tools and web technologies, grasp these and manipulate them to serve their needs. If we look at the technologies we currently see emerging, how many are developed for education? The visionary teacher can look at others' ideas and envisage how they would use these in their class.

Learn

Among the most important roles teacher leaders assume is that of learner. Learners model continual improvement, demonstrate lifelong learning, and use what they learn to help all students achieve. It can be hard to motivate teachers to improve themselves. But if they look at the work of others, especially others at the top of the respective field, it can be enough to inspire them. They must find ways to get inspired by the amazing works of others every day. Teachers need to study closely the work of the masters, read about them. If possible, they

should try to learn from them directly, by studying under them or working with them. They got where they are today by studying from the masters that came before them.

Lead

Many attributes of good leaders are persuasiveness, open-mindedness, flexibility, confidence, and expertise in their fields. To assume a leadership role, teachers may need expertise in curriculum planning, assessment design, data analysis, and the like. They may also need to develop the abilities to listen actively, facilitate meetings, keep a group discussion on track, decide on a course of action, and monitor progress. These skills are not typically taught in teacher preparation programs. The litmus test of all leadership is whether it mobilizes people's commitment to putting their energy into actions designed to improve things. It is individual commitment, but above all it is collective mobilization. A hallmark of leadership is the ability to collaborate with others. Teacher leaders must enlist colleagues to support their vision, build consensus among diverse groups of educators, and convince others of the importance of what they are proposing and the feasibility of their general plan for improvement.

Listen

Often, the most important part of effective communication is listening. It is important to not only hear the message, but to actively listen and understand the entire message. Many mistakes are made because people do not take the time to fully comprehend the message or instructions they were given. To improve the listening skills, pay attention to the speaker's words and actions. Many facts can be learnt from the body language. Allow the speaker to finish before responding or judging what they have said. Take notes and review them with the speaker to ensure you received the message as it was intended.

Adapt

Mahatma Gandhi says that “Adaptability is not imitation, it means power of resistance & assimilation”. Some teachers are natural born ‘adaptive’. Some are not. But, it can be learned. The challenge is for each of us to stay on track as life shifts constantly. It is the ability to master one’s circumstances instead of slaving over it. If you don’t stand over your situation, it will boss you around. And just because you have to yield at times, doesn’t mean you are weak. It takes inner strength to accept the unpleasant together with the pleasant. Or live with them. It’s a mark of maturity-the ability to take on life’s realities with grace. As Winston Churchill reminds us, “In war as in life, it is often necessary when some cherished scheme has failed, to take up the best alternative open, and if so, it is folly not to work for it with all your might.” Indeed, we have to make the change or it will make us.

Take risk

Risk taking is becoming a core skill. We need people who can communicate, work in teams, take decisions, be adaptable and take risks. Despite the demand for skills of innovation and enterprise, and despite recognition of the value of invention and original thinking, the role of risk taking in preparing young people for the future is often overlooked by educators and policy makers. In the context of young people’s lives, risk is seen as largely negative, linked to danger and regarded as something to be avoided.

Resolve conflict

Conflict triggers strong emotions and can lead to hurt feelings, disappointment, and discomfort. When handled in an unhealthy manner, it can cause irreparable rifts, resentments, and breakups. But when conflict is resolved in a healthy way, it increases our understanding of one another, builds trust, and strengthens our relationship bonds. In workplace conflicts,

differing needs are often at the heart of bitter disputes. When you can recognize the legitimacy of conflicting needs and become willing to examine them in an environment of compassionate understanding, it opens pathways to creative problem solving, team building, and improved relationships.

Collaborate

The future success depends on a leader's ability to collaborate and engage at every level of the organization. Today's visionary leaders must understand that constant change is here to stay as the global marketplace continues to shift and impact how a business must operate in order to survive. Today's successful leaders must openly embrace the "possibilities" that can result from this constant change, instead of expending unnecessary energy fighting against a tide in an attempt to bring the good old days back. The opportunity to stand out in a crowded marketplace and create a new path to success has never been greater.

Conclusion

Teachers must develop enhanced expertise in teaching practices, learning new skills and increasing knowledge. All teachers must analyse their practice and reflect on how they help students to cultivate knowledge and skill to improve their own work and develop higher order learning.

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