

RELEVANCE OF SOFT SKILLS IN BTVET CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

Grace .K. Baguma

Director

National Curriculum Development Centre

18th July, 2017

Introduction

Meaning of Soft Skills: Soft skills, is a sociological term relating to a person's Emotional Intelligence Quotient, the cluster of personality traits, social graces, communication, language, personal habits, friendliness, and optimism that characterize relationships with other people.

Introduction. Cont.

- Soft skills are seen to be the essential people skills, which encompass a wide terrain of personal attributes. They are the complete means of our social, communication, and self-management behaviours. These are the skills that enable us to work effectively and “fit” in the workplace.
- They are a set of skills which include how people relate to each other by, listening, feedback, cooperating as a team member, solving problems, contributing in meetings, resolving conflict.

Examples of Soft skills

Soft skills incorporate all aspects of generic skills that include the cognitive elements associated with non-academic skills.

Based on the several research findings obtained, a number of soft skills have been identified and chosen to be implemented in all institutions of higher learning.

Examples of Soft skills. cont.

They are:

- Communicative skills.
- Thinking skills and Problem solving skills.
- Team work force
- Life-long learning and Information Management
- Entrepreneur skills
- Ethics, moral and professionalism
- Leadership skills.
- Computer (ICT) skills

Examples of Soft skills. cont.

Each of the above soft skills comprised of several sub-skills;

- The **must have soft skills**: must be acquired by each and every individual in the BTVET institutions without which, the student is regarded as incompetent in the above skill.
- The **good to have soft skills**: can be regarded as the additional generic skills and a bonus to the student. If these skills are acquired by the students together with the **must have** soft skills, the student will become a great performer in industry (World of work).

Importance of Soft Skills in BTVET

- Soft skills play a significant role in one's success in life, particularly in one's profession. These help to excel in the workplace and their importance cannot be overlooked in this age of technology advancement.
- Soft skills fulfil an important role in shaping an individual's personality. It is of high importance for students to acquire adequate skills beyond academic or technical knowledge.
- Soft skills in the highly competitive corporate world will help a learner to stand out in a crowd of regular job seekers with ordinary skills and talent.

Importance of Soft Skills in BTVET

- Soft skills will give the learner a range of abilities that include work ethics, courtesy, teamwork, self-discipline and self-confidence, professional presence, language proficiency, cultural sensitivity, communication skills, ability to accept and learn from criticism, ability to handle client relationships, networking, creativity, ability to motivate yourself and lead others, time management, leadership and interpersonal skills. These are the major requirements of any job career worldwide and thus will add value to the graduate.

Modes of implementing soft skills in BTVET

The development of soft skills among the students via the formal teaching and learning activities takes two models:

- **Stand alone:** This model uses the approach of training and providing opportunities to students to develop soft skills through specific courses that are carefully planned for this purpose.
- **Embedded:** This model uses the approach of embedding the soft skills in the teaching and learning activities across the curriculum. It does not require the student to take special courses as in the stand alone subject model. Instead the students are trained to master the soft skills through various formal teaching and learning activities that are planned and carried out using specific strategies and methods.

**Thank you for
listening**