



Development of life skills-through science teaching

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Abstract

The main aim of education is to develop the life skills among children, which can prepare the children to become a best asset of Nation. The term 'Life Skills' refers to the skills you need to make the most out of life. Life skills are usually associated with managing and living a better quality of life. They help us to accomplish our ambitions and live to our full potential. In school, Science is one of the most important subject, which not only imparts the science knowledge, facts and information but also prepare the next generation to be a best part of the society, who has an ability to contribute their best to the Nation. In this paper, major life skills are discussed, which can be developed through teaching of science subject in the classroom.

Keywords: Life skills, science teaching

Introduction

We are living in competitive age, where one has to be very alert and skillful in order to sustain and maintain a harmonious relationship with life. Any skill that is useful in your life can be considered a life skill. Tying your shoe laces, swimming, driving a car and using a computer. Education is not limited to only mental development but also concerned with developing many skills, which will make child mentally sound, emotionally stable and socially acceptable in the society. The major skills are discussed below

- Communication skill
- Problem solving ability skill
- Leadership skill
- Analytical skill
- Decision making ability skill
- Digital literacy skill
- Vocational skill
- Empathy skill
- Adjustment and adoptability skill
- Critical thinking skill
- Creative thinking skill
- Interpersonal relationship skill
- Stress Management skill
- Environment protection skill

Communication skill: An Effective communication is a tool with social animal to make his life perfect. Humans are able to express his ideas thoughts and feelings, both verbally and non-

verbally. This means being able to express opinions and desires, and also needs and fears. And it may mean being able to ask for advice and help in a time of need. Through science teaching, the communication skill can be enhanced, teacher should allow the students to communicate his thoughts by asking such question, which can stimulate the child to express him/herself thoughts, ideas, opinions and feelings in their own words, which would enhance his/her communication skill. Such type of questions will help the child to express his opinions and thoughts, which will boost the communication skill.

Problem solving ability: A Problem is a part and parcel of our personal and professional life. Science teaching helps the student to confront with various types of problems. The child learns to encounter the problem and develops the ability to solve it logically and rationally. For example teaching the topic like 'Diseases and its types', at the end of the topic the teacher can ask the questions like, List the friends of your classroom, who caught with different types of diseases in the class during this academic year, How you have helped them to get recover fast and what precautions you have taken for not getting infected by the same disease.

Leadership skill: Leadership role plays a vital role in achieving our goals and success in life. Today in this competitive world, every individual has to play lead role in order to be successful in life. Science teaching can develop this skill among students, if taught properly and tactfully. For Example-Involving students in Team teaching, peer Tutoring,

Project work, Collaborative and cooperative learning

Analytical skill: For living a harmonious and perfect life, we need to be analytical in our thinking. Analytical thinking with accuracy and precision marks the perfection in our life. The basic essence of science teaching is to develop analytical thinking and reasoning power in students. For Examples: Encountering students with the problems, which makes the students to analyze and synthesize over the problem leading to solution of the problem. By using the Brain storming technique, make the student to attack the problem. Questions like, Write the application of Newton's first law of motion in classroom.

Decision making ability skill: Fast decision ability with accuracy and precision matters a lot in life. Through science teaching, the teacher can develop this ability among the students. For Example: Involving student's in competitions in the form of Quiz and puzzles. The students are expected to answer in stipulated time. While answering, the student has to take the decision very fast in order to attain the target given.

Digital literacy skill: We all are living in the digital world, where the world is dancing at our fingertip. The science teaching enables the students to prepare himself for facing the digital challenges.

For example: Assignments related with preparing power point presentation, searching information on google engine.

Vocational skill: Science teaching essence lies in preparing children for multiple vocations and Science is the perfect subject which prepares the child for unlimited vocations. For example, Topics like sound, Light, Energy and its types, Forces and its types, Health and Hygiene, Diseases and its types etc. provides ample opportunities to the students to develop interest and take these as hobbies, which will help them to choose their vocations in the later part of their life.

An empathy skill: Empathy is the ability to imagine what life is like for another person. Without empathy, our communication with others will amount to one-way traffic. Worst, we will be acting and behaving according to our self-interest and are bound to run into problems.

Empathy can help us to accept others, who may be very different from ourselves. This can improve social interactions, especially, in situations of ethnic or cultural diversity. For example, your friend is poor and he needs money and at the same time he is very self-respected person, he will not borrow or ask for help, and being a good friend u want to help your friend without hurting his self-respect, how would you help him?

A critical thinking: It is an ability to analyze information and experiences in an objective manner. Science is a subject, which enables children to become more critical in their outlook and temperament, through the science teaching this critical attitude and temperament can be developed to a large extent and prevent falling prey to blind faith and superstitions.

A creative thinking skill: is a novel way of seeing or doing things that is characteristic of four components – fluency

(generating new ideas), flexibility (shifting perspective easily), originality (conceiving of something new), and elaboration (building on other ideas). Science learning keep n motivating the children to produce something innovative and new in life.

An interpersonal relationship skills: help us to relate in positive ways with the people, we interact with. This may mean being able to make and keep friendly relationships, which can be of great importance to our mental and social well-being. It may mean keeping, good relations with family members, which are an important source of social support. It may also mean being able to end relationships constructively. Science teaching provides an ample opportunity to learn in groups and teams in collaborative and cooperative manner.

Adjustment skill: Ability of adjustment is must for every individual in order to maintain harmonious relationship with the environment. Science teaching develops that ability, by involving the students in the project work, where the students belongs to diverse group come together to achieve a single goal. The diverse group students when work together, they need to understand each other, respect each other thoughts and feelings. The science teaching provides opportunities to mingle together and reach the target

Stress management skill: Life is a series of stress and happiness. The Education should be able to prepare tomorrow's children to cope up with the stress and strains of life and maintain personal and professional happiness and contentment. For example topics like mental health, physical health, yoga should be a part of science teaching.

Environment protection skill: Today's generation is most vulnerable to the pollution problem and in order to cope with the pollution problems, the different strategies to deal with environmental problems can be taught very well through topics like Our Environment, renewable and Nonrenewable resources, Disaster management, Sustainable development etc.

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