

Chapter 9

Classroom Experiments and Experience Using Skill Genie

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ABSTRACT

The teaching learning process in every domain keeps changing abreast to academic and industrial practises. Other than knowledge, the acquisition of skill sets is demanded nowadays. The present generation may be a computer wizard, a scientific mastermind or a technocrat, but they are expected to possess a good skill set. To be successful, subject expertise alone is not enough. In this context, the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has published a Student's Hand Book Skill Genie (SHBSG -2016). A very laudable attempt and this move certainly helps students to refine their communicative competency and soft skills which absolutely increases their employability quotient. This chapter reviewed the appropriateness and usefulness of the book through a select lesson and the authors of this research paper wanted to share the class room experiments and anew experience which they tried in an academic setting with III ECE "A" (2017 -2021 batch), Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi. In addition to that, this chapter appraises Skill Genie (SG) as well.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the Government of Andhra Pradesh released a handbook for students titled *Student Hand Book Skill Genie (SHBSG)*. It became viral on social networks after it was noticed and shared by many academicians. The authors, employees with the Department of English at the Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi, were impressed and influenced by the lessons. They chose to use it as a classroom lesson for the Professional Communication Skills Laboratory course for III ECE “A” (2017-2021).

Similarities were found in the content of the Professional Communication Skills Laboratory course and Skill Genie (SG). Therefore, it was decided that it would be used for teaching and learning. The detailed analysis of the book helped to identify a combination of communication skills and soft skills for engineers and engineering students. Content, which was tailored from both Web and print sources, added a fresh look to SHBSG. Munby (1978,) stated that, “ESP courses are those where the syllabus and materials are determined in all essentials by the prior analysis of the communication needs of the learner.” Munby (1978) added that the needs of learners can be identified by investigating the target situation.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh meticulously investigated and understood industrial needs across the world. As a result, they compiled the SHBSG. In addition, the Government of India created a new ministry, the Ministry of Skill Development Entrepreneurship. Under the same scheme, the Government of Andhra Pradesh created a new department, Skill Entrepreneurship and Innovation, to convert services with education and employment. Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandra Babu Naidu, released the SHBSG on May 26, 2016, stating that, through the mastery of English and soft skills, he envisioned students of Andhra Pradesh employable at global levels.

LITERATURE STUDY

Engineers occupy a major section of industries and multinational companies. Industries demand employees with English and soft skills. The definition and classification of soft skills varies. However, it is understood to possess multiple intelligences and communicative proficiencies.

Understanding this persistent industry demand, technical universities now include soft skills as a compulsory subject in the curriculum. Hence, the literature review highlights its importance in today’s world. Academicians, curriculum planners, teachers, placement officers, human resource managers, and industrial experts suggest activities based on their domain and expertise to teach soft skills in more

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