



Cover Page



A STUDY ON THE INFLUENCE OF SOFT SKILLS COMPETENCIES AMONG THE PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

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Abstract:

The study was intended to find out the Influence of soft skills competencies among the Prospective Teachers in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu. This study used a sample of 400 prospective teachers from various colleges around Kanyakumari district. Their Mean, Standard Deviation, t-value were calculated for the analysis of data. The study concluded that their Locality of their college, Type of Family, medium of instruction had no significant difference in influencing their soft skills but Gender and their previous educational qualification exhibited a significant difference in influencing their soft skills.

Keywords: Prospective Teachers, Influence, Competencies, Soft Skills, Mean, Standard Deviation

INTRODUCTION:

Soft skills is a term often associated with a person's Emotional Intelligence Quotient, the cluster of personality traits, social graces, communication, language, personal habits, friendliness, managing people, leadership, etc. that characterize relationships with other people. Soft skills, also known as people skills, complement hard skills to enhance an individual's relationships, job performance and career prospects. Soft skills are very much important for prospective teachers because they help to overcome the frustrations, depression and helps to face the challenges in their daily life. Being future teachers, prospective teachers must develop their soft skills in order to earn the respect of their students, peers and parents. Soft skills helps them to go in a discussion and to make a decision. Soft skills were useful for social interaction and helps in their career advancement. Soft skills are the qualities that can't be measured but it should be developed overtime to have better connection with students, parents, etc.,

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

The study conducted by **Esa, P. et al (2014)** identified the level of communication skills, lifelong learning, entrepreneurship skills and moral and professional ethics that has been applied by engineering students and lecturers at the polytechnics. The results showed that no statistically significant differences were found between students and lecturers in the application of soft skills. In conclusion, this study suggests that lecturers use a variety of approaches to improve the level of soft skills among students in civil engineering.

Sanyal, S. (2013) makes a survey of the importance of soft skills in students' lives both at the college and after college. The researcher discusses how soft skills complement hard skills which are the technical requirements of a job the student is trained to do to put him to drivers' seat during and even after the interview.

The study by **Amaladoss Xavier (2012)**, on the relationship between soft skills and teaching competency was conducted among the sample of 96 postgraduate chemistry teachers. The results revealed that there is no significant relationship between job satisfaction and teaching competency and its dimensions-organization, knowledge, clarity, communication, rapport, audio-visual aids and personality of postgraduate chemistry teachers.

NEED FOR THE STUDY:

With the new change in education, its versatility, seeking for new job, job sustainability, availability of qualified personnel, is becoming more and more tough. To overcome all these problems students have no choice but to add values



to their hard skills with more soft skills to exhibit their true potential Literature suggests that hard skills contribute to only 15% of one's success while remaining 85% is made by soft skills. Understanding the importance of this newly raised important aspect, most of the educational institutions in India have initiated programmes, projects and activities for developing soft skills in their students.

Curriculum of education facilities and their programs should include activities , projects and programs that would help students to have different thinking styles. In order to make prospective teacher’s attitude to teaching better and to increase their professional consciousness , social and economic conditions of teaching should be enhanced.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The researcher have defined clearly the objectives to find out the influence of soft skills competencies among the prospective teachers from,

- ❖ Male and Female Students
- ❖ Students from Rural and Urban locality
- ❖ Student’s medium of instruction
- ❖ Type of their family
- ❖ Medium of instruction of Students.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY:

Based on the objectives , the following hypothesis are framed:

- 1) There is no significant difference in soft skills of prospective teachers based on their gender.
- 2) There is no significant difference in soft skills of prospective teachers based on the locality of the college.
- 3) There is no significant difference in soft skills of prospective teachers based on their medium of instruction.
- 4) There is no significant difference in soft skills of prospective teachers based on the monthly income of parents .
- 5) There is no significant difference in soft skills of prospective teachers based on their educational qualification.

METHODS OF THE STUDY:

Analyzing the characteristics of the various methods of educational research, normative survey method has been selected by the investigator. Normative survey is applied in order to suggest the two closely related aspects of study. The Descriptive or Normative Survey Method of educational research is very common.

TOOLS USED:

For the preparation of the soft skills Inventory the investigator went through the related literature on soft skills to collect adequate knowledge about it. The soft skills Inventory prepared by the investigator consists of 40 statements. Each statement can be responded as ‘ strongly agree ’, ‘ Agree ’ ‘ Neutral’ , ‘ Disagree ’ , and ‘ Strongly Disagree ‘ The respondent has to put a tick mark() in the appropriate column, according to his/her opinion. For the purpose of scoring, numerical values were assigned for.

Scoring Key For The Soft skills Inventory

Responses	Positive Statement	Negative Statement
Strongly Agree	5	1
Agree	4	2
Neutral	3	3
Disagree	2	4
Strongly Disagree	1	5



Cover Page



Sample of the Study:

The sample may be said to be the small portion of population selected for collecting information for the purpose of analysis. In this present study, 400 prospective teachers studying in different B.Ed Colleges were taken as sample. The random sampling technique (Kothari, 1985) has been used in the selection of the sample. The samples were collected from the College Students of various B.Ed Colleges in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED :

Statistical is the science of making effective use of numerical data relating to groups of individuals or experiments. It deals with all aspects of this, including not only the collection, analysis and interpretation of such data, but also the planning of the collection of data, in terms of the design of surveys and experiments.

The following statistical techniques have been used in the present study for the analysis of data collected from 400 Prospective teachers have been analyzed as follows:

1. Descriptive Analysis
2. Differential Analysis

Descriptive Analysis

Analysis involves computing means and standard deviation. These measures are useful to determine the central tendencies and dispersions of the variable selected for the study. The computed values are used to describe the properties of particular sample.

Differential Analysis

Differential analysis involves the most important procedure by which the researcher makes inferences between groups with references to selected variables. It involves test takes account of the size of mean difference between two variables group and the amount of variation of spread present in the scores. Thus the t-test and ANOVA is a technique for determining whether the mean performances of two groups are significantly different or not.

INFLUENCE OF SOFT SKILLS COMPETENCY AMONG THE PROSPECTIVE TEACHERS

S.No	Variable		Number	Mean	S.D	' t ' value	Significant value
1.	Gender	Male	138	143.94	13.7	2.23	S
		Female	262	111.1	11.1		
2.	Locality	Rural	302	145.86	8.3	0.80	NS
		Urban	98	145.96	13.1		
3.	Medium	Tamil	231	146.76	12.7	1.61	NS
		English	169	144.81	11.2		
4.	Educational Qualification	UG	207	71.22	22.20	3.80	S
		PG	193	61.57	27.89		
5.	Family Type	Nuclear	291	146.18	11.6	0.61	NS
		Joint	109	145.28	13.6		

S= Significant	NS= Not Significant
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Cover Page



RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

- ❖ Based on the analysis of data it is clear that there is a significant difference of the influence of soft skills in Male and Female prospective teachers ($t = 2.23$).
- ❖ The hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference in the influence of soft skills of Rural and Urban College Students ($t=0.80$).
- ❖ The hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference in the influence of soft skills between Tamil and English medium Students ($t=1.61$).
- ❖ Based on the analysis of data it is clear that there is a significant difference of the influence of soft skills based on their previous Educational Qualification ($t=3.80$).
- ❖ The hypothesis based on the analysis of data indicates that there is no significant difference in the influence of soft skills based on their type of family ($t=0.61$).

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, it is essential to identify the soft skills of prospective teachers in order to facilitate the process of learning and teaching. In fact, knowledge of the students' information processing style would enhance teaching and make the exercise fruitful. Hence, different teaching techniques and methodologies can be adopted to activate and influence the soft skills of prospective teachers and to improve their academic achievement. Soft skills must be known to them to lead a better life in every part.

Finally, to sum up the following conclusions have been reached by the investigator. Locality of their college, Type of Family, medium of instruction had no significant difference in influencing their soft skills but Gender and their previous educational qualification exhibited a significant difference in influencing the soft skills of the prospective teachers in Kanyakumari district.

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Cover Page



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