

Report on Importance of Developing Skills besides University Education December 09, 2022

Introduction:

Faculty Development Academy organized a seminar on ‘Importance of Developing Skills besides University Education’. This seminar was arranged on December 9, 2022 at Seminar Hall, EE Department, for Students and Class Counselors of COMSATS University, Islamabad. Today an employer looks for skills in his/her employees more than the degree. It is becoming difficult to get hold of a good job if a person is not equipped with skills. For this purpose FDA requested Mr. Atiq Raja, a freelance speaker and trainer from Karachi, to address the youth.

Opening Remarks:

After the recitation of few verses from the Holy Quran, the opening remarks were shared by Ms. Aafia Malik from FDA. She welcomed the guests and threw light on the purpose and importance of development of skills in our youth. Development of skills contributes to better and faster economic growth. It not only increases productivity, but also creates an atmosphere of competition and helps in eradicating unemployment. Special attention is required in this area so that the thinking patterns may be changed positively.

Further elaborating the purpose of this seminar, she stated that it is high time to build a strong foundation for our students. The objectives of this seminar were to help structuring self – confidence, self – esteem, problem – solving and leadership skills in our youth leading them to become independent thinkers so that they may plan their future easily and accurately according to their own skills set.

Seminar:

Mr. Atiq Raja formally started the 90 minutes session by quoting the importance of degree. He quoted the advantages of gaining university education and said that this education not only gives the exposure to the world, but also enlightens the minds. Going to university helps in understanding life in a better and much practical way. Studying at university encourages creativity and independence. It discloses new research and technology horizons. As the speaker shared his views about the importance of university education, he talked about developing skills as well. Gaining university education alone is not enough, there has to be skills learning along with it. Mr. Atiq Raja posted a question to the participants asking that do we need to learn all kinds of skills or some kinds of them? After taking the replies from audience, he further expanded his ideas and said that first we need to check the mind sets and interests individually and then plan to build the skills because everyone is born with different capabilities, competence and proficiency.

The world today needs people with great skills. The one who is not equipped with expertise is not welcomed by the market. To bring the growth spurt in the economy, it is the dire need of time to learn and apply skills and expertise besides university education. The domain expert shared few skills which one must learn in order to become more demandable by the market. The following are the main points:

- Leadership Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Emotional Intelligence
- Problem Solving
- Time Management
- Public Speaking
- Self Management
- Tolerance, Patience & Consistency

If a student of this era wants to succeed in life, he/she must adopt the above mentioned soft skills and try to practice them in daily life. Leadership skills can be learnt over the period of time. It is a never – ending process. The current statistics of the whole world show that most of the people are stressed especially after pandemic. In such circumstances, if one is able to be emotionally intelligent, then there are more chances of being much fortunate. Similarly the skills of Problem – Solving and Time – Management, if learnt and applied at early stages of life, may lead a person to a path of success. Mr. Atiq Raja further emphasized that a student should grasp the art of speaking, especially Public Speaking. This skill is hardly innate, so it may be learnt with the passage of time. The faculty must encourage students who are hesitant in front of people, they must be given more chances to talk and present their ideas. Along with all other skills, one must try to do ‘Self Management’. During student life, one must try to share responsibilities with parents. Learn to manage things by yourself instead of expecting them from others. Last, the speaker highlighted the importance of Tolerance, Patience and Consistency. These three qualities will help you excel in life and will guide you to the path of glory and victory.

The question and answer session was conducted after the speaker presented his ideas. Students asked various questions and were replied by the trainer satisfactorily. It was an enlightening session for the audience and benefited them by giving them the essence of practical life.