

# Combining Life Skill Development with Technical Skill Development in an Individual - A Driving Force for a Developing Nation

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## Abstract

Skill and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development for any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of world of work. Potentially, the target of group of skill development comprises all those in the labor force, including those entering the labor market for the first time, those employed in organized sector and those employed in unorganized sector. When we refer to the term skill it comprises both technical or job related skill (motor skills, hard skills) and also it includes life skills or people skills (soft skills). Life skills is a term which refers to personality traits, social graces, facility with language, personal habits, friendliness and optimism that mark people to varying degrees. There are diverse understandings of life skills, but no classification is universally established. Life skills comprise a wide range of generic skills that help an individual to cope with various facets of life. A life skill is not a complete replacement of hard skills but rather complement hard skills. Life skills play an important role in a working sector. It is essential to be technically sound, but one should also have the ability to convey the idea to the masses. Planning is necessary but execution is also equally important and it takes life skills to execute any idea as it involves dealing with people. India has set a target of skilling 500 million people by 2022, it is important to develop expertise technically, but this is not the sole means to higher-level opportunities for most people. It is important to recognize the growing importance of life skills which must be identified, developed in a person if a nation has to develop holistically.

**Keywords:** Driving force, Skill

## Introduction

Skill and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development for any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of world of work. Potentially, the target of group of skill development comprises all those in the labor force, including those entering the labor market for the first time, those employed in organized sector and those employed in unorganized sector. When we refer to the term skill it comprises both technical or job related skill (motor skills, hard skills) and also it includes life skills or people skills (soft skills).

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Technical skills are abilities and knowledge needed to perform specific tasks. They are practical, and often relate to mechanical, IT, mathematical, or scientific tasks. Some examples include knowledge of programming languages, mechanical equipment, or tools. (Alison Doyle Updated August 15, 2016). Many technical skills require training and experience to master. They are also typically a type of hard skill. Hard skills or technical skills are those that can be learned, and can be defined, evaluated, and measured (as opposed to soft skills). Some examples of technical skills are Big Data Analysis, Project Management, Social Media Experience, Computing, Documentation etc.. On the other hand life skills comprise a wide range of generic skills that help an individual to cope with various facets of life. Life skills have been defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as "abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life". Some examples of life skills are Decision-making skill, Communication skill, problem solving skill, Critical and creative thinking skill etc.

Development of an individual depends upon the kind of skills they acquire, Development has to be holistic in nature it has to combination of technical skills and life skills only than a person can reap success. And a country which is having population with combination of such skills development will lead to progress

India has set a target of skilling 500 million people by 2022, it is important to develop expertise technically, but this is not the sole means to higher - level opportunities for most people. Planning is necessary but execution is also equally important. And it takes life skills to execute any idea as it involves dealing with people. To be good at technical skills usually takes smarts or IQ (also known as your left brain-the logical center). To be good at life skills usually takes Emotional Intelligence or EQ (also known as your right brain- the emotional center). Examples of hard skills include math, physics, accounting, programming, finance, biology, chemistry, statistics, etc... Examples of soft skills include self management skills like self confidence, stress management and people skills like communication or networking skills.

The following article has been designed to prove that people require development of life skills and technical skills which can lead to their development and also development of the nation at large. Some examples have been quoted by the author of some famous Indian personalities, after making a detailed observation of their biographies some skills have been outlined to support it is essential that Combining Life skill

development with technical skill development in an individual – a driving force for a developing nation.

### Importance of Life Skills with Technical Skills for an Individual Development

For many years the focus has mainly been on the hard skills of a person on job He/She is only expected to have know-how of the technical skills. In the contemporary world the demand for life skills is on the increase due to change in the work environment, as life skills comprises of vast spectrum of abilities. It refers to the abilities that make people better people and open doors for better opportunities. Life skills involves giving best to any work arena, it has gained importance as it involves dealing with humans ,developing relationships, presenting thoughts and ideas, communication ,dealing with emotions, and so on .life skills are as important as technical skills in a person. Both skills are complementary to each other they can replace each other. Hence while aiming at the skill development in a person combination of both the aspects must be considered. So that they are able to handle situations and problems in a better manner. And if a large population is trained this way the nation shall develop.

### Ways to Develop Life Skills in an Individual

For some people life skills come naturally, while others need harder to acquire them. Training a person in life skills abilities requires taking into account experience, personality, situation of the person.

Developing life skills is a hard work it requires courage, strength of character, and perseverance. Still some ways can be highlighted through which an individual can develop life skills being part of team activities, living consciously, managing time, getting and giving feedback. After acquiring life skills it is also important to put them in use for the best results.

To put more focus on the need of combining life skill development with technical skill development in the individual the author tried to analyze some secondary data as source of information. Source of data: Bibliography of some famous Indians in different areas of work.

### Methodology

The author read several bibliographies and chose the life story of four people which closely reflect the combination of technical skills and life skills present in the individual.

### Sample

Bibliography of four different professionals was chosen as subjects, their personality traits were identified.

### Objectives

1. To identify the technical skills of some famous people
2. To identify the life skill level of some famous people
3. To indicate that development of an individual has to be combination of technical skills and life skills

| Name of the person | Technical skills                          | Some life skills   | Biography                       |
|--------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Dr Naresh Trehan   | Cardiovascular and cardiothoracic surgeon | Self discipline, Empathy<br>Hard work Perseverance                   | Dr. Naresh Trehan               |
| Prof C V Raman     | Physicist                                 | Critical thinking Valuing education Reliability Adaptability         | The life and times of CV Raman  |
| Narayan Murthy     | Software engineering                      | Good attitude Self supervising Reporting to work on time Team skills | NR Narayana Murthy; a biography |
| Dhirubhai Ambani   | Business entrepreneur                     | Flexibility Positive work ethic Decision making Motivational skills  | Corporate Guru Dhirubhai Ambani |

It can be concluded from the above table The above given examples of different famous people after reading their biographies in detail indicate that an individual must have the combination of both the skills technical skills and life skills for the holistic development. And only if such people or persons are developed in the society or nation at large only than a nation can develop as a whole. The one constant factor throughout their entire life journey has been the adherence to the life skills which they he imbibed from their family, which they had personally and professionally lived by - hard work, fairness, decency, honesty, transparency, striving for excellence and belief in meritocracy.

### Some Suggestions to Develop Life Skills with Technical Skills in an Individual

- 1) More training must be imparted at the academic level.
- 2) Identification of life skills already presents in an

- individual and focus on further development.
- 3) Focus on Self realization and self actualization in an individual.
- 4) More focus must be given on building values.
- 5) More focus on character building in an individual.
- 6) More focus on stress management of an individual.
- 7) More focus on physical fitness of an individual.

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