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SOFT SKILLS THROUGH AESOP FABLES

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ABSTRACT

Soft skills are nothing but life skills. Hard skills reflect what you know. Soft skills indicate who you really are. A very critical soft skill in any profession is communication. A strong communicator immediately earns the respect of his team. Fable is a fiction story through animal characters. A bed story plays a crucial role in our daily life. Aesop's fable creates an impression of inculcating the soft skills in the mindset of the generations of the people.

Key Words: Soft skills, Fable and Proverbs.

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INTRODUCTION

What is a fable? Fable is a word which comes into the mind; we recollect the thoughts of Arabian Nights, Panchatantra Tales, and Aesop's Fables. In India story telling aspect is a tradition. It pacifies the emotions of the children. Fable appears as a story but it will bring change in the attitude of the people.

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary the definition of Fable run thus: "A traditional short story that teaches a moral lesson, especially one with animals as characters; these stories considered as a group."¹

Literature is a great canvas. On it many writers portrayed their words, in their own thinking process. What is a good Literature? Which shows the path for the mankind? Ancient writers became torch bearers of light for the next generations. In the ancient era people started the narration of stories in the oral form. These are transferred from one generation to another generation. People are delighted with these stories.

Soft skills are a recurrent word in this present era. Soft skills are clearly gaining importance. Soft skills have existed from so many

years onwards in various forms. The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament of the Holy Bible has groups of wise sayings. Solomon's sayings are famous one. These are classified as proverbs. Proverbs are treasure house of knowledge.

Proverb 29.20 reveals the soft skills, it runs thus: "Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him." It refers to effective communication skills in modern day terminology. One must speak with high clarity. So that it is intelligible to others, otherwise it has no value to others.

Aesop's Fables, a treasure house of stories came into the existence nearly 2,600 years ago. It continues to give meanings that illuminate strange situations in various spheres of human activity. These fables can be a guide for managers and their team members in their corporate walk.

In one of Aesop's Fables the axles of a wagon creak as it is drawn by Oxen. The beasts of burden tell the axles that they have no reason to make a noise as they are not pulling the vehicle and carrying out the hardest part of the work.

M.Keshav, founder CEO of Mantra, he asserts his statement about common problems in the

Corporate sector "In the corporate world, it is not uncommon to find employees who complain the most when they have the least reason to do so. Such employees may be doing so to seek attention, but such behavior can be counterproductive. What happens to axles that creak the most; they are likely to get replaced."²

Time Management skills are very important for achievers, and critical for their career growth. What is Time Management? It is the art of doing more in a given time. This is done by skillfully planning, organizing and scheduling one's time by looking ahead. In Aesop's Fables "A desire to swim" fable illustrates in this manner. The story continues.....

Once a young boy decided to swim in the river he was passing by. He took off his clothes and dived into the water. A tide developed and he moved away in the wave. The boy tried his best but he was unable to come out of the water.

He began to shout for help. Luckily, a passerby saw the boy and said, "Foolish, this is neither a season nor the time to swim in the river. If your parents find you here, they will take you to task."

The boy said, "Uncle, take me out first and then give your lecture."³

Moral: Every work needs to be done at right time.

The students spend their good part of their lives in the schools. The grown-ups spend a good part of their lives at work. We get our identity through our jobs. We get all sorts of rewards and recognition through work. For many of us, this is probably the only path to success available in life. It is necessary for us to be exemplary workers and create an impression for ourselves.

In Aesop's fables every one could have heard of the Aesop's tale of the boy who would cry wolf and raise a false alarm for jest only to be mauled by the fangs of a wolf, because nobody took him seriously when he cried for help on really seeing one.

Founder CEO of Mantra M.Keshav says, "There are assertive managers and then, there are aggressive managers. Assertive managers have respect for themselves and others make place a demand with the management, only on the basis of a genuine need.

They factor in the needs of others, while making a demand. In contrast, aggressive managers make constant demands, often operating from a sense of scarcity. In the process, they may lose their credibility and when they have a genuine need, their plea may go unheeded."⁴

Smart work can be achieved through honesty, dedication and enthusiasm. It is not enough to stare up the stairs; we must step up the stairs. Hard work is not just about the number of hour as you put in, but also what you get achieved at the end of the day. Edison said that his inventions came only by work not by accident.

Conclusion

Soft skills are so important that educated people should focus their attention on them. They strengthen the individual's position and the same person is in a position to serve the society most effectively. A productive and healthy work environment depends on soft skills. After all, the work place is an interpersonal space, where relationships must be built and fostered, perspectives must be exchanged, and occasionally conflicts must be resolved.

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