CONGRUENCY OF SOFT SKILLS AND HARD SKILLS

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Competitiveness is the needed attribute to conquer the world of commerce. The world is fast becoming a wild arena of competition in terms of survival. The phrase survival of the fittest is truer today than before. This very strict competition is due the fact that there is scarcity of resources; limited supply but very high demand; limited opportunity but excess of manpower or workers. Whoever is the last man standing will win.

Competition is multi-faceted. It can be manifested on linguistic ability, skills capability and technical capacity. On the other hand, competitiveness is not only demonstrated through skills that are mentioned above. There are other skills that are not easily learned, consequently, difficult to teach. These skills are not hard skills but soft skills. Patience, perseverance, flexibility, adaptability, are just some of the soft skills that are equally important like hard skills such as drafting, cooking and computer programming to name a few.

Schools must endeavour to teach this teach or impart this soft skills, not only the hard skills.

Some of the soft skills are the following:

a. **Acting as a team player**- this involves both as being cooperative and displaying strong leadership skills when necessary;
b. **Flexibility** – those people who adapt to various situations;

c. **Effective communication** – this is a product of linguistic ability, and being able to articulate the right message;

d. **Problem-solving and resourcefulness** – whatever is the profession being able to decide or act according to the situation is necessary;

e. **Accepting feedback** – this involves not only receiving feedback gracefully, but applying what is needed regarding feedback, and;

f. **Creative thinking** – is the ability to make things happen or find solutions during dead ends.

Therefore hard skills and soft skills must be both taught in schools together with values and morals. Teaching and developing hard skills and soft skills side by side will be more halfway to success.

**References:**

www.thebalancecareers.com