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A Research Paper for publication Teaching of Soft Skills through Literature

¹Mr.N.V.Naik, ²Mr T.N.V.S.Praveen

¹²Department of Computer Science & Engineering, LBRCE, Mylavaram, A.P,India

ABSTRACT

Soft skills are the personal traits which enable people to relate efficiently and amicably with other people. As we human beings are social animals, we require these soft talents everywhere and at all times. There are uncountable talents such as communications skills, time management skills, problem solving strategies, team building skills, decision making skills, adaptation skills and negotiating skills are some among the soft skills.

Teaching Soft skills through English Literature:

Teaching of Soft skills through English Literature is like killing two birds at one stroke since the learner will learn the literary notions through reading a certain piece of literature and also would imbibe a particular soft skill as well at a time. For instance, John Milton's On his Having Arrived At the Age of 23, the reader realises that the writer concerns over wasting of his past time. Then he further outlines how the writer plans to save and spend time, which is equally significant with relation to Time Management. In the same fashion, Robert Frost's The Road Not Taken, the theme concentrates on decision making skill. In the same manner, Shakespeare's Hamlet, Prince Hamlet who is very reticent, introvert, fails to face the public, demonstrates his stage anxiety and the downsides of that quality as he also was killed in the hands of his adversary. Last but not the least I would like to defend my claim with one more literary work that is self realisation skill in Joseph Conrad's Lord Jim with reference to the character of Jim. Hence this paper concentrates on the teaching of soft skills like Assertiveness, Stress Management, Research and Critical thinking etc. through English Literature. I have picked various literary works apart from the above listed works. I also would like to expand some literary topics which may be explored further using soft skills.

Key words: Soft talents, Bravery and Adaptability, Interpersonal and Negotiation, Team building & Universal Brotherhood, Interpersonal and analytical skills & Perseverance

Introduction

Bravery and Adaptability In Gods, Graves and Grandmother:

In Gods, Graves and Grandmother, Namita Gokhle depicts a world which is dominated by women characters, where men play supporting and secondary roles. This novel was written in the year 1994,

and features components of soft skills such as bravery and adaptive attributes inside the character of Ammi. In *Gods, Graves and Grandmother*:

In *Gods, Graves and Grandmother*, Namita Gokhle describes an universe which is dominated by women characters, where men play supporting and minor roles. This novel was written in the year 1994, and incorporates components of soft skills such as fearlessness and adaptable traits inside the character of Ammi. Being a woman, she deals with the people surrounding her like Sundar. She very brazenly exploits the technique of tricking the deceiver and dictated her terms and conditions when Sundar proposed to marry her. After Shambhu's death she realised that her business should continue, she must have a husband and that too in a mercantile society marriage market was heavily biased in favour of men because she thinks that a woman running a tea-stall might be considered a weak woman who could be prevailed upon easily. Being a realistic lady, she entered into a contract marriage with Sundar by pronouncing three stipulations: the first condition was that Sundar had to build a pucca house for her(as a security), the ownership of which would irrevocably be hers. Second, he had to enable her to continue her business as before. Third, he had to treat Gudiya as their adopted daughter. In this way she sought to make her future secure through that marriage.

Finally, the novel depicts the idea of the new woman who would like to overcome the issues by treating the problems as challenges. With the virtues such as

bravery and flexibility the protagonist in this tale could overcome all her obstacles and survive effectively. Communication skills, time management skills, problem solving strategies, team building skills, decision making skills, adaptation abilities, and negotiation skills are just a few examples.

The poem "The road not taken" emphasises decision-making ability. The poem's title alludes to an unmade decision about which only the author speculates. The traveller arrives to a fork in the path that leads into the woods. He won't be able to travel on both roads at the same time. He's not sure if he made the correct decision by taking the less-traveled path. The poet emphasises the importance of the decisions that humanity must make on the path to reality. People suffer and struggle both psychologically and physically, thus making decisions in life is crucial.

In his poem "on his having arrived at the age of 23," John Milton laments the fact that time has robbed him of his productive years. The poet was unable to contribute anything substantial. He thought his time had been squandered because Milton had nothing to show as his own. He has already matured into a man. This poem emphasises the importance of time management. Lord Jim's ability to make decisions is noticeable. Jim is a marine worker who wants to create a name for himself. His existence was nearly a sailor's dream. Unfortunately, Jim missed out on a chance to demonstrate his abilities. He lacked the ability to make quick and correct decisions. He was seriously hurt and had to spend a lengthy time in the

hospital. Rather than returning home, Jim agreed to work aboard a ship bringing 800 Muslims to Mecca. During their journey, an unexpected commotion at the ship's bottom led them to assume that the ship was about to sink. Everyone on the crew was afraid. Jim's licences were revoked after a nasty remark made him feel responsible for the ship's sinking. The ship was, in fact, towed to safety.

Team building & Universal Brotherhood from Train to Pakistan

Train to Pakistan by Kushwanth Singh provides several examples of society's unpredictable character in all facets, including political, economic, regional, and religious confrontations. But, in the end, the novel concludes that hidden power triumphs. It's about various social classes and their battles over caste, religion, and customs. The writer, on the other hand, may be able to depict values such as fraternity, care, and compassion. The universality is shown in the sharing and kindness. He ended the novel on a positive note, stating that love knows no caste, creed, colour, religion, or location. It has a special quality of loving the entire human species and becoming entangled in the clusters of the emotion known as love. Mother and father, mother and daughter, mother and son, father and daughter, father and son, siblings, neighbours, lovers or spouses are all examples of love. All of the distinctions are man-made and human-made, and they are all fatal. Love is the immortal characteristic depicted in this masterpiece. The importance of teamwork and universal brotherhood is emphasised..

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High thinking power, Adaptability and Patience from the The Vendor of Sweets

The Vendor of Sweets by R.K.Narayan is a work that represents the qualities of strong thinking capability, adaptability, and patience via the protagonist of the novel, Jagan. As the father of his only son, Jagan accepts his son's proposals out of love and affection. He never says no to his son's desires, which is why he sends him overseas. He always lives a humble life and weaves his garments with a charka. When his son arrives with a foreign female, he does not reprimand or chastise him. To prevent hurting his son's feelings, he draws a barrier in the middle of the house and lives apart in his own house, emphasising Hindu Dharma. As he believes his son is living a sinful life by bringing a girl named Grace into the house and claiming she is his wife. So, on the one hand, he accepted the society's customs and traditions, but on the other, he persistently maintained a balanced relationship without harming either party. In one perspective, Jagan is seen as a role model with futuristic ideas. When his mother mistreats his wife and demands a gold belt in the early days of their marriage, he dismisses his mother and persuades her that the daughter in law is also a normal human being, and that the mother in law should not provoke them unnecessarily.

Interpersonal and analytical skills through the work of The Discovery of India:

The Discovery of India by Jawahar Lal Nehru is a product of a time when an ancient civilization burdened by the

burdens of its past, shamed by its current status of stagnation and slavery, was coming to terms with harsh realities of the present and intimidating challenges of the future, a time of transition. With the theme of Unity in Diversity, Nehru portrayed Indian culture, literature, science, philosophy, and the vital force that pushed the country. This excerpt is about the journey to consolidate one's ancient inheritance and wisdom, to face one's mistakes and feelings honestly, and to prepare oneself for change.. The book also tries to decipher the paths that these concepts take to become intertwined. Nehru studied historical figures like Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi, as well as the Mahabharata and Upanishads.

Nehru spent the remaining part of his presidency focusing on India's connections with foreign countries such as Iran and Greece. The aesthetic harmony is the focus of this work. He has placed a greater emphasis on reality than on utopian concepts. His narrative and expression are clear and unaffected. He has complete control over all of the words he has used. He presents a comprehensive overview of the Upanishads and Vedas. In addition, he is interested in Indian history, philosophy, and culture. This book will help you comprehend Indian history and culture, as well as intercultural interactions with other countries.

Perseverance quality through Margayya in Financial expert: The novel explores tackling problems and ups and downs, and Margayya is a typical protagonist due to her strong stubborn thinking.

Margayya, the protagonist of R.K. Narayan's novel *The Financial Expert*, exemplifies the qualities of endurance. In his early days, Margayya, the protagonist of this tale, works as a small-scale money lender. Margayya was entangled in many issues related to finance and is strongly determined to earn money and become popular in society. With his hard work, perseverant nature, and determination he became well settled and nourished financially strong. This work shows great insights on how this man struggles from the filling of the forms getting the information and finally gets satisfaction while helping the farmers. Over a period of time, he strongly desires to be rich enough so by listening to one of the journalists he prints a book and sells it in the market.

Since then, he's been making a lot of money and putting it into his son's account. Finally, he established himself as a major money lender in town, accumulating significant deposits from the villagers.

Margayya's personality reveals her ambition, which is in line with her ability to make good decisions. With the example of Margayya, Narayan illustrates the volatility in financial conditions via some of the scenarios in this story. He also discusses how people grow preoccupied with gaining money, and how they lose their health and relationships as a result, as Margayya's character demonstrates. Margayya's lack of peace of mind is unsurprising, despite the fact that he receives more money than he requires. The reason is once again money, as his son has been spoiled by his father's lavish lifestyle.

Because of his father's luxuries, he is unwilling to complete his studies or work. Every reader of Indian society is well aware of the scenario. Margayya's status changes from King to Pauper when all the deposits are called back, which shocks him for the rest of his life. He lost all of his possessions and was left with only his old home. Margayya's character exemplifies the virtues of tenacity and perseverance perfectly. R.K.Narayan examines the contrast between modern and traditional Indian society in Sweet Vendor. Mali's father, Jagan, is a real Gandhian, although Mali, his son, is more oriented to free western ideas. Jagan was a successful entrepreneur. Mali is enraged by Jagan's blunder in attempting to cure his sick wife with native remedies. Jagan was unwilling to use modern medicine. As a result, Mali holds his father guilty for his mother's death. Jagan withdraws and seeks refuge in the groove. Making decisions is critical in almost every situation.

Author's Introduction



Dr.A. Pavani Sasidhar earned her Ph.D. and M. Phil. in Guntur's Acharya Nagarjuna University. She also earned her PGCTE and PGDTE from the University of English and Foreign Languages.

Hyderabad. So far, she has 18 years of experience in teaching. At present she has been rendering her services as Associate

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The Discovery of India ([https://en-m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The Discovery of India](https://en-m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Discovery_of_India)) (<https://en-m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The>

Professor at Vignan's Lara Institiure of Science & Technology, Guntur. She has published thirty articles in both National and International journals and attended twenty National and International conferences.

Dr.A. Pavani Sasidhar has pursued her P.hD and M. Phil. from Acharya

Nagarjuna University, Guntur. She also did her PGCTE & PGDTE from English & Foreign Language University,

Hyderabad. She has 18 years of teaching experience thus far. She is currently employed as an Associate Professor at Vignan's Lara Institute of Science and Technology in Guntur. She has thirty publications published in national and international magazines, as well as twenty national and international conferences under her belt.

The University of Mysore produced Dr. P. V. RAVI KUMAR. He holds the degrees of M.A., M.PHIL., M.ED., and P.HD. He has been a teacher for almost 28 years. He spent 7 years as an Associate Professor of English at Omar Al-Mukhtar University in Libya and 1 year in Eritrea (Africa). Egypt, Qatar, Yemen, Amman (Jordan), Sharjah, and Dubai were among the countries he visited. In K.L.E.F., he has worked as I/C HOD and Associate Professor of English. Guntur, Andhra Pradesh's Deemed to be University He has supervised eight research researchers at K.L.E.F. who are pursuing their PhD.