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Importance of Social Intelligence as a 21st Century Skill

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Abstract

It rapidly changing environment, marked by technology developments, globalization, and shifting socio-economic paradigms, has emerged in the 21st century. The phrase "21st-century skills" has taken on a significant degree of significance in this setting. This abstract explores the value of providing students with the skills they need to succeed in our fast-paced world. The term "21st century skills" refers to a set of abilities that go beyond what is often taught in schools. These abilities include problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, communication, cooperation, and digital literacy. These abilities are now crucial for success in the workplace, civic engagement, personal development and growth in addition to being pertinent to schooling. The rapidly evolving society of the 21st century, skills required for success are continually changing. One of the critically important skill is social intelligence. This research paper delves into the significance of social intelligence as a 21st C skill, emphasizing its impact on personal, professional, and societal outcomes. It explores the various components of social intelligence, its relevance in an increasingly transforming world and strategies for fostering it in educational and workplace settings. The abilities needed in the twenty-first century's environment are always changing. Social intelligence is an ability of utmost importance. This paper examines the value of social Intelligence focusing on how it affects results for individuals, organizations, and society as a whole. It examines the elements of social intelligence, its applicability in a world that is becoming more networked, and methods for promoting it in contexts like schools and workplaces.

Keywords: 21st c skills, professional and societal abilities, social intelligence, prevention of isolation

Introduction

The term "Social Intelligence" describes the capacity to comprehend and successfully negotiate social settings. It entails identifying and comprehending social signs, assessing the feelings and intentions of others, and utilizing this understanding to establish and preserve relationships. Social intelligence and mental health are closely related, and it can have a variety of effects on mental health:

The world today is characterized by significant technology developments, quick globalization, and a range of socioeconomic concerns. To properly navigate this constantly shifting environment, new sets of abilities are required. Technical expertise and academic knowledge are still crucial, but social intelligence has emerged as a crucial trait that can significantly impact one's quality of life and career success, its significance assures facilitating efficient communication, forging deep connections, and boosting both individual and collective wellbeing.

Critical thinking, problem-solving, and situational adaptability are crucial skills as our complex society moves through possibilities and obstacles. The people with these skills can come out with creative solutions in addressing the global concerns like healthcare and climate change etc.

A variety of skills connected to properly understanding and communicating with others are included in social intelligence. Empathy, emotional intelligence, active listening, cultural competency, and conflict resolution are some of its key elements. People with social intelligence

are able to create relationships, effectively read others' feelings and intentions, and modify their communication style for various contexts.

The Relevance of Social Intelligence in the 21st Century

Interconnected World:

As a consequence of globalization, the world is now more connected than ever, highlighting the value of communication and cultural sensitivity explores how working in heterogeneous teams has become a useful skill since collaboration and efficient communication have crossed geographical barriers, global communication has become instantaneous, transcending geographical boundaries. Social intelligence is critical in this context as it enables individuals to navigate culturally diverse and digitally mediated interactions in 21st C.

Emotional Well-Being

Social Intelligence is essential for improving emotional wellbeing. It makes it possible for people to comprehend, control, and express their emotions while assisting others in doing the same. Social intelligence supports emotional resiliency and more positive interpersonal interactions in a time when mental health and wellbeing are of utmost importance.

Professional Success

An important factor in determining success in the modern workplace is social intelligence. In a time where innovation and adaptability are highly prized, effective teamwork, leadership, and conflict resolution abilities are crucial. Employees with strong social skills are typically more productive and successful in their employment.

Building Inclusive Societies

Social intelligence is essential for creating inclusive and peaceful communities in a time of increasing variety and socioeconomic difficulties. It encourages compassion, tolerance, and understanding across cultural boundaries, which helps to resolve difficult global problems.

Social Intelligence recognized as a valuable skill in the 21st century due to a number of factors mentioned below:

1. Collaboration and Teamwork: Transformation of ideas through written and virtual mediums is crucial. Social intelligence helps individuals interpret and convey messages. In the modern world, many tasks and projects are accomplished through collaboration and team work in which Social intelligence helps people to communicate effectively, and build positive relationships with teammates. It enables individuals to understand and appreciate different perspectives, fostering better cross-cultural interactions.

2. Digital Communication- As digital communication becomes a central part of our lives, the ability to convey emotions, intentions, and effectively in these contexts. Strong social intelligence is a must for 21st-century leaders who want to understand and inspire their people, foster trust, and negotiate intricate organizational systems. Successful team leadership is more likely to come from leaders with excellent social intelligence.

3. Conflict Resolution: Conflicts are unavoidable in a world where perspectives and interests are diverse. People with social intelligence have the ability to mediate disputes amicably, establish points of agreement, and advance understanding, leading to more harmonious and effective interactions. For problem solving and conflict resolutions, socially intelligent students have the ability to assess disputes, establish common ground through negotiation, and resolve

them. It supports individuals in approaching issues with empathy, imagination, and an open mind, encouraging creative solutions and averting conflict.

4. Leadership and Influence: Students who possess social intelligence are more likely to be effective leaders. They can inspire and motivate others, build trust, and influence others which is one of the important aspects of life, whether it's in a project work, a community initiative, or a professional career.

5. Emotional Stability: Social intelligence is also essential to a person's emotional well-being and stability. It assists in self-awareness as well as self-management of emotions, understanding and empathy for others' feelings showcasing a better mental and emotional wellness. **Emotional Well-being:** It helps individuals recognize and manage their own emotions, as well as understand and empathize with the emotions of others. This can lead to better mental and emotional health.

6. Adaptation to Development: To adjust with the rapid developments, to such new circumstances and continuously shifting social norms, and to be relevant in a world that is constantly changing, one needs social intelligence. Resilience and Adaptability with social intelligence are better able to cope with stress, adjust to changing conditions, and recover from failures. These characteristics are extremely valuable in a time of accelerating technology and societal change.

7. Empathy and Compassion: A culture that is socially knowledgeable is an empathetic and compassionate culture. Addressing important global issues including social injustice, environmental concerns, and mental health requires S I skills. **Empathy and social**

Responsibility: Empathy is necessary for comprehending the needs and concerns of others, is also

fostered by social intelligence. This results in a stronger sense of social duty and a dedication towards helping one's neighborhood and society.

8. Communication Skills: Effective communication is a crucial skill for success in every industry. Students that are socially intelligent are better able to articulate their thoughts clearly, listen intently, and understand and adapt to a variety of communication technique. It also aids in non-verbal communication, which is vital in a world where virtual expectations

9. Cultural Competence: Students must be able to communicate with people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures in today's more globalized society. They gain cultural sensitivity, a tolerance for diversity, and the capacity to acclimate to various cultural standards due to social intelligence.

10. Emotional Intelligence: An element of social IQ, emotional IQ is the capacity to comprehend, control, and effectively communicate one's emotions. It is essential for developing healthy interpersonal interactions, self-control, empathy, and self-awareness. These abilities are crucial for the success of a person's personal and professional life. These skills are important for personal wellbeing and building strong relationships with others.

11. Interpersonal Relationship: The success of a person's personal and professional life frequently depends on the caliber of their interactions. A fuller, more rewarding existence can result from having the ability to create and sustain meaningful connections, which is enhanced by social intelligence. **Career possibilities and networking:** The secret to professional success is the development of a strong professional network. Students that are socially intelligent are better able to build meaningful connections with mentors, peers, and possible employers, which opens doors to employment prospects and professional advancement.

12.Prevention of Isolation: Social intelligence can help individuals connect with others, reducing the risk of social isolation, which is a known risk factor for mental health problems

In a society that is more linked and diverse, social intelligence is essential in the twenty-first century since it supports effective leadership, cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution. People and organizations who prioritize social intelligence are better prepared for success and making constructive contributions to the world as society changes. In the twenty-first century, social intelligence is essential for students as it equips them to succeed in a complicated, interconnected environment. Interpersonal and emotional skills are just as important as academic knowledge in helping students successfully navigate a diverse and ever-changing environment in both their personal lives and future employment.

Students must work in various teams, virtually or internationally. They can successfully traverse interpersonal dynamics, manage disputes, and favorably contribute to collective activities due to their social intelligence.

Strategies for Developing Social Intelligence

1.Institutions of Higher Education: IHE can play an essential role in fostering social intelligence. Interpersonal competence, emotional intelligence, and conflict resolution are crucial skills that students can develop when these topics are emphasized in the HEI's curriculum.

2.Workplace Training: Employers ought to fund training and development initiatives that encourage social intelligence in their workforce. Employee satisfaction, workplace dynamics, and general productivity can all be enhanced by these initiatives.

3. Personal Development: People can actively work on enhancing their social intelligence. Emotional intelligence, empathy, and other crucial elements of social intelligence can be improved through self-awareness, self-reflection, and mindful activities.

4.Social Assistance and Coping: During times of stress or adversity, those with higher social intelligence are good at seeking and receiving social assistance. Having a solid social support system is linked to better mental health outcomes because it offers psychological, emotional, and practical assistance.

5. Reduced Social Stress: Due to their better capability to navigate social situations and comprehend other people's viewpoints and feelings, socially intelligent people typically suffer less social anxiety and stress. Consequently, they experience less psychological disturbance.

6.Improved Communication Skills: - An important aspect of social intelligence is effective communication. People's ability to convey their feelings, wants, and worries to others can assist prevent misunderstandings and confrontations affecting their mental health. Empathy and compassion, which are essential for understanding and helping others, are directly tied to social intelligence. These characteristics can encourage a sense of connectedness and generosity in order to improve mental health.

Barriers in Social Interactions And Societal Well Being

The decrease in person-to-person social interaction in modern society can be attributed to several factors, and it's important to note that these factors can vary depending on the specific context and culture. Here are some key reasons for the decline in face-to-face social interaction in many places:

1. Technology and Screen Time: As technology, such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops, has become more widely used, screen time has also increased. The amount of time people spends using digital devices for social media, online gaming, and streaming material can limit their opportunity for face-to-face encounters.

2. Social Media and Online Communication: Although social media websites and online chat services offer chances for connection, they can also take the place of in-person conversations. Some people might rely significantly on these online social networks, which can reduce their in-person connections.

3. Work and Education Trends: People are spending more time at home or in solitary settings because to the growth of remote work and online education. This lessens the informal social connections that frequently take place in conventional business and educational environments.

4. Social Changes: Individual preferences, alterations in family arrangements, and cultural shifts can all affect how people connect with one another. Some people may value isolation or smaller, more intimate social networks over more extensive ones.

5. Safety and Security Concerns: Concerns about personal safety and security may lead people to avoid certain social situations, particularly in public spaces.

6. Aging Population: Reduced social interaction among older people may occur in some communities as a result of retirement, physical constraints, or the loss of social ties . The apathetic attitude of the family and society towards aged people are also a contributing factor in making them socially alienated.

7.Economic and Time Pressures: Economic pressures, multiple jobs, and busy schedules can reduce the availability of the members.

Even if there's a decrease in interpersonal social connection, it's important to keep in mind that not all individuals or groups are affected in the same way by these issues. Many people still appreciate and take part in face-to-face social connections because they are aware of how important they are for mental health and welfare. Using technology, online communication, and face-to-face social interaction simultaneously is still crucial to developing and maintaining social skills and connections. Although it can offer useful abilities for navigating social interactions, social intelligence should only be seen as one part of a larger strategy.

Conclusion

Social Intelligence is a crucial ability with implications for one self, one's career, and society as a whole. For successfully navigating the complexity of a linked world, improving emotional well-being, prospering in the workplace, and creating inclusive communities, it is crucial to understand and cultivate social intelligence. The development of social intelligence continues to be an important task and a crucial factor in both individual and societal success as we learn to adapt to the opportunities and challenges of the modern day.

This paper explored the complexity of 21st-century talents and how they affect society, the workforce, and education. In order to educate students for a future where adaptability and creativity are crucial, it emphasizes the necessity for educational systems to adjust and incorporate these talents into curricula. It also examined how technology may help people develop these skills, highlighting the value of digital literacy and the appropriate use of technology. In a society characterized by rapid change and interconnection, 21st-century skills are essential. This concept

promotes a paradigm shift in education and workforce development, focusing on the development of these talents to make sure that people can not only survive in the 21st century but also thrive there.

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