



Timeless
Lifeskills

Life Skills - for success in the 21st century

An overview

What life skills will make us really shine in
the 21st century?

www.TimelessLifeskills.co.uk

21st Century Skills

- ▶ Let's look at some mega-trends that may be useful in figuring out what skills will lead to success:
- ▶ Problems will be complex - difficult and with no unique solution, you will surely need decision making and innovative problem solving skills
- ▶ More and more learning content will be freely available - TED.com, AcademicEarth.org, iTunes, you will need to be a good self-learner

21st Century Skills

- ▶ Communication will be multi-sensory and you will need to learn how to use images, colours and sound effectively in your communication
- ▶ You will probably live another 25 years after you retire from active employment, financial literacy will be useful to generate passive income streams
- ▶ Let's look at what experts have to say about skills that are important for success in the 21st century

UNESCO Report

- ▶ According to UNESCO's Report "Learning: The Treasure Within" the four pillars of education in the 21st century are:
 - ▶ Learning to know
 - ▶ Learning to do
 - ▶ Learning to live together
 - ▶ Learning to be

Route 21

- ▶ According to, Partnership for 21st Century Skills: Route 21 (USA) <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21>
- ▶ Learning & Innovation Skills
 - ▶ Creativity & Innovation
 - ▶ Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
 - ▶ Communication & Collaboration

Route 21

- ▶ Digital Literacy Skills
 - ▶ Information Literacy
 - ▶ Media Literacy
 - ▶ ICT Literacy

Route 21

- ▶ Career and Life Skills
 - ▶ Flexibility & Adaptability
 - ▶ Initiative & Self-Direction
 - ▶ Social & Cross-Cultural
 - ▶ Productivity & Accountability
 - ▶ Leadership & Responsibility

UNICEF

▶ **According to UNICEF**
www.unicef.org/lifeskills/index_whichskills.html

<http://>

- ▶ Communication & Interpersonal skills
 - ▶ Interpersonal communication skills like verbal and non-verbal communication, active listening, expressing feelings, giving feedback (without blaming) and receiving feedback
 - ▶ Negotiation or refusal skills
 - ▶ Empathy
 - ▶ Cooperation and Teamwork
 - ▶ Advocacy skills

UNICEF

- ▶ Decision Making & Critical Thinking skills
- ▶ Information gathering skills
- ▶ Evaluating future consequences of present actions for self and others
- ▶ Determining alternative solutions to problems
- ▶ Analysis skills

UNICEF

- ▶ Coping & Self-Management skills
 - ▶ Skills for increasing internal locus of control like self-esteem, self-confidence and self-awareness skills
 - ▶ Goal-setting skills
 - ▶ Self-assessment and self-monitoring skills
 - ▶ Skills for managing feelings
 - ▶ Skills for managing stress like time management, positive thinking and relaxation techniques

A timeless lifeskill

- ▶ I personally think that ‘yearning to learn’ is one lifeskill that is timeless
- ▶ We usually ‘learn’ so that we can ‘earn’
- ▶ But if we ask the question ‘y’
- ▶ We can ‘y-earn’ to learn!

Yearning to Learn

- ▶ What is yearning to learn?
- ▶ The joy of learning
- ▶ Enjoying learning for its own sake
- ▶ When intrinsic motivation and not external rewards drive learning
- ▶ Is it possible? Well, have you ever seen a bored pre-schooler!

'Yearn' and 'Earn'

- ▶ Is it possible that yearning to learn also leads to earnings? I believe so.
- ▶ Imagine three circles - what you are passionate about, what you are good at and what is financially rewarding
- ▶ Find areas where the circles overlap and you can yearn, learn and earn
- ▶ As an aside, for a fulfilled life focus on goals that go beyond your self-interest

Fostering Yearning to Learn

- ▶ Can 'yearning to learn' be fostered through learning interventions? Yes, through:
 - ▶ Contextualizing: connecting learning to real life
 - ▶ Pushing curiosity - Socratic dialogue, project and problem based learning
 - ▶ Teacher enthusiasm - the KIPP experience
 - ▶ Enriched environment, parents are co-explorers
 - ▶ Addressing fear of failure

Yearn > Earn > Urn

- ▶ To sum-up, think of 21st century life skills as,
 - ▶ Yearning to learn - a timeless lifeskill
 - ▶ Then, learning to learn/think/do/live together
 - ▶ Learning to earn, save and invest
 - ▶ Learning to be
 - ▶ And finally, learn to urn!

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Thank you for reading.
I welcome your comments.
- Atul