

A Two-Day International Webinar On “Employability and Soft Skills”

The Department of English organized a two-day international webinar on **“Employability and Soft Skills”** on **19 & 20th June 2020**. The speaker of the first session on **19.06.2020**, **Ms. SowmyaSiranjeevinathan, Data and Analytics Consultant, Adastra Corporation, Toronto, Canada**, spoke on the methodology of preparing for and cracking the **IELTS Examinations** that serves as a passport to overseas jobs in MNCs and global concerns. She discussed a few testing items with the participants who felt demystified and got inspired to try their hand at the IELTS. It was a very active session marked by close interaction between the speaker and the audience. It was also a confidence-promoting exercise in which students got over all mental blocks impeding free communication and became articulate in answering questions and attempting particular tasks in the structuring of sentences and the use of proper words suited to situations.

The speaker of the second session on **19.06.2020**, **Mr. Rajkumar, HCL Technologies, Consultant – Networks, Chennai** spoke on **“Personality Development and Soft Skills”**. He pointed out how there is no magic wand with which to acquire a well-balanced personality and proficiency in soft skills. It was all a matter of slow and steady acquisition of right traits and habits of behaviour and the simultaneous acquisition of communication and behavioural skills. From sartorial elegance to the choice of hair-style - almost everything requires attention. The secret is to look one’s best and do one’s best. One has to cultivate the right frame of mind, be aware of one’s own plus and minus points, avoid vanity as well as self-depreciation. A positive frame of mind is based on self-respect and due respect for others. Personality is at once an inner reality as well as an external manifestation. One has to culture one’s mind, cultivate a confidence in one self and others, avoid negative impressions and be always courteous, polished and careful with one’s language. Words are to be chosen carefully. This sense of choice will come with practice. One should also observe the niceties of social etiquette. This also requires constant practice. One should remember personality is something that grows with oneself

and the society around. Self-analysis is a key to self-improvement. One's personality fits one to one's roles in life. Adaptability is the key to success.

On 20.06.2020 the second day of the webinar, the speaker **Mr.S.Vinodhan, Sr.Technical Consultant, Sony Music Entertainment, New York, USA,** spoke on **"Interview Skills and Job Readiness"**. Starting with the writing of resumes, their structure and procedure for E-mails, he went on to outline various strategies to meet interviews and placement. He also outlined the stages in an interview and gave some practical tips to answer specific queries. He reminded students that there is an ocean of difference between academic skills and behaviour and their professional equivalents in real life. One has to be "job-ready" in a contemporary world of unprecedented competition. Young men and women should cultivate this competitiveness to be successful in their career. This doesn't mean that one should cultivate one's skills in solitude. Far from it; loners are never big achievers in the contemporary corporate world. One has to acquire team building skills. Today corporates look for such people who can contribute to team achievement. They have to grow and the company should grow with them. This requires certain personality traits and habits of behaviour. That is why we have multi-layered interviews today passing from domain and general knowledge to group discussions and psychological puzzles. It is necessary to cultivate a wide spectrum of interest because we live in a world in which every field has become multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary. Administration has become highly complex with specialization and segregation into front-end and back-end jobs and business process outsourcing. Co-ordination is the key to successful performance. Time schedules have to be set in tune with those of others in the chain. Nothing can be done alone so communication and soft skills have become all important. (No.of beneficiaries = 352)


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