

Chapter 3


Enhancing Emotional Intelligence (EQ) to Embrace Teach Less, Learn More Initiatives

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ABSTRACT

This chapter discusses how an engineering curriculum is successfully embedding EQ in the module delivery. Individual and group activities were adopted to enhance EQ in students while group projects were introduced to provide a quantitative measurement on the effectiveness of EQ training. Furthermore, the approach also received numerous approvals at both international and national teaching and learning exhibitions.

INTRODUCTION

Society may be deemed as being on the cusp of the third and fourth industrial revolution. While industries have begun to revolve and remain pivotal in the advancement of scientific applications that churn out innovative technological breakthroughs, the same cannot be said about education today and in the past. The advent of the internet and social media has allowed learning to become borderless, more

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-1435-1.ch003

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experience-based and more fun. Many institutions of teaching and learning have seen this shift towards a new paradigm but remain beleaguered as to the approach to be taken for the benefit of teaching and learning. At Taylor's Lakeside Campus, the idea to teach less yet learn more was mooted a few years ago, and technology combined with the best features of face-to-face interaction was the specific method used to facilitate an effective teaching and learning environment that empowered learners in their learning while preparing them for the challenges of the 21st century. While much effort was placed on various initiatives to transform the teaching and learning environment, an equal level of effort, if not more, must be placed to ensure that learners entering the realms of higher education are well prepared to embrace the challenges in store for them in the near future. Learners have to be more proactive and must be able to adapt to the various learning styles that are practised within a single curriculum and enhance their attainment of soft skills in order to excel in the multiple fields of study, and more importantly to cope with the ever-changing demands and challenges that the future holds for them. This chapter provides a brief review of how Teach Less Learn More (TLLM) initiatives were extensively employed to teach Emotional Intelligence (EQ) to learners at Taylor's University Lakeside Campus. TLLM initiatives used include Project-Based Learning, Johari Window, My Emotions Today, Forgiveness Mailbox and the ROBORACE. The adoption of TLLM initiatives to teach EQ within an engineering curriculum was aimed at coupling affective and psychomotor related abilities to the cognitive abilities within all assessment's components of a specific module within the Foundation in Engineering program. TLLM also provided learners with more holistic learning as learners not only learnt during their lecture sessions but also during the journey taken in fulfilling the assessment components of the module.

BACKGROUND

In the last 250 years, humankind has witnessed four industrial revolutions that changed the world in many aspects. The impelling force behind the first revolution was the invention of the steam engine by James Watt, enabling significant reduction in the need for manual labour. The second revolution bore witness to the initiation of production lines, which was instrumental in creating specific operations for specific people (Hudson, 2014). The third industrial revolution was credited to the invention of the computer through computing conglomerates such as Intel, Microsoft and Apple (Troxler, 2013). Computers quickly found its way into every aspect of life and the sustenance of activities needed for the advancement of life. Society was taken by storm, jobs became more machine-dependent, propagation of technology from one creator to many practitioners became evident and robots began replacing humans in production lines. Currently, humankind is at the cusp of the third and fourth industrial revolution. The fourth industrial revolution signified by the creation of a connection between systems, robots, 3D printers and the fast-emerging Internet of Things (IoT) is forecasted to cause a massive reduction in jobs with more than 40% jobs being displaced over the next two decades (Rabah, 2017). Most industrial revolutions did not affect only industries and jobs; they also impinged on all aspects of life, which included healthcare systems, transportation systems, law enforcement and even the art of war. While advanced technological breakthroughs and the resulting industrial revolutions gained significant momentum, the same cannot be said about education. Education has changed a little, much more needs to be done to significantly establish an equilibrium between the mentor and the student within a holistic environment. During the second revolution, the human brain was emulated to an empty container into which knowledge is poured into. The old school of thought, which regarded learners to have no prior knowledge and needed

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