Slieptsov O. HOW SOFT SKILLS AFFECT YOUR LIFE AND CAREER

Soft skills, often called people skills or emotional intelligence, are defined as the ability to interact amicably with others. They are personal attributes that can affect relationships, communication, and interaction with others.

Soft skills can be invaluable to business success, but why are they so important? While soft skills can at times be more difficult to develop than hard skills - more quantifiable attributes such as web design, accounting, or editing experience - they are arguably equally important in running a successful business. Understanding what they, are will help you to identify your professional skills, you need to develop in the future.

Soft skills are an essential part of improving one's ability to work with others and can have a positive influence on furthering your career. If you are a small business owner or self-employed, soft skills can help you find, attract, and retain clients.

Highly developed presentation skills, networking abilities, and etiquette awareness can help you win new clients and gain more work from existing clients. Honing your abilities on resolving conflicts, solving problems, and providing excellent customer service can lead to stronger relationships with colleagues, vendors, and other professional contacts. Ultimately, strong soft skills can help you to gain confidence, an invaluable trait in the business world.

On the other hand, a lack of soft skills can limit your potential, or even be the downfall of your business. By developing strong leadership, teamwork, and communication abilities, you can run projects more smoothly, deliver results that please everyone, and even positively influence your personal life by improving how you interact with others.

Soft skills are abilities that relate to how you work and how you interact with other people. Popular soft skills include communication, teamwork and other interpersonal skills. Employers look for soft skills in candidates because these skills are hard to teach and are important for long-term success. Soft skills are different from hard skills, which are technical and job-specific.

Other names for soft skills: personal skills, interpersonal skills, non-technical skills, essential skills, transferable skills. If you do not have any of these, do not lie about them. You may have others that are harder to detect.

How can you improve your soft skills?

1. You need to pick a skill you want to improve and practice it consistently. You can improve any soft skill if you make it a practice. Most soft skills are a matter of routine. For example, you can practice dependability both on the job and at home by improving punctuality and starting on projects at work earlier so you can complete them ahead of schedule.

2. Observe and mimic the positive soft skills you see in others. There are likely professionals you know or work with who have strengths in various soft skills. You may be able to develop integral soft skills by observing the practices of others and incorporating them into your own daily routine.

3. Set milestone goals to improve soft skills. <u>Set specific, measurable goals</u> by carefully reading your performance reviews at work or asking trusted friends and colleagues for constructive criticism.

4. Find resources to help you learn.

In conclusion, I can add that it is important to be aware of your own soft skills and value them. You need technical skills to pretend to do a job, but your evolution and how you will be perceived, depends largely on your human skills. You will always be able to acquire more and more technique, however, it will be difficult to change the person you are, and that will differentiate you from others.

Take the time to identify these skills and learn how to highlight them; you will have all the keys in hand to ensure good professional relations with your superiors and your customers.

Research Supervisor – Maryna PASICHNYK, Senior lecturer