EMPOWERING GLOBAL COMPETENCE: A STUDY ON HOW STUDENTS ENDEAVOR TO BRIDGE THE SKILLS GAP

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Abstract

This research explores the efforts made by students to enhance their global competence and bridge existing skills gaps. The study investigates the current skill levels of students in their respective studies or professions, assessing the effectiveness of educational institutions in preparing students for global challenges. Additionally, it examines the obstacles and challenges encountered by students in this pursuit. Furthermore, the research delves into the crucial question of how global competence contributes to future career success. It offers insights into the strategies employed by students to address skill gaps, the effectiveness of educational institutions in fostering global competence, and the significance of overcoming challenges in this process. The research aims to contribute valuable information to the ongoing discourse on preparing students for the increasingly interconnected and competitive global landscape.

Keywords*: Global competence, skills gaps, global challenges, students, educational institutions, bridge, competitive*

Introduction:

In the contemporary landscape of education and employment, the pursuit of global competence has become imperative for individuals aspiring to thrive in diverse and interconnected professional environments. The research paper, "Empowering Global Competence: A Study on How Students Endeavor to Bridge the Skills Gap," seeks to delve into the proactive measures undertaken by students to address the widening gap between their existing skill sets and the evolving demands of the global job market.

As industries undergo rapid transformations and technology reshapes traditional job roles, it is paramount for students not only to acquire academic knowledge but also to cultivate practical skills that align with the dynamic needs of the professional world.

This research aims to explore the strategies students employ to enhance their competency and adaptability, shedding light on their challenges and triumphs in navigating this evolving landscape.

The study recognizes the significance of global competence in fostering a well-rounded and adaptable workforce. By understanding how students actively engage in bridging the skills gap, we can uncover effective methods and practices. This research not only contributes valuable insights to the academic community but also serves as a guide for educators, policymakers, and employers, facilitating the creation of an environment conducive to nurturing a globally competitive generation of professionals. The findings are poised to inform strategies that empower students to not only meet but excel in the demands of an ever-
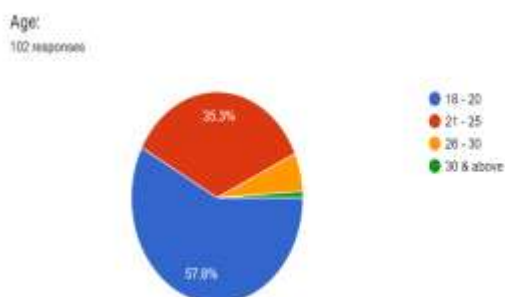
changing global professional arena.

Objectives of the Study:

- To investigate the skill gap of students in their current study or profession
- To analyze how effective institutions are in preparing students for global competence
- To study obstacles and challenges faced by students
- To study the importance of global competence in future career success

Review of Literature:

1. ***Irma Kunnari & Elisabetha Nicchia in research paper (2022):*** In their research paper, Kunnari and Nicchia emphasize the importance of students acquiring skills like intercultural communication, critical thinking, and empathy to navigate the interconnected world. They highlight the role of education in fostering these skills and preparing students for global citizenship. The paper discusses various approaches, such as project-based learning and cultural exchanges, that educators can use to promote global competence. It also provides examples of successful programs and initiatives in different educational settings. Overall, the paper reinforces the idea that developing global competence is crucial for students to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world. It offers valuable insights and practical recommendations for

educators to incorporate global perspectives into their teaching practices.

2. ***Zoe Karanikola in research paper July 2022:*** In their research paper they focuses on assessing the global competence of students at different educational levels. The paper explores various methods and frameworks used to measure global competence and discusses the importance of developing this skill set in today's interconnected world. It also highlights the challenges and opportunities in evaluating global competence and provides insights for educators and policymakers. Overall, the article aims to contribute to the understanding and enhancement of global competence in higher education.

Research Methodology: This study is based upon primary and secondary data basis. The primary data is collected by conducting a Questionnaire method by using Simple Random Sampling method. A sample of 102 respondents was taken for the research and the secondary data is collected by referring various research papers on websites and by using internet

Primary Data:

- Questionnaire

Secondary Data:

- Research papers
- Internet

Data Analysis: <u>Question 1</u> - Age

Age:
102 responses

- 18 - 20
- 21 - 25
- 26 - 30
- 30 & above

Data Interpretation - The age distribution among the 102 respondents reveals a predominant representation of individuals in the 18-20 age group, constituting 57.8% of the sample. The 21-25 age bracket follows with 35.3%, while

respondents aged 26-30 make up 5.9%. Notably, those aged 30 and above constitute a minimal 1% of the participants, suggesting a focus on a younger demographic in the survey.

Question 2 – Educational Background
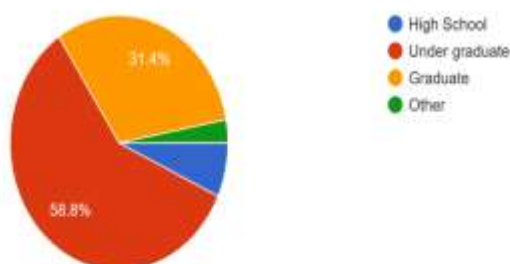
Data Interpretation - Among the 102 respondents, the educational background distribution highlights a substantial representation of undergraduates at 58.8%, followed by graduates at 31.4%. High school respondents account for 6.9%, while a small fraction falls into the "Other" category at 2.9%. This emphasizes a predominant participation from individuals in higher education, particularly undergraduates.

Question 3 - On a scale of 1 - 5, rate your awareness of the importance of global competence.
1 (Low awareness) to 5 (High awareness)
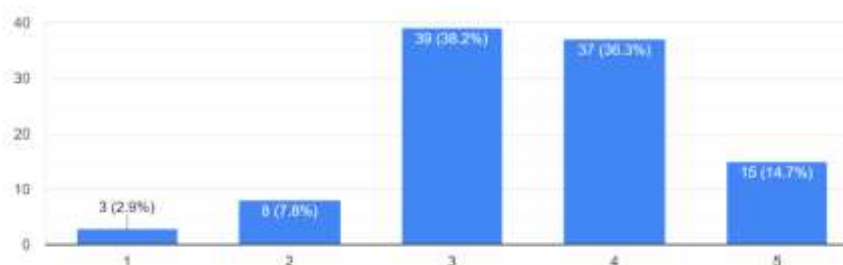
Data Interpretation - Based on the ratings of 102 respondents, it seems that the majority of the audience (38.2%) has a moderate awareness (rating of 3) of the importance of global competence. Additionally, a significant portion (36.3%) has a high awareness (rating of 4). There are also some who have a low awareness (2.9% rated 1) and a smaller percentage (14.7%) with the highest awareness (rating of 5). This data suggests that a considerable portion of the audience recognizes the significance of global competence. It's great to see that awareness is spread across different levels.

Question 4 - Do you believe there is a skills gap in your current field of study or profession?
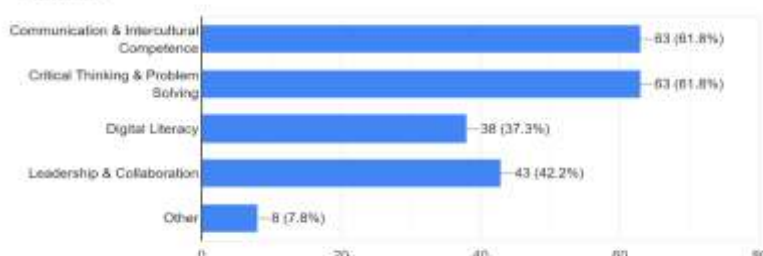

Do you believe there is a skills gap in your current field of study or profession?
102 responses

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
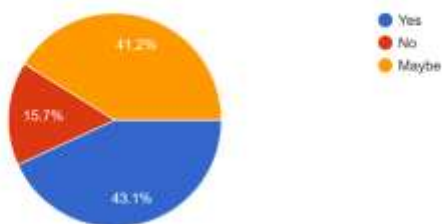
Data Interpretation - Based on the data of 102 respondents, it seems that there is a mixed perception regarding the existence of a skills gap in their current field of study or profession. While a significant percentage (43.1%) believes that there is a skills gap, there are also those who are unsure (41.2%) and some who don't think there is a gap (15.7%). It's interesting to see different perspectives on this matter.

Question 5 - What specific skills do you believe are essential for thriving in a globalized environment?
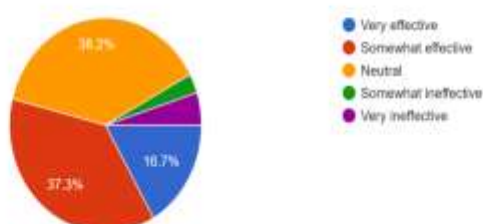

What specific skills do you believe are essential for thriving in a globalized environment?
102 responses

- Communication & Intercultural Competence — 63 (61.8%)
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving — 63 (61.8%)
- Digital Literacy — 38 (37.3%)
- Leadership & Collaboration — 43 (42.2%)
- Other — 8 (7.8%)

Data Interpretation - Based on the data of 102 respondents, it seems that the top two skills that are believed to be essential for thriving in a globalized environment are communication and intercultural skills (61.8%) and critical thinking and problem solving (61.8%). These skills are crucial for navigating diverse cultures and effectively addressing complex challenges. Additionally, leadership and collaboration (42.2%) are also seen as important qualities in a globalized setting. It's fascinating to see the emphasis placed on these skills for success in a globalized world!

Question 6 - How effective do you think educational institutions are in preparing students for global competence?

How effective do you think educational institutions are in preparing students for global competence?
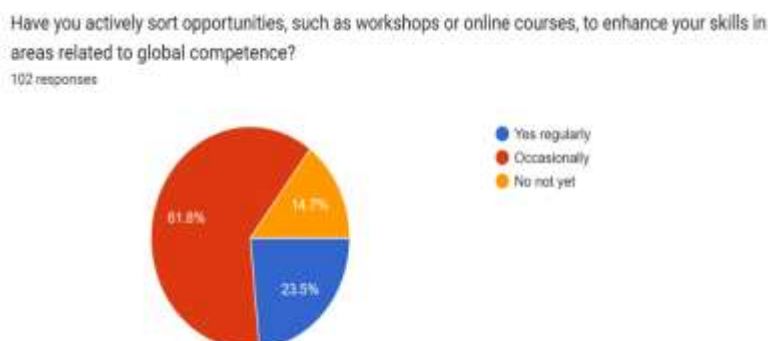102 responses

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Neutral
- Somewhat ineffective
- Very ineffective

Original Research Article

Data Interpretation - According to the data of 102 respondents, the majority of respondents (38.2%) feel neutral about how effective educational institutions are in preparing students for global competence. Additionally, a significant portion believes that institutions are somewhat effective (37.3%), while a smaller percentage thinks they are very effective (16.7%). There are also some who feel that institutions are somewhat ineffective (2.9%) or very ineffective (4.9%). It's clear that there are differing perspectives on this matter.

Question 7 - Are there specific resources or support systems you feel would enhance your ability to bridge the skills gap for global competence?
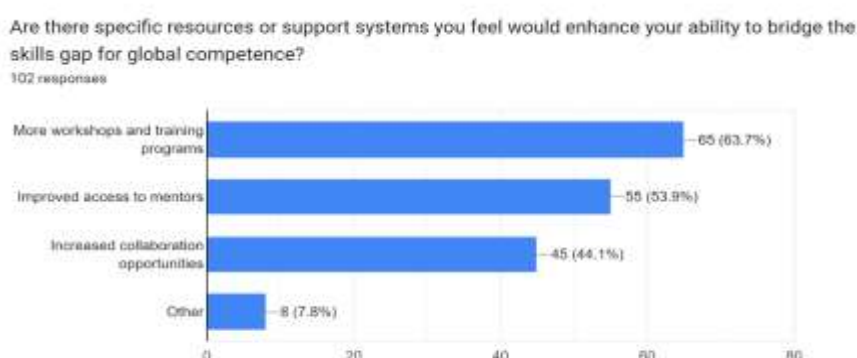

Data Interpretation - According to the data of 102 respondents, more workshops and training programs (63.7%) can provide valuable opportunities to learn and develop the skills needed for global competence. Improved access to mentors (53.9%) is also crucial as they can offer guidance and share their experiences. Additionally, increased collaboration opportunities (44.1%) can help individuals gain a better understanding of different cultures and work effectively in a global context. It's great to see these resources and support systems being recognized for their potential to bridge the skills gap for global competence!

Question 8 - Have you actively sort opportunities, such as workshops or online courses, to enhance your skills in areas related to global competence?
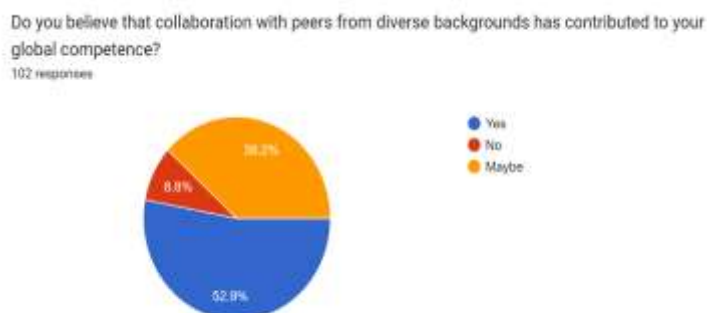

Data Interpretation - Among the 102 respondents, a majority of 61.8% actively seek opportunities, such as workshops or online courses, occasionally to enhance skills related to global competence. A notable 23.5% engage in such pursuits regularly, underscoring a proactive approach. Meanwhile, 14.7% have not yet initiated these efforts, indicating room for potential future engagement in skill enhancement activities.

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<u>Question 9</u> - What obstacles or challenges have you encountered in your efforts to bridge the skills gap for global competence?
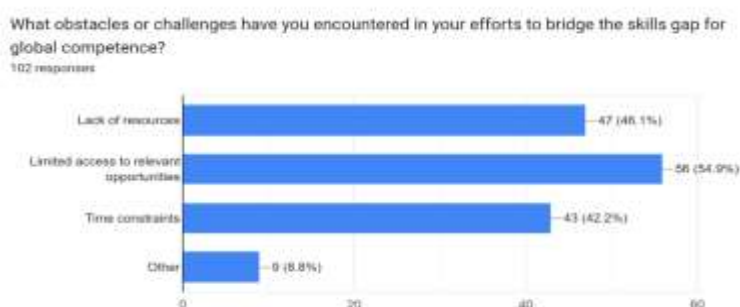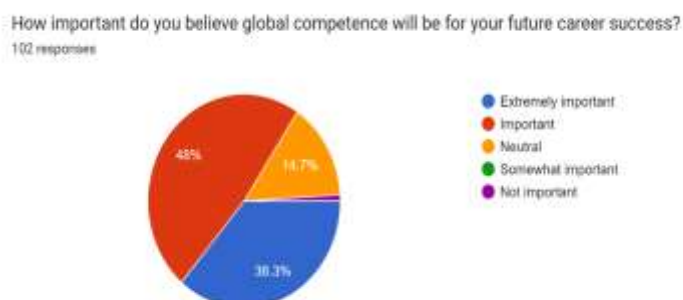

Data Interpretation - From the 102 responses, participants identify several obstacles in bridging the skills gap for global competence. A significant 54.9% cite limited access to relevant opportunities as a major challenge, followed by 46.1% pointing to a lack of resources. Additionally, 42.2% note time constraints, and 8.8% indicate other diverse challenges faced in their endeavors.

<u>Question 10</u> - Do you believe that collaboration with peers from diverse backgrounds has contributed to your global competence?

Data Interpretation - Among the 102 respondents, a noteworthy 52.9% affirm that collaboration with peers from diverse backgrounds has indeed contributed to their global competence. A smaller fraction, 8.8%, indicates no such contribution, while a substantial 38.2% express uncertainty, suggesting a varied perception of the impact of diverse collaboration on individual global competence development.

<u>Question 11</u> - How important do you believe global competence will be for your future career success?

Data Interpretation - Among the 102 respondents, the majority express a strong recognition of the significance of global competence for their future career success, with 36.3% considering it extremely important and 48% labelling it as important. A smaller percentage, 14.7%, remain neutral, while only 1% deem global competence as somewhat or not important, indicating a widespread acknowledgment of its relevance in career pursuits.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the study "Empowering Global Competence: A Study on How Students Endeavor to Bridge the Skills Gap" sheds light on the proactive measures taken by students to address the widening skills gap in the contemporary global landscape. The research, based on a sample of 103 respondents, unveils key insights into the students' awareness, perceived skills gap in their fields, and the effectiveness of educational institutions in fostering global competence. The findings emphasize the importance of communication, intercultural skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving for thriving in a globalized environment.

While respondents acknowledge the significance of global competence for future career success, the study also identifies challenges, such as limited access to opportunities and time constraints. The results offer valuable information for educators, policymakers, and employers to enhance strategies that empower students to excel in the evolving global professional arena.

Ultimately, fostering global competence is crucial for preparing a well-rounded, adaptable workforce capable of navigating the complexities of the interconnected world. It is crucial for both educational institutions and students to actively work towards bridging these gaps and fostering a global mindset for a brighter future.

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