

What is Matter More Degree or Skills

Sarah Essa Alharbi

Dr Nagat Radwan

College of Science and Arts in Aqlat Al-Sugur
English Language & translation, Qassim University

doi: <https://doi.org/10.37745/bje.2013/vol11n616>

Published May , 2023

Citation: Alharbi S.E. and Radwan N. (2023) What is Matter More Degree or Skills, *British Journal of Education*, Vol.11, Issue 6, pp. 1-6

ABSTRACT: *This paper aims to present the importance of degree and skills to determine which is the most important. We used a systematically review method. We tried to search findings about these topics and examine them. We also used a questionnaire and interviews methods.*

KEYWORDS: matter, more, degree, skills

INTRODUCTION

The importance of skills and degree in today's world is no secret. Without a proper degree, it is hard if not impossible to become whatever you want, for example, a doctor or an engineer ... etc. While without good skills, you may never even make it to get that degree! A degree without skills is just another hard situation, when you get all the study you need but when it comes to work you find out the you don't have the needed skills since school doesn't prepare you for such situations. The relationship between degrees and skills is a revisable relationship, or as they say, a coin of two sides.

So can we really make it without one of them? In this research, we aim to look at findings about degrees and skills, what is the importance of each one of them and why they are important and how. Moreover, what is the most important degree or skills, can we really do it without one of them? How to achieve balance between them and which skills are needed to develop in order to be successful in life?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Expert people in both education and work fields have different point of view according to the question of the research, what is the most important degree or skills. Here we gathered as much quality information as possible from various resources to discuss this question.

First theme: the importance of college degree, skills development for success in life.

The importance of college degree includes not only gaining a Job Satisfaction. Although it's true that you need degree in order to be employed in some jobs. For example, you can't be a doctor, a judge, a teacher and so many other jobs you would like to be without a college degree. Many jobs require a college degree. In USA, 66% of jobs require you some type of college degree in order to be qualified to the job. Degree also improves your Self- Esteem and Self-Confidence. College degree helps you with increasing your professional knowledge, having a prestigious rank. It increases your sense of health. There are studies that proved the higher degree you have the less chances that you will be smoking or have an obesity problem. College graduates earn more money on average, so financial stability may be one of your many reasons to obtain a degree. Some researchers found out degrees' holders are more likely to have their own homes than those with no degree.

A 2016 report from real estate company Zillow found that 75% of all homebuyers were college-educated in that year, compared to just 11% who had a high school diploma only and 14% who attended some college but did not earn a degree. Degrees' holders are also more likely to be married. 65% of adults ages 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or more were married in 2014, compared with 53% of adults with less education, according to a 2015 Pew Research Center report. It also means a long lasting marriage, according to the reboot. Getting a degree involves building a good connection network with people in your field and open new opportunities for you.

On the other hand, the importance of skills development includes that since the environment today is becoming more and more challenging in various aspects, to be able to address these difficulties and challenges, it is essential to have various life skills, to get a living, to get employed and so many other reasons. The development of life skills helps individuals to find new ways of thinking and problem solving.

Skills also help individuals to recognize the impact of their actions and choices and teaches them to be responsible for whatever they do. It also raises their confidence. The more skilled you are the more employment opportunities you have; in today's world the jobs employers' concerns are slowly shifting to people have skills rather than degrees. On the personal level, having skills makes your life easier and more fun.

Second theme: skills VS degree what is more important

With all these different point of views, it is really hard to decide which is more important, skills or degree. Some say education or degree is most important because it's provide you with the proper education, that in turn increase your knowledge, manners, improve your personality. It is really important to be educated and though some assume that you can be educated outside the range of schools, this is not false, but school and degree is the most granted way to obtain it. They say although change is happening and the world is changing, most people aren't that lucky to get job chances without a degree. It is the safest way to get a job especially when your future doesn't affect you alone but you have to make a living for your family and your children

future education. You can't put your financial stability in risk and seek a good job by only your skills. Although it's correct there're companies like google and other saying they want skilled employees and not only degree but that is not a guaranty to find someone who recognize you only and easily by your skills. You need to have a degree aside to your skills in order to make them seen.

While those who argue that skills are more important due it to the fact that today's increasing technology world doesn't need a person with a degree with no real life skills but rather it needs real skilled people with all these developments in technology and less office jobs. There are people who argue that you can educate yourself online and have so much better knowledge than spending thousands on education in college. Some says having a university degree used to guarantee a job, but in today's word, having a degree alone is not enough. Otherwise, why do they make job interviews if having a certificate should be enough.

Third theme: skills needed in today's world.

In the increasing pace of today's world in technology, students need to learn life skills, like the capacity to manage pressure and disappointment. There is also a need to communication skills since today's jobs and business are build and improved based on connections network. Problem-solving is also one of the most needed skills in today's world where there's a constant need to a quick problem solving in so many different situations. Being flexible is an important skill, you may need to work in a job that's unrelated to your degree at all or needs a practical application while you just have a theoretical knowledge of the subject of the work, so flexibility is among the most needed skills. Writing skills, no matter what your job is, writing skills are an essential part of every good employee. There is a survey that says 75% of employer's want employees with good writing skills. Critical thinking is so essential too, an employee with a critical thinking ability is more needed than an automatic worked employee. Learnability is a skill needed today that some assume is the most important skill, in today's rapidly changing workplace, it's not what's already known that matters, but the ability to learn and how quickly you can learn what you need to know. In general, there is a need for soft skills which are skills related to the personality traits and the emotional intelligence of a person.

Whether you were a nurse or a policeman, a good soft skill like good communication and quick problem solving, teamwork and working under pressure are very essential for effective work. These skills are not thought in schools and you need to train yourself to achieve them. There are many ways to obtain this goal. Practise, you won't develop a skill in one night, you need to work for extended period of time and on a long run. Search for people who can inspire you with the skill you want to acquire, a friend or a coach. Special training is not always possible but if you can get professional help it would mostly be worth the effort.

Finally: How to achieve a balance between degree and skills?

No matter how different point of views there're about what the most important, it is totally agreed that both are very important. You can't be succeeding if you only have a degree but no

effect skills. On the other hand, your skills won't reach their max easily if you don't have a degree. Therefore, it's important to make sure we can reach a balance between both of them. You can study for your degree and at the same time work on developing your skills. Don't neglect one of them. Or you can focus on your study and when you graduate then work on developing your skills. You just need to know that in today's world, you need both of them in order to success. It also depends on what you really want to achieve. Some life paths oblige you to get a degree as we said to be a doctor... etc. While other paths you don't really need a degree but to develop some skills that are needed, so first of all you need to determine what you need to achieve and how to achieve it.

METHOD ANALYSIS DATA

We did a questionnaire that included a number of 333 students of Qassim university and asked them various questions related to the research topic. It included ten questions and these are the results:

Why do you want to study at university? 83.1% answered "to get a job" Can you be succeeding without college? 59.5% said yes Do you agree that learning skills is important? 60.7% agreed and 33.6% strongly agreed in a total of 94.3% agreed. If I get a college degree, I'm already successful. 63.7% disagreed. Nowadays skills matter more than degrees. A total of 91.6% agreed Learning new skills helps in your professional life a lot. A total of 90.9% agreed.

We also asked an open-ended question ' In your opinion, what is matter more college or skills?' and these are some of the interviewees' answers:

Interviewee 1: "They are on the same degree of importance, while you are studying, you should develop your skills. Certificate without skills is no longer demanded."

Interviewee 2: "Skills. I think in the future most of the companies will care about skills more than the college degree."

Interviewee 3: "I think you have to go to university to get a good degree and while studying, improve your skills."

Interviewee 4: "Skills because the world is changing now."

Interviewee 5: "I think university certificate is more important than skills because even if you don't have skills, you can acquire them when you get a job."

Interviewee 6: "Actually they both complete each other."

Interviewee 7: "Skills because you will not success even in college without them."

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

All these findings present different point of views. Some said degree is the most important and some said skills are the most important. What we really can tell is that there used to be a believe that the degree is the most important in the last decades where having a good degree can guarantee you a good job and further home and a a save job. However, we can surely say from what we found out that things are changing now. A lot of people believe now having a good degree is not enough or even more, doesn't worth the fees and years studying. Instead, they assume that you should develop your skills because in today's world that is developing in technology, in most countries, employers are searching for good skilled employee and even if you have good degrees from the best universities in the world, it won't mean anything if you're unskilled and have no practical skills.

From these findings, we can tell that we shouldn't be extreme, both skills and degree have their own importance and we can't do it without one of them. Instead, we should work to achieve balance between them.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Both skills and degree are important and we really can't do it in today's world without one of them. As students said, they complete each other. It's important to make sure to make balance between them so we can make of ourselves the best version we can be.

REFERENCES

- David Conrad, Robert Newberry (2011) Identification and Instruction of Important Business Communication Skills for Graduate Business Education
- Harshini P. Siriwardane, Billy Kin Hoi Hu, Kin Yew Low (2014) Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes Important for Present-Day Auditors
- Jonathan Horowitz (2018) Relative Education and the Advantage of a College Degree
- Josh Kinsler, Ronni Pavan (2011) Family Income and Higher Education Choices: The Importance of Accounting for College Quality
- Linda S. Behar-Horenstein, Lian Niu (2011) Teaching Critical Thinking Skills In Higher Education: A Review Of The Literature
- Lisa Barrow, Ofer Malamud (2015) is College a Worthwhile Investment?
- Marcel M. Robles (2012) Executive Perceptions of the Top 10 Soft Skills Needed in Today's Workplace
- Michael Hout (2012) Social and Economic Returns to College Education in the United States
- N. Seetha (2014) Are Soft Skills Important in the Workplace? - A Preliminary Investigation in Malaysia Paul Taylor, Kim Parker, Richard Fry, D'Vera Cohn, Wendy Wang, Gabriel Velasco and Daniel Dockterman (2011) Is College Worth It?
- Philip A. Trostel (2015) It's Not Just the Money The Benefits of College Education to Individuals and to Society

British Journal of Education

Vol.11, Issue 6, pp. 1-6, 2023

Online ISSN: 2054-636X (Online)

Print ISSN: 2054-6351(Print)

Website: <https://www.eajournals.org/>

Publication of the European Centre for Research Training and Development-UK

Shaheen Majid, Zhang Liming, Shen Tong, Siti Raihana (2012) Importance of Soft Skills for Education and Career Success

Stephen Rose (2013) The Value of a College Degree

Roy Y. Chan (2016) Understanding The Purpose of Higher Education: An Analysis of the Economic and Social Benefits for Completing a College Degree

V.R. Rajesh, V. Chandrasekaran (2013) A Study on Interpersonal Skills of College Students