Instilling Employability Skills: A Problem Based Learning Approach

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Vision & Mission

Vision
Bahrain Polytechnic to be a world class provider of applied higher education.

Mission
Bahrain Polytechnic produces professional and enterprising graduates with the 21st Century skills necessary for the needs of the community locally, regionally and internationally.
Producing Work Ready Graduates

Problem Based Learning

- Well-designed work related problems stimulate learning to ensure students develop technical knowledge & skills plus employability skills

Work Integrated Learning

- Educational activities integrate theoretical learning with its application in the workplace (industry projects, work experience, simulations)

Employability Skills

- Generic Competencies: teamwork, problem solving, communication, initiative & enterprise, planning & organisation, self-management, learning & technology

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Bahrain Polytechnic’s Employability Skills

Employability Skills describe generic competencies for effective participation in the work place.
Self-Management
Demonstrate self discipline, resilience and adaptability to achieve personal and professional goals
Team-Work

Work effectively independently and in collaboration with others through a common approach towards a common goal.
Learning
Understand the need for and engage in life-long learning

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Communication

Communicate effectively in ways that contribute to productive and harmonious relationships across stakeholders
Planning & Organization
Efficiently and effectively plan and manage work

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Technology
Utilize technology effectively and ethically
Problem Solving
Analyze a problem critically and respond appropriately to organizational and societal needs
Initiative & Enterprise

Apply resourcefulness, innovation and strategic thinking in an organizational context
Problem Based Learning (PBL)

Barrows (1980) defined PBL as “the learning that results from the process of working towards the understanding of a resolution of a problem.”
The PBL 7 step process

1. Setting the climate
2. Reaching a shared understanding of the problem
3. Brainstorming
4. Formulating learning issues
5. Independent study
6. Developing a response
7. Presenting the outcome
Why PBL?

- Teamwork
- Self-directed
- Problem solving
- Lifelong learning
- Critical thinking
- Communication skills

(Hmelo-Silva, 2004; Tan, 2003)
Bahrain Polytechnic PBL Model

- PBL pilot (2011)
- Course Based PBL (2014-2019)
Future plans

- Tutor and Student perceptions of PBL
- Theme Based PBL Model (2019 - onwards)
The Motorsport PBL Project

- Engineering 1 year project
- Introduces small problems throughout the year
Thank you...
References


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