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**Title**

**Impact of Academic Pressure on Students attending Skill Development Program**

Korimi Prathyusha1, \*Dr. B. Spoorthi2

1Research scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Warangal, email: [kp21hsrer03@student.nitw.ac.in](mailto:kp21hsrer03@student.nitw.ac.in)

2Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Warangal, email: [spoorthi.b@nitw.ac.in](mailto:spoorthi.b@nitw.ac.in)

**ABSTRACT**

Employability skills are required to navigate and sustain in the workplace (McGunagle,D. and Zizka, L. 2020). There is a need of teaching engineering graduates employability skills and preparing them for the job market (Savaran, 2009)

Two employability skill development programs,ASPIRE and RE-WIRE were offered by NIT warangal to the graduates and post graduates of the institute. ASPIRE was a summer intensive program whereas RE-WIRE was a weekend training program with the content remaining the same in both the programs. Observations, pre-training, post training interviews and feedback forms were conducted to measure the improvement of skills in the students.

The main purpose of the study is to investigate the impact of the academic pressure on the students attending the programs offered. In addition, this study explores the students' perspective on the inclusion of employability skills as part of their course curriculum. The study used a mixed-methods approach, involving both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods using surveys, interviews and observations as data collection tools.

The findings of the study indicate that the intensive nature of the summer program resulted in better learning outcomes as students had fewer academic responsibilities (other assignments, class work, project work etc,) and were fully dedicated to the program for a shorter period. Whereas, there is an impact of academic pressure on the learning outcomes of the students in the weekend program. Though the students reported that they want the program as a curricular subject, other academic responsibilities kept them busy during the program.

In conclusion, these findings can serve as a reference for program planners and policymakers in implementing employability skills development programs in higher educational institutions.

**Keywords:** Employability skills, Skill development programs, Academic pressure