**Chapter 2**

**Team Working**

“A group of people in which members work together intensively to achieve a common group goal”. We believe this cite by Lewis-McClear, Kyle and Taylor, M.S (1998) describes best, what team is all about.

“So why should I work in team? I do so much better when on my own!” Well, the number of benefits of team working is significant and there are pretty much no cons if there are any at all. There is an interesting article by ProofHub which includes most of the pros of team working. Firstly, it increases the creativity. Working together on a particular task will raise the levels of enthusiasm for the whole team. This is most likely to result in higher productivity, more meaningful ideas and foster both individual and group knowledge. Team discussions will often end up with having a bunch of good ideas to work on. Teamwork also maximizes the chances of learning from each other experiences. Shared workload and responsibilities is what may be the most important feature of this method. There is nothing better than knowing that you are not on your own and there is someone you can ask for help when you are stuck. Having a variety of characters gives everyone the opportunity to work on what they are most comfortable with, since we are not equally good in pretty much anything. Have fun! Is there a better way to get an important project done than doing it in a funny way? We do not think so. Having a friendly and easy-going environment suggests having fun and less stress on your workplace. Team building and icebreaker activities are a great way to get closer to each other and eventually become life-long friends, not just teammates for a certain project.

However, in order to achieve productive and stress-free environment there is a set of skills which are vital for every team member. Listen! Listening does not just mean being able to hear someone. That is hearing. In order to listen you must be opened up to your collocutor’s ideas and thoughts. It actually means understanding what your teammate is trying to say. When listening is done, the time for sharing opinions starts. Constructive criticism is the key to progress. But what exactly is a constructive criticism? Justifying your opinions with facts and providing a solution to what you believe is the issue is just the first step. Being careful not to offend your teammate and pointing out flaws in the idea rather than flaws of the person is vital. No one enjoys listening about their weaknesses, it is just a simple human nature. Being able to accept critique is a key skill, too. This leads us to the next step in building a better team. Ego has no place in a team, it should be set aside. Even a proper constructive criticism can be taken personally, but a good team member can accept it without feeling offended. One of the most important features of a team is the opportunity to communicate with each other and provide different ideas for the same problem. Sometimes there is a better, simpler or more effective solution than what you proposed and that is absolutely fine. A good team member is someone who gets over his ego and works towards the common goal regardless of whose idea is implemented. Even though that trust in not a skill in the literal meaning of the word, it is the foundation of all productive relationships. Knowing your own strengths and weaknesses and being open to self-disclose can be the key to gaining the trust of your teammates. Just like trust, responsibility is not exactly a skill. However, it is the most important personal feature alongside giving/receiving constructive criticism. They are somehow connected to each other. If you are responsible and open-minded person, you will easily gain trust. Taking responsibility simply means standing behind your action and accepting the consequences, both positive and negative. Meaningful team connections can be made only after trust is established in the team. That is when team members respect, relay and help each other. This is when everyone feels like they belong to the team and relate themselves with the common goal. Add adaptability, the skill to handle with changes, and you have the perfect team environment. In conclusion, the way we are living today is a direct result of team work. Universities, hospitals, corporations, governments, are essentially a groups of people trying their best and working towards a common goal.

<https://blog.proofhub.com/top-11-benefits-of-teamwork-in-workplace-24a55b8ab46e>

<https://www.theconfidencemag.com/7-essential-skills-for-teamwork/>