

# Thorough theoretical understanding should be non-negotiable in academic curriculums

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## **Abstract**

A recurrent complaint by the industry on the fresh graduate students is their lack of skills. Even though the term “skills” is a bit ambiguous, what they frequently refer to is communicational (both oral and written), presentational and software skills. While all of these are essential to succeed in the industry, or anywhere else for that matter, universities seem to have taken the path of developing these skills at the expense of rigorous theoretical knowledge.

Higher Intellectual capacity of the student body is the main reason for the top universities all over the world to offer theoretically rigorous programs while the lesser universities focus on skill development. It needs to be recognized that the majority of the students who enter the major state universities in Sri Lanka have the intellectual capacity to grasp theoretical content.

A few instances where students have benefited from sound understanding of theoretical content will be discussed. It will also be stressed how the students should be encouraged to self-learn some of the soft skills as well as the technical skills.