

SEPTEMBER 2022

# Monthly Update from **Employability.life**



## **Emplife CLUB** Together we aspire

Emplife CLUB, **our community for career-conscious learners**, is set for a global launch. Employability.life currently partners with **over 50 educational institutions**, and all their learners can benefit from connecting with each other.

Students have the opportunity to engage across disciplines and learn naturally to understand the importance of **networking**. While pursuing their degrees, students may tend to connect only with those in their respective programmes. Our goal is to enable meeting with everyone we could learn from **beyond the campus or our community** and reach out across different locations worldwide, via zoom and hopefully in the future also through VR! Many students also hesitate to interact with staff members. The Club allows **natural leaders to emerge** and become the student voice to communicate their peers' needs.

Our Employability.life team finds **student feedback crucial**. That way, more personalised advice for study, work and even life can be provided. Participating in creative events and the ability to collaborate while organising the Emplife CLUB allows students to **engage in other than academic activities** and create a more positive relationship with their environment. Feelings of inclusion and belonging – especially for those who study far away from their homes or are only able to join online – can also be extremely helpful. It is an **opportunity to encourage each other** whether on campus or online. Last but not least, it helps to enhance skillsets while engaging in **safe and yet constructive discussions**.

What are the key topics we hope to engage students in? How to seek feedback after an interview? How to project self-confidence in a job? What are the skills of the future? How to overcome video and phone anxiety so important for our presentation skills or to succeed in a job such as business development? All this and more, but mainly we can't wait to **find out what topics our students will come up with on their own!**

We are delighted to announce Emplife TALKS – sessions to help learners put their best foot forward with the backing of a community of educators and employers. Focusing on career preparation for the digital economy, our Master Coaches from around the globe will share their insights on various topics such as design thinking, Cyber CV, cultural understanding and many more.

## September 2022 sessions:

### 7<sup>th</sup> September – Design Thinking for career preparation

Career planning is dead! As a student, you must get ready to have at least 2 or 3 careers during your lifetime. It is extremely important to take a different approach to thinking about careers. Design thinking offers a great way to do just that!

### 16<sup>th</sup> September – The expectation effect: Why are mindsets important?

When we hear the word ‘mindset’ we may get reminded of all the self-claimed motivational speakers. It is rather important to remember that the concept originated from psychology and is backed by rigorous research. Can you change yourself? And how? Mindsets are important. What effect do they have on the ability to change ourselves? If you can’t change – you don’t grow. Manage the change!

### 28<sup>th</sup> September – Tools for Growth: CBT for growth mindset

How do you develop a growth mindset? Cognitive Behavioral Therapy offers tools to help you! You take years to develop ideas about yourself. Whether you are smart or not. You are facing this world and must think about how to change yourself. How do you develop that mindset? Introducing the idea of CBT.

## Desta Haile, Master Coach Cultural Intelligence



**? What are some of the challenges that you face teaching young people, many of whom come from quite privileged backgrounds, about cultural awareness? What are some of the techniques you use to overcome these challenges?**

... Whenever I am teaching, I try to use a **wide variety of resources and techniques to suit different learners** to create engagement. When working with students from privileged backgrounds, who might not always see the necessity to improve their communication, I remind them how much more enriching and important their exchanges will be if they bring a bit more awareness to what they do.

A main challenge can be that, thanks to globalisation and technology, **the world is smaller and faster**

in many ways so people think that their behaviour can essentially remain the same wherever they are. It can be the smallest gestures, attitude – or vocal shifts that can improve how they are seen and received – it can take a while for people to take note of the **subtle gestures of recognition and respect that can make a world of difference**. If people have never had to move to another country or learn another language, then they might have a challenging time empathising with others who are new to navigating a foreign culture and tongue.

I try to expose students to as many experts, viewpoints, talks and thinkers as possible to help them gain **empathy, compassion, patience, curiosity and understanding**. TED talks, podcasts, interviews, or Masterclasses are great for this. When I am designing a relocation programme for a family moving somewhere that I have never been to, I often work with a resource consultant who can give an up-to-date introduction to their new hometown. **Hearing about a culture from someone who lives and breathes it every day can be even more effective**. I surround the students with the more tangible elements of the culture we are exploring (music, film, art, food) and explore the less visible parts through example conversations, interviews, and exploring parallels within their own home culture.

## In conversation with Industry Professionals

We had the pleasure of inviting Mr Miqdad Hassan, MD and Founder of Techyworks, to speak with our learners about Digital Transformation at the Industry Session last week.

He shared his insights on the importance of email etiquette, integrating technology in business, and making the business process work more efficiently.

Another guest speaker was Errol Abrahams, CEO/Founder of ITSecurityMind. Errol has over four decades of experience in information security and is a certified trainer in Cyber Security. He talked about "The Behaviour of Cyber Security Pathway".



**Errol Abrahams**  
CEO/Founder of **ITSecurityMind**

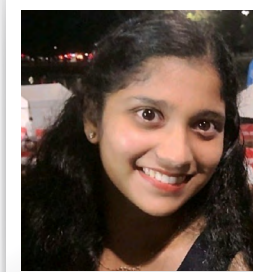
*"The pathway to cyber security consists of security awareness: you need to know your goals for information security, major vulnerabilities, and level of user awareness."*



**Miqdad Hassan**  
MD and Founder of **TechyWorks**

*"Digital Transformation is about taking the normal processes and automating them by adding technology to improve them and create more efficiency within the organization."*

## Employability.life Student Testimonial



**Priti Ajmeri** is in the final semester of her bachelor's degree in IT. She has been engaging with the Employability.life programme since last year from India, and now also from Australia.

In her words, "It would be fair to say I loved all the Em-

ployability.life sessions. The way our coaches delivered them, and the way they helped me, are remarkable. It has allowed me to clear my vision and understand my skills, and has guided me through my career journey. I believe these sessions are an important addition to my studies. This is not just about assignments or getting a job: you need to make yourself sellable and transform yourself into a good prospect. I 100% recommend Employability.life to all students."

We are very proud of and thankful to Priti Ajmeri for sharing her feedback about her experience with Employability.life. Ahead of the Emplife TALKS series we are looking forward to engaging with more learners worldwide and assisting them to design successful careers.

## Book recommendation:



### StrengthsFinder 2.0

by Tom Rath

The leading analytics company Gallup surveyed 3.7 million managers to better understand individual strengths and the way that we put them to work. The results are captured in this stimulating book, which seeks to ensure that our natural talents are properly utilised and that we stop wasting time focusing on our weaknesses. A key conclusion is that companies should concentrate on developing leaders by building on existing qualities, rather than spend money attempting to mitigate what they define as shortcomings. Especially valued characteristics are responsibility, discipline, communication, problem solving and empathy.

If you are thinking that this is "yet another self-help book" you may be missing out on a great opportunity to learn about yourself not only in theory but actually in practice, through taking the CliftonStrengths assessment. Some people may feel intimidated, as the prospect of a test raises the possibility of failure... However, the advantage of this exercise is that it comes with a "promise of strength" that you will re-discover about yourself and it is guaranteed that it will make you feel empowered!

