SOFT SKILLS

Soft skills are intangible and non-technical interpersonal skills which enhances a person effectivity and efficiency.

A few key soft skills which would be considered as essential for ATL students to be able to take their "tinkering" to the next level and create revolutionary innovations are -

- **Leadership:**
  It is very important for students to realize that taking charge and leading by example is necessary at times in life. Some things for student leaders to keep in mind -
  - Authenticity and clarity.
  - Seek knowledge.
  - Learn from mistakes.
  - Keep an open mind and always listen.
  - Know how to delegate tasks to achieve common goals.

> I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people.
>
> -Mahatma Gandhi

- **Teamwork:**
  Students need to understand that the success or failure of any group activity depends on the way the team coordinates and works. A classic example of this concept in nature is how a team of ants works together to get food for the colony. Students need to realize that for good team dynamics they should –
  - Be protective & positive
  - Be respectable & fair
  - Be open to new ideas from others
  - Communicate openly & share issues
  - Encourage discussions
  - Use consensus
  - Celebrate the team members achievements

https://images.pexels.com/photos/842401/pexels-photo-842401.jpeg?w=940&h=650&auto=compress&cs=tinysrgb

Team work to achieve the amazing

https://images.pexels.com/photos/264272/pexels-photo-264272.jpeg?w=940&h=650&auto=compress&cs=tinysrgb

- **Communication:**
  Effective communication is vital to express one's ideas, thoughts and opinions.

- **Empathy:**
  Empathy is the ability to understand another person's difficulties and point of view. This is pivotal for students to work in teams, understand needs to develop solutions for and to be able to nurture relationships.

Effective Communication is KEY !

https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2018/02/25/14/09/consultants-3180641_960_720.jpg

EMPATHIZE!

https://cdn.pixabay.com/photo/2015/07/24/01/09/compassion-857748_960_720.jpg

- **Time management:**
  A paramount skill for the ATL students who need to balance their academics with their "tinkering". Students need to be able to set specific goals, assign deadlines to them and then finish them in order of priority.

There are several other soft skills, but the concept is to impart upon the student the importance of these skills along with technical abilities. In the Indian framework, these skills are often neglected, and it is not realized that these are crucial in translating good technical abilities into viable success. You should try to guide the students into investing time into learning and practicing these soft skills to support their "tinkering".

https://images.pexels.com/photos/39396/hourglass-time-hours-sand-39396.jpeg?w=940&h=650&auto=compress&cs=tinysrgb

References:

The following is a non-exhaustive and suggestive list of resources on the concept of Soft Skills:

Resource Description	
30 Tips to Cultivate Soft Skills in Your Students	Link
What Are Soft Skills?	Link
Teamwork – an animated story	Link
Empathy	Link
Time Management – a presentation	Link

Note:
1. Mentors are recommended to build their content and not plagiarize and then deliver to their audience in the ATLs.
2. Mentors are encouraged to explore resources and share critical observations within communities and with AIM.
3. Please note that these are third party links and AIM or NITI Aayog does not endorse any person(s) or organization(s) mentioned on or related to these links.
4. The opinions and views expressed by the mentors during their interaction are of their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AIM or NITI Aayog.
5. Mentors are aware that the engagement with the ATLs is treated as a community service and there shall be no financial transactions between any stakeholder and mentor for any official ATL related activity.