



MAKING THE BIG CHOICE

Here's a guiding path for school students on selecting engineering subjects for undergraduate courses...

Prof. VS Rao, President, NIIT University



In a world of endless possibilities powered by technology, it is easy to be lured by the promise of lucrative-looking new-age careers. However, with so many options to pick from, choosing the right course for undergraduate studies can be a challenging feat. Since the subjects chosen in college determine the type of qualification one studies for, this makes it a big decision of growing up years, and the most crucial one.

A good starting point would be to begin by asking a few critical questions. What is it that you like to do? Which subjects do you enjoy studying the most in school? Which are the subjects you are good at etc? These questions should be able to determine your aptitude.

Next, ask the aspirational ones: career wise, what do you see yourself doing? How would your choice of subject influence the career of your dreams? What is it that you must study in order to succeed in your goals? Now, join the dots. And park this thought on the side.

Jobs of the future

According to World Economic Forum's The Future of Jobs Report, the emerging in-demand roles will be data analysts and scientists, software and applications developers, and e-commerce and social media specialists. Also, there will be an accelerating rush for new specialist roles like AI and Machine Learning specialists, big data specialists, process automation experts, information security analysts, user experience and

human machine interaction designers, robotics engineers and blockchain specialists. Truth of the matter is - all careers of the future will eventually be linked to technology.

Now go back to the parked thought and evaluate - if you have the abilities, and the aspiration to be an engineer - a smarter thing to do would be to focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, computer-coding-related careers. Because life, as we know it, is going to be technology-dependent.

Train with the industry leaders

While looking for fastest growing and well-paid careers of the future, it is also important to bear in mind that most jobs today may be redundant by the time you graduate. So then how does one plan

and prepare for the jobs of tomorrow - today? The answer lies in choosing the right university that recognizes the rapid change in digital technology and focuses on students' transferable skills and works on holistic personality development. This way, they'd be better prepared for any career ahead.

The teaching methodology and the curriculum must be designed on the basis of the fact that every learner is unique. The learning ecosystem must leverage digital technology for making learning more meaningful, enabling the students' higher-order complex thinking and preparing them for future use of the knowledge acquired. It must also include collaboration with the future workplace where the learner is going to enter - that's how he would be productive from day one.

On that note

A thing to remember would be that this Generation Z is going to form an integral workforce of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Unlike times before, engineering aspirants now have the power to choose their future with the right guidance and select from a plethora of subjects and courses during undergraduate study. The tech industry is interesting because it isn't isolated and has its presence felt in every field. That is why, you must find engineering courses that develop your transferable skills and prepare you for the tech career of the future.

Unlike times before, engineering aspirants now have the power to choose their future with the right guidance and select from a plethora of subjects and courses during undergraduate study