Google Hangout with Alumni

(Abhijit Pratap Singh, ECE Dept.)

Abhijit Sir is alumnus of our ECE Department and currently associated with Housing.com, a Mumbai based company.

He visited Roorkee recently for recruiting students for his firm. So, our hangout with him started on light tone about his feeling of getting back to his Alma Mater aka IIT Roorkee.

He started with the placement scenario and said that frankly he found the Roorkee students unprepared for the interviews and couldn't answer basic questions related to coding that their counterparts in colleges like BITS were very comfortable with. Hence, he advised not to take placements lightly, prepare well and remove the conception of IITians being invincible. However he chuckles adding that they still did heavy recruitments owing to Roorkee, being his love ☺

He added that for placements, CGPA is important and it will convey the message about candidate's sincerity.

-When placed :

Indian IT sector is not innovative or is developing slowly. In Crux, it is still not mature. The Indian IT section is a workstation running under the directions of it's US/Europe Head-offices.

Hence the work assigned to a B.Tech guy is as simple as fixing bugs in website that becomes pretty mundane to almost everyone in very short time.

-So, We questioned that with experience of say 2-3 years down the line, people would be offered some creative or intriguing work, right?

He outrightly denied saying there's very little creative work with the still immature Indian IT Industry. So after 2 years, one is promoted to Manager post (Like him) and his/her work is to train, give deadlines, plan the work of new recruits, a kind of management work, or more of it, which he personally disliked.

-We questioned about the scenario of people getting campus placements in core companies after B.Tech.

He said that he has few friends working in companies like Freescale Semiconductors. Here too work is more of directed and he personally thought it's better if one enters after

doing Masters or Phd, so that one is offered a design or R&D profile, which oprovides creative & interesting work.

-He continued in regards to Higher Studies . . . .

B.Tech should not be an end for your academics. Higher studies need to be encouraged if you are interested. Or else you will regret for not going for higher studies down the line.

CGPA is atmost important from admission point of view.

To do M.S and Ph.D, CGPA, SOP, LOR all are important, It's real good to do a project under professor seriously, Get good Recommendations.

There are two kinds of M.S., one just with course work and one with Thesis/Research Project. After M.S one knows many technologies but will not have clarity about what to do. So M.S with thesis is better.

-Regarding Ph.D Program :

This is a very serious program. It will change one completely. It will change one's perspective and way of dealing with problems. One comes to position where he/she can hold an important position in industry or academia post Ph.D and can indulge into technologies that can change the society, one reaches that plane.

-Regarding MBA:

If you can manage people, enjoy doing that, one can go for MBA. But personally, start up's are better place than IIMs to learn. Through start ups(need not be big can be a very small start up) you can learn more than from IIMs.

Job that one is doing should be enjoyed. Shouldn't be taken at random.

Life is about learning. Figure out in what you are interested. Don't just land anywhere.

In short, "**Do figure your next step after IIT**"

-Other Questions from students:

-Does Higher CGPA create hindrance in placements? Won't the company think that I will go for higher studies?

Yes, But, it will not stop them from hiring. They would rather let you in. Atleast, we at Housing.com don't believe in this concept.

-After 2 years of job, can I go for M.S/Ph.D?

Yes. It is feasible. Because of financial expenditure needed for M.S this is good step. But Universities do see your strong desire for research and what you did in the company.So ask your manager to give different work.

Ph.D programs are heavily funded and hence finance is not a problem therein. One may even go for Ph.D directly after B.Tech from say European or US University, even at any IIT in India. Now in case of M.S. from Outside, they are not generally very much funded and hence need quite a lot of money, hence in this case going after 2 years of money saving through a job is a good idea. Post M.S./Ph.D opens a lot of industry opportunities and hence repayback of loans if taken is not a big issue. In Crux, finance is not that big a issue.

- Finally the conversation ended with sharing of his memories related to some interesting professors here at Roorkee ☺