

Engineer your career on a Management track



In this age of wavering economy and an ambivalent job market, more and more people are heading for the B-schools.

It is observed that among the prospective MBA aspirants 80% are Engineers, but in a survey conducted by a reputed graduate school in the US the question that was mostly asked was how does an M.B.A. program help engineers?

Well an Engineering Degree trains a student to be a specialist. While being a specialist is certainly a fine career choice, for those who would like to get into General Management of a company an M.B.A. definitely gives you the skill that you didn't get in the engineering school.

In the industry today, as a professional, interacting with marketing, finance, human resource, production, advertising and accounting departments are imperative and an MBA gives you a thorough business perspective from all these angles. Understanding marketing and sales, learning to solve different business and management related issues are some key expertise an MBA can give you. For example, when you're trying to read financial reports or dealing with employee related issues, the skills you acquire during your MBA come in handy.

Amalgamating technical knowledge with business management is useful for development for the individual as well as the organisation one is working for as effective management is the lifeline and key to success for any organisation..

Hence the decision to do an MBA depends on your goals as an engineer. If you

desire a strategic decision maker's role, then an MBA is for you.

But what about engineers who don't necessarily want to manage?

Well, in that case, an MBA would round out your personality and make you savvy in dealing with corporate issues. It will give you an insight into the intricacies of a business, equip you with effective communication skills and inculcate in you the requisite managerial competence, taking you ahead in your life and career.

Having an MBA – or at least the edge that such a degree offers – just might work better for you in today's economy, especially because companies are looking for employees with proportional skills. It may make you flexible in "down" times, when employers might want one person to take on more responsibility and convergence is imperative.

Well my experience says that an MBA is fascinating and you never realise its benefits before you actually do it.

But before I put my pen down let me give you a piece of advice...If you are getting ready for B-school make sure the degree fits into your long-term career goals and not just short term achievements.

- Riaz R. Naikwadi
B.E., MMS (JBIMS)

Shishir Nigam, a mechanical engineer (IIT, Kanpur), MBA says, "An engineer goes in for an MBA to extend his problem solving skills from technology to business situations broadening his perspective immensely"

