

Placement Centers: The Roots of the Malaise Indian Academia is Suffering From

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Abstract

Academia is suffering from a malaise, and the symptoms are all known to us. Disinterested students in classrooms are not outliers but rather form the majority. The focus so far has been on updating curricula and improving pedagogy, which has not helped much. Because the deep roots of the malaise are hidden from casual glances. In our opinion, placement centers are the real roots of the malaise, and it will require an effective approach to fix it. Suggestions to address the challenge include organizing career fairs.

Symptoms of the Malaise

Alarming lack of interest among students in studies.

Students are highly uncertain about their career paths and experience a lot of psychological pressure.

The usual approach of focusing on curricula and/or pedagogy is found to be not very effective.

Graduating students are found to lack skills required for real-world jobs.

Students also lack interest in entrepreneurship.

The Roots of the Malaise

The influence of placement centers on students' choices and behavior is far deeper than generally believed.



Career visions are found not to be aligned with the chosen academic departments.

Students face uncertainty regarding their careers and spend way too much time preparing for aptitude tests.

Queuing students for jobs based on offered salaries builds the culture of viewing salary as the only metric for judging a job.

A Possible Strategy that Works

Organizing career fairs at least twice a year. They can be a complementary activity till the current placement process becomes redundant.

Focusing on engaging junior students through internship programs and encourage start-up culture.

Engaging with HR managers regarding the benefits of providing internships for their companies.



Further Reading:

<https://shorturl.at/ZHQdN>

<https://shorturl.at/YJLty>

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