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'Many engineering students lack employable skills'

The study, 'Employability Skill Index', was done by PurpleLeap, a talent management institute

Lack of 'skills' forcing students to settle for non-technical jobs after engineering

36 per cent of all surveyed have no chance of an 'engineering job'

HYDERABAD: Shattering the myth that students from the State are naturally good at problem solving, a study found that more than 80 per cent of the students do not meet the requirements on the problem solving skills.

The study further revealed that the average score of State students was less than 25 per cent against national average of 35 per cent. "There are more than 50 per cent of the students who have scored less than 25 per cent in problem solving, making them fall in the 'hard-to-train' segment," the study revealed. Lack of these skills was forcing students to settle for non-technical jobs after engineering education.

The study 'Employability Skill Index' was done by PurpleLeap, a talent management institute, among 9,000 students across 95 colleges in the country, including 600 students from 15 engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh. It tested three key employability skills - communication, problem solving and technical skills.

When it came to communication skills of engineering students, 80 per cent of them did not meet the qualifying criteria. However, most of out of the 20 per cent who are fine with communication skills cannot be hired because of either lack of problem solving skills or technical skills. Proficiency in communication skills is considered more of a 'qualifying criteria' than selection criteria for technical roles in the industry.

More than 60 per cent of the students do not meet the employability criteria on technical skills for the IT industry. The study also revealed that 11 per cent of the students are employable when organisations do not consider technical skills as a criterion. Even the students who do meet the technical skills criteria are still not 'ready-to-deploy' in the companies and have to undergo 3 to 4 months on technical training. The survey also found that about 25 per cent of students, which currently fall in the 30-40 per cent performance band, can be trained to upgrade their skills to employable

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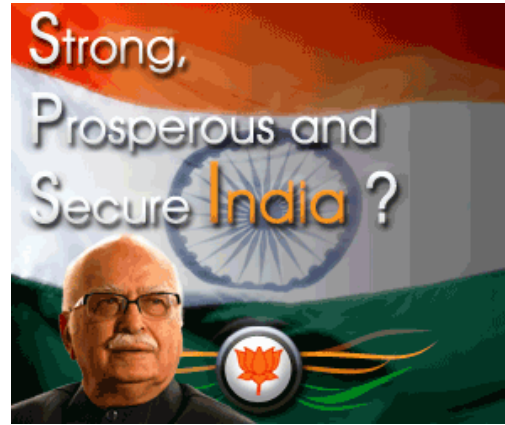
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levels. However, these students will need focussed intervention across communication skills, problem solving and technical skills. And in the most depressing finding, 36 per cent of all surveyed had no chance of an 'engineering job' because of not being able to meet the qualifying criteria in all three skills. These students will be 'hard to train' and can at best be trained for roles that are a grade lower than engineering roles.

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