

Limited on-campus job placements leave students anxious

Final year students are staring at uncertainty with companies restricting campus visit and fresh recruitment

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As less numbers of companies are visiting campuses for hiring due to pandemic, students have become anxious about securing a job soon after completing the course which will definitely leave an adverse impact on their future prospects. Frustration and anxiety among students is thickly visible.

While speaking to Education Times, Ritika Garg, a final year student at Delhi Technological University (DTU), says, "There has been an adverse impact on campus placements during the lockdown. The number of companies visiting campuses online has reduced and big MNCs have also frozen their hiring for this session. It is creating a sense of insecurity. We had certain expectations when we enrolled in a professional course, but now all our plans have messed up because of the pandemic."

Ujwala Sonawane, dean, ITM Institute of Hotel Management in Mumbai says, "The pandemic has affected 2020 and 2021 placements as the Hospitality industry was hard hit. Most of the students were placed in 2020, but due to a sudden lockdown situation, many hotel companies did not take students on board. It was difficult for the hospitality sector to retain their employees and thus did not want additional recruitment which they would not be able to support financially. Hospitality placements have taken a step back as compared to the previous years." Sonawane further added that the number of recruiters or companies have reduced drastically due to online placement though we had seen a lesser number of students getting affected for internship placements. Pandemic has made it difficult for academic institutions to place their students as the number of recruiters have drastically reduced. An online placement limits options for companies to conduct many rounds of short-listing students for final placements. Some students selected were not able to join even after receiving offer letters."

Rishabh Bhandari, a final year student of MBA (Marketing) at IP University, says, "There is definitely an adverse impact on placements. Companies aren't hiring many students. This is creating career uncertainties. Companies are still recruiting, but taking less number of fresh graduates. This is creating self-doubt in students' mind that they aren't capable enough to get hired."

Tania Sharma, a final year student of MBA (Financial Analysis) at IP University, adds, "Lockdown has led to downsizing, which has created a larger pool of job seekers in the market. This has emerged as a major challenge. Also, few companies are willing to offer Internship, but not permanent positions to reduce their establishment costs. Initially, during the first few phases of lockdown back in May-June 2020, the placements were very few due to a sudden switch to the online mode." Surekha Shetty, head of career advancement & networking (CAN), Alliance University in Bangalore, is of the view, "One of the constraints that some students have faced are technological glitches during the interviews."

However, there is a silver line as is indicated by the Times Job data that economy is showing the signs of recovery. Retail registered over 30% growth; FMCG had 28%; Infrastructure clocked 21% gain; followed

by Petrochemicals and IT/Telecom at 15% and 13% month on month growth respectively.

