

Interdisciplinary engg courses are need of the hour: Experts

Sruthy Susan Ullas & Farheen Hussain | TNN

Bengaluru: From trying to keep up with the technology evolving in the blink of an eye to meeting the needs of the industry, engineering education is growing to reach several goal posts. The key is evolving an interdisciplinary approach, say experts.



Engineering college principals and industry giants were speaking at a session on

'The changing face of engineering branches - the interdisciplinary nature of engineering education' organised as part of the webinar, Mission Admission-2021. It was organised by The Times of India in association with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Bengaluru campus) on Tuesday.

Prof KN Subramanya, principal, RV College of Engineering (RVCE), said technical education has changed drastically in the last decade. With the implementation of the New Education Policy, everyone is looking towards an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary form of education, he added.

"We need more experiential learning and outcome-based education. Interdisciplinary engineering is the need of the hour. We cannot develop good products or systems without them. It is not just in engineering, but even including liberal arts to technology," he said, adding that "interdisciplinary education is a balancing of depth and spread of disciplines — the one we call the T-Model."

Prof Debabrata Das, director, IIIT-B, said students' focus must be on creating a strong foundation in their domain - be it mechanical, chemical, civil, biology - and then looking at inculcating

“Critical thinking, collaborative work, creativity and innovation, and communication - they are the four Cs that drive the interdisciplinary nature of engineering education



Prof KN Subramanya
PRINCIPAL, RVCE

“Students must possess a strong domain knowledge to build multidisciplinary skills over it. They must focus on building fundamental engineering foundation and stay open to innovation to



Prof Debabrata Das
DIRECTOR, IIIT-B

other disciplines to build on them. "Without strong domain knowledge, students won't know what they need to do to make it better. If facul-

ties are tuned and the curriculum is designed in that way, students will be prepared to join the workforce," he said.

Vikram Motiani, senior di-

“The industry is looking for deployable manpower. Students must arm themselves with industry-recognised global certifications. They give students a goal, validate their learning, and help in their deployment in the workforce on Day 1



Vikram Motiani | SENIOR DIRECTOR,
GLOBAL LEARNING SERVICES, RED HAT INC
(ASIA PACIFIC)

rector, Global Learning Services, Red Hat (Asia Pacific), said students must integrate learning from multiple factions and make it more appli-

cable and real. "Students can create an edge for themselves when they bring multiple learning points together and create a better outcome which is more suitable for the industry," he said, pointing out the employability gap where industries are looking for employable graduates, while graduates are hunting for jobs with no luck.

How can this be addressed? "Students must create their own brand, build their own degree and take specialised courses," he said. Motiani added that every company today is driven by applications and students must look at the software side of things.