

Reading 3

Common Challenges of Fresh Graduates

The transition period from university to the professional world can be an exciting time, and vice versa, a challenging time for fresh graduates. One of their biggest challenges in getting a job is a lack of work experience. Many employers prefer candidates with work experience, thus making it difficult for recent graduates to compete with those already experienced. As a result, fresh graduates often have to struggle to find jobs that match their qualifications.

One of the other common challenges is the ability to adapt to the work culture and expectations of the company. The transition period from an academic environment, where deadlines and structures have been well determined, to a professional setting that requires independence and self-discipline can overlap. Fresh graduates must quickly learn workplace ethics, effective communication, and time management to succeed in their new roles. Adjusting to a professional work style and hierarchy can also be challenging.

Struggling to solve financial problems is also one of the other challenges for those who have just graduated. Many of those who have just graduated start their careers with little savings, and, in some cases, they have been in debt since college. Living expenses, including boarding house rent, transportation, and daily living expenses, can be a burden, especially if they are still looking for a permanent job. Managing your finances wisely, creating a reasonable budget, and finding additional sources of income, such as freelancing, can help you cope with financial pressure.

Lack of confidence and indecision often impact fresh graduates entering the job market. They feel unsure of their abilities and doubt whether they can meet the company's expectations. Impostor syndrome, in which individuals doubt their skills and accomplishments, is common among new professionals. To overcome this problem, self-assurance, continuous learning, and seeking mentorship from those who are already experienced are needed.

Lastly, career uncertainty is a challenge that must be faced by those who have just graduated. While others may have a definite career path, others may feel unsure of their long-term goals. They may experience job dissatisfaction initially or struggle to find a job that matches their interests. Exploring different career options, gaining experience through internships, and seeking guidance from a career advisor can help graduates confidently navigate their career journey.

Answer these questions

1. Why do fresh graduates often struggle to find jobs after their studies?
2. What difficulties do fresh graduates face when adapting to workplace culture?
3. How can financial struggles impact new graduates, and what can they do to manage them?
4. Why do fresh graduates sometimes experience self-doubt in their first jobs?
5. How can fresh graduates gain clarity about their career paths?

True or False

1. Employers often prefer hiring fresh graduates over experienced candidates (T/F).

2. Fresh graduates may struggle to adapt to workplace expectations (T/F).
3. Financial difficulties are rarely a problem for new graduates (T/F).
4. Impostor syndrome can make fresh graduates unsure of their skills (T/F).
5. Seeking mentorship can help fresh graduates build career confidence (T/F).

Vocabulary Questions

1. What does "workplace culture" refer to in a professional setting?
2. Define "self-discipline" and explain why it is essential in the workplace.
3. What is "impostor syndrome," and why do fresh graduates often experience it?
4. Explain the term "career uncertainty" and how it affects fresh graduates.
5. What does "mentorship" mean, and how can it benefit new professionals?

How to Search for Jobs Effectively

Reading 1

Online Job Portals and Networking

Online job portals connect job seekers with employers in today's job market. Websites like LinkedIn, Indeed, and Glassdoor are platforms where job seekers browse job listings, submit job applications, and even network with professionals in their fields. These portals have published the job search process, offering various job opportunities from multiple industries and regions. They also allow job seekers to filter results according to criteria such as company location, salary, and type of job, making it easier to find positions that match their skills and interests.

However, job seekers cannot rely solely on online job portals to get a job. Networking has become an essential thing in today's job market. Through platforms like LinkedIn, people can connect with companies' professionals, attend virtual events, and join groups or communities related to their career interests. Networking allows job seekers to enter the hidden job market, where positions may not be offered to the public. Building a professional network helps individuals determine job availability, company culture, and industry trends, which can give them a competitive edge when applying for a position.

One of the advantages of online job portals is the ability to apply directly and receive an immediate reply, such as an automated confirmation email or a preliminary interview. It

can be a time-saving feature by allowing job seekers to apply for more than one job quickly. On the other hand, networking often requires a more gradual approach, with individuals approaching people, attending events, and engaging in conversations. While this method may take longer, it can lead a person to more personalized opportunities, such as referrals or invitations to exclusive interviews.

Reading 2

The power of referrals

In a job market full of competition, having referrals is one of the most effective ways to get a job. A referral occurs when an active team member recommends someone he knows to occupy a position in his company. Many companies prefer to accept job applicants through this method because they trust the recommendations given by their employees. Candidates who apply this method often have a greater chance of being interviewed and accepted than those who apply through the job board.

Having strong professional connections is key to getting valuable referrals. Job seekers are supposed to build relationships with people who work within their company, including with former colleagues, their professors in college, and mentors. Attending events that increase networking and joining professional organizations can also help expand networking. The more people we know in the same field, the more often we get info about job openings.

Social media platforms, especially LinkedIn, are essential in referral-based hiring. Many professionals use LinkedIn to connect with potential employers and showcase their skills. By maintaining an active profile, posting and commenting

frequently, and sharing professional accomplishments, job seekers can increase their visibility to recruiters and industry professionals.

It is essential to be able to approach referrals professionally and respectfully. It is not about asking someone to give you a job; a job seeker must show interest in knowing more about a company and asking for input or advice. If professional connections trust the candidate's qualifications, they may not hesitate to recommend them to the hiring manager.

Job seekers should always show a good attitude when receiving a referral. A thank you email or message can strengthen professional relationships and leave a positive impression. Although a referral does not immediately result in an offer of a job position, maintaining a good relationship with professionals can open the door to other opportunities in the future.

Answer these questions based on the text

1. Why do companies prefer hiring through referrals?
2. How can networking help job seekers receive referrals?
3. Why is LinkedIn important for building professional connections?
4. What is the proper way to ask for a referral?
5. Why should job seekers show gratitude after receiving a referral?

True or False

1. Referred candidates are more likely to be hired than those who apply without connections (T/F)
2. It is best to directly ask for a job when requesting a referral (T/F)

3. LinkedIn is not practical for networking and getting referrals (T/F).
4. Professional relationships should be built before needing a job referral (T/F).
5. A thank-you message is unnecessary after receiving a referral (T/F).

Vocabulary Questions

1. What does referral mean in the context of job searching?
2. Define professional networking and explain its importance.
3. What is a hiring manager, and what role do they play in recruitment?
4. Explain the meaning of visibility in professional settings.
5. What does mentorship mean, and how can it help job seekers?