

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH : GN5003

Homework - 1

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Declaration: I have not copied from any other sources.

Question:

It is placement season. You have done well in academics and in the placement tests. You have two good offers from a reputed companies in hand. You also have applied to study further abroad. An admission letter arrives by post informing you of a scholarship at a university which is well known in your field and is undertaking advanced research in the field of your current interest. How would you go about deciding what option to choose, how will you decide whether the choice that you made is the right one and what are the contingency plans that you will put in place should your first choice not work as expected?

Response:

After completing my B.Tech, I had to decide whether to go for higher studies or take up the job offer. When viewed from an objective perspective, both the opportunities seem equally worthy.

If we decide to take up a job, it makes us an earning member of our family and gives us a source of income. Hence in cases when we are facing financial pressure and need to support our family, it is better to take up the job. To decide between job offers depends on the current situation. If we want a stable source of income with less work pressure, we can take up job offers from companies which are very well established or take up government jobs. If we want to learn and develop our own skills, we should take up job offers from startup companies which enhances our knowledge and learning much more.

If we decide to go for the research in a well reputed university, we can expand the horizons of our knowledge and get academic achievements. If we want to develop / discover or invent something in our area of interest and if we are very keen on research, we can take up this opportunity. Higher studies is an investment in us which lacks the monetary and industrial exposure but pays off in a large way in the future. Once we have completed higher studies, we have a significant edge over others and we can get much better job opportunities than our current job offers.

If we decide to take up a job, we should analyse factors like position of the company in the market, their vision, funding and also work areas. The job description should be carefully looked into to see if we are interested in it and if it has good scope of improvement. Another factor to ponder upon is our career goals which is the set of things which we want to achieve in our career. This can be clarified by asking ourselves questions like “Where do I see myself in 5-10 years?” and follow up questions like “Can this company launch my career properly?” and “Can this company help me finetune my skills to develop my career?”.

In case of higher studies, we should analyse similar factors like rankings of the university, previous publications and projects and awards by the university and the faculty and placement opportunities. We should ask ourselves questions like “Does this university provide opportunities in my area of interest?”, “Does this university equip me with the proper skills for higher job positions?” and “What is the quality and quantity of companies coming for placement to this university?”.

To analyse if we made the proper choice, we can assess ourselves after a month. We made the right choice if we are very excited to go to work or research every day. Conversely, we might have made the wrong choice if we feel bored at work or if we feel little to no interest in the research.

However we can put some contingency plans in place to recover from the wrong choice. We can request to do an internship at the company which offered us the job. This gives us a good insight into what kind of work we will be doing. Hence if we lose interest in the internship, it is not the choice for us. However, once the final decision is made, it is not advisable to go back on it by either quitting the job or the program at the university since such decisions can place a big black mark on us. This decision will then have to be explained at most future interviews which works against us.

Hence, while the final decision depends purely on the individual, it can be taken after proper analysis and with contingency plans.