My reflections – (Smart-Braille)

World Of Engineering

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Before joining IIT Gandhinagar, I was more interested in computer science and coding because I got good grades and understood computer science better in my school. Even though I had interests in various other fields (like circuits and mechanics) before I got introduced to coding and computer science, during my JEE preparations, my opinions on computer science branches in IITs became overrated due to their good reputations in job placements. So, my understanding of engineering was affected by job placements and packages, forgetting why I really wanted to pursue engineering.

After that, when I joined IIT Gandhinagar, I got curious about the "World Of Engineering" course, but I got answers to almost all my questions about engineering and teamwork. This course asked us to find a solution for an existing real-life solution and work on it in an engineering way to make it work practically in real-life environments. After the teams were sorted out, one of my teammates had a grade idea to solve a real-life problem that every blind child faces in developing countries like India.

The idea was good and made us think it could practically work. While understanding his concept, I faced a linguistic challenge since he couldn't communicate in English, and I didn't understand Hindi. Still, when I asked whether he could explain it in English, he asked one of his friends to translate and politely explained his idea. I understood that linguistic barriers could be easily broken if we had right-minded people like him and his friend. Everything worked as we thought till the proposal presentation. Still, once we got all the materials required to make the product, our hope went down a bit because our project required the integration of high power-consuming mechanical parts, complex circuitry work and a good amount of coding knowledge. Since I have worked on electrical circuits and coding since childhood (Arduino and Arduino coding), I took circuits and coding since I thought I could do it better than others. While working, I faced a challenge with myself since I could not believe in others' perspectives. I was a bit self-centred, which didn't help make the product work. But within a few days, I tried hard, collaborated with others, and put my opinions on their ideas rather than just providing destructive criticisms.
At last, just before our pitching, we all had an excellent impression towards our work since whatever we thought at the beginning that the product should do worked as we thought. So, I was very much impressed with my and my teammates' work. There were technical glitches during our pitching, but it went pretty well, but not as expected. Still, we can't change the past, so I calmed down and enjoyed other groups' lovely and splendid pitches.

The most important thing is learning from our mistakes rather than crying over spilt milk. I am contented that I have learnt a lot about many electrical components, their circuitry, and coding and understood that everything, in theory, doesn't work practically as expected. But most of all, my understanding of engineering has changed a lot because now I understand that I don't have to choose a specific interest just because it could mint money; instead, there are a lot of varied choices and branches of engineering which I could choose if it is interesting. I also understood that we needn't have to select a particular interest since, if many things interest you, why not choose all? I am delighted that this course made me understand and gave me an expansive view of engineering, not just end directing my eyes towards a particular money-minting, job-oriented engineering area. I thank all the professors and faculties who made this course a massive eye-opener for students who have just entered the engineering world.