Topic : college students should be encouraged to pursue subjects that interest then rather than the courses that seem most likely to lead to jobs

The choice of one’s college major is not something that is made in a jiffy. In fact, it is so common for students to spend hours and hours pondering over the most common debate of whether to take the course that they really want to pursue or take the course that gives them maximum variety of job opportunities in the leading industries and it is also isn’t uncommon for them to make a decision and then have second thoughts about it most of the time. The prompt suggests that the students should not be wasting their time too much on such decision and go for the courses that they are truly interested in rather than the courses that most likely have greater career prospects. In my opinion I strongly agree with this suggestion and argue that at this young age students tend to be naïve and make some rash decision and the repercussions of this will be experienced once they graduate and are out in the open real world for two reasons.

To begin with, the job market is a very oscillating one , todays high might turn out to be tomorrows low, so choosing a major only on the basis of what is hot in the job market is making a short term decision and something that might very possibly backfire. For instance back in the days everyone was going for mechanical or chemical or nuclear engineering because of this sudden unusual demand of professionals from that field. And because initially dearth of such graduates whoever graduated in these engineering field immediately got a high paying job. But eventually because of the shift in the global dynamics and the fact that the world started moving to greener sources of energy because of some unfortunate accidents and many UN resolutions signed by different countries, the need for nuclear engineers dropped down and eventually that field became obsolete. Also in the late 90’s when there was a dot.com boom and everyone regardless of their educational background ventured into the world of IT, all college courses were focussed and gave utmost importance to computers and IT field. Students who choose nuclear engineering or mechanical engineering because of abundant job prospects were certainly facing difficulty in the different job markets in the 90s and early 2000s. The above example illustrates that the job market is highly unpredictable and is definitely not static. It seems absurd to think of now during the current technology boom, but will software engineering industry still posses dizzying job prospects in the future? History suggests that it won’t.

Further, even if we assume that the job market is static , making students choose between the courses they love and actually want to do and the courses that give them greater job prospects is ethically wrong. Like a student might have interest in horse riding and if she goes ahead and gives in to parental or peer pressure and choose computer science just for the sake of better job prospects, she isn’t going to make any real difference. She might sit at her desk the whole day working on designing some user interface and staring at a horse poster and write the code haphazardly and submit subpar work which won’t make any real difference because she won’t be actually learning any thing productive. Hence its important to keep happiness as the most important factor while deciding a college major because if you aren’t happy then anything you do will be just subpar in quality. In other words the workers who find personal satisfaction with what they do produce higher quality products and service as well.

Ofcourse , some people out there will argue that in our increasingly globalized economy, competition for jobs has sky rocketed and that it is imperative that we pursue practical paths. However isn’t that exactly why we should pursue what we intent to do in future because then we will produce the most productive results and give better outputs hence providing to this increasingly globalized economy. People who choose courses that have better job prospects over their own interest do so at their own peril.