

## ***Engineering: How a dream career choice has fallen out of favour***

Not long ago, engineering, along with medicine, was a student's ticket to success in life. The standard question to children used to be: Will you become a doctor or engineer? Not any more. There is a glut of engineers in the country and most of them are not employable. Old problems of low-quality education and outdated curricula have become more pronounced with automation and emerging technology reshaping businesses.

That's why the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) wants to close down about 800 engineering colleges across India. There are no takers for their seats, and admissions are plunging in these institutions every year. Nearly 150 colleges have closed down voluntarily every year due to stricter AICTE rules. According to a rule of the council, colleges that lack proper infrastructure and report less than 30% admissions for five consecutive years will have to be shut down. AICTE has approved the progressive closure of more than 410 colleges across India, from 2014-15 to 2017-18.

A few years ago, a McKinsey report said just a quarter of engineers in India were actually employable. Of late, some other studies put it at less than 20%. Recently, a survey by employability assessment firm Aspiring Minds said 95% of Indian engineers can't code. Though graduates from India's premier engineering colleges such as the IITs are still in demand, it is the thousands of other engineering colleges and ITIs which churn out millions of graduates every year whose employability is questionable.

According to the National Employability Report by Aspiring Minds, employability for roles such as mechanical design engineer and civil engineer stands at a meagre 5.55 per cent and 6.48 per cent respectively. The lowest employability percentage is for the chemical design engineer role at 1.64 per cent. Employability in the domain specific roles is the highest for electronics engineers at 7.07 per cent.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project of 'Make in India' is hobbled by lack of employable graduates. The project aspires to increase manufacturing capacity in India and generate 100 million jobs by 2022. That's too difficult with the kind of graduates our engineering colleges produce.

– *The Economic Times*

**Answer the following questions, each in a sentence or two and not exceeding 50 words. Please note, however, that 2, 4, 6, 9, and 10 are multiple-choice questions.**

1. Why has the face of engineering education changed in the country? Justify your answer.
2. Which one of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?
  - a. Engineering education is slowly losing its dominance that it enjoyed among students and parents for a long time.

- b. Over the last few academic years, the country has been witnessing a decline in the percentage of engineers who are employable.
  - c. Computer science engineers and electrical engineers enjoy a higher percentage of employability than that of even electronics engineers.
  - d. Some engineering colleges have closed down due to stricter rules AICTE rules.
- 3. Something “questionable” is either morally wrong or not correct. Does the article use this word in this sense in paragraph 3? Justify your answer.
- 4. There is a “glut of engineers” in the country. It means:
  - a. that there are more number of engineers than needed
  - b. that there are less number of engineers than needed
  - c. that the percentage of engineering students enrolling in a course is little
  - d. that most of the engineers in this country are not employable
- 5. What is the phrase (in paragraph 3) that the article uses to talk about how engineering colleges are producing a large number of engineers?
- 6. The expression “progressive closure” in paragraph 2, is used in the sense:
  - a. in favour of new ideas, modern methods and change
  - b. happening steadily and gradually
  - c. developing suddenly
  - d. improving the standards
- 7. How does the article make it convincing to the reader that the country is producing unemployable engineers?
- 8. What other factors, according to the passage, are adding to the already existing problem of poor quality engineering education in the country?
- 9. Unemployable graduates “hobble” (paragraph 5) PM’s dream project. It means:
  - a. that they are not willing to contribute their work for the success of the project
  - b. that they make it difficult for PM to make the project a success
  - c. that they are going to support him
  - d. that they are going to be hired into the project
- 10. Which one of the following best describes the author’s technique in the passage?
  - a. Informative
  - b. Narrative
  - c. Critical
  - d. Sarcastic