

Question #1: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

It is better to have broad knowledge of many academic subjects than to specialize in one specific subject.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Response #1:

I disagree with the statement that it is better to have knowledge of many academic subjects than to specialize in one specific subject. Today due to vast expansion of infrastructure and manpower, specializing on a particular subject would lead to a positive and creative solutions. The globalisation which is rapidly growing across the globe requires totally refined finished products unlike expecting for conventional products in the primitive times.

This statement can be clearly explained with the help of an example, lets take civil engineering into account, civil engineering is a union of 6 areas of specialization namely foundation engineering, structural engineering, environmental engineering, construction planning and management, water resources engineering and transportation engineering. If we try to gain a broad knowledge of all these subjects it would be difficult for an engineer or a researcher in these fields to deliver a refined design which would suit the present trend. This is because all the fields of specialisation mentioned above are entirely different from each other. The foundation engineering deals with foundation design, structural engineering deals with the super structure design and in this way each has its own entity, so a good engineer having a sound knowledge in any one area can excel in that field and would be able to deliver all the requirements needed in that specific field. Taking highway engineering into consideration, its totally distinct from other fields as it deals with pavement design and harbour design. Hence for an efficient engineer or a researcher in this field would be able to derive better designs from the knowledge he gained through this specialized field. In the similar way an environmentalist could give proper suggestions on air, water and marine pollutions more effectively than a person having a broad knowledge in this field. The branch of civil engineering is just an example to explain why gaining knowledge in a particular specialization is needed rather than gaining broader knowledge in all the fields.

The strong belief, which is coming from our primitive ages that, its better to concentrate on one particular thing rather than putting hands in various fields in order to get positive results. This conceptual belief proves that "old is gold" and is very much applicable in the present scenario as each and every individual is aiming for an accurate result in all the fields. This belief can also be explained by a concept called "SIX SIGMA", this concept is used in firms which produce goods of various kinds, the accuracy level achieved through this concept is that only one part produced is proven to be defective in 1 million parts produced. This accuracy level is achieved through rigorous research and effort made by technologists in this particular field.

Hence, I strongly believe and personally commit to the comment that having specialized in a particular subject fetch excellent and innovative results rather than gaining broad knowledge of many academic subjects.