Yogesh Haribhau Kulkarni   • You

AI Advisor (Helping organizations in their AI journeys) | PhD (Geometric Modeling) | Tech Colum...

now • 🌐

I have been saying for the last few years that getting software jobs will become harder, especially for freshers. We're seeing that shift now.

During my daughter's engineering admissions, about 3 years ago, we deliberately explored "Physical" branches (Mechanical, Electronics, etc.) versus "Virtual" branches (Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), etc.).

Don't get me wrong, I'm not against Computer Science or AI. In fact, I believe these skills are mandatory for everyone, regardless of their branch. But to truly thrive in the coming years, you also need a strong domain foundation, especially in a "Physical" discipline.

So, what now, as software jobs for freshers shrink? Here are some ways to expand your opportunities:

➡️ Do internships, hands-on and physical if possible, even if unpaid. Apply AI/ML wherever you can.

➡️ Build a project portfolio, showcase your implementation and solution architecture skills on GitHub. Increasingly, you won't start as "Software Engineer 1" but rather as someone who reviews AI-generated code, closer to a Tech Lead role.

➡️ Learn a foreign language, especially from countries with aging populations, like Japan.

➡️ Attend meetups and conferences, try to give talks, submit papers, and connect with tech influencers on LinkedIn.

➡️ Volunteer, contribute to social work, college events, or community projects, ideally leveraging AI/ML.

➡️ Join hackathons, particularly in emerging tech areas like robotics and drones.

All of this is about increasing the 'surface area' of opportunities. You may not have "precision" at the start, but you will have strong "recall" (If you don't understand this statement, reconsider doing AI-ML, well, it's time to look it up!).

#Engineering #CareerAdvice #CollegeSelection #FutureProof #STEM

(pic below is from Financial Express (India))

Death of entry-level jobs? AI leaves US graduate freshers scrambling for work

A growing number of CEOs are becoming reluctant to hire recent college graduates, as they believe artificial intelligence can handle many of the tasks which are usually assigned to entry-level workers.

Written by Anjana PV

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