College students are benefiting from one-on-one interactions with industry executives. PT signs up

FORMAL education is of utmost importance. But, to compete in today’s corporate world, students need to have practical knowledge through direct interaction with industry experts. Keeping that in mind, colleges are inviting industry executives to come and have one-on-one interactions with students so that they can gain valuable insight from their experiences.

Because of the variety of industries, students need to access the right information from the right person. Sanju Dave, Dean of MITCON, says, “Today, you have a variety of industries including the service sector, IT services and, of course, manufacturing and automotive sectors. Also, many young entrepreneurs have made a mark in the industry in a short period of time. They are able to connect with the students on a personal level, understand and suggest practical solutions to their issues.” The college recently had management professionals from various industries visit the campus to interact with the students.

As practical exposure becomes more important, colleges are making sure that students benefit from the executives’ experiences in every way. Parag Shah, Founder and Chairman of FLAME Institute says, “We invite people from various industries to come and stay on the campus and have informal dinners and meetings with students. We encourage the students to find more about who the person is and his humble beginnings. Their start-up stories motivate the students with the possibility of a successful career.”

The college has been visited by executives like Dilip Dandekar, Chairman of a well-known stationary company, Sushil Guttam, MD of a prestigious PR agency, and even celebrities like Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Amitabh Bachchan. As many students do part-time jobs, they are able to make good use of their experiences from the visits. Bhushan Patil, Principal of Azam College of Education tells us, “Our establishment provides training for future educators.”

We make it a point to invite well-known personalities like Anna Hazare, Kumar Saptarshi and Rajia Patel to provide insights on presentation, public speaking, putting forth ideas etc. Most of these students are already doing part-time jobs in small schools. Using the information received from these one-on-one interactions, they are able to apply it to their respective jobs.

While the executives get a first-hand look at a student’s work, the students profit immensely from such visits. Pandit Vidyasagar, Director of Board of College and University Development, University of Pune says, “Many executives come to the campus to personally supervise a few projects of the students. We have an annual competition called Avishkar, where the projects of students from various backgrounds are showcased to industrialists, who advise on how the assignments can be improved thereafter.”

If the students use these sessions productively, they can learn a lot from such visits. And, rest assured, they do just that.