Interview

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"Many Employers View An MBA As A Valued Credential"

What is the uniqueness of your MBA programme?

The mission of SPJIMR is to influence practice and to promote value-based growth. The reputation that we have built over the years is a consequence of the continued innovations in management education in alignment with our mission. Our distinctive approach to management education includes a host of pioneering non-classroom and other immersive learning experiences that help our students to become socially sensitive leaders with a global mindset. The curriculum is practice-oriented and focusses on developing managers and leaders who can balance between economic and social purpose of organisations.

How do you ensure that your MBA graduates are corporate-ready in today's dynamic corporate world? How do you prepare them for leadership roles?

We strive to keep our curriculum cutting-edge and to strike the right balance between rigour and relevance. With the help of pedagogical innovations, we impart our students with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitude to make them successful in life. We attempt to provide a superior learning experience to our students by encouraging teamwork and facilitating experiential learning. The curriculum emphasises a multi-disciplinary approach and contains courses on design and innovation, digital technologies and sustainability. Apart from these, we have a host of pioneering non-classroom learning initiatives that help the students to develop the resilience and social sensitivity required to be successful in today's dynamic environment.

Participants in our programmes learn cutting-edge innovation techniques like design thinking, the lean start-up method and agile management. They also delve deeper into the fundamental enablers of innovation, such as critical thinking and systems thinking. We launch nearly a half-dozen new courses each year and fine-tune a dozen others based on feedback from internal and external stakeholders. Management and capitalism, design and innovation, digital product management, product innovation lab, systems thinking and dynamics, gamification, user-generated content analysis and other courses have been added or significantly modified in the last year or two.

Does your programme curriculum include digital learning? How important are digital skills in today's world?

The emerging digital technologies have increased opportunities for us to deliver cutting-edge content through experiential learning. Apart from courses on digital technologies and their applications, a large number of our courses have 'digital' embedded into them. Needless to say, exposure to digital technologies and their applications to develop innovative business solutions are extremely important in today's digital era. Apart from mastering digital skills, the students should be able to leverage the use of these digital technologies to help them enhance their capabilities for critical thinking, innovation and problem-solving.

How does an MBA aspirant assess if pursuing MBA is the right choice for meeting his or her career aspirations?

Pursuing MBA from a premier institute is a good choice that can positively impact the knowledge, skills and employability options while also helping to achieve the aspirations for those interested in pursuing a corporate career. A large number of options are available and the aspirant has to make the right choice at the right time, based on individual preferences and career goals. Many employers view an MBA as a valued credential, putting graduates in a competitive position in the job market. Graduates also have access to a wealth of resources, such as experienced mentors and alumni networks, which can help them achieve success.

How does one choose between a specialised MBA programme versus a general MBA programme? Why is work experience important before pursuing an MBA?

It depends largely on individual preferences and career choices. Perhaps a specialised MBA would be more suitable for someone who is clear about the domain that he or she would like to start the career with. Having said this, whichever type of MBA one chooses, it's important to develop interest and gain in-depth knowledge in at least one of the domains, apart from having the breadth of integrated knowledge across different functional areas of business.

Specialised MBA programmes tend to be more focused, offering specific courses and training in a particular area of business. This can be beneficial if you have a clear career path in mind and want to gain expertise in that particular area. However, it can also be limiting if your career goals change or you decide to switch industries. Many schools in India and abroad prefer work experience for MBA. Having work experience may help to improve peer learning and enhance the quality of class discussions. However, there is not enough evidence to suggest that those who had work experience before MBA have achieved superior career outcomes post MBA as compared to fresh candidates.