

FROM CAMPUS TO CAREER

MOVING FROM A COLLEGE CAMPUS TO A PROFESSIONAL SETUP CAN BE DAUNTING AND QUITE A CHALLENGE. IT PAYS TO PREPARE

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Life as a student is said to be the most glorious period in one's life. Apart from the occasional exam stress, it is normally a pleasant phase with little or no responsibilities, right? But when you move to a corporate set up, a lot of responsibilities and work pressures await you. How prepared are you for this transition?

According to experts awareness about the work environment even before stepping into it could help one in overcoming the challenges. It is important to have an idea about what an organisation expects from you. Manoj Chawla, executive senior vice president, NIS Sparta

says that expectations of employers are primarily results driven. They expect disciplined working, team work and co-ordination. Adding to it Rajiv Krishnan, managing director, DDI says that employers expect employees to be serious about work. They expect them to have good social skills, a sense of humour and willingness to help. Being disciplined, punctual and as a result taking deadlines very seriously are also prerequisites. Employers expect new employees to be curious, humble and willing to learn.

"Employers expect you to have good work ethics and a professional attitude, open to learning and hard work. They expect you to quickly develop an understanding of the com-

pany, and work culture," says M R Suresh, chairman, placements, SDM Institute for Management Development, Mysore. "The new entrant should adapt to the given targets and ensure that he/she, not only meets the expectations of the supervisor, but also gets along well with his/her peers as well," adds Chawla.

Preparation is the key

How can a candidate prepare for these expectations? Chawla says a person must have adaptability. He/she must be prepared to learn and adapt to the specific job requirements without any inhibition or fear of failure. Also one must not consider salary as the most important thing in the first job.

Adding to it Suresh says you have to internally prepare yourself to act and think independently. Also pay attention to work discipline, personal etiquette, and relating well to people. You might have taken these for granted in campus, but job environments are not as forgiving as your campus.

"Also in an organisational context, there are very strict do's and don'ts. A person must adhere to the discipline around timings and taking leaves. There are codes around dress, behaviour with one's colleagues and clients etc breaking such discipline are not acceptable in the workplace," adds Krishnan.

Today employees are expected to be on the job from day one and many firms offer induction and training programmes to assimilate an employee into the system. According to Vijayakumar, employees must take due