Get Counsellled

BY KASTURI GADGE

HOW many times do the students come back home frustrated from college just because they don’t like what they spend their day doing? Or they don’t like the college they study in? Or they feel cheated when they don’t see the money spent on the studies giving expected output? One solution to these problems could be Counselling.

Career-Counselling is a practice that aids people by making a connection between passion to work, purpose to do a task and understanding and acknowledgement of work. It is an investment that yields a high return in future. 23 years old Yatin Kumar always wanted to be in Merchant Navy but had no one from his family to guide him. To seek help he went to Puja Rajwanskar of Future Launcher Career Counselling Centre. She guided him by giving complete information about the profession and the best places to pursue the course. "We as counsellors help students to achieve what they dream of and make sure they learn it from the right place", says Puja. There can be just two possibilities for a person while making their choice of careers - either he knows what he wants to do or he does not. Counselling can be of great help in both the scenarios.

**TRENDs**

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All of us have hidden talents, which sometimes get distorted in our brains due to the sublime effect of the hot careers that are in vogue, as well as the peer-group influences - which is where Counselling can help clear the clutter and the confusion. Based on the interaction during the sessions, the experts try to open the candidate’s mind to the varied options matching with the interest-levels, skill-sets and other parameters, thus giving direction to the career. "A Counsellor along with providing 360 degree information about the career acts as a mentor to the candidate," says Anseeta Bhandari a certified counsellor.

Counselling is best and must for students going abroad. The arrangements from student’s education loan to his accommodation are done at times using the contacts of the counselling centres. At times even the basic requirement of making acquaintances in the new country is also done by them as they send students in groups who come to them for counselling. Needless to say that even the admissions and the interviews are set up with the universities by them.

**Word of Caution**

Presently with huge number of counselling centres coming up it is becoming a huge business. There are organisations that function all across the country and abroad, with numerous branches across cities. It takes maximum 3-4 sessions for a counsellor to understand a student’s profile and guide him/her. What is important is the concern of the counsellor towards the student. They need to treat it as a personal responsibility and not like a business. There can be hidden agendas like tie-up of the centre with some university or private institutes, which may bias the outcome of the session also. While going for counselling remember to make the best out of the money you pay and get all the information about the stream you choose. Never forget to ask for options and also verify the institutes mentioned. "In cases like Yatin’s who chose to do something different from others, many students get cheated by the small local institutes which give 100% placement guaranty. These institutes are either not registered or have poor teaching quality." Adds the Counsellor.

It is your career and it is always safe to leave no stone unturned before making a decision about it, and Counsellors can be a great help in this process.