Freshers preferred because they are very fast learners

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Two third-year computer science students of RV College of Engineering, Bengaluru, who are to begin their two-month summer internship with a software company, have been offered monthly stipends of Rs 1.2 lakh each. Companies are trying to catch talent young and are, therefore, willing to pay even during internships, says KN Subramanya, principal of the prestigious institution.
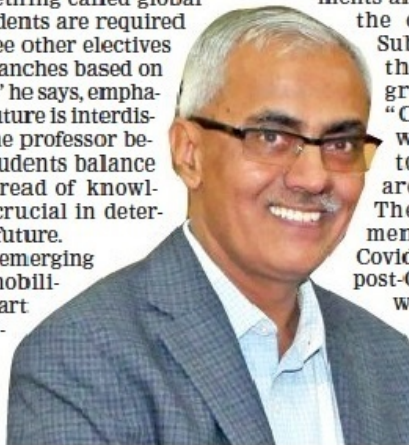
With technologies changing every quarter to six months, students are quick on the uptake and that's what works in their favour. "Age is with them and they are fast learners, and companies always look for such good candidates," says Subramanya. In fact, during placements, a lot of companies quickly revise their offers to catch the best talents from the pool of freshers, he says. Computer science & engineering, information sci-

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ence & engineering, and electronics & communication engineering have been the institute's top three branches for more than five years now.

Subramanya, who has been with the institute for 25 years, says in the last five years, RVCE has seen a significant change in the way different branches are heading. Nowadays, most innovations are interdisciplinary and collaborative, and the college has been adapting to that. "In the third and final year, we have something called global electives. Students are required to choose three other electives from other branches based on their interest," he says, emphasising: "The future is interdisciplinary." The professor believes how students balance depth and spread of knowledge will be crucial in determining their future.

To work in emerging areas like e-mobility, IoT, and Smart Cities, a research bent of mind will become imperative, he

30% ONLINE TEACHING

➤Digital technology will rule educational transformation post Covid-19. At least, 20-30% of teaching will move online. Institutions must draw up digital roadmaps by brainstorming with stakeholders and understanding the best practices followed globally.

➤RVCE is rapidly expanding its R&D activity and industry-academic collaborations. Companies have set up labs on campus for students to continue their projects under them. Faculty and students are involved in executing industrial consulting works.

➤With the technology landscape fast evolving, human behavioural studies need to take a front seat. Otherwise, technology will grow at an exponential rate but behavioural patterns will progress at a linear rate.

says. Here, commitment from the management and faculty is important to inculcate a research culture. And this, he thinks, should be topped with a good mentoring system, with industry and academic experts. "Today's 'digital natives' learn in new and different ways. So, educators need new approaches to make learning real and relevant," he says.

While the world fears retrenchments and pay cuts with the current crisis, Subramanya thinks there are many green shoots too. "Organisations will have to learn to pivot to newer areas of demand. The business acumen required pre-Covid will be different post-Covid. For those with passion, the post-pandemic era will throw up many new opportunities," he says.