

TOI
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CONSTRUCT A CAREER

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OFFERS A VARIETY OF CAREER OPTIONS TO STUDENTS FROM BOTH ENGINEERING AND NON-ENGINEERING BACKGROUNDS. PR SWAROOP, DIRECTOR GENERAL, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CIDC), TALKS TO **SURBHI BHATIA**



PR Swaroop

How is the construction industry poised for growth in India?

The development of physical infrastructure in the country and, consequently, the construction sector

has been in focus during the last two decades. It is well established that the influence of the construction industry spans across several sub-sectors of the economy as well as the infrastructure development, such as industrial and mining infrastructure, highways, roads, ports, railways, airports, power systems, irrigation and agriculture systems, telecommunication systems, hospitals, schools, townships, offices, houses and other buildings; urban infrastructure, including water supply, sewerage, and drainage and rural infrastructure.

With more than 20,000 enterprises involved directly in the activity of construction, the industry is one of the largest employers in the country and is characterised by a mix of both organised and unorganised entities. The employment figures have

shown a steady rise from 14.6 million in 1995 to more than double in 2005, which is 31.46 million personnel comprising engineers, technicians, foremen, clerical staff, and skilled and unskilled workers. It is the only industry that has been growing at the rate of 9 to 10% every year. With the Indian economy growing, the industry offers several career opportunities.

What are the career options available for students who want to join this industry?

There is a misconception that construction industry employs only engineers apart from the unskilled labourers. In reality engineers are only a part of the entire human resource capital. We need graduates for material management, financing, accounting, garnering resources, township administration, lawyers for legal disputes, etc. Even in all these branches there are specialised areas emerging in the construction industry that aspiring candidates can opt for. When it comes to engineering, civil engineers are in great demand. But now it is required that an engineer in the construction industry should have the knowledge of finance, metallurgy, chemicals, human resource

management, etc. It is for this reason, CIDC will soon launch a course in construction engineering that takes care of all these aspects.

For students with a non-engineering background, utility management is emerging as a new career option. After a site is constructed, there is a need to maintain and repair that site. It is in this area that we need a lot of people.

Do students need to opt for special training programmes to enter into the various profiles mentioned above or the industry offers on-the-job training?

One cannot enter into an industry with a general background. He/she needs to have specialised skills for that industry. The major impediments faced by the construction industry in raising the levels of productivity are the acute shortage of skilled manpower, both at worker and supervisory levels, as well as the lack of experienced construction engineers. With an aim to provide skilled manpower and set quality standards the Planning Commission (jointly with the Indian construction industry) set up the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC).

CIDC, in association with several universities and industry constituents, is offering an HRD programme for workers from the construction industry for the last three years. The programme, based on an open learning and distant mode of education, offers 38 trades through 19 centres situated in various parts of the country. A number of PSUs and state governments have also been actively participating.

CIDC is also actively designing, developing and disseminating management development programmes for supervisors, managers and senior officers in construction management, project management, emerging technologies and other related issues. We offer diploma programmes in civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering for army personnel.

In our latest effort to impart skill-based education, CIDC, M/s Eldeco Housing & Industries Ltd and Dr KL Garg Memorial Trust have entered into a MoU to jointly establish vocational training institutes for construction related trades in Uttar Pradesh. The training institutes will be called CIDC Eldeco Training Centre.

www.cidc.in/cidcnew/index.html