Podcast Transcript 110.07 Viral Doshi - Common mistakes students and parents make
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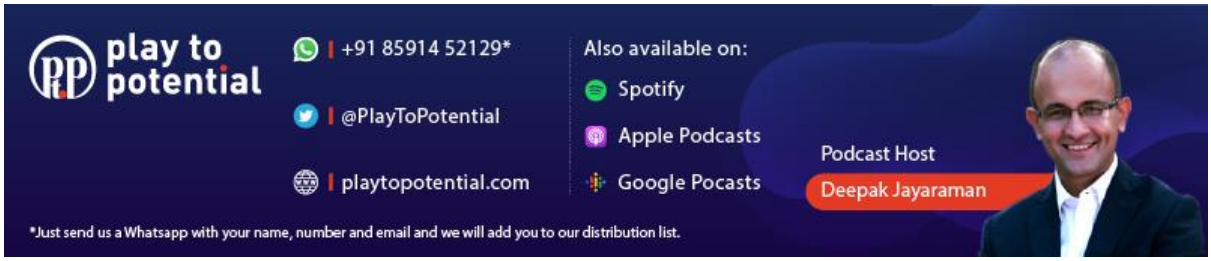

Context to the conversation

Viral speaks about some common mistakes people make. He specifically speaks about some of the mistaken notions people have about pursuing Computer Science and AI.

Transcription

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Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): I think I can totally understand just going back to again that, if I may say, that decision point, you know, one of the people I spoke to who's a neighbour now is a gentleman called Atul Kasbekar. He's a photographer, but he started studying chemical engineering at UDCT. And then he went and at some point he quit that photography and built a career. But one of the things he said stayed with me. He said, I chose chemical engineering because I loved chemistry.

Viral Doshi (VD): Absolutely.

(DJ): And within a week I realized chemistry is nothing to do with chemical engineering.

(VD): Correct?

(DJ): Absolutely. And the question I had for you was, what are what are these kinds of, if I may call it, silly mistakes. You see, people make plenty.

(VD): Plenty.

(DJ): So so. What are the few sort of, if I may, themes that emerge for you?

(VD): I think small things, for example economics and usually economics in ISC, CBC, HSC it's all memorizing, rote learning. Then suddenly land up in college, you're like, oh my God, economics is the mathematics degree. It's a maths and stats degree with the garb of economics around it. Mr Doshi I made a big mistake., right? And then the shift into business afterwards, or for example, computer science.

When people think of computer science, they feel ohh Mr Doshi I must do computer science in 11th and 12th to go to computer science. And now I will tell them, you don't understand young men. When you apply to a computer science college, they don't want to see computer science 11th and 10th they want to see maths and physics. They never thought, why do they require maths and physics?

For computer science? I say, look here, they want to see analytical mind, a logical mind which maths and physics can prove to you which computer science can't do for you, as in the day. So these are some very two most important things which come up. And sadly, unfortunately for the last 8-10 years, the be all and the end all is to do computer science.

And what has happened lately. Last two years, 90% of my students in America are not getting internships or getting jobs with computer science. So I always tell people, learn computer science, use computer science, embrace computer science, but think ten times of doing computer science because one AI specialist is replacing eight coders today and people have not understood that yet.

Still, it's a computer science, still the norm, especially in certain parts of India. Like in Andhra Pradesh, every child has to be a computer scientist. It's very amusing. There are certain schools in Hyderabad, fantastic schools, but more than 70% are U.S. citizens. And for everybody that desire to go to do computer science out there. So I think for I think changing mindset would be to tell the children looking at computer science is not the be all and end all.

I think you have to understand that these things are changing and evolving. Computer science was the name of the game ten years ago, but is no more there and AI will play a significant role in whatever we do. I think the biggest fear of everybody is, well, I replace jobs. I think nobody can answer that.

Yes, it is replacing entry level jobs in consulting, in finance, in the legal field, but it will evolve. I think we will have to embrace AI. So if you look at the NVidia chairman's podcast, he says very clearly a person who wants to be successful in the future, if he can do something in Stem with AI on top of it, will perhaps be the most successful person.

If you don't want to Stem, you will do humanities input AI on top of it. You will also be successful. So I think you need to embrace AI and that will lead to prompt engineering sort of careers evolve and AI will play a very critical role in how we think. But if somebody would ask me whether AI replace things, I said, you can't replace a doctor with AI you can't replace a civil engineer with AI.

But these AI tools will help to become a better civil engineer, a better doctor. And that is a fear. I think parents are very anxious right now. Tell us about the future, I said nobody can deliver the future. But I can tell you one thing that your child learns AI in college and let him embrace it, but then another mistake people make. I only even do AI for four years. You could not do AI for four years.

(DJ): It's on top of something.

(VD): The top of something. That's a degree. That's what people don't understand today. Once they go to college, they talk to other people. They talk to professors, and then they realize AI should be on top of something, not AI by itself. India, we have had this herd mentality. You know, if somebody was manufacturing these LPG cylinders, everybody will start manufacturing and we celebrate.

That guy is doing well. If somebody is doing AI now everybody oh my child has to do and data science. And I said look here, do AI do data science but do it on top of something, not by itself, by itself. And I think then they realize it after four years my child is not getting a job. He doesn't have a skill set with him.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ:

End of transcription

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About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock the human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work here.

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