

Subodh Mishra: Johnson Controls

Q: Are you satisfied with the company you are placed in or you expected a better company?

A: Yes, very much. Control systems has always been my favorite subject, it's really fortunate to finally get placed in a company which offers the profile of your interest. I always seek more but unless it is ABB, Siemens, GE or Honeywell, I am very much at peace with this company.

Q: Were there any challenges that you faced in the beginning of the placement season?

A: I did my schooling in a small mining town in Keonjhar, hence I never got an opportunity to write any aptitude or maths based exam like NTSE, RMO or JMO, etc so these aptitude tests were completely new to me. I did a research internship at IIT Kharagpur in the summer prior to the placement season so I did not get any time to work on my aptitude skills. Preparing for these aptitude tests as well as balancing class hours was a real difficult task. But I am thankful to God that except for very few instances I have never been rejected in the written round. I was really very depressed when I could not clear the Mu Sigma written round but my confidence was restored when I made it to the final round of Futures First. After that there was no looking back!!

Q: Were you rejected by any other company? If yes, what could be the possible reasons?

A: Yes, I have been rejected by about 7 companies after making it to their PI rounds. There are several reasons, but most important one is me doing a research summer internship at IIT Kgp. If you badly want a job, research internship is a strict NO!!

Your job profile must match with the kind of person you are. In most of the cases I was found to be perfect mismatch, for instance, in Hero Motocorp I told them that I want to get into the R&D sector of their company but what

will an electrical engineer do in the R&D division of an automobile company? I did not understand it then and I was rejected and finally a guy who had some expertise in operations and production was selected from my branch. So the morale is you may get rejected if the job profile does not match with your personality, your likes and dislikes. What you expect from the company is more important than what the company expects from you. Be patient, you will get what you want.

Q: How many levels were there in the selection procedure of this company?

A: Only two, written round and PI.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the written rounds?

A: As far as Johnson Controls is concerned, the aptitude questions were the easiest ever I faced in a written round but the technical questions were based on general engineering, so there were questions from electrical, mechanical, electronics and project management. You need to know something about everything to get through this round.

But if you ask me in general, I used to prepare quant from the Arun Sharma book that CAT aspirants usually follow. This book is more than enough; nothing else is required to master aptitude questions.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the GD rounds?

A: No GD round for this company. But I have attended many GDs and from my experience; you need to express yourself in simple but correct English, you need to be a good listener and you should never argue. I never prepared for any GD, rather learnt by experience but I am an avid reader of newspaper editorials and this has helped me communicate well in English.

Q: What preparations did you make to get through the Interview rounds?

A: First of all learn a lot about the company. Read from wiki, search in google about their recent achievements, know how old the company is and who was the founder. If you do so, the interviewer rests assured that you are really interested to work for the company and that is what matters the most.

Technical questions asked in PI were really very simple in most companies, so was the case with Johnson controls, but in Johnson controls the interviewer asked me questions from the written round question paper to make sure that I has done all of it myself. He was very much interested in everything I wrote in my CV and asked detailed questions about even the smallest thing I has mentioned there. So mention those things which you can explain properly.

HR questions are tricky and there is no correct answer, it's better to take a neutral stand. I won't advice you to be too outspoken in the interview, be witty. Read some HR interviews from internet. Subscribe to "placement grid" on you tube and watch the videos. Read various experiences of people from Quora, it really helps.

This was how I prepared for PI rounds.

Q: Any tips or suggestions for the juniors?

A: Pay attention to basics and fundamentals of whatever you are studying. Learn speaking and writing correct English, reading newspapers will help you master this language. Practice aptitude questions during summer vacations prior to the placement season. Love at least one subject from your department and make it your area of interest. Do a few software courses from institutes like CTTC or if you are too good then learn them yourselves. Don't ever be overconfident. When you are rejected by any company, don't lose heart, and keep it in mind, the probability of getting placed in the next company always increases, you just have to keep working.

Q: Can you briefly explain your overall experience of the placement season?

A: Intense!! Placements are as unpredictable as monsoons but little preparation will surely help. The wait was long but all's well that ends well. I am thankful to the TnP and our placement coordinators for inviting the company of my choice for campus placements. I am indebted to my closest buddies who have stood beside me in bad times and good.

A small suggestion to the Tnp:

The TnP must take some steps to organize aptitude tests and mock GD PI sessions in the third year, at least in the 6th semester. This is being successfully done in better NITs like NIT Trichy and Warangal. This will do a world of good to our students and will definitely boost their confidence.