



WORK EXPERIENCE - A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

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Many people see work experience like a double-edged sword for the sole reason that there is not only that chance for a person to gain valuable on-the-job training but at the same time, it is also gaining an inside knowledge of a particular job. These are the experiences that one cannot achieve or acquire in a college or in any learning environment. It is indeed a chance for every individual to obtain an insight and knowledge into the working environment. This is very true because many universities and colleges will actually offer work experience placements as part of their course requirements. On the other hand, some people who involve themselves into a work experience have that wrong notion or understanding that they will be given a permanent work at the end, only to find out that this may not be case. More often than not, in some instances, a lot of people have experienced to be offered or given a full time permanent employment at the establishment where they were given a work placement. Whether you like it or not, this maybe an exception but it is not always the rule.

There are a lot of unemployed persons who are trying hard to integrate themselves get into the work experience programs so they could try testing the waters and find out whatever suitable job that there is for them to get themselves into. They try to find out if they would be suited to certain types of jobs or working environments. Some get employed or even have on-the-job training in private firms, in the government or even in the colleges or universities. Moreover, many governments also run the work experience programs. There are cases where employment can be unpaid for certain duration and therefore some employers take advantage of the cheap employment that they can get out of it. Then at the end of the term they will just simply reason and justify the fact that the employee was not really fit or suitable for that particular work.

We can still say or presume that it still pays to have work experience for there is a bigger chance and opportunity to stand in this competition because nowadays it can be fierce to find a new job (which is quite rewarding) right away. If you take these low-paid job opportunities, you are putting yourself at a head start over the other job seekers. Hence, you are also given this favorable chance of enjoying the experience of getting to work and interact with other professionals. This will definitely further your development because you don't just learn to get along with them but also learn from the experiences of the other employees as well. We can say too that being involved in a professional working environment will help you to understand what would be required of you by the time you have finished your degree. More so, by the time you finish your degree, you have already acquired experiences to aide you and would be ample enough to start up your career.

Another vital thing that you can learn about having work experience is the fact that it is alright to make a couple of mistakes for you lack experience. Apparently, your fellow workers will understand you being a neophyte and taking apprentice in the work that you do. This will ensure that you will not be committing the same mistakes next time. After all that has been discussed, in the end you will agree with me that work experience is like a double-edged sword.

Questions for discussion:

1. How do you view work experience? Why?
2. Do you believe that having work experience will give you the advantage of landing a job right away? Why or why not?
3. Have you experienced that opportunity to work with professionals? When and how?
4. Give another importance of having work experience. Explain your answer.
5. In your own explanation, tell us how you will decipher the title "Work Experience ? A Double-Edged Sword."