

"The real estate business is running short of skilled resources."

J C Sharma, MD, Sobha Developers discusses the career growth prospects available in the real estate industry in recent times

1) What kind of growth has the real estate industry witnessed in recent times?

The Indian economy is projected to grow at 8.5 per cent in 2010-11, compared to 7.2 per cent in last fiscal, which is an indication depicting that the economy is on the growth path, thus encouraging a positive outlook within the real estate industry as well.

Better liquidity in the economy coupled with improved job scenario, competitive interest rate offerings by the banks and the government's ongoing efforts to push growth in the sector indicate a healthy recovery for real estate in India. We feel the growth of the real estate industry at a healthy double digit is always achievable.

2) What are some of the emerging job opportunities within this industry?

The real estate business is running short of skilled resources. In India, the current output of B.E civil engineers is only around 65,000 per year out of a total of around 13 lakh graduate engineers. Hence, job opportunities are in plenty for civil engineers. The na-

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ture of job opportunities, which are currently seen are in the field of : i) structural design. Also, the roles of execution specialists, project quantity surveyors, cost engineers and valuation experts with civil engineering skill-sets are in-demand. The industry now seeks top professionals across all managerial facets including organisational development, materials, marketing, finance, legal, corporate communications, etc.

3) What are the long-term career prospects in this industry?

Competent and professional civil engineers will rise to higher echelon of an organisation in delivery function. In case they have additional qualifica-

tions and aptitude in finance and management, they can rise to be the head of institutions. With the infrastructure industry booming, there is also a high possibility of inter-change in the job opportunities for a professional.

4) What are the skills and qualifications required to prosper in this industry?

The basic requirement is the need to have a degree in bachelors in civil engineering and subsequently, for higher positions, a master in construction management, MBA in finance or M.Tech in either construction technology or structural engineering would be ideal. Alternatively,

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one also needs a diploma in civil engineering.

5) What kind of HR practices are followed by employees in this industry?

Employees of Sobha Developers Limited (SDL) have voluntarily formed creative clubs like the Toastmaster Club, innovation teams, etc to add value to every Sobhaite's life. The creative club actively celebrates awareness campaigns like Earth day, Bus day, Earth hour, Environment day, etc., to sensitise Sobhaites through their participation.

(To read the full interview, log on to www.timesascent.in/interviews)