

MIT RADIO 90.8 MHz COMMUNITY RADIO STATION

Report on

“From Classroom to Innovation: A Career Journey Emphasizing Adaptability and Lifelong Learning”

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Introduction

MITS Community Radio 90.8 has consistently served as a platform to bridge the gap between academia, industry, and society by bringing inspiring voices to students and the community. As part of this mission, an expert interaction program was organized on **29th January 2026**, featuring an interview with **Mr. Ashok Kumar**, Founder, Developer & Trainer at **Praya Labs, Tiruvannamalai**. The program was conducted by **Radio Jockey PMD Muskhan** on behalf of MITS Community Radio 90.8. The session focused on career inspiration, real-life learning, adaptability, and the importance of continuous upskilling in today’s fast-changing professional environment.

The program was graced by the presence of **Sri. M. Narasimhacharlu**, Program Manager, MITS Community Radio 90.8. The interaction aimed to motivate students, reduce career-related anxiety, and provide practical insights beyond textbook knowledge.

Profile of the Resource Person

Mr. Ashok Kumar is a seasoned academician-turned-industry professional with a rich blend of teaching, leadership, and product development experience. He began his career as an **Assistant Professor in an Engineering College**, where he developed a strong foundation in teaching and mentoring students. Over time, driven by innovation and real-world problem solving, he transitioned into the corporate and startup ecosystem. For the past **eight years**, he has been associated with product development initiatives and currently serves in a leadership role as **Dean**, contributing to technology-driven solutions and skill development.

His journey from academia to industry provides a valuable example for students who aspire to explore diverse career paths and adapt to changing professional demands.

Objectives of the Program

The key objectives of the radio interview program were:

- To expose students to real-life career journeys and professional experiences.
- To highlight the importance of practical learning and skill development beyond textbooks.
- To motivate students to overcome fear related to placements and career uncertainty.
- To emphasize adaptability and continuous learning as essential success factors.
- To encourage curiosity, confidence, and lifelong learning among students.

Summary of the Interaction

i. Inspiration and Career Motivation

Responding to the question on what inspired him to choose his career path, Mr. Ashok Kumar shared that his professional journey began in academics as an Assistant Professor. His passion for teaching, mentoring, and innovation motivated him to explore opportunities beyond traditional roles. Over the years, his motivation stemmed from continuous learning, experimenting with new ideas, and contributing to meaningful product development. This transition highlights that career paths are not always linear and can evolve with experience and interest.

ii. Learning Beyond Textbooks

When asked about lessons gained from real-life experience that cannot be found in textbooks, Mr. Ashok Kumar strongly emphasized the **practical approach**. He stated that while textbooks provide theoretical foundations, real growth happens when individuals go beyond books and apply knowledge in real-world scenarios. According to him, experimentation, problem-solving,

iii. Challenges Faced by Today's Students

Based on his extensive interaction with students and young professionals, Mr. Ashok Kumar observed that the **biggest challenge among today's youth is the fear of placement and job security**. He reassured students that opportunities are abundant in the current ecosystem, provided they are willing to upgrade their skills. He encouraged youngsters to focus on self-improvement, learning new technologies, and developing confidence rather than being overwhelmed by fear.

iv. Personal Career Challenge

Sharing a personal challenge from his career, Mr. Ashok Kumar revealed that he was initially a shy individual, particularly in public speaking and presentations. Through consistent effort, exposure, and practice, he transformed himself into a confident presenter. This experience conveyed a strong message that personal limitations can be overcome with determination and continuous effort.

v. Importance of Adaptability and Continuous Learning

Addressing the relevance of adaptability in today's fast-changing world, he clearly stated that adaptability and continuous learning are no longer optional but essential for survival and success. Rapid technological advancements demand that professionals constantly update their skills; otherwise, they risk becoming obsolete. His message reinforced the need for lifelong learning.

vi. Message to Students

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Ashok Kumar advised students to **keep learning and explore new things that spark curiosity**. He emphasized that curiosity-driven learning builds confidence and prepares individuals to face challenges effectively. He encouraged students to take initiative, experiment, and remain open to learning throughout their lives.

Conclusion

The radio interview with Mr. Ashok Kumar was an insightful and motivating session that successfully addressed key concerns of today's students, including career uncertainty, skill gaps, and fear of failure. His journey from academia to industry leadership served as a powerful example of adaptability, resilience, and lifelong learning. Through this program, MITS Community Radio 90.8 once again fulfilled its role as a catalyst for educational empowerment and community development. The session concluded with **RJ PMD Muskhani** expressing sincere gratitude to Mr. Ashok Kumar for sharing his valuable insights and experiences, making the program a meaningful and impactful learning experience for students and listeners alike.

Program Outcomes

The following outcomes were achieved through this program:

1. **Enhanced Career Awareness:** Students gained clarity on diverse career pathways and understood that career growth is a continuous and evolving process.
2. **Reduction of Career Anxiety:** The session helped address students' fear of placements by highlighting skill development and opportunity-oriented thinking.
3. **Promotion of Lifelong Learning:** The importance of adaptability, continuous learning, and practical exposure was reinforced among listeners.

Alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The program aligns with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- **SDG 4: Quality Education** – By promoting practical learning, skill development, and lifelong learning opportunities beyond formal textbooks.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – By motivating youth to enhance employability, adapt to industry needs, and contribute productively to the economy.
- **SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** – By encouraging innovation, product development, and the application of knowledge to real-world technological solutions.

Photo:

