Career By Choice, Not Chance

All humans strive for a healthy body and a happy and peaceful existence. A stress-free mind ensures a healthy body and a happy life. The choice of vocation or occupation can make or mar this happiness. The choice of one's career should also be influenced by whether it allows for a healthy body and an active mind.

So choose a vocation that meets these requirements. Remember that many a man has dwarfed his manhood, cramped his intellect, crushed his aspirations, blunted his finer sensibilities in some mean narrow occupation just because of money.

Many choose a career in engineering, medicine or the administrative services for which they have no aptitude, only because of the money and prestige involved.

They end up being misfits in a demanding profession and thereafter lead a life of frustration and regret.

Even a small step in the right direction counts far more than the biggest strides in the wrong direction. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. The trick is to concentrate on developing one's strengths. For this, every individual should do the SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) analysis before deciding on a career. And once you make the right choice at the right time, more than half the battle is won.

Career and Values

In a highly materialistic world, old values are fast vanishing. But it is important to remember that values like truth, honesty, integrity, compassion and courtesy ensure a, more peaceful and contented existence. There would be less discord in families, societies and nations, if such values were inculcated and encouraged in the formative years. While choosing a career, one must give due importance to personal values and opt for a profession that is more in sync with these. An over-emphasis on money can only lead to short-term gains, but long-term unhappiness, with the extra money being spent on visiting doctors and . psychiatrists. Therefore, think wisely and well before opting for a career.

Choose Your Career

After the SWOT analysis, career drivers and goal-setting, it is not very difficult to choose a career. You know what you want in life, you know what your potential is and you know where opportunities exist for you.

Besides these, there are other factors you must remember while selecting a career:

Intelligence: This includes IQ, Social Intelligence and Emotional Quotient.

Well-rounded intelligence is more important for success, than simply having a high IQ.

Personality: You may be an introvert, extrovert, dominating or submissive in nature. If you are an introvert, for instance, you should not choose a career that calls for extroverts. Give due importance to your personality traits while choosing a career

Interest: All work is hard work, unless you have a passion for it. No amount of ability, aptitude or monetary consideration can make a difference if you have no interest in the job. Ensure you have a passion for the profession you get into.

Aptitude: If you happen to be good at art, it would be meaningless to work in a factory.

Physique: Various jobs have differing physical demands and the choice of career should be taken after duly considering this. A man with poor health could hardly make a career in the police force or the armed services.

Gender: Though professionally men and women are supposedly equal, Nature has bestowed different physique and capabilities on each.

Age: Some careers need an early entry to be successful. A late entry may mean lack of opportunities for advancement, leading to frustration caused by unfulfilled ambitions.

So remember all these facts when taking a decision that could make or mar your life. Let us now examine the more practical aspects.

The five top fields in the present and the near future are:

Health Care: Technology keeps creating medical breakthroughs, offering opportunities for employment at alllcvcls.

Robotics: Experts project a new generation of robots that could see, hear, feel and obey commands. The demand for engineers, technicians, installers, repair and maintenance people will rise steadily.

Computer Graphics: CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAI (Computer Aided Imagery) will be two of the fastest growing fields in the 21 st century, revolutionising design in manufacturing, fashion, film and video.

Information Technology: Advances in telecommunications, fibre optics, mega communications mergers, and the Internet all make for an explosion of jobs in this fast-growing field.

Biotechnology/Genetic Engineering: Solving medical problems through emerging technology will be the new challenge of this century.

Individuals with a background in science, biology, engineering and chemistry will have unlimited opportunities in this field in the 21 st century.

Changes in Career Preferences Over the Decades

1950s Engineering, Medical, Law/Civil Service

1960s Medical/Science, Engineering/Commerce, Law/Civil Service

1970s Medical/Science, Engineering/Commerce, Law/Civil Service

1980s Medical/Science, CAiMBA, Engg/ Arts

1990s CA/MBA, Medical, Engg

1990s (late) IT/Computers, Fashion/Mass Corom., Medical

2000s IT/Biotech, Medical, Engineering

Here are the 100 Best Jobs in the 21st Century

Actor/director/producer Librarian Dental hygienist Radio/TV news reporter Labour relations specialist Appliance/power tool repair

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Police officer Editor/writer Accountant/auditor Licenced practical nurse Database manager Radio/TV technician Investment banker Architect Podiatrist (foot doctor) Education administrator Advertising & Marketing Management consultant Dentist Radiological technologist Landscape architect Arts administrator Psychologist! counsellor Employment interviewer Agricultural scientist Manufacturing specialist Drafter Real estate broker Lawyer Automotive mechanic PR specialist Engineer Aircraft technician Manager EJ:DJJvmjsJ Real estate appraiser

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Bank loan officer Teacher/professor Environmental scientist Computer system analyst Ma thema ti ci an/statistician Home health aid Registered nurse Paralegal Bank marketer Travel agent Farm manager Cook/chef Medical records administrator/MT Hotel manager/assistant Reporter/correspondent Paramedic Carpenter Train driver Financial planner Corporate financial analyst Occupational therapist Human resources manager/executive Restaurant/food service Peripheral EDP equipment operator Clerical supervisor/ office manager Veterinarian Firefighter Corporate personal trainer Officelbusiness machine repairer Industrial designer Retail sales person Pharmacist Commercial/graphic artist Wholesale sales representative Flight attendant Correction officer/ guard/jailer Operation managers Information systems manager Secretary/administrator Photographer Computer operator Camera operator Flight engineer Underwriter Operations/system research analyst Cosmetologist Social worker Insurance claim examiner Computer programmer Physical therapist/physician Food scientist Web Designer Ophthalmic laboratory technician Court reporter Speech pathologist/audiologist Insurance sales person Computer service technician Physicist/astronomer Health service administrator Doctor Optician Interior designer Pilot

The Professions at a Glance

Given below are the definitions of some important professions for easy reference to help you decide your career. Naturally, the list is not comprehensive. If you wish to know more about a particular profession or one that is not listed here, speak to a career counsellor, a senior or your teacher for guidance.

I. Accountancy: Profession to keep or inspect financial accounts

2. Acting: Art or occupation of performing in plays, films and TV

3. Agriculture: Science or practice of cultivating the land and growing crops

4. Agronomy: Science of controlling the soil to produce crops

5. Advertising: Business that deals with the publicising of goods/services to encourage people to buy or use it, increasing sales/volumes

6. Airhostess: Stewardess in a passenger aircraft who serves foodlbeverages to passengers and helps them with a smiling face

7. Architecture: The art and science of designing and constructing buildings

8. Anthropology: Study of mankind, especially of its origin, development, customs and beliefs

9. Aquaculture: Cultivation and propagation of water for commercial and industrial use

10. Archaeology: Study of ancient civilizations by scientific analysis of physical remains found in the ground.

II. Announcer: A person who announces about speakers, singers, programmes and the like, especially on radio/TV or at public functions

12. Author: Writer of books, plays and stories

13. Auctioneer: Person who conducts auctions and sells goods at the auction

14. Art Instructor/Art Director: The former is a person witft the skill/ability to guide people in the visual form of creation such as painting, drawing or sculpture. The latter is an individual employed in the print media or advertising who handles the designing of all printed matter.

15. Army Officer: Officer of country's land amly.

16. Athlete: A person who participates in physical sports

17. Athletic Coach: A person who trains athletes.

18. Administrator: A person who manages the day-to-day affairs of an organisation government.

19. Admiral: The chief commander in the navy.

20. Advocate: A lawyer who presents a client's case in a law court.

2 J. Air Traffic Controller: A person at an airport who gives radio instructions to pilots wishing to takeoff or land.

22. Anaesthetist: Person/doctor trained to administer anaesthesia for medical purpose.

23. Analyst: Person skilled in making (especially chemical) analysis for industrial or commercial purpose.

24. Anatomist: Anatomy is the scientific study of the structure of animal and human bodies. A person who studies anatomy is telmed an anatomist.

25. Anchorperson: Person who co-ordinates the discussion of a group, especially that of participants in a radio or TV broadcast or a stage show.

26. Aliist: Person who practises any of the fine arts, especially painting, acting etc.

27. Astrology: Study of the position of the stars and movements of the planets in the belief that they influence human affairs.

28. Astronomy: Scientific study of the sun, moon, stars, planets etc.

29. Astrophysics: Science of the chemical and physical condition of heavenly bodies.

30. Aviation: Science or practice of flying aircraft.

3]. Avionics: Science of electronics applied to aviation.

32. Aerobics Instructor: Person who trains people in energetic and rhythmic physical exercise that promotes physical fitness by increasing the body's oxygen intake.

33. Actuarial Science: Study of calculations of insurance risk and premiums by studying rates of mortality and frequency of accidents, fires, theft etc.

34. Bookkeeper: Person who records business transactions and accounts.

35. Bookbinder: Person specialising in putting covers on books for commercial purposes.

36. Book Critic: Person who evaluates and describes the quality of books or literature.

37. Blacksmith: Person specialising in the making and repair of iron products.

38. Bodyguard: Person who physically protects another person.

39. Book Dealer: Person dealing in the distribution and selling of books in bulk on commission basis.

40. Bacteriologist: Specialist in the scientific study of bacteria for medical and other purposes

41. Baker: One who bakes and sells bread, biscuit, cakes and other bakery items

42. Banker: Owner, director or manager of a bank

43. Biochemist: Specialist in the chemistry of living organisms.

44. Biologist: Expert in the scientific study of the life and structure of plants and animals.

45. Biotechnology: Branch of technology dealing with forms of industrial production that use micro-organisms and their biological process.

46. Cameraman: A professional who operates the camera for filmmaking, television production or other commercial purposes.

47. Cat10grapher: Person who draws maps and charts.

48. Cartoonist: Artist who draws cartoons for newspapers or other visual mediums.

49. Chauffeur: Person employed to drive a car.

50. Cashier: Person who receives and pays money in banks, shops, hotels or offices.

5]. Censor: Person authorised to examine books, films, plays, letters and other such material and remove parts considered indecent, offensive, politically unacceptable or a threat to the security of the country or people.

52. Costume Designer: One who makes, deals in or hires out costumes for theatrical performance, cinema or TV.

53. Copywriter: Person who writes advertising or publicity copy.

54. COlTespondent: One who contributes news or reports regularly to a newspaper, radio station or TV channel.

55. Court Reporter: Person who reports proceedings of the court or on court cases.

56. Caterer: One who provides food for large social gatherings; the owner or manager of a hotel or restaurant.

57. Chemist: Person who sells medicines; an expert in chemical analysis.

58. Cosmologist: Person specialising in the scientific study of the universe, its origin and development.

59. Crew: People working on a ship, aircraft, oil rigs, film unit etc.

60. Contractor: Person who does jobs on contract for a specified amount.

61. Cosmetician/Cosmetologist: An expert in cosmetics; one who sells cosmetics and advises on their use.

62. Carpenter: Person skilled in making wooden objects and furniture.

63. Consultant: Person who gives expert advice.

64. Conductor: Person who directs the performance of an orchestra; one who collects fares on a bus.

65. Caretaker: Person employed to look after a house, building or farmhouse.

64. Choreographer: An expert in the art of arranging steps for a dance.

66. Cryptographer: An expert who uses a secret or code language to protect confidential information, documents and computer software from hackers, copycats and pirates.

67. Computer Programmer: A person who feeds detailed instructions to the computer to solve any given problem.

68. Driver: Person who drives a vehicle.

69. Director: Person who manages a company or institution, especially as a member of the board; one who directs a film.

70. Dentist: One qualified to treat diseases, malformations of, and injuries to teeth.

71. Dental Hygienist: One who specialises in cleaning and polishing people's teeth.

72. Dietician: An expert in food, diet and nutrition.

73. Deep-sea Diver: One who specialises in diving into deeper parts of the sea or ocean for search operations or any other purpose.

74. Detective: A person, especially a police officer, whose job is to investigate and solve crimes.

75. Draftsman: Person responsible for the exact wording oflegal documents or drawing of parliamentary bills and the like.

76. Designer: A person specialising in designing (machinery, homes, furniture, fashionable clothes, jewellery).

77. DJ (Disc Jockey) - A person who handles the announcements for radio, TV, stage shows, etc.

78. Doctor: A practitioner trained in medical science and qualified to treat patients.

79. Dramatics: Study or practice of acting or producing plays.

80. Environmental Scientist: Person who is concerned about and wants to improve or protect the environment through scientific means.

81. Editor: Person who handles the editing of a book, newspaper or magazine.

82. Editorial Assistant: Person who performs day-to-day editorial tasks.

83. Electrician: Person trained to install, operate or repair electrical equipment.

84. Executive Secretary: Person in a business organisation having managerial and administrative power and reporting to the Director or Chief Executive.

85. Earth Science: Any of the sciences such as geology or geography dealing with the earth.

86. Ecologist: Expert in scientific study of the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and their surroundings.

87. Economist: Expert in science or principles of the production, distribution and consumption of goods, especially with reference to cost.

88. Engineer: Person who designs, builds or maintains engines, machines, bridges, railways, mines etc.

89. Entrepreneur: Person who stalis or organises a commercial enterprise, especially one involving financial risks.

90. Fanner: Person who owns/manages a fann and produces food grains, vegetables, fruits or poultry.

91. Forest Ranger: Person who looks after a forest, protecting animals, birds and trees.

92. Foreign Exchange Dealer: Person who deals with buying and selling of foreign money.

93. Fashion Designer: Person who designs fashionable garments.

94. Fireman: Member of an organised team of people trained to extinguish fires.

95. Food Analyst: Scientific examination of food for its nutritional value, contamination or presence of bacteria.

96. Finger Print Expert: Person trained to analyse the pattem made by individual fingers and palms on a surface and used for identifying people, especially criminals.

97. Fishennan: One who specialises in catching fish, especially as a means of livelihood.

98. Gardener: One who works in a garden, either for remuneration or as a hobby.

99. Gastronomist: A person specialised in the art of sampling and cooking good food.

] 00. Genealogist: A person specialising in the study of family history.

101. Geographist: An expert in the scientific study of the earth's surface, divisions, climate and other physical features.

102. Geologist: An expert in the scientific study of the earth's crust, rocks, strata etc and the history of its development.

103. Geophysicist: An expert in the scientific study of the physics of the earth - its magnetism, meteorology etc

104. Gerontologist: An expert in the scientific study of old age and ageing.

105. Guide: A person who shows another the way, used especially for a person employed to show tourists interesting sights.

106. Gynaecologist: An expert in the scientific study and treatment of diseases and disorders of the female reproductive system.

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107. Hairdresser: A person specialising in cutting and styling hair.

108. Horticulturist: Person expert in the art of growing flowers, fruits and vegetables; skilled gardener.

109. Hostess: Woman who receives and entertains people as guests.

110. Immunologist: Person/doctor qualified in the scientific study of protection against and resistance to infection.

Ill. Insurance Agent: Person specialising in providing or selling insurance policies.

112. Interior Decorator: Person specialising in decorating the inside of a house, office or building with paint, wallpaper, furniture and other decorative pieces.

113. Interior Designer: An expert in the planned choice of style, colour, furnishing, etc. for the inside of a house, office or flat.

114. Interpreter: Person who gives a simultaneous translati~n of words spoken in another language.

115. Journalist: Person involved in collecting, wnting, editing and publishing matenal in penodicals, usually newspapers and magazines.

116. Judge: Public official with authority to decide cases in a court of law.

117. Jeweller: Person who sells makes or repairs jewellery or ornaments.

118. Keeper: Person who looks after animals in a zoo or a collection of items II) a museum.

119. Knowledge Engineer: Person who looks into the technology aspect of knowledge management.

120. Knowledge Editor: Person handling the content and composition of knowledge for books, newspapers or web sites.

121. Lecturer: Person who gives lectures, especially at a college or university.

122. Lexicographer: One who write or compiles dictionaries.

123. Librarian: Person in charge of or assisting in a library.

124. Lineman: Person whose job is to repair and maintain electrical or telephone lines.

125. Linguistics: Scientific study oflanguage or of particular languages.

126. Lyricist: Person who writes the words of songs (especially popular songs).

127. Machinist: One who makes repairs or operates machines or machine tools.

128. Macrobiotics: Science of diets that consists of whole grains and vegetables grown without chemical treatment.

129. Marriage Counsellor: Expert specialising in helping couples with marital problems.

130. Marine Biologist: A scientist who studies life in the sea for scientific and commercial uses.

131. Mathematician: An expert in mathematics.

132. Matron: Woman in charge of the nurses in a hospital.

133. Metallurgist: Expert in the science of the properties of metals, their uses, methods of obtaining them from their ores etc.

134. Meteorologist: An expert in the scientific study of the earth's atmosphere and its changes, used especially for forecasting weather.

135. Minerologist: Expert in the scientific study of minerals and their vanous uses.

136. Model: Person employed to pose for an artist, photographer or sculptor;

one employed to display clothes or fashion accessories to prospective buyers by wearing them.

137. Musician: Person who performs or composes music.

138. Naturalist: One who studies animals, plants, birds and other Jiving creatures.

139. Naturopath: Person who treats illness through changes in diet, exercise, manipulation and other natural means.

140. Neurologist: An expert in the scientific study of nerves and their diseases.

141. News Reader: Person who announces the news over radio and TV.

J42. Nurse: Person trained to help doctors look after the sick and injured.

143. Occupational Therapist: One who treats a physical or mental disease through a regulated course of creative or productive work.

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144. Oceanographer: Specialist in the scientific study of the oceans.

145. Operator: One who operates equipment, machines, a telephone switchboard etc.

] 46. Ophthalmologist: A person or doctor specialising in the scientific study of the eye and its diseases.

147. Optician: Person who makes and sells optical instruments, especially contact lenses and glasses.

]48. Orthodontist: One who specialises in preventing and correcting irregularities in the teeth and jaw.

149. Orthopaedics: Branch of surgery that deals with the correction of bone deformities and diseases.

150. Paediatrics: Branch of medicine concerned with children and their illnesses.

] 5]. Pageant-Director: An expert in public entertainment consisting of a procession of people - in costumes or fashionable dress.

] 52. Painter: Person specialising in painting walls, buildings and signboards; an artist who paints pictures.

153. Paleontologist: An expert in the study of fossils as a guide to the history of life on earth.

] 54. Penology: Study of crime and its punishment, and the management of prisons.

] 55. Petrology: Scientific study of rocks.

156. Pharmacist: One trained in the preparation of medicines; one who sells medicines.

157. Pharmacologist: Person who specialises in the scientific study of drugs and their use in medicine.

] 58. Physiologist: An expert in the scientific study of the normal functions of living things and the way in which the body of a particular living being functions.

159. Physiotherapist: Person trained in the treatment of disease, injury or weakness in the joints or muscles through exercises, massage and the use of light, heat etc.

160. Pilot: One who operates the controls of an aircraft.

] 61. Plumber: One who specialises in the fitting and repair of waterpipes, water tanks, cisterns etc in a building.

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162. Politician: One who is well versed in the science of governance, actively or professionally.

163. Psephologist: Expert in the study of the way in which people vote in elections, especially by means of opinion polls.

164. Psychiatrist: Specialist in the study and treatment of mental illness.

165. Psychologist: An expert in the science or study of the mind and how it functions.

166. Producer: Person who produces a film, TV, radio, video or stage programme.

167. PRO: A Public Relations Officer specialises in presenting a good image of an organisation, firm, government or person to the public, especially through the selective dissemination of information.

168. Quiz Master: A person who conducts a quiz or competition, especially on TV, radio or stage in which people answer questions to test their knowledge.

169. Radiologist: A doctor specialising in the diagnostic use of X-rays and in other methods of imaging the internal structure of the body.

170. Radio Therapist: Expert in the treatment of diseases, especially cancer, by radiation, such as X-rays.

171. Receptionist: Person employed to make appointments for or receive callers at a hotel, office, clinic or other establishment.

172. Radio Astronomy: Astronomical study by means of radar; study of radio waves generated in space.

173. Sailor: Member of ship's crew, especially one below the rank of officer.

174. Salesperson: One whose job is to sell goods in shops or door to door.

175. Sanitary Inspector: An official who checks hygienic conditions in shops, restaurants and other establishments.

176. Sociologist: An expert in the scientific study oflhe nature and development of society and social behaviour.

177. Speech Therapist: Person trained to help people with speech problems.

178. Speleologist: A scientist who studies and explore caves.

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\79. Sports Editor: An editor in a newspaper or magazine who specialises in sports.

J 80. Seismologist: Scientist who studies earthquakes.

J 81. Surveyor: Person who surveys and values vehicles, buildings or other property; one who surveys land.

182. Broker: Person who buys and sells stocks and shares for clients on a commission.

\83. Analyst: A computer professional who deveJops a program, anaJyses the system, supervises how a company's computer software runs.

184. Software Engineer: An engineer who develops software that involves the systematic use of computer tools and techniques to develop high quality, reliable and user-friendly applications as well as system software.

185. Script Writer: One who writes scripts for TV serials, cinema and documentaries or adapts novels or stories for teJevision, radio or cinema.

186. Tailor: One who specialises in cutting and stitching outer garments.

187. Travel Agent: Person who makes arrangements for people wishing to travel, e.g. buying tickets, making hotel and airline reservations.

188. Umpire: Person appointed to see that the rules are observed and to settle disputes; a person chosen to act as a judge between two parties who disagree.

189. Underwriter: Person or organisation that underwrites (accepts liability) insurance policies, especially for ships, aircraft etc.

190. V J: Video Jockey - A person who acts as an anchor in television/video shows.

191. Valuer: A professional specialising in estimating the monetary value of a company, property, land, jewellery, goods or other items.

J 92. Veterinary Surgeon: A person skilled in the treatment of animal diseases and injuries.

J 93. Virologist: An expert in the scientific study of virus and viral disease.

195. Writer: Person whose job is to write books, stories, articles and the like.

196. Welder: One who specialises in joining two metals by raising the temperature at the joints by means of external heat.

197. Warehouse Man: Person who stores goods before they are sent to shops.

198. Warrant Officer: Non-commissioned officer of the highest grade in the army, air force or navy.

199. Zoologist: An expert in the scientific study of the structure, form and distribution of animals.