

Career Undecided

A 7-step solution to figuring it out

Scared is an understatement. Petrified would be closer to the reality. It's how most of us feel when we're just about to graduate. The thought of finally deciding on a career is full of complications and hesitations. Do we settle on a job for the rest of our life? What if we don't like it? Here's a few steps that should make the average fear filled thoughts become a little easier to handle.

1. IDENTIFYING THE SKILLS-

The first step is to figure out what you like doing. A large number of people look to others to determine their career paths: parents, teachers, peers, and neighbors. There are people always trying to guide you through, unknowingly narrowing down the possible fields. Trust your intuition, figure out which particular field keeps you in high spirits and evaluate. Perhaps, you may like sketching whereas your "advisors" suggest a career in a bank because it's "safe". Looking at the things you enjoy can give a very good indication of what you are likely to enjoy doing by way of a career. For instance, you are in charge of a club while going to school and you enjoy running it. Already this simple but important activity opens up a broad field of work for you that covers corporate management and social leadership. Once the potential field is identified, you are then ready to match the skills and bang; there you are enjoying every moment of your work. It's like Confucius said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

2. CONSIDERING FIELDS IN A BROADER SCALE-

A field of work is rather a region in which numerous jobs and trades are a possibility. Studying marketing allows you to try out sales, advertisement, customer relations, PR and entrepreneurship. An ex marketing student from NSU quotes, "most people don't consider the possibilities.



I've worked as a copywriter, a sales agent, and even as a public relations officer." And why not start your own business with the skills you learned?

3. THINK ABOUT CROSS-FIELD WORK-

While working out what you want to be and how to reach there, reflect on the possibilities drawn in crossing fields. Famous journalists such as Oriana Fallaci later became an author from a journalist. The same way, a suc-

cessful journalist can make a good university faculty. Think outside the square your title grants upon you.

4. GROW A THIRST TO ACQUIRE REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS-

There's no point day-dreaming if you are not up for gaining what it takes to reach the goal. First, you need a fair understanding of the necessary educational qualifications and a plan to get there eventually. If you are planning to

study development, you can always do a thorough research in a library, on the internet, and be very clear and get an in-depth understand. Dig deep and look for your desired subject/skill. If possible, try looking for training seminars so that you don't have any unusual surprise waiting for you.

5. LOOK FOR EXPERT OPINION-

Experts would be people who'd been working in the same field

for quite a while now. Once you have found out which sector to go for, find people those already work in the field and speak to them. It will allow you to know what they like and dislike about the field.

6. ATTEND TRAINING/SEMINARS-

Students, nowadays, largely undermine the necessity of attending seminars and training programs. it not only adds to your skill set, but also looks good on a CV. Take networking opportunities in your desired field either as a volunteer or as a part-timer. Mr. Wasfi Tamim, Head of Research in BrandZeal consultancy was asked about the importance of voluntary work. "We actually hire a lot of people who used to be a volunteer, part-timer, or an intern here. That way, it gets easier for us to evaluate the capabilities of these people and it's always easier decision that hiring someone based on past academic results." he said. Early familiarization with the people from the sector can give you a good head start.

7. STAY OPTIMISTIC-

Training and grades don't necessarily guarantee success at first go. Sometimes, there's a stumbling block or two to overcome. It's when you need to be positive that your bundle of qualifications will pay off. You are about to be a part of the real world that keeps changing. Embrace the dynamic flow and know that you can handle the next change that comes your way. Know that doubts will creep up but they can be squashed.

What you do now will determine the doors that are open to you further down the line. Nothing, absolutely nothing worth doing is easy. But, doing something you like can be most gratifying.

ASIF KAMAL
ILLUSTRATION: CATNINJA

Everyday I'm hartallin'

The different effects of hartal

No honking horns, no rush of cars, only a few people walking down the pedestrian lane. It seemed like a holiday with such silence on a busy road. It was unusual enough that the roads of Kamal Ataturk Avenue were dead empty by 9:30p.m on a weekday.

As I kept walking, an old friend who goes to the same university that I went to came up to me and said, "Hartal Mubarak." His words left me baffled and it took me some time until I realized the wit of what he said. Jamaat-e-Islam had called a hartal the following day all across the country, which is seemingly going to be stretched to more than just a day. Keeping with their recent violent trends, there could be massive violence around the country the night before the day of the hartal.

A lot has been said about hartal since the violence began-how it affects our GDP, how it hampers the lives of the general population and so on. This friend, though with the witty comment, suddenly gave me a whole new perspective about these strikes. Most people around the country are dead against such a way of protesting, and why wouldn't they be? It's just an announcement of violence which puts the lives of everyone in danger. But then again, there could be different standpoint on hartal, based on people from different professions. That's what we are going to look into.

Businessmen, as they get

even in all these, one part of the population seems quite delighted about hartals-the students. Adnan, a student of a private university said, "There have been strikes for the last three days and there is another one on Thursday.

affected directly, never support the idea of hartal. There could be no second sights or opinions on the exceedingly damaging impact of hartal on the state of the economy along with the crippling effects of such phenomena on our socio-political existence. "Hartal continues to be a pathetic recurrent reality for businessmen," says Mr. Zerif Aftab (29), a young entrepreneur. Undoubtedly, hartal (in our own terminology) has some serious drawbacks in the world of trading. We already

knew about this part.

The service holders, on the other hand, need to attend office at any cost regardless of how unpredictable the violence on the roads get. We can never tell when it's safe out there. Farhan Masud (25), a brand executive of Bangladesh Brand Forum, has opined that travelling to office becomes easier during a hartal day because of almost no traffic. "It usually takes me about two hours to come to my office every day. Whereas, the travelling hours come down to thirty to forty minutes when there's a strike. It saves me a lot of time actually"

It's a day of hope and happiness for people who play the roles there on the streets. People endorsing chaos and violence in the name of the "political protest" don't necessarily belong to a particular political ideology. They are, in most cases, hired muscle power. For instance, Jewel (21), a young individual, claimed that he is paid 400 taka each day during hartal for participating in the rallies. That's quite a good amount for someone who has no other job! Breaking cars, burning buses, occasional run-and-attack with the police is just "fun" for them. But regardless, someone is willing to employ them, even if it's for a day.

What about the law enforcement? There have been witnesses on the helpless policemen playing their roles in



the conflicts during hartals and the views are usually very disturbing as they belong to the service for society and are likely to throw themselves to the community.

Sad but true, hartal seems to color the image of the police department in an unacceptable form.

But even in all these, one part of the population seems quite delighted about hartals-the students. Adnan, a student of a private university said, "There have been strikes for the last three days and there is another one on Thursday. There aren't enough days left for the university to announce make up classes. It's been such a dull, yet relaxing semester. Most of my

didn't take place due to hartal and I love it. I hope it never ends."

The students seem to enjoy hartals regardless of its effects on everyone in this country. Well, they have their own benefit in it and as long as it sails their boat, they can't really be blamed. At least, one particular group is getting benefitted through this never-changing political practice.

ASIF KAMAL
ILLUSTRATION: CATNINJA

EID GREETINGS

Eid Mubarak

to all of you out there.
We hope you have a blast with your family and friends.
Don't get fired and make the best out of the holidays.

Keep calm and continue with Next Step.

IRONIC JOB

Failures

I just lost my job as a Psychic. I did not see that coming.

I'm looking for a job where I am politely ignored and left to my own devices with unlimited Internet access, doughnuts and coffee.

I quit my job working for Nike. Just couldn't do it anymore.

I love being a maze designer. I get completely lost in my work.

Next I tried working in a muffler factory but that was exhausting.

I wanted to be a barber, but I just couldn't cut it.

I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income. I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.

I got a job at a zoo feeding giraffes but I was fired because I wasn't up to it.

Next, I found being an electrician interesting, but the work was shocking.

After many years of trying to find steady work I finally got a job as a historian until I realized there was no future in it.

Being friends with co-workers is like having pet tigers.... fun in theory but you still wonder when they will turn on you.

Source: Internet

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