

Making a Carrier Choice: From Confusion to Confidence

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There are few elementary points which can help to identify the salient points in rightly choosing your careers. There are basically two defined classes of career a person can achieve:

- **“Best” Career**
 - Based on external factors
 - Driven by societal interpretation of a job
 - Be ready for a Mid-career crisis!!!
- **“Fulfilling” career**
 - Based on intrinsic factors
 - Lifelong satisfaction

Causes of confusion in selecting a career is due to the following factors:

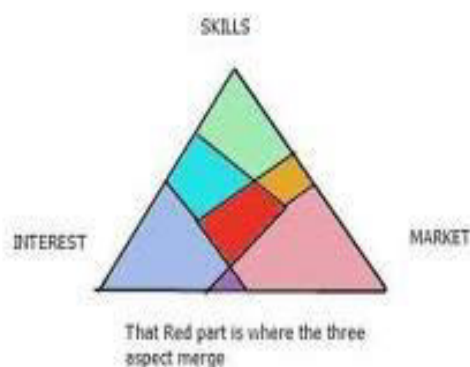
- “Best” Vs “Most Fulfilling”
- Societal Vs personal interpretation
- ‘**Common sense**’ criteria are based on external factors – salary, place, company

“Best” Career: This is mostly based on external factors, driven by societal interpretation of a job and the selected persons have to be ready for a Mid-career crisis.

“Fulfilling” Career: The career based on intrinsic factors with a lifelong satisfaction.

In a career selection we have to measure three aspects- skills, interest and market as shown in the figure below:

An intelligent career oriented person will have to ideally spot the red part. I am illustrating the figure with a real life time study in the next section addressing the situation existing in engineering science today in our country and state.



The Issue in present day society is that of **Wrong career choice.**

- ❑ Ramans and Ramanujams are in Banks as POs and Clerks
- ❑ 300 applications for every clerk post advertised by SBI – most are BE/MBAs
- ❑ <15% of the engg graduates are truly passionate to take up a career in their specialization in engg.
- ❑ Most of today's teachers never dreamt of being a teacher

What are the possible Current Interventions?

Government –Can come up with some new plans and they are summarized below:

- R&D Spend to be doubled
- National Science and Engineering Research Board being created (annual budget 1000 crores)
- Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)
- 5 Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) – where 50% do integrated PG

Private- sector can come up with rewards to those who can really put efforts in research and development. For example, INFOSYS Prize – Mini Nobel for Indians; 50 lakhs for each discipline in Science.

But there are limitations of Government role. Government can pay for the brick and mortar for the institutions. But “building institution”....IT IS YOU AND I...
For a “fulfilling” career...?

- Know the job?
- Collect the job profile/nature of work OR Know yourself?

I am giving few examples for you to assess your job aptitudes.

What describes you the best?

First Case

- I like doing things very systematically
- I enjoy new recipes for cooking
- I love mathematics (marks no issue)
- I ask questions to my teacher
- I can do repetitive work for a long time
- I don't mind if I get dirty, while at work.
- I play sports/games regularly
- I am a problem solver among friends
- I replace tube light / water line myself

Engineering and Technology- Quality control / Civil / Mechanical/ Software

Second Case

- I like to try new products / services
- I love working with computers
- I enjoy discussing with people
- I easily convince people
- I have many close friends.
- I don't hesitate to talk to girls.
- I enjoy watching advertisements.
- I don't get angry at people so easily
- I love competition.

Business/ Banking- Marketing / Economist/ Accountant / Auditor

Third Case

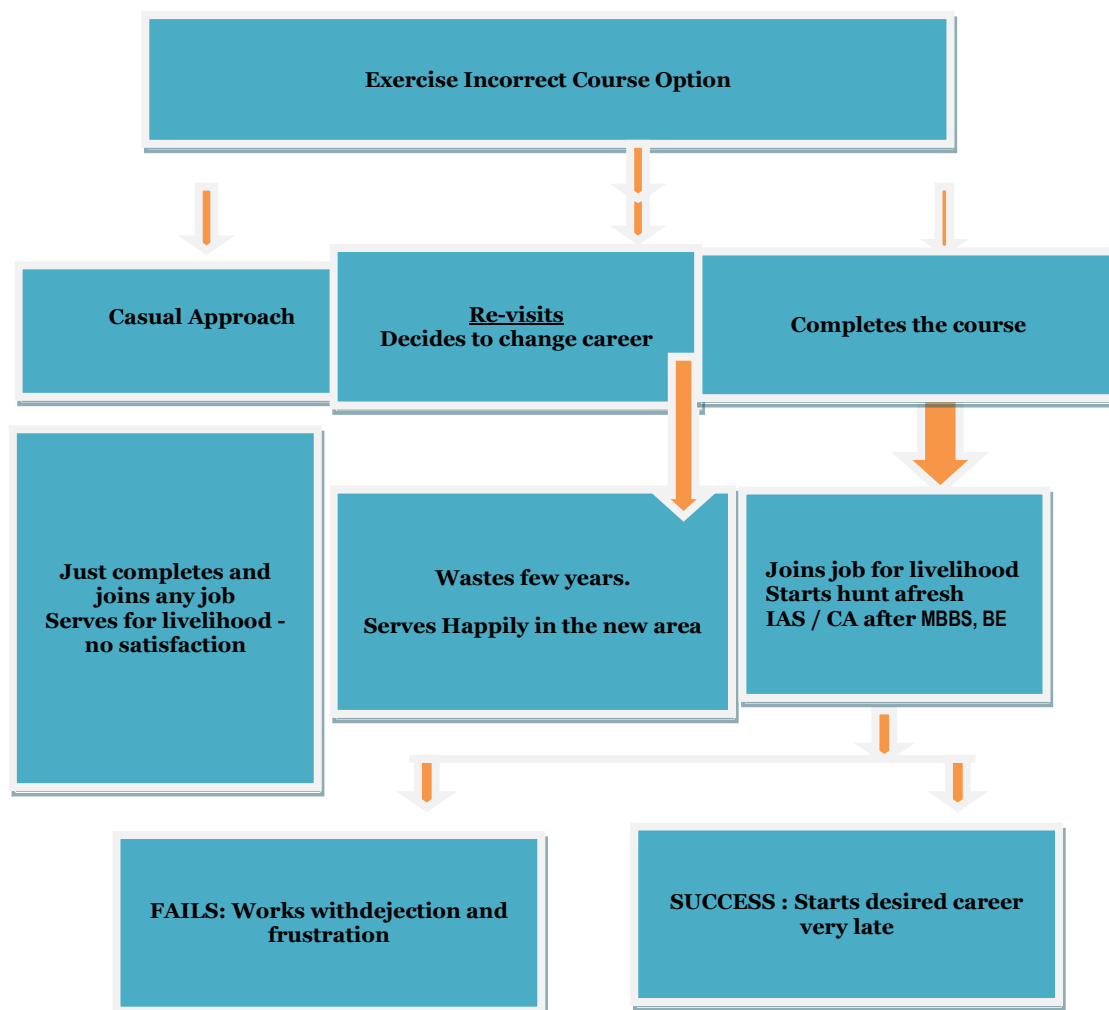
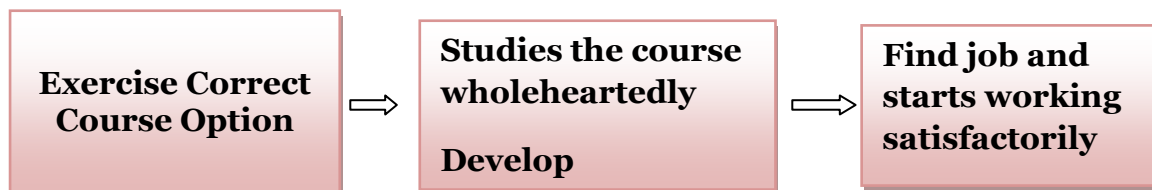
- My hobby is photography/ gardening
- I like travelling
- I would like to get answers to all doubts myself
- My hobby is reading books (any kind)
- I can work for long hours
- I love Discovery channels, etc
- I can work without immediate results
- I can enjoy when alone also
- I don't argue with others

Scientific Research/ Scientist / Wild Life / Marine Biologist / Ecologist

Fourth Case

- I keep myself clean
- I enjoy helping people.
- I love children and I care for them.
- I am friendly and outgoing.
- I am with good sense of humor.
- I attend to elders /sick very kindly
- News related to loss of life disturbs
- I am a member of Scout/ NCC
- I don't get angry on people so easily

Human Services Doctor/ Lawyer/ IAS/ IPS/ Politics/ Teaching



Conclusion

While choosing a career – listen to your mind and conscience... NOTHING else. Set ambitions matching to your mental makeup and then **think big / try** to do the impossible. There are elaborate theoretical texts available for future reading. But the present chapter will give you some insights on developing yourself in mind and knowledge for achieving the most fulfilling career.