

THE SCHOOL AGE

CAREER FILE by Shivani Manchanda

Career counselling as a profession

It will be intriguing and exciting that while you are in the process of doing your own career search, you might actually decide to be somebody who helps others decide about their future and choose a career which would best suit their temperament. Career Counselling is a very exciting field and as of today there is a great need for trained counsellors to enter the job force.

Nature of Work: Depending on individual interests, counsellors choose to specialise to work with different age groups. Those who choose to work with school/college students, focus on creating self-awareness amongst students such that they are able to identify their own talents and thus make the right career choice.

Counsellors are also trained to conduct aptitude tests which assist students in identifying their own capabilities. Apart from this counsellors can also help people with study skills, time management skills, examination, anxiety etc.

Another aspect of becoming a career counsellor is to help increase the information database of students about different careers. Infact a counsellor's job to a large extent involves creating and using databank about different professions and the skills required to succeed in these professions.

Some career counsellors specialise in working or job hunting skills. Thus they interact with human resource personnel of companies and recruitment personnel to decipher employment trends. The direct client interaction is in terms of helping people in preparing resumes and sharpening their skills in order to face the interview.

Personal Skills: career Counsellors require excellent communication skills. They need to be able to communicate sensitively

with students about their dreams and aspirations. Sometimes there is a conflict in the family about what career path the child should pursue and at that time sensitive handling of emotions and ego is required. Ability to motivate people to perform well is an essential skill which is not only helpful in encouraging students but also in motivating others seeking employment as well.

Ability to analyse and infer information from general reading and creativity are also necessary skills.

Training: Counselling in India is a one to two year Diploma course after the completion of Masters in Psychology. It is taught in the following institutions

National Council of Research and Training, Aurobindo marg, New Delhi

University of Mumbai
M.G.Road Fort, Mumbai

M.S University of baroda, vadodra offers this one year diploma course after B.A, B.Ed, B.Sc and Home Science

Indira gandhi Open University(IGNOU) New Delhi offers this six months course after plus two but has a minimum age requirement of 21 years. During the training the focus would be on personal counselling skills, aptitude testing, information sources on different courses etc.

Job Prospects: Career Counsellors are employed in schools and colleges. The salary can range from Rs 3000 to Rs,6000 per month. They might either go to 2-3 different educational centres or they might jut start their own services. There is an increasing awareness about using career counsellors and it is definitely an increasingly popular profession

Calling All Students

Unleash your imagination! Send your stories,

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

My schooldays? Well, I have to look back in time, but in one word I enjoyed them thoroughly. I was born, brought up, educated and married

same. In stead of being at the top of the class, I was among the first to be punished. Studious though I was, I used to be quite a naughty child. Used to skip homework some times. I was born, brought up, educated and married for a few minutes. You know w

CAREER TRACK

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