



Choosing A Career Part 1

Career means occupation, which we want to adopt for earning livelihood, and choosing means to take proper decisions. On the basis of your understanding you may think about the kind of work that can be handled easily by you. You may start thinking clearly about your abilities and aptitudes for the future work-life. This necessitates the knowledge of what employment opportunities are available and the abilities required for different types of employment.

Concept of Career

Career literally means an occupation with which opportunities for advancement or promotion can be availed of in life. It does not mean simply the choice of vocation. It implies various positions; one may occupy in course of his/her work-life. In a broad or sense, career is an important aspect of one's life pattern. For instance, some of you who find a job of an office assistant may in course of time become office superintendent and may even be promoted as office manager.

Career means the progress and actions taken by a person throughout a lifetime especially those related to that person's occupations. A career is often composed of the jobs held, titles earned and work accomplished over a long period of time, rather than just referring to one position, while employees in some cultures and economies stay with one job during their career, there is an increasing trend among employees to change jobs more frequently. For example, being a lawyer an individual's career could involve work for several different firms and in several different areas of law over his lifetime.

The work you do in different positions may be called your career-path and it is likely to influence your work habits and daily routine. Career covers a sequence of positions in a job or an occupation that a person is engaged in during his work-life and for which he/she develops abilities.

Objectives

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

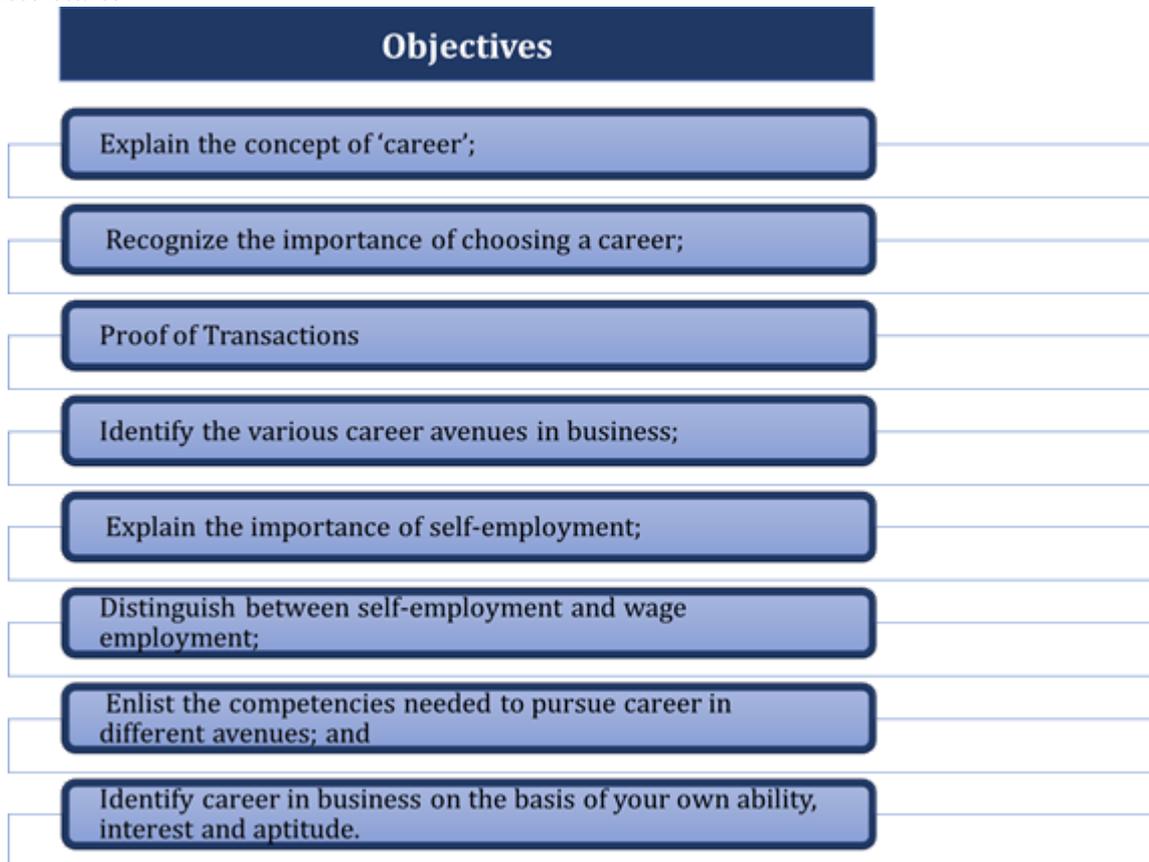


Image of Objectives

Importance of Choosing a Career

Planning plays a very important role in every aspect of life. To work in a proper flow, and planning for career, which we want to pursue in our future after acquiring certain level of qualification is also very necessary in today's competitive world. Choosing a career is an important aspect of life. The foundation stone of career building is laid down by the career you choose. In the past most of the people completed their studies and then would decide about their career. But the present generation has started making career moves well before completing their school education. Career choice will probably affect an individual's eventful life-style more than any other choices he/she makes. The influence of job touches many facets of life, shaping our values, attitudes, and habits. In a world dominated by cut-throat competition making right career choice in the beginning is very important. Career Planning is one of the broader aspects of learning in our existence.

Career Planning basically starts, when a person finishes Secondary/ Higher Secondary level of education. After that level, a person could opt for that educational degree, which would help them out to have a good job opportunity according to his skills at the right time. Career Planning helps us to design and formulate our future smoothly. For example, if a person wants to be a banker, then he or she would choose to go for ICWA or CA or MBA in finance after completing Intermediate and Graduation in commerce or Business Administration. Else he/ she could go for Masters in Commerce or even up to Doctorate level. Career planning is a life time process as we are always learning and growing, and as we do, our interests and needs also change.

Career Avenues in Business

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When anybody is engaged in an occupation, he/she is said to be employed. The occupation of people today is related with some economic activity, and one's career objective invariably is to be in employment, that is, to be engaged in an economic activity for earning one's livelihood. Choice of career actually involves opting for one of the following two alternatives

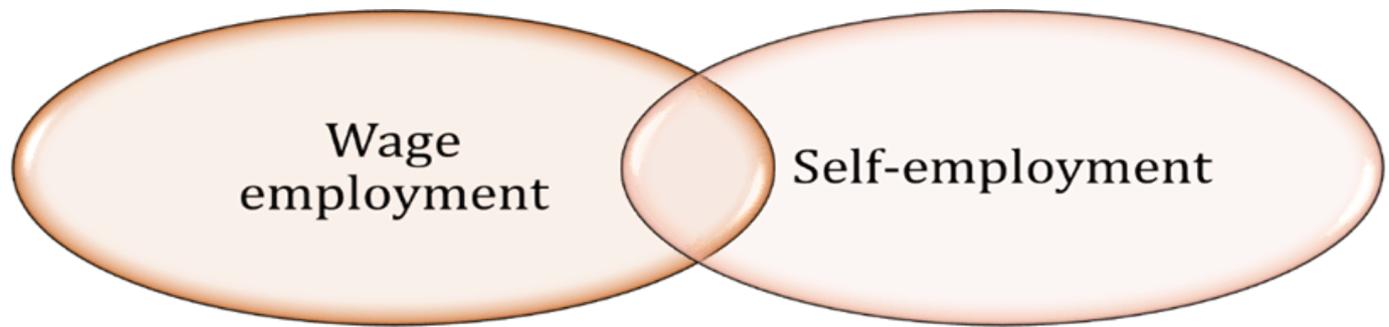


Image of Career Avenues in Business

Wage employment means serving another person for wages or salary. If someone is appointed as office assistant, he is expected to do what the office supervisor wants him to do, and he gets a monthly salary for his job. This type of employment is based on a contract between the employers and employee. The employee has to work for the employer, carry out the tasks assigned to him, and is remunerated for it. During working hours, the employee is to work under the supervision and control of the employer. Self-employment, on the other hand, refers to an occupation in which a person engages himself/herself in some economic activity on his own to earn his/her livelihood. Let us discuss briefly the job opportunities or avenues of wage employment.

Wage Employment

Job opportunities or avenues of wage employment exist in Government offices, Railways, Banks, Insurance companies, factories, trading concerns and various other organizations including Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, etc. For clerical jobs, technical jobs, and other types of job at lower level; The nature of work to be undertaken depends upon the activities and objectives of the organization. Thus, office jobs in Government departments, Railways, Banks, Trading Organizations, Schools and Hospitals involve different types of clerical work. Similarly, the nature of work of the technical staff in industries and transport companies also vary according to their functional differences. Job opportunities for those who have passed the Secondary (class X) examination happen to be clerical jobs, or those of laboratory assistants in schools where the minimum qualification required is class X pass. But there are facilities for special training for them in ITIs and Polytechnique's as well as state secretarial and commercial institutes. On completion of a technical or secretarial course, a person can find employment as technical staff in workshops or as office assistant or accounts clerk. With computer operation skill, he/she can be employed as computer operator.