

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR YOUNG JOB SEEKERS

A Story-Style Handbook

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A JOURNEY BEGINS

Starting a career can feel exciting, confusing, and sometimes overwhelming. This guide is designed not as a lecture, but as a journey you can walk through with four friends; each carrying their own dreams, doubts, and discoveries.

As you turn these pages, you'll notice that Arjun, Riya, Kabir, and Meera ask the same questions many young people face: What matters more, a degree or extra skills? How do I show my strengths? Where should I even begin?

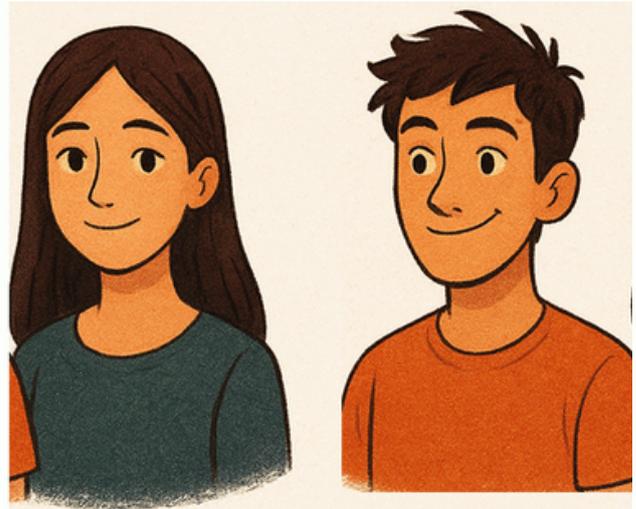
Through their conversations, you'll reflect on your own path. Exercises along the way will help you pause, think, and take small but powerful steps forward.

Remember, this is not about having all the answers today. It's about beginning the journey, one thoughtful step at a time.

MEET YOUR FRIENDS

Before we begin, let's introduce the four friends who will journey with you through this handbook:

- **Arjun** – Focused and practical, he dreams of building a career in finance.
- **Riya** – Creative and full of ideas, but sometimes anxious about finding stability.
- **Kabir** – Carefree and witty, he hasn't quite figured out his path yet.
- **Meera** – Thoughtful and calm, she naturally steps into the role of guide for her friends.



Each of them represents the questions, doubts, and strengths that young job seekers often carry. As you read their story, you might see a little bit of yourself in one—or maybe in all—of them.

FOUR FRIENDS, ONE QUESTION

On a bright morning at their college campus, Riya, Arjun, Kabir and Meera gathered under the shade of a banyan tree.

Riya: *“Guys, do you ever feel nervous about jobs? Like, even after our degrees, will we really be ready?”*

Arjun: *“I think about that every day. Placements are tough. Everyone’s got the same degrees, the same certificates.”*

Kabir: (shrugging) *“I’ll figure it out when I get there. But honestly, the whole system feels confusing.”*

Meera: (smiling) *“That’s because it is. But if we break it down — degree, skills, market, confidence, and growth — it starts making sense.”*

The friends look at each other. Maybe this conversation is the guide they’ve been waiting for.

OUR DEGREES AND BEYOND

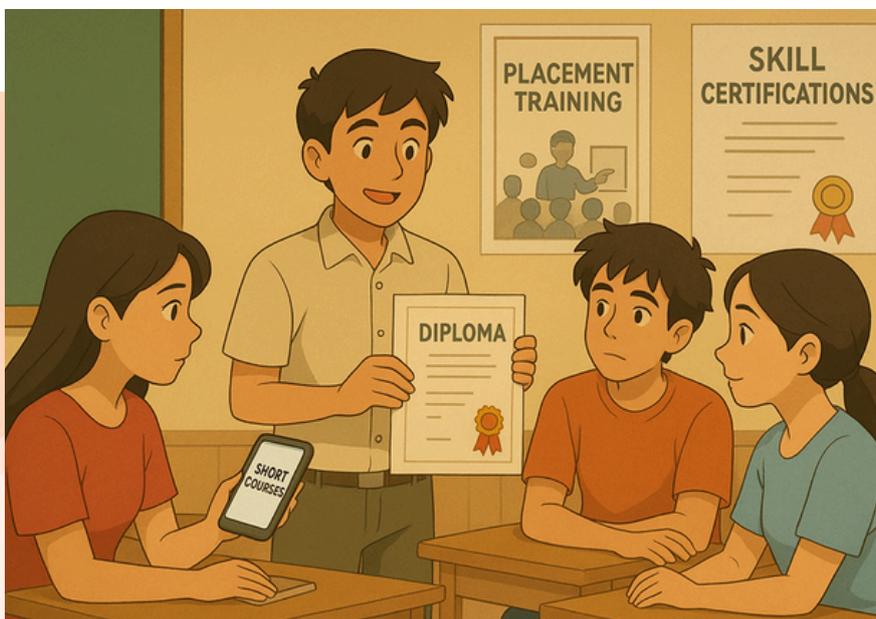
Arjun: “*Our degrees matter, right? They’re the ticket in.*”

Meera: “*Yes, but they’re just the entry pass. Employers see your degree as proof you can learn. But to stand out, you need extras — side courses, certifications, or even project experience.*”

Riya: “*So it’s like the degree is the base, but add-ons show our edge.*”

Kabir: “*Great, now I feel guilty for skipping that coding workshop.*”

(Everyone laughs.)



MINI EXERCISE - KNOW YOURSELF

Your Name: _____

Now List your:

- Core Qualification (degree).

- Additional Certificates or Courses.

- One project or experience that shows initiative.

THE REAL EDGE – SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

Meera: *“Okay, let’s talk about skills. Employers check for competencies — teamwork, adaptability, communication, problem-solving.”*

Riya: *“Like being a self-starter, working without much supervision?”*

Arjun: *“And managing hybrid or flexible timings. HR people actually sit with checklists!”*

Kabir: *(grinning) “So basically they’re scoring us like a cricket match.”*

Meera: *“Sort of! But if we practice these skills, we can show them naturally.”*



MINI EXERCISE - RATE YOURSELF

Rate yourself (1-5) on:

- Teamwork 1 2 3 4 5
- Adaptability 1 2 3 4 5
- Communication 1 2 3 4 5
- Problem-solving 1 2 3 4 5
- Self-starter attitude 1 2 3 4 5

Now identify one skill that you will work upon this month

Develop a monthly plan to sharpen your skills. Write self-reflection notes. Check with yourself and your friends about your progress and gaps. And plan your next steps accordingly.

UNDERSTANDING THE JOB MARKET

Walking out of campus, the friends see colorful posters for upcoming job fairs.

Riya: *“There are fairs for IT and finance... but where’s media and design?”*

Arjun: *“Some sectors boom faster — tech, healthcare, finance. Others grow slowly. And location matters too.”*

Kabir: *“True. Startups in Bengaluru, finance in Mumbai, media in Delhi. But small cities have fewer options.”*

Meera: *“And jobs keep changing. Some disappear, new ones appear. That’s why research matters — LinkedIn, portals, seniors, alumni.”*

Riya: (nodding) *“So the market decides what’s hot. We just need to stay updated.”*



MINI EXERCISE

Research and write:

- Three growing sectors in India.

- Best city/location for your chosen field.

- Top 3 skills employers in your field ask for.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE – APPLICATIONS & INTERVIEWS

That evening, the friends huddle in the library, laptops glowing.

Arjun: *“Resumes are tricky. Too short looks empty, too long looks fake.”*

Riya: *“And interviews? I freeze when they ask, ‘Tell me about yourself.’”*

Kabir: *(smirking) “I just joke... which sometimes fails.”*

Meera: *“Resumes and interviews aren’t about perfection. They’re about telling your story. Your degree is the base, your skills are layers, and your experiences are the colors.”*

Riya: *“So, confidence is a skill too?”*

Meera: *“Exactly. It grows with practice.”*



MINI EXERCISE

- Write your 30-second intro.

- Tailor your CV to one job posting.

- Practice these:
 - "Tell me about yourself."
 - "Why should we hire you?"
 - "Describe a challenge you solved."

THE JOURNEY AHEAD – GROWTH MINDSET & LIFELONG LEARNING

At night, the four sit on the rooftop, city lights twinkling below.

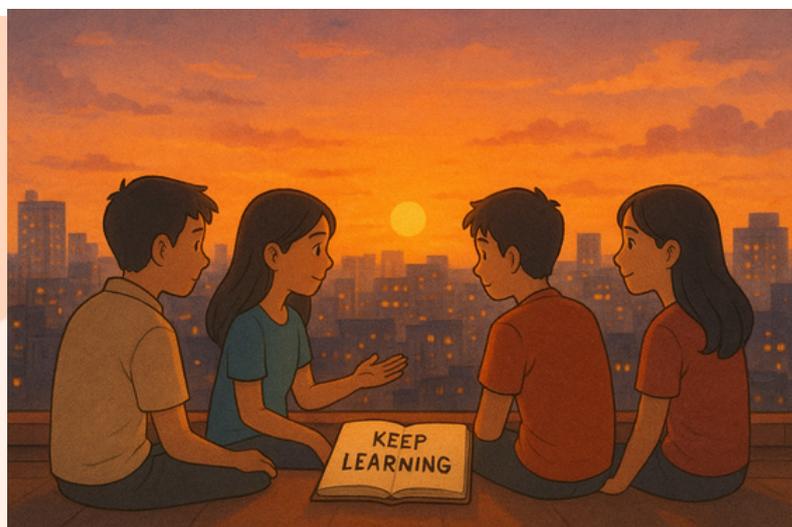
Riya: *“Even after getting a job, we’ll still need to keep learning, won’t we?”*

Kabir: *“Yep. Especially in tech. Stop learning, get outdated fast.”*

Meera: *“That’s why a growth mindset is vital — challenges are just chances to grow. Employers value adaptability more than perfection.”*

Arjun: *“So if we keep learning, we’ll always stay relevant.”*

Riya: *“Feels less scary now. It’s a journey, not a race.”*



MINI EXERCISE

- Write one new skill you would learn in 3 months.

- Write 1 habit you will practice to support lifelong learning (reading, networking, practicing).

Share your thoughts and plans with your friends

- Self Reflection:

JOIN US IN SHAPING CAREERS

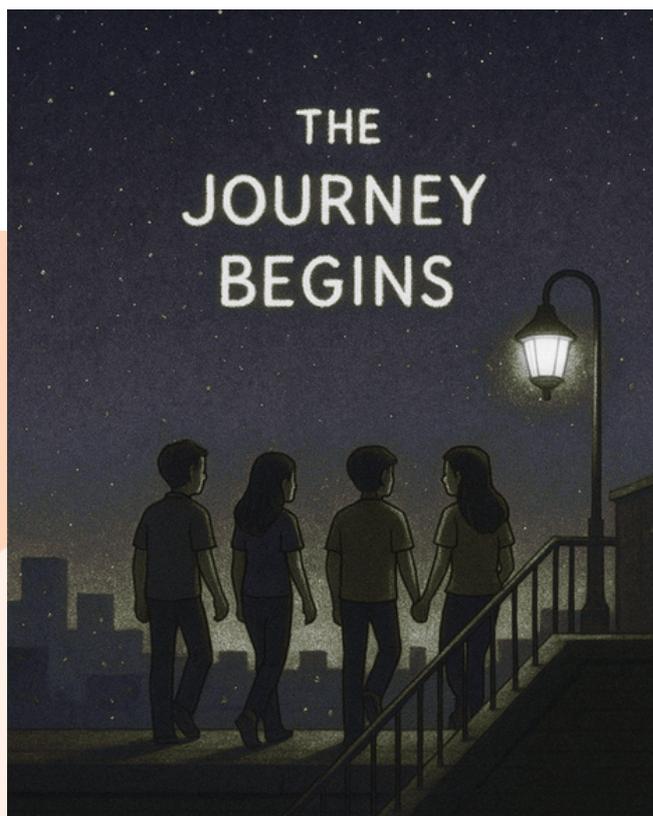
As they leave the rooftop, their conversation quiets, but their determination grows.

Riya: *“I don’t feel lost anymore. I know the steps now.”*

Arjun: *“Careers are about building, not just finding.”*

Kabir: *“And about courage to keep learning.”*

Meera: *“Yes. This is just the beginning.”*



FOR READERS:

THIS GUIDE IS JUST THE STARTING POINT. USE THE CONVERSATIONS AS PROMPTS. TRY THE EXERCISES. SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS.

INVITATION TO PARTNERS AND INVESTORS:

WE BELIEVE EVERY YOUNG PERSON DESERVES INSPIRING, PRACTICAL GUIDANCE. THIS HANDBOOK IS THE SPARK – BUT TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE:

- **WORKSHOPS** IN SCHOOLS & COLLEGES
- **DIGITAL TOOLS** WITH INTERACTIVE EXERCISES
- **TEACHER KITS** FOR SCHOOLS WITHOUT COUNSELORS
- **INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS** TO CONNECT TALENT WITH OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN US IN SHAPING SCALABLE SOLUTIONS FOR MILLIONS OF YOUNG JOB SEEKERS.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND COLLABORATIONS:

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