

Massage Therapist

I am a 20-year-old certified massage therapist interested in working in the tourism industry, but cannot find work in that field because there is a preference for hiring experts. To make ends meet, I take temporary jobs in various offices in Thimphu, but I'm not happy because this work does not use my education or training.

Commercial Farmer

I am a farmer in rural Bhutan who wants to evolve from subsistence farming to commercial farming. I want to create opportunities for my family and ensure my children have everything they need. However, I do not know how to access the markets needed to sell my crops abroad.

College Graduate

I hold a BA in Business Administration and want to be a minister in the Royal Government. My marks in school are very good and my exam scores were in the top tier, but I see the kinds of jobs I want going to people with better personal connections.



Marketing Contractor

I operate my own small marketing and consulting firm. I have a limited term contract with a local NGO and also do some freelance work on the side. I feel let down by the lack of entrepreneurial networks and mentors available to me, both while I was in school and since graduation.

BCA Graduate

After completing a Bachelors in Computer Applications (BCA), I wanted to be an IT officer/teacher. The need for BCA graduates, though, is unexpectedly low. Although there are few jobs available in the IT sector, I have engaged myself in the film industry and I'm currently doing an internship in a private company. It's not where I want to make my career, though.

Seeking Mentor

During my three years in college, I never heard of any career counseling programs. As I reached my final year, I was quite confused about which career path I should be taking. I would have liked some professional guidance to help me out of the confusion, but there was a lack of such resources. I'm looking for mentorship and guidance as I move into the next phase of my career.





Unemployed Youth

I graduated a few years ago, and migrated to Thimphu for work, but it's taking longer than I anticipated to find a job. Every week, my family asks me to return home, but the agencies that help with unemployment are here, and I'm afraid if I return, even for a short while, I will miss an opportunity.



IT Professional

I am an IT professional in my mid-20s. I had a job for over a year, but my company had to lay me off, because there wasn't enough work. My former employer says that companies are mainly getting IT support from India, even though we have unemployed experts in this country.



Intern

I am a 22 year-old intern placed at a government office, and my internship is almost over. I send out resumes every day to try to find work, but almost every place I apply to requires, at minimum, 1 year of experience. The internship only lasted 6 months, just as almost all internships do. I don't know how I will ever qualify for work, when even entry-level work requires experience.



Recent Migrant

I have lived in many areas of Bhutan, but Thimphu has been the greatest struggle for me. I have no family here, so I had to stay in my friend's small apartment. I looked for hotels, but they are too expensive, and at the moment I don't have work. Not having any family or professional connections has made this very difficult.



Discouraged Jobseeker

I worked very hard in school to get good grades and earned a degree in engineering. Now, I am looking for a job in Thimphu and can't find one. My parents invited me back to work on their farm, and many people I talk to say I should just do that. But I would feel my hard work and education have been wasted if I return home.



College Student

I am graduating this year, and it looks like I will try to go into civil service. I did not intend to take this path when I first got to college, but I took the courses and sat for the test, almost because there were no other apparent options. I have literally no idea what else to do, and my grades and marks were pretty good. I just worry that there will be a lot of competition, and I don't know if I'll be happy.





Civil Service Applicant

I am living in Thimphu trying to find a position in the Royal Government. My parents worked hard to make sure I got a good education and a promising future, but I never stopped to look at other options. A friend of mine is starting a business. I want to do something like that, but if I did, I think my parents would say it's too risky.

Young Entrepreneur

I'm a young entrepreneur. I started a business last year, but, unfortunately, I ran out of funds before it could take off. It's been a huge challenge to achieve full funding, and when my business closed, my 6 employees all lost their jobs. I haven't given up hope yet of starting my own company, and am working on a new business plan now.

Long-Term Unemployed Youth

At 26 years old, I'm sorry to say I am still struggling to find employment. After university, I first planned to get a job in civil service. Unfortunately, I did not end up getting an offer. I spent a year surviving with help from my parents and sharing an apartment with friends, borrowing when I had to. I've done internships and odd-jobs but I've never worked full time. I've been unemployed for 4 years.



Underemployed Youth

I have worked a number of temporary jobs over the years and am working another temporary job now. I am extremely motivated to find permanent work and have gone on many interviews, but, for whatever reason, I don't seem to have what employers are looking for. I am struggling not to give up hope as I scrape by in these temporary positions.

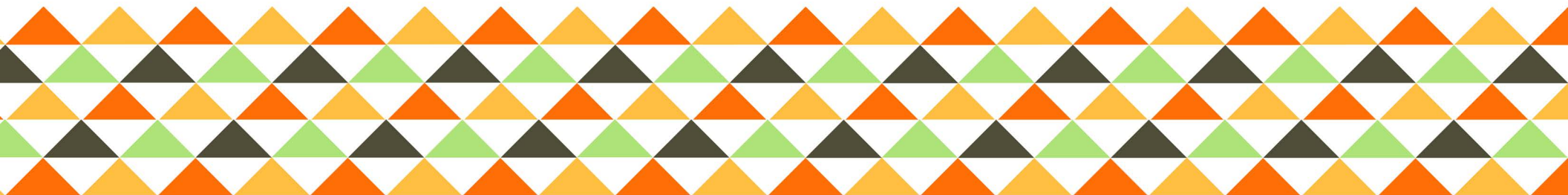
Marketing Applicant

My passion is marketing and I hope to be a marketing manager one day. My grades in university were fair, but not outstanding. With so much competition over jobs, this isn't good enough. I am still working hard to find a marketing job, but these days I am also considering applying to work abroad.

Part-Time Worker

I have been looking for work these past 14 months. I work part time at a private company right now, and have worked at 3 different companies so far, always part time. Lately I have resorted to travelling door-to-door applying to everything possible to find full time work.





Passionate Youth

I have been partially employed or unemployed for a couple years now. My dream is to work in an NGO, because I want nothing more than to use my talents to help others. I am the most passionate person I know, but because I don't have direct experience, no one will hire me. I am coping by taking temporary work, but I feel strongly that my calling is in helping others.



Alienated Youth

I have been unemployed for almost a year after graduating college. My parents are farmers, but they are aging, and I cannot rely on them for financial help or connections. My dream is to become a journalist, and I have studied this, but not found work. Now I am taking internships in commercial services, and I am beginning to give up hope that I'll become a journalist.



Recent Graduate

I have only just graduated from university, but I have little direction. I received no guidance at school on careers, and nothing interests me very much, probably because I have not had strong mentors. I think I could be a good accountant, so I am starting to look for work in that sector.



Unemployed Tour Guide

I have a Diploma in Tourism Management and graduated just recently. I am now looking for a job as a tour guide, and am awaiting my license. I didn't plan very well, and did not know it would take so long to get my license. It is taking months. Meanwhile, every tour office I apply to says it is too small to take on more employees. I'm afraid I'm going nowhere, but to switch careers now would require more study and internships.



Unemployed Film Maker

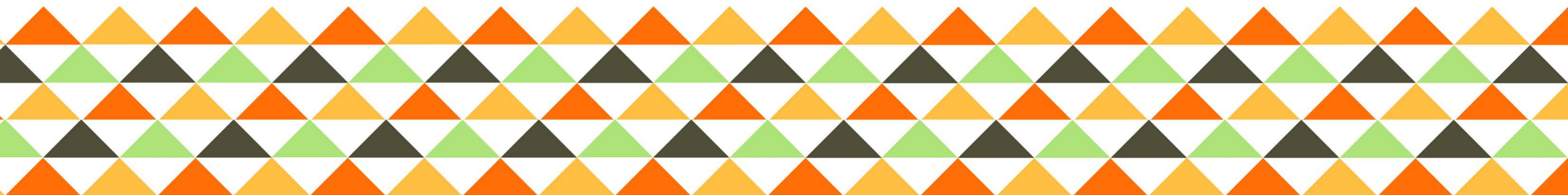
I come from a poor background in rural Bhutan. My dream is to work in the film industry, and I love making movies more than anything. I have worked so hard and done my very best to get hired in any capacity in the film industry, but have not yet found a way in. I feel that people from poor backgrounds are discriminated against, and often given last preference for opportunities. The film industry is no different, and it is very competitive.



Urban Youth

I live with a few other young people in an apartment. It is a financial burden to live in the city, and I spend most of my money on cab fare just to get to the various ministries to apply for jobs. Hopelessness is setting in. I notice some of my friends are using drugs to cope with the stress. I'm not proud to admit it, but that is my life right now.





Unemployed Engineer

I studied engineering at university and have been struggling to find work. I feel misled, because everyone said, "If you study Engineering, a job will be there for you." This just isn't true. To make matters worse, I see my friends who don't seem as talented or motivated as me getting jobs, because they studied civil service. I feel let down by society.



Discouraged Worker

I studied tourism in college, and applied to many places for work. I made it through a very tough interview process and got all the way to the final stage. When I didn't get that job, it crushed my spirits. I'm feeling depressed, and am losing the motivation to try anymore.



Potential Emigrant

My plan was to become a civil servant, but because of intense competition for positions, I have not been able to find work in this field after 2 years. I have become discouraged, and to make matters worse, my spouse and I recently separated. I feel completely alone. Now I am thinking about applying for a visa to move to Dubai for work.



Uneducated Laborer

I am a young person who did not qualify for high school because of my poor academic skills. I think this is unfair, since my hands-on skills are great. I dream of building eco-friendly machines, and I love to tinker. I have a natural aptitude for mechanics and engineering. However, the education system has let me fall through the cracks, and my talents are being wasted toiling on a farm.



Class 12 Student

I thought my life was on a good course, because my uncle was paying for my private education. However, while I was studying in Class 12, my uncle passed away, and now my path to higher education is blocked because I can't afford it without his help. At the end of the year, I will be unemployed and have no college education.





