A Success Manual for Graduates

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# Look Beyond Your Certificate

The great Ghanaian nationalist leader, Kwame Nkrumah, once admonished Africans to seek first political kingdom in order for 'all other things', especially economic development, to follow. This fuelled the passion in the first generation nationalists in Africa to burn down the reign of colonial dictatorship in the continent. Independence was expected to be crowned with economic development and social transformation.

Very unfortunately, however, after decades of independence in Africa, such expectations have been betrayed; the excitement has remained a mirage, while the promises and aspirations are yet to be fulfilled. This is why the former Tanzanian President, Julius Nyerere, remarks that political independence is incomplete without economic development and social transformation.

In line with the above thought system, parents are admonished to seek first the education of their children in order for 'all other things', especially financial success, to follow. This has fuelled the passion for education in the society. It is generally believed that education prepares students for a bright future by assisting them to secure gainful employments when their school days are over.

It is, however, becoming increasingly obvious, especially in contemporary times, that education does not guarantee financial success anymore. This is why there are numerous people who are unable to enjoy financial success, even after decades of graduating from various tertiary institutions. The implication of this is that the primary objective for going to school (in the opinion of most people) is now self-defeating.

Since educational qualification, as evident in the certificate, is one of the most significant factors that are considered in any job screening process, a higher premium is often placed on certificate than the knowledge it certifies. Many students place a higher premium on certificates than on education. Some students are so deformed in thinking that they desire certificates without education. They are willing to have certificates without knowledge.

This wrong attitude to education, unarguably, defeats the primary objective of going to school. Having a certificate is not synonymous with being

educated. It is imperative to note that the consequences of this erroneous attitude to education in the lives of students, especially in their postgraduate days, are very disastrous and catastrophic. This is one of the reasons many graduates have nothing meaningful to show for going to school.

This is also why you should look beyond your certificate. There are some things about your past that are related to your educational training you should look beyond because they may not have any meaningful impact on the rest of your life. If you do not realise and admit this truth early enough, the impact it will have on your future may be very disastrous.

### 1. Your Future does not depend on your Certificate

Though the objective of many students for going to school is the acquisition of certificates, experiences and observations show that no graduate's destiny is tied to his certificate. Many students do nothing with their certificates after their school days, even for the rest of their lives. There are many graduates who do not work with their certificates, and have no plans of doing so even in the distant future; yet, they are very happy and successful.

Even if you insist on working with your certificate, you may never have anything to do with it for the rest of your life once you get a good job. Your certificate may assist you in getting a job, but how successful you will be in the job does not depend on it (your certificate). The implication of this is that how successful you will be in your career when you get a job will be determined by factors other than your grade in school.

Moreover, many graduates are compelled to keep their university certificates aside and work with their Ordinary Level certificates when successive efforts at getting jobs (with their degree certificates) continuously prove abortive. The earlier you realise that your future does not necessarily depend on your certificate, the better the rest of your life will be. Your certificate is not the only thing about your education that will not determine your future.

### 2. Your Future does not depend on your Grade

During school days, students compete for marks among themselves. The student with the highest score in the class is often reckoned as the best and most intelligent. As far as academics is concerned, a student who consistently scores higher than his classmates is respected as the most intelligent. Experience, however, suggests otherwise.

The fact that a student consistently scores higher than his classmates may suggest that he is better than they are, as far as passing examination is concerned. However, this is not all that there is to life and scholarship. It is often said that examination is not a true test of knowledge. Such students, in some instances, are not the best in practice. Besides, scoring high in school does not necessarily imply that the student will also score high in real life.

There is a wide gap between academic success and real life success. The former does not guarantee the latter. It is not impossible to be the best student in the class, but the worst graduate in real life, especially in relation to career and financial success. It is also not impossible to be the worst student in the class, but the best graduate in real life. Your future is not tied to your grade. Your destiny in life is also not tied to your grade. Your success in real life does not depend on your academic success.

The truthfulness of this claim is obvious from the experiences of numerous graduates. The point being argued is that the fact that you graduated with Second Class (Upper Division) does not imply that you will also have Second Class (Upper Division) in real life. The fact that you graduated with Third Class also does not imply that you will have Third Class in real life. Some students surpass their classmates in success in real life despite graduating with pass.

Though your grade in school and your grade in real life are important, your grade in real life is more important than your grade in school. Besides, your grade in school becomes insignificant after sometime, no matter how good it is, if it does not assist you to make good grade in real life. Even if it does so, it still becomes insignificant after sometime. As a matter of fact, your grade in school will be significant for a while, but your grade in real life will be significant for the rest of your life.

One of the reasons your future does not depend on your grade is that you may not do anything with what you studied in school for the rest of your life, let alone the grade. This implies that you scored high in an area you will not have anything to do with again. As earlier remarked, if you decide to work with your certificate, your grade in school becomes insignificant once you get a good job. The truth is that you will soon outgrow your grade.

Besides, though you may be employed by an organisation because of your grade, your promotion in the organisation does not depend on your grade.

Rather, your promotion depends on your performance in the organisation. This is why different people join an organisation at the same time, the same level and with the same certificate; but after some time, they will be at different levels in the organisational hierarchy.

### 3. Your Future does not depend on your Course of study

Sometimes, students are respected for their course of study. The reason is that some courses are more respected than others. For instance, Medicine, Engineering and Law are among the most respected courses in tertiary institutions. As a result, many students resolve that it is better not to go to a university than not to study one of the most respected courses.

Worse still, some parents compel their children to study these courses, even against their (children's) will. It is also believed that such courses are more lucrative than others. Though some courses are more respected than others, every course is respectable because it plays a vital role in the society. Otherwise, there will be no rationale for studying it.

The richest and most successful people in life are not necessarily graduates of most respected courses. There are many poor and unhappy graduates who studied the most respected courses like Medicine, Engineering and Law. They remain poor after several years of graduating from tertiary institutions, despite their courses of study. Your success in real life does not depend on your course of study, though it may depend on your excellence in it.

This is why there are numerous people who command global respect, despite being graduates of less respected courses. It is very obvious that a graduate's excellence in his course of study is of more importance than his course of study. In other words, how you studied your course is more important than the course you studied. Extending this argument further, how you are what you are is more important than what you are.

Many graduates excel in areas that have little or nothing to do with their disciplines. Some graduates excel in areas they never thought of while they were in school. The implication of this is not only that you may excel in an area that is not related to your discipline, but also that the area in which you will excel may still be unknown to you. The implication of this is that you should walk into the future with an open mind. If you disregard this advice, it is very likely that you will miss a lot of opportunities in the real life.

Your future does not depend on your course of study. Except you studied a professional course and insist on practising it, or you become a teacher and have to teach what you were taught in school, you may never have anything to do with your course of study for the rest of your life. Does this mean anything to you? Do not limit your future and your world by limiting your mind to the course you studied in the tertiary institution.

### 4. Your Future does not depend on your Alma Mater

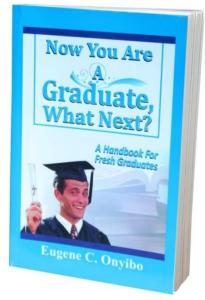
Just as there are some courses of study that are believed to be more important and more respected than others, there are also some tertiary institutions that are more respected than others. Such academic institutions are believed to be better than others, perhaps, because of their reputation for excellence. Consequently, some students insist that they must undergo their school training in those tertiary institutions while seeking admission.

Though some students secure admissions into those institutions, others do not. Sometimes, while some students are unhappy accepting to study in tertiary institutions that were not their first choice; some insist on studying in the tertiary institutions that are their first choice rather than studying in any alternative school. One of the things that become insignificant about your education after your graduation is the tertiary institution you attended.

The fact that you attended the best school is not a guarantee that the best future awaits you. In a similar vein, the fact that you could not gain admission into the tertiary institution that was your choice for your undergraduate programme does not mean that you cannot have the best in life as a graduate. It is obvious that the best schools do not always produce the best students, while some schools that are generally believed to be bad, sometimes, produce the best students.

The important thing is not the tertiary institution you attended. Rather, it is what you got from the tertiary institution you attended. It makes no sense graduating from the best school as a bad student. It makes no sense graduating from the best school with a bad result. Besides, the fact that you did not attend the best school does not imply that you cannot be the best student in your generation, or have the best in life after graduation.





If your future does not depend on your certificate, your grade, your course of study or your alma mater; what then does it depend on? The experiences of most graduates in contemporary times lend credence to the fact that education does not guarantee financial success any more. There is continuous decline in the standard of living of most graduates. As a matter of fact, many graduates are living in abject poverty. One of the major challenges (if not problems) of graduates (in some countries) is that the rate of unemployment is increasing at an alarming rate because the rate at which graduates are harvested from tertiary institutions annually far exceeds the rate at which job opportunities are created. Worse still, a good number of unemployed graduates cannot be self-employed. Numerous people remain dependent on their families and friends after several years of graduating from tertiary institutions. Some of them are financially dependent for the rest of their lives. The ugly experiences of most graduates are rooted in the fact that there is a missing link between education and financial success, which is not bridged by the school system. What is this missing link? How can graduates achieve a happy and prosperous life? This book, Now You Are A Graduate, What Next?: A Handbook For Fresh Graduates, answers these questions. It offers a guide to graduates on how to survive in real life (i.e. life after school). It enlightens (fresh) graduates on the things about their education that determines how rich, happy and successful they will be in life.

This book is available on amazon.com. Click Here to get your copy. Alternatively, you may copy the link below and paste in the space bar <a href="https://lnkd.in/djtwP">https://lnkd.in/djtwP</a> F

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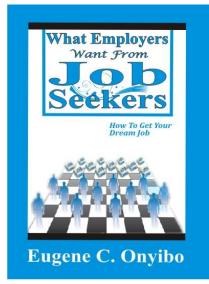


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**Eugene C. Onyibo** is a motivational speaker, trainer, business coach, personal financial management expert, entrepreneur, philosopher, prolific writer and recruitment consultant. He is one of the fastest growing inspirational authors and speakers in Nigeria. He is the *Director* of *Skyheight Success Consult*, the Organization that provides the platform through which he empowers people for optimum success in life. He has transformed numerous lives with his inspirational teachings in recruitment education, career improvement education, personal financial management, personal development, entrepreneurship, leadership, etc. He is a consultant of private and public organizations. He is a wildly traveled, and also a much sought after, speaker at seminars, workshops, conferences, etc of public and private organizations. He is married to Ijeoma. They live with their children - Chimamaka and Chioma - in Lagos, Nigeria.

### **Recommended Books**

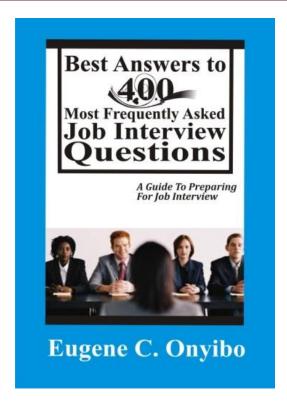


Numerous job seekers stare helplessly at amazing job opportunities slip through their fingers because they are least informed (or uninformed) on the basic things they ought to know in order to get their dream jobs. This is why many of them are ignorant of employment opportunities until they cease to exist. This is also why many of them send job applications that are not, and can never be, considered by prospective employers. Furthermore, this is also why they cannot convince prospective employers that they are the best candidates for the positions they applied for during job interviews. This speaks very eloquently on the fact that inadequate job opportunities is not the only factor that is responsible for high level of unemployment in different parts of the world, as most job seekers think. Getting a job requires specialized knowledge and skills. Most unfortunately, many job seekers are ignorant of these knowledge and skills. Worse still, these specialized knowledge and skills cannot be acquired by intuition or reasoning. The Book, What Employers Want From Job Seekers: How To Get Your Dream Job, is designed to enlighten job seekers on the things they should know before they can get their dream jobs. It contains detailed information and guides on how job seekers can easily become employees. The book is concluded with best answers to 55 Most Frequently Asked Job Interview Questions.

To purchase this book online, Click Here. Alternatively, you may copy the link below and paste in the space bar <a href="https://lnkd.in/dCfCZJv">https://lnkd.in/dCfCZJv</a>

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Job interview is usually the last and most difficult stage in getting a job. Most job seekers are rejected after successive interviews because they cannot justify why they are the best candidates for the positions they applied for. Consequently, they stare at amazing job opportunities slipping through their fingers, despite the fact that they are in dire need of the jobs. Worse still, some organizations are unable to employ most (and sometimes, none) of their applicants after their screening because they are unable to convince them on why they need the jobs. Many job seekers, even those who graduated with good grades, will remain unemployed because they are ignorant of the expectations of prospective employers from job seekers during job interviews. This book, Best Answers to 400 Most Frequently Asked Job Interview Questions: A Guide to Preparing for Job Interview, offers a reliable guide to job seekers on how to excel in job interviews. It is recommended to all categories of job seekers. This book is also available online at www.amazon.com {in soft copy (https://goo.gl/NmUTmM hard copy (<a href="https://goo.gl/K7nwbg">https://goo.gl/K7nwbg</a>) formats \}.

### **Books Authored by Eugene C. Onyibo**

- 1. What Successful People Know and Desperately want to keep Secret: The Secrets of achieving a Happy and Successful Life.
- 2. Success-Magnet Tools: The Key Success Catalysts.
- 3. Success Perspectives: Understanding the Aspects of Success.
- 4. Road Map to Financial Security: How to Become Rich and Remain Rich.
- 5. Now you are a Graduate, What Next?: A Handbook for Fresh Graduates.
- 6. What Employers want from Job Seekers: How to get your Dream Job.
- 7. Best Answers to 151 Most Frequently Asked Job Interview Questions: A Guide to preparing for Job Interview.
- 8. Now you have got a Job, What Next?: How to get Job Promotion, Increase your Income and Retire Rich.
- 9. Working Years will soon be Over: How to Prepare for Retirement.
- 10.Rich God, Poor Believers: The Secrets of Overcoming Poverty and Financial Hardship by God's Children.
- 11. The Secrets of Successful Investors: Guides to Investing.
- 12. The Fundamentals of Business Funding: The Basics of Raising Capital to Fund a Business.
- 13. How to get Bank Loan: Guide to getting Bank Loan.
- 14.25 Business Funding Options: Multiple Ways of Raising Capital to Fund a Business.

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