



SO, YOU ARE A GRADUATE

Make your holiday count

HERIETH ALEXANDER

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Send an e-mail to heriethalexander36@yahoo.com in case of any inquiries

This book is dedicated to the Tanzanian Students to whom education is not just a means to get employment but to grow as individuals and bring change to our society.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thank you for deciding to read my very first book. I have spent months of thinking, drafting searching and asking.

When I was applying to join the University, I felt like I and my fellow colleagues could use some guidance that would ease the process and/or provide some information on the courses offered and their career prospects. I thought of the idea for a while after I had joined Uni, I was also proud of how I spent my form six holiday exploring my interests as the 5 months at home were truly a handful. I was reading Outliers by Malcom Gladwell and he spoke of how summer holidays in the US affect the performance of students and their academic flourishing in general. One thing led to another and I decided to write on how Tanzanian secondary school students can spend their holidays more productively.

I would love to express my sincere heartfelt gratitude to each one who in one way helped me in the writing of this book. My sincere appreciation to almighty God whose grace and mercy keeps me. Who has granted

this gift and uses me as a candle. All Glory to Him always.

I am also extremely grateful to my family and friends for always encouraging and supporting me and their criticism on the journey that has caused me to strive to be better.

I would also love to thank the editors of this book Eric Alexander, Jacqueline Ngowi and Didas Focus. These people have helped in a great way to ensure that every rough surface of the book is polished to its very best. I am also thankful to Kuduishe Kisowile, Doreen Kaskazi, Catherine Ngallo, Neema Chacha, Hiten Solanki and Kevin Kawela whose contribution to some chapters of the book cannot be overlooked

Lastly and obviously not least. Let me thank all members of the Twentiesco community. Readers and all. You guys are amazing. May the Almighty God bless you abundantly.

PROLOGUE

I sat across the headmaster's office as he read my application letter. I had applied for a short-term teaching job in biology, English and chemistry subjects. This job would allow me to have a few cents and keep me busy. Sewing which is an all-time hobby would also be a part of my daily activities.

He said he'd call me to provide feedback. I kept calling him asking for feedback and he kept postponing the feedback, I finally stopped calling. This was about three weeks in after I had returned home.

Time was flying so fast and I did not seem to be getting anywhere. Writing this reminds of so many people I could have checked for vacancies and places I could have looked. I had sent a similar letter to another school, I never really kept up with that.

I was eager to make the most of this holiday and I wasn't going to let anything stop me. I used the holiday to feed my curiosity and expand my knowledge. I filmed tutorials, tutored, started a blog, made and sold crafts, saw a lot, babysat and almost relearnt French at a beginner's level to mention a few. These weren't random things, they are

things that I wanted to do, wanted to learn. I learnt so many things and had so much fun doing all these.

Why am I even telling you all these?

I was reading a book by Malcom Gladwell which is titled Outliers. Malcom talks about the summer holiday in the US which only benefits the rich kids because they get sent to camps and so on. The activities they do help to make them better in school and other places. The poor kids don't get this chance and so three months are a waste of time to these poor kids. In fact, the three months not only stagnate the learning of these children but rather they destroy it to a certain extent.

Now I can't talk about a summer holiday in Tanzania because it's almost always summer but I can talk about holidays. To be more specific how to spend your holidays. While mid school holidays are short, I think it is about time we started taking end of school holidays more seriously and utilize them to our advantage.

What are the productive and beneficial things you can do with your holiday?

You are never going to be a "mwanakijiji" as everyone calls you. You are now an educated member of the society.

The education system is not as we would like it to be. But I don't think four years of secondary school or the two years of advanced secondary school can bring you back home the same.

Use your four or six years of education to contribute to your society and grow as a person.

That is the purpose of this book. Time is so little and we barely have any to waste. In these few months, I want you to invest in yourself. I want you to want to look back at your holiday and see that you have used it productively.

So, you are a graduate?

What do you plan on doing with your holiday?

Computer studies, driving and language are the mostly opted courses. Let's talk about other options, let us talk about failure, let's talk choosing faculties, let's talk about your fear of not doing what you love. Let's talk about first time in college.

SO, YOU ARE A GRADUATE? WELCOME

1.MILITARY

Somehow, I believed I wouldn't die at the military camps but then I never went. My name did not appear in the selection. So, as I wrote this book I spent time asking friends who made it there what are the pros and cons. However just like school, the hardships become great memories once you leave.

Going to jeshi isn't always great news to most form six graduates. Its three months with the first 6 weeks being the hardest.

Seeing your name on the list can be such a frustrating experience for some. You are going to 3 months of hard work, exercise, learning new things as you unlearn others. I just sit and laugh when my friends and relatives tell jeshi stories. You have your friends and will probably go too. I won't share the stories but let us know what others have to say about jeshi.

Kuduishe says;

If someone asked me what's the experience of my lifetime that I want to repeat, it would be military service. I say this

because there's no other place you'll meet hundreds of people, sing together at night, cry together, laugh at each other, and have each other's backs even though you don't know each other's names. The exercises, and activities taught me there's possibility in every situation. We had to cut trees and axes were few, and Afande would just say "You guys have a hoe and slashers what are you waiting for?"

The best part for me it's the songs, when I was there I saw the power of songs, you would sing those songs with hundreds of other kurutis beside you and never get tired of running that long distance. I learnt about team work, when someone messes up, you stand up for him, so many times I couldn't run that long distance but there was always someone who would come hold my hand and run with me, no one was ever left behind. Imagine if this could be happening in studies, work, business. Where would we be today?

I made hundreds of friends from kuruti to afande. No matter how harsh they seemed they always took time to

teach us about life outside there, REAL LIFE. Forget about teachers telling you about universities, those guys taught us how to be a common man and its struggles because they have been there. That my dear can't be learned any other place.

If someone asks me to go back to Maramba 838kj today, and re-live those 3months I spent there, I will gladly do it no matter how much tears I shed, because those tears are nowhere near the laughter I had there and the hundreds of friends I met there.

Doreen says:

From my point of view, I would say, military service after form six is a moment where you get to learn and have experience inclusively. A place where you get to know how life is beyond ordinary world (You get exposure). You get to know so many things and most of all you learn how to live with others, living under circumstances that are so challenging but all in all they shape you into a person who will be self-dependent in life. Moreover, COURAGE is the major theme! It's something that everyone needs to pursue goals in life, and thus if you can sustain all

hurdles from military service it is obvious you can't fear to undertake anything productive rather than to fear the fear itself.

Above all I find its better to go for it because simply, no one has a life assurance, you may not know what may happen in future. WHOEVER ESTABLISHES A RULE OR SYSTEM, HAS HAD A MOTIVE BEHIND IT! There is nothing to fear darling.

Thank you

Kevin says

Sincerely speaking, it depends if someone has something important they plan to do at home all this time. If there isn't, it is best they go. It is worth it. They are going to build strength and experience a life out of their usual school routine. It is also going to make you fearless if you open your mind to learning from your military experiences. There is a side of you that can

withstand a lot of discomfort and chaos that will be shown
to you now.

We really haven't seen the use of these military certificates
but I believe like Doreen says, there must be a motive
Behind. And even if there is no use of the Military service
certificates we have seen. The experiences you will have at
Military cannot be bought anywhere or experienced
somewhere else.

2.PERFECT YOUR ART

Who doesn't want to learn and perfect a skill they have always wanted to learn. I know I don't.

Who hates a little cash on the side? I know I don't either.

There were days when we'd start complaining of how idle we are. I remember a friend of mine saying she felt she had become like a Chicken, being fed and even worse she couldn't be slaughtered for food. She said she wished she had something to do.

You can consider engaging yourself in learning something you want to learn. With the level of Technology, we are living in, you can learn almost anything at your fingertips.

You may also be considering engaging yourself in business.

So, let us talk about it. Handling family business is great because it teaches you a sense of responsibility, hard work and accountability. All these build that person. If you are not in charge, ask for it. This is for your growth but also getting a sense of how things are done around your family business which you are most likely going to take care of with time.

But if you are going to start your very own business, you must be strategic. I don't mean to scare you but 90% of all new businesses fail. Why? Finances, lack of enough

knowledge about the market and the two most obvious reasons is poor leadership and planning. Do some background research on a business field you want to involve yourself in, be patient and extremely creative.

If your business solves a certain problem for someone, is something you like and you seek feedback to make the services or goods you provide better, then you are most likely going to succeed. The experience and connections you build now is also going to be of advantage when you want to launch your business later or when you must manage someone else's business.

There are several businesses you can do and they all don't have to be product selling, you can sell a service you offer like photography, car cleaning, crafting, and all sorts of services. Having a skill these days is such an amazing gift. Therefore, if you have a gift, use this time to make it better or use it to make you better. My advice remains the same. Be strategic, creative and always walk an extra mile.

I remember making beaded scarfs and selling them. They sold and I got a few orders after I had stopped selling and had almost forgotten about them.

The time you have now is precious. You can either convert it to money or do something that will save you money

later. Instead of having to hire someone to translate Spanish or French, why don't you learn it?

3.VOLUNTEER

I have told the story of Millard Ayo once and I won't hesitate to tell it again. The daily national blog identified him as one of the most powerful and highly acclaimed local radio personality, obviously because of his powerful voice and talent. His journey started as a presenter at a local TV station, ITV.

But did Millard's journey begin at ITV in 2008?

The answer is No. His journey began in May 2005 at Wapo radio, a radio station owned by the church. At the age of 21 he was working for wapo radio, well he was basically volunteering because he didn't get paid due to bankruptcy of the church. So, for two months he collected news in Muhimbili orthopedics institute about accidents.

Later, he started getting 5000Tshs a week with an increment of 5000Tshs a year for three years. When asked as to why he stayed there for such a long. He says

I needed the experience and I knew this was an opportunity to grow my name and build my CV. I gained a lot that I wouldn't have got anywhere else. I could produce my own shows and other technical issues.

For most of us bringing your A game to a volunteering job isn't a known manner. However, with a vision, it is something you can do to build trust & familiarize yourself with the work. Using it as a ladder to your desired destination.

Volunteering also may give you travelling opportunities and community outreach experiences.

To read the post I wrote about Millard Ayo go to

<http://wp.me/p7GtCE-fy>

Now, the obvious question is where?

Just like finding a part time job, finding a volunteering post requires asking people about vacancies in the area you want to volunteer.

Approach where you would like to volunteer and let them know what you want to do 'for them'

You can say something like;

"I have so and so skills (or qualities) and would love to put them to work in your firm/company/business because I have a passion for 1, 2, 3. I don't expect anything unless there is any."

Take your volunteering job seriously, you never know what might come out of it. The people you are volunteering for

are also going to give you good referrals when you need to apply for a job later.

4. APPRENTICE

There is so much joy in learning. Especially learning from the master. Getting an idea of what a typical day in a certain field is like can be life changing. Say you want to be a lawyer. Awesome! Do you know what a lawyer does day in day out? What are the challenges, the path and options and stuff? It is never too early to learn. Use this time to find out.

So, I was so convinced with opting for a bachelor in laboratory science. I had no idea what lab scientists do. I just didn't know anything about it. If I had gone through this apprenticeship and had spent time in a hospital perhaps I could have chosen better.

To apprentice is to simply learn from the master.

You will get to experience aspects of a field, meet colleagues, develop a sense of team work and build pride in your work. Apprenticeship can be done at any level and it is an amazing way for new talent to be discovered.

Apprenticing helps you get a view of the skills you need and options for you. I think it will be the most eye-opening experience for you. Plus, you are going to start working a few years later, the exposure, connections you are going to make are totally limitless. The time we spend learning in

action is not much enough to get oriented to the workplace and so apprenticeship will offer you with this rare experience. So, I urge you to try looking for a place or someone to learn from.

One day, in the middle of a conversation my friend mentioned that she had had a chance to attend hospital rotations during her holidays. And I was honestly amazed. It is obvious that her time at the hospital had helped her prepare and get more oriented for what she is being trained for.

5.LIVE

Routines suck!

Staying at home gets boring.

What do you do when you are not able to do all the above?

What if you are babysitting or

housesitting? The best way to break the routine is to travel or do some sightseeing. Take a trip to your home town or relatives. Travelling opens your mind to new possibilities.

Travelling also allows you to recharge, it boosts your creativity, makes you more trusting, makes you a better problem-solver and humbler, too. It makes you more open to new things. It makes you sharper. It can help you reinvent yourself. It makes you less fearful of things. It makes you happier. It makes you kill it at work. It makes you more patient. It can help you get over a loss. It just makes you feel more alive!

As my favorite travelling goes

We travel because distance and difference are the secret tonic to creativity. When we get home, home it is still the

same but something in our minds has changed and that changes everything.

One final thing,

Do your best to be present. As much as we can't wait to start college or high school, it is important to take time and be truly present where we are. Give time to your family and friends, be there and share the moments with them.

Grown and flown says

Appreciate your siblings, these are the only brothers and sisters you will ever have and, God willing, you will have them forever. They are the only people who will accompany you on almost your entire life's journey. Show them some appreciation at the holidays, too.

When you come home for the holidays you may realize how much you have missed your friends, want to spend every minute of your short stay with them and come away hoping that you will be close forever. Do not forget your parents feel the same way about you.

6.ON FAILURE AND CHANGE

I know you have heard of all the Famous failure lines-the most famous one being it is not the end. That you must pick up yourself and dust yourself off but how do you do that when you are feeling lousy I have also had several moments when new I had to move on and work towards insisting to new ending to your story. But really, how do you do that when this really feels like the end itself- Sadly, it isn't. Unless you make it. If you are still breathing let me tell you that it shouldn't be over. Now I know I sound like all those Inspirational quotes you have seen and heard all your life but please hear me out.

You should realize that the educational system isn't linear and there are several entry points. Let us call those points detours. These detours are not paths that lead to nowhere-these detours may either lead you home or take you back to the main road which is the linear educational system we assume. You may also discover something better as you go on about the detour despite it not being a part of your plan We all_ have images of how we want our lives to unfold. Sometimes things go right and sometimes they go left

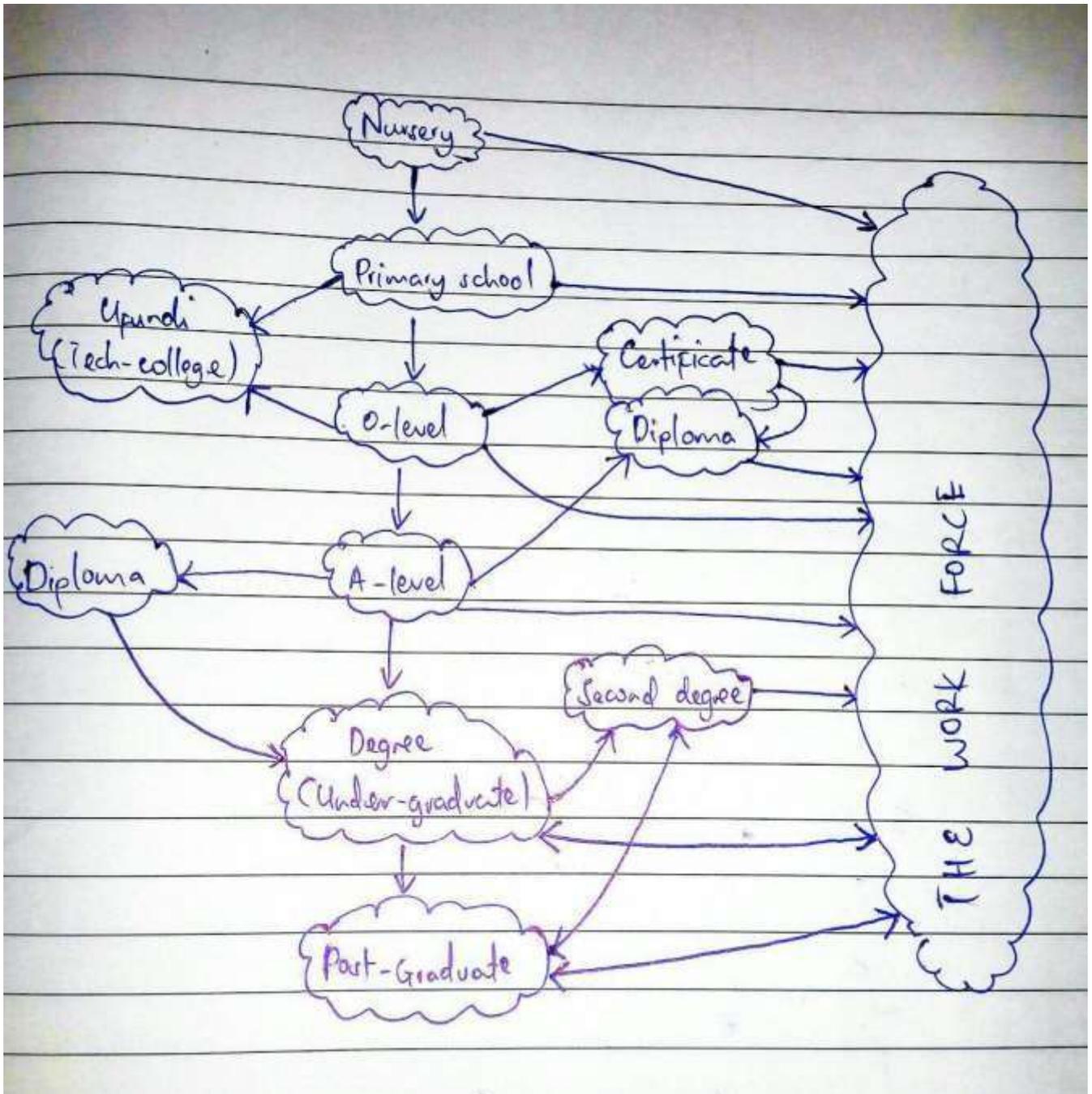
Be honest and explore your options. For example, say you want to pursue a degree in a certain field. Let me rephrase that say you want to become a medical doctor. Not being

able to join the university for MD does not mean that you can no longer have that degree or become that doctor. It means that you are going to have to take a different path to get to the same destination. The destination doesn't have to change BUT the road can. Because at the end of the day a man is solely a product of his/her experiences. There is so much to learn on that unforeseen path.

Allow me to show you the current education system and thus which can help you figure out your way.

NOTE;

Your expertise, skills and position will determine how good you have it in the work force.



The Important thing at any education level is to network, build the-required skill set and never consider yourself a minor.

7.OPTING FOR A MAJOR

Nothing scares me like unfulfilled potential.

As young children we have big dreams, as we grow what was 7 feet high diminishes to 2 feet and we just want to be able to pay bills. Few people stick to what they wanted to achieve. It is a tougher road but more rewarding.

Choosing something to Major in is hard for some students. I would really love to sit here and tell you to follow your dreams, listen to that inner voice and all that kind of stuff.

But does that inner voice know how hard it is to secure a job these days? We must be strategic. Let's face it, we desire to be able to afford our bills and maybe more.

But then we also have our talents and stuff that we NEED to do. I say we need because as a creative multi passionate person I simply cannot do one thing. My happy moments are when I am working on different things that spike my interest.

There are few people for whom choosing a degree program to pursue was such a straight forward journey. For example, I have friends who for as long as I can

remember, have wanted to be lawyers, musicians and doctors.

If you are one of them just skip this chapter, but then just read it, no knowledge isn't worth learning.

So, I will be straightforward with you. Most of us have always only know four options Doctor, Lawyer, Accountant and failure. Failure is the informal sector. This is called lack of information. I was watching a movie called Girl meets World, where the students were having a career day at school where everyone's parent would come to school and say what they do and how they got there.

I think you should give yourself a career tour. What we know are fields, I would highly recommend that you ask people around you for information on the possible careers in your field. There is so much to do, there are so many paths. Coming to university has opened my eyes so much. If you ask me for information I am in a place to tell you something. Another thing as smart as you are, your peers may not be the best source of advice. So, find a more experienced person.

I believe we make time for things we want to make time for.

While being immersed in one thing is okay, having your hands in other places is also okay and is sometimes crucial for some people's wellbeing.

To you who only wants that one thing, go for it and give it your whole. For those multi passionate, you have your gifts for a reason and the world needs them. Being in school gives you literacy and helps you build connections among other things.

So, think about your choices and options and find a way to align them.

Note;

When applying for a university post do not apply for a course you do not qualify for. Don't. It is a waste a time and you risk being selected for a program you do not want.

DEAR FRESHMAN

Come to university it will be fun they said.!

It is.

Welcome to this new reality and may I tell you that things are never going to be the same.

I feel like it is just a few weeks ago that I had come to take my admission letter. Coming to university I was so excited and like everyone else nervous. So, nervous.

And let us start with that, it is a new situation for everyone and you are not alone. We are all trying to get the hold of things, to make friends to achieve our dreams and more. So, meet people, connect. That awkward shyness will go with time.

Being new just like new bird, you are going to make some mistakes ask unusual questions and stuff. Embrace the madness. Take it all in, because for now that is all there is.

As I completed high school, I was shouting on the top of my lungs “no rules.” Turns out the rules that bind you now are universal rules and guess what there is no disciplinary office. We have police stations here.

Know and cultivate your values and what you stand for. As a student in a religious school, I had prayer at every corner

fixed into my timetable. But for now, you must fix things in your timetable according to your priorities.

As school begins, take time to arrange your class and studying schedule. Save yourself the hypertension of working under deadline by managing your time wisely

Some Uni students engage in one business or another. I have nothing new to say about this just refer to chapter 2.

As you go higher your options and wants academically may change be open to learning the different ropes you can swing on. Keep on exploring your interest and your field, make connections, build a skill set to keep you ahead of other candidates.

Sharing a room is a mixed experience for everyone. It is a merry ride for some and a not for some as well. These people can be the best friends you will ever meet.

All the best buddy

Herieth

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I am the author.

Hello there! I am Herieth, planting a flower where I think a flower will grow. Friend, Lover, student and a crafty writer my whole life. I also blog at Twentiesco where I talk about building up ourselves to be the adults we aspire to be. To read some of my other works go to twentiesco.com and make sure you follow the blog via email.

Herieth Alexander

Dar es salaam, Tanzania

Heriethalexander36@gmail.com