

Interviewer: Nourhan Omar
Narrator: May Mohamed
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Professor: Dr. Kim Fox
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Persons Present: Nourhan Omar- I

May Mohamed- S

Omar: "Pursuing One's Dream Career", what does this mean to you? To me is to follow my dreams, and develop it. My interviewee May Mohamed, who is an AUC graduate with a business degree, 23 years old and lives in Giza, will elaborate more on this topic.

So May, you've graduated three years ago, and you've been working ever since. Tell me more about your career, and whether or not you are on your way to follow your dream job.

Mohamed: Well Nourhan, ever since I've graduated I've shifted my jobs about twice. My first job yeah it was good and it was inspiring, but I didn't learn much. My second job I felt it was like more of office work, my skill didn't change I didn't feel I was developing extra skills, but now in my new job I've been working for one and a half years, I've become an assistant brand manager for a chain of jewelry stores that is established in Egypt and in the Middle East. I'm absolutely happy and I believe that I have changed and I have learned a lot of things and we are doing a lot of new products, marketing strategies, all the departments are coordinating/cooperating together.

I'm very happy, but you know at the same time I feel there is this other thing that I really would love to do aside my career even though I'm absolutely happy. I want to you know follow my dream passion, which is just to become a professional baker.

Omar: What has pushed or inspired you to consider following and developing your dream career?

Mohamed: I think it was the time when I was doing a semester abroad in the USA, and our professor was asking each of us to say what they would like to become other than their major. For example, we should say I'm majoring for example in biology but I would like to become a painter. It has to be something different, and surprisingly we all in class had different you know different options. One girl would say I'm specializing in chemistry but I would like to become a landscape designer, which is totally different, And you know at that point I realize yeah its true, I'm a business major specializing in marketing and I'd love to become a professional Baker, you know.

Omar: Like becoming a professional baker in Egypt?

Mohamed: I know it's a new idea; it has been hard for me because I wanted to pursue it professionally. I actually looked for a professional culinary school in Egypt and haven't found any, you know there all most abroad. It's very hard to find some in Egypt.

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- Omar: But from what I know, like you mean becoming like “Nola Cupcakes” and “Dina Cantina” bakery shop is open in Egypt? So are there any culinary schools here?
- Mohamed: Well I believe after you know sometimes it’s just even if it’s hard, even if the environment around you, you can’t find a lot of things to learn from, one should try to teach themselves and this is what I’m trying to do. We are going to look at people that actually teach, even-though yeah you’ll find “Nola Cupcakes” and “Dina Cantina” who are really professional people who have learned abroad and then came here, but sometimes if you really love something you will really work hard to obtain it and you know this is when one becomes successful.
- Omar: Well here’s the thing I wanted you to ask yourself, what if they didn’t open from the first place, would you have still consider having a bakery business with the Egyptian society
- Mohamed: Absolutely, I mean why not become maybe a professional baker is something that would be very good and it’s new.
- Omar: You would find here in Egypt?
- Mohamed: Yeah there’s a lot of French patisseries, is not something new. You would find it you know there’s a lot very well known hotels. But opening here my own bakery shop is something that I’ve always been dreaming of it, always want. And when I really work hard I think I can do it, even if there wasn’t before like “Nola cupcakes” or “Dina Cantina”, I would be considering opening my own bakery shop because its something that I love and I really want to pursue.
- Omar: I’m sure there many others would like to do the same thing like you.
- Mohamed: (nods)
- Omar: Then, tell me more what one can do in order to develop their own passion, especially in the Egyptian society? And it’s not an easy society to let them get used to anything new.
- Mohamed: Well, I would say first of all know what you are good at, know what you love and work hard at getting it you know. Yes you will face lots of obstacles and its not going be easy, but again if you love it, if you really want it you’re going get it.

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Omar: Well since you've opened this topic, there a couple of things I would like to know from you. First, tell me more about the Egyptian youth and pursuing their passion career wise?

Mohamed: Well, what I've noticed in the Egyptian society is that there is sort of lack of creativity with the dream we use. I think this is due to the fact with a lot of them when they begin to apply for the university, they don't choose what they love; they choose something based on the perceptions of the Egyptian society, where road map has been drawn to them by their parents. For instance, we would see 60% people that apply in Egypt for the university, either they enter medical school or engineering schools because these are considered to be up higher ranking and everything else considered below and this is not true.

Omar: This is true.

Mohamed: I know it's true; this is the general perception, but I don't think its right you choose based on what the society think or what your parents go for you. It's not they believe maybe if you apply for these schools you'll get a better career.

Omar: Do you know anyone whose perceptions are influenced by their parents or by the Egyptian society, choosing what they want to become in college? Like that's really hard.

Mohamed: Yeah I know, I've seen a lot of examples. For instance, you know there's an example I see every day in front of me is my father. His parents have influenced him to enter medical school, even-though he didn't like that and he spent seven years. Yeah he was a good student and got a high grades and he worked in a hospital and after that opened his own pharmacy, but then he realized that he's not really into it. He wanted to do something else, so he started to do another career, he opened his own business and developed it, and now he's a very well know businessman. So I believe if you do what you love, you're going get there. But if you just pursue somebody else, somebody else drove; you know to something that you would love.

Omar: I'm still sure these there are still people who push their children like this.

Mohamed: Absolutely all the time, you would find it, you know sometimes its not wrong for parents to tell their children what's good for them and what's not; but sometimes you need to give them this space you know to be creative, to be inspired, to look at what they really are good at and start working towards it. You know if someone really would love to become lets say for instance a glass maker, well go ahead if you are good at it, one goes attends workshops, work on it, maybe someday own a big glass making factory, who knows.

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- Omar: Well like you know since Medical or Engineering school is better known that students apply as soon as they enter college? But don't you see some difference nowadays, such as more fields have opened like Business, Mass-Communication, Art, etc.? Like I'm sure lots of people would want to try something new, especially in our generation.
- Mohamed: Absolutely, business and mass-communication gained a large popularity because I think a lot of people have started to realize its not only about applying to medical or engineering schools, there's other fields that really will you know have a good results. So yeah, people perceptions is starting to change and shift towards other very good schools and have a lot of opportunity, but at the same time the higher rate of students applying to it, it's very surprisingly even though when they graduate its very hard to find a job and even when they do find a job, the pay rate is very minimal its almost equalized to someone for example doing like a cleaner. It's really you know one of my friends is a doctor yes you know really studied hard and got the highest grades in university and when he graduated it was really hard to find a job, and when he applied to one of the really well known hospitals his pay rate was almost 1000 per month.
- Omar: Well that also brings me to another point that I wanted to ask, with 40% of Egyptian population under poverty line, you'd find a lot of youth not thinking about a dream job they just want a job?
- Mohamed: Well, what you is very true. When you have people lots under poverty line don't have the chance to dream and it's really sad, and that's also really plays a big role in a lack of creativity, they can barely get food on the table. So how are they going to be thinking about of getting a dream job or you know following their passion? But you know what; I want to tell them if they love something, if they try to develop it, even if you know the conditions are really bad they can get somewhere. If they just have the will, they will get it, the will and the ability. Just have the will but again you know, I think they need some people to support them.
- Omar: Is there something else May you would like to advice to the Egyptian youth in our important topic "Pursuing One's Dream Career"?
- Mohamed: Yeah, I just want to tell them that their time is limited, they shouldn't be wasting it living someone else's life, and they shouldn't be for example living with the results of other people's thinking. What they should do is let that noise of others opinion outside and not let it drown them. You know they should recognize that there's going to be failures, they should acknowledge those failures and they should know that there's going to be obstacles, but that's how they learn when they make mistakes they learn, there's going to be little learning is successful you know. Let's look at major people around us like J.K Rowling, Bill Gates have started from zero, they have failed a lot and this is how they got to the top.

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Omar: You know what I absolutely agree with you, we should recognize there will be failures and obstacles, and I would like to add that it's important to have the courage to follow our heart and intuition because they somehow already know what we truly want to become, everything else is secondary.

Mohamed: Well thank you very much.

Omar: And thank you May.