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## Comprehension story 21

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow, using your own words wherever possible.

Basically, there are seven reasons why degree holders are poor. They don't think beyond their certificates. Albert Einstein said, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." "Have you ever heard of the creative term, "Think outside the box?" one of the major reasons why most graduates are poor is simply because they can't see and think beyond their certificates. 05

I have seen engineering students work as bankers. I have seen medical doctors with great skills in web and graphic designs. I have seen lawyers that are very dexterous with finances. The list is endless!

The basic truth of life is the skills that are needed to be much sought-after and become more success full in life are not really found within the wall of the classrooms. Your certificate is just a proof that you are teachable; it does not suggest what you totally capable of doing. You are full of possibilities when you think beyond your degrees and certificates. 10

They often prioritize their certificate more than their gifts and talents. I have often advised some of my some of my colleagues never to leave their gifts dormant while pursuing jobs with their certificates. There must be a complementary balance in the pursuit of your passion and in the search for jobs. 15

Everybody is gifted at something, but the winning edge comes from ability to work on our gifts and bless the world with it. The very best way to develop yourself is in direction of your natural talents and interest. In order to live a fulfilled and impactful life, we need to work harder on our gifts than our job. We need to discover our gifts, develop them and sell them. Don't bury your TALENT with your certificates. 20

Certificates prepare individuals for the world that no longer exists. It has been found that most of the skills taught in schools are obsolete in the present world. The world has changed a lot, and so are peoples' needs! It is imperative to know that the present form of university education does not prepare students for future. 25

Graduates are becoming endangered species in the face of a changing world. Our archaic method and approaches of learning and preparing graduates for a world that no longer exists, we are churning out degree holders; every year with certificates that have face value but no intrinsic worth. Most learning institutions are filled up with lectures and pseudo-educators with lecture notes, methods and approaches that have lost relevance in a changing world. 30  
35

They know less about themselves but more about things. Certificates and degrees don't reveal people to themselves; they at most measure our IQ (Intelligent quotient). I have often told people that there no recovery without discovery. A poor man is simply someone that has not discovered himself. 40

The more you discover yourself, the more you realize the treasures that are hidden deep within you. We carry inside ourselves latent treasures that can only be unveiled through self-discovery.

Certificates and degrees can kill initiatives. Degrees and certificates can close up your mind to ideas while initiatives open it up. If you are not careful, your degrees and certificates can close up your 45

mind. The purpose of education is to keep your mind perpetually opened towards limitless possibilities.

Fred Smith saw an opportunity for overnight delivery of anything anywhere in USA, and ultra-fast delivery anywhere in the world. FedEx was born. Degrees and certificates position you to look for jobs and not for opportunities. Our certificates and degrees prepare graduates to look for jobs and not open their eyes to life – changing opportunities. You are not poor because you don't have a job; you are poor because you are not seeing and seizing opportunities.

Being POOR is simply passing over opportunities repeatedly! What keeps people ahead in life is not their education or degrees; it is simply the opportunity that they seized. Jobs may be scares but not opportunities.

As long as there is a problem to be solved, there will always be opportunities. It is a waste of our education, exposure, and experiences if after we graduate from school, all we think about is searching for job. An intelligent and educated mind should be able to see and seize opportunities.

Certificates and degrees prepare people to look for security and not to take risks. We must be willing to make mistakes and take breakthrough risks. Taking risks and learning from mistakes helps us to know what works and what does not! When Thomas Edison was being questioned by a mischievous journalist on how he felt after failing 999 times before getting the idea of the light bulb, his response stunned the whole world as he confidently said "I have not failed 999 times, I have only learned 999 ways of how to make bulb."

Adapted from 7 REASONS WHY DEGREE HOLDERS ARE POOR BY MAMUDA KABIR DUTSINMA

## Questions

- (a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02marks)
- (b) What the author mean by the following phrases:
- (i) “The don’t think beyond their certificate (Line 02) (03marks)
  - (ii) “ ...the skills that are needed to be much sought-after and Become successful in life are not really found within the walls of the classrooms.” (line 09 – 11) (03marks)
- (c) In not more than 100 words, summarize the reasons that the author gives for the assertion that degree holders are poor. (12marks)
- (d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using you own words wherever possible
- (i) sought after (line 10) (02 marks)
  - (ii) teachable (line 11) (02marks)
  - (iii) complementary balance (line 17) (02 marks)
  - (iv) impactful life (line 22) (02marks)
  - (v) obsolete (line 26) (02marks)
  - (vi) endangered species (line 29) (02marks)
  - (vii) limitless possibilities (line 48) (02 marks)
  - (viii) seizing opportunities (line 55) (02marks)
  - (ix) Enlightened and educated mind (line 63) (02 marks)
  - (x) Breakthrough risks (line 67) (02 marks)
- (20 marks)

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

## Suggested answers

(a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02marks)

Why degree holders are poor

Taking risks to succeed

Inappropriate education

(b) What the author mean by the following phrases:

(i) “The don’t think beyond their certificate (Line 02) (03marks)

It means that degree look for opportunities beyond what they have qualified for.

Or

Don’t venture outside their qualification for chances t survive

Or

They limit their prospects to their qualifications

(ii) “ ...the skills that are needed to be much sought-after and Become successful in life are not really found within the walls of the classrooms.” (line 09 – 11) (03marks)

It means that qualifications from schools and universities do provide enough/all expertize/abilities needed for successful survival/existence.

(c) In not more than 100 words, summarize the reasons that the author gives for the assertion that degree holders are poor. (12marks)

### THE REASONS ADVANCED BY THE AUTHOR TO EXPLAIN WHY DEGREE HOLDERS ARE POOR

According to the author degree holders are poor because they attach more importance to their certificates and degrees rather than to the acquisition knowledge; they fail to discover, develop or work on their gifts and talent in preference to job search; they fear to take risk, they are not creative or are unable to think outside the box in order seized the limitless opportunities. Lastly, the knowledge and skills acquired are outdated to the needs of fast changing world.

(d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using you own words wherever possible

(i) sought after (line 10) (02 marks)

desired/preferable/favorite choices

- |        |  |            |
|--------|--|------------|
| (ii)   | teachable (line 11)<br>trainable or capable of learning                | (02marks)  |
| (iii)  | complementary balance (line 17)<br>strike a balance/ find a compromise | (02 marks) |
| (iv)   | impactful life (line 22)<br>satisfying life/rewarding                  | (02marks)  |
| (v)    | obsolete (line 26)<br>outdated/ old fashioned                          | (02marks)  |
| (vi)   | endangered species (line 29)<br>graduates are at risk of failure       | (02marks)  |
| (vii)  | limitless possibilities (line 48)<br>endless choices/opportunities     | (02 marks) |
| (viii) | seizing opportunities (line 55)<br>taking advantage of chances         | (02marks)  |
| (ix)   | Enlightened and educated mind (line 63)<br>Informed mind               | (02 marks) |
| (x)    | Breakthrough risks (line 67)<br>A chance one succeed with              | (02 marks) |
|        |  | (20 marks) |

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

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**Thanks**

**Dr. Bbosa Science**