

What I studied vs my chosen career path

by Muyiwa Oluyemi

A popular quote says ‘if you do not love what you do, you would not do it with much passion or conviction.’ This quote is the perfect example of what I, Muyiwa goes through every single day and trying to make amends for.

Many people know me as many things. To some, I am a wonderful actress. To some, a very big media personality. Some others see me as a therapist as my personality screams that out for me, and while to the elderly generation I am an Economist who should further her studies by enrolling for the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), then there after pursue other professional examinations, get a masters degree, and later, a PhD in Economics and become a Professor.

But the main question is, who am I really?

The fun part about this question is that, I can be anything I want to be once I set my mind towards it, and so my dad thought it wise to pick what I was going to study in the University, not thinking of our relationship in the long-run. And so to answer this question, I would say I am a little girl who just wants to follow her passion and be the best at it.

The passion of being an actor, a content creator and social media manager, a broadcaster, presenter summing it all up to a big media personality, then professionally, a therapist and mental health advocate, just so young ones do not have to go through what I went through, and even if they do, they have someone who would always be there to listen to them so they do not have to feel alone like I did.

Now let's take this a little personal so you can know more about me and why there seems to be so many versions of myself when I am just one person.

As a child, being a superstar has always being my dream. Sounds like a fairytale right? I watched all the movies then acted the scenes out, watched the 10pm news with my late grandpa and did mine on the dining table with him and my grandma as my only spectators. I saw the red carpet interviews, enjoyed watching them and tried doing mine with the remote control like as if I was a red carpet host. Doing all these made me happy, and to some it would have just looked like a child doing all she saw in the television like all children do, but little did we know that that's who I wanted to be.

As a child I was also going for all these drama and dance competitions both for church and school, sometimes my dad won't let me and I would cry like every normal child, but then my biggest support system, my mother would always look for ways to make me happy and say don't

worry you'll be able to do it next time. Both she and my grandpa are my heroes in life and greatest motivation to be who I really want to be.

As I grew older, the controlling of my father only grew worse, and it made me fear him and always please Him. It became worse during waec registration, he made me register Economics as my course of study and even chose the school I would go to, not putting it up for discussion. I wasn't able to get in at first as I was given social works but was told after a year that I could transfer. My dad was fine with it only because I would be transferred to his choice of course.

I graduated with a 2.1 in BSc Economics, finally I was done with that right and I could finally live my dreams. I am presently doing my youth service and I can say living those dreams look really hard. I was posted to a radio station which didn't sit down well with my dad and as usual I was threatened again. I knew I couldn't take it anymore and I cut him off. Like I said earlier, that I am finally starting this journey doesn't mean it has been easy for me and everywhere I go in my workplace I am only being recognized as an Economist and nothing more. Nobody asks oh Muiyiwa what can you do? Oh Muiyiwa what's your passion? It is just Muiyiwa what is the economic situation of the country and when I cannot give an answer because I don't know, as I only studied to get good grades for my dad, I am seen as one of those graduates who do not know anything, which has made me rethink if I am really smart or intelligent as a person.

But yes guys that I have these fears, this veil of my course of study affecting who I want to be in my life I am still standing strong and moving ahead with my passion. Now many of you may ask do you know people who have done this thing you are doing I would say yes with my full chest.

Here are 3 amazing people who have motivated me to be who I want to be regardless of the fact that I studied something else in school.

So firstly we have, Folarin Falana popularly known as Falz the bahd guy. He studied Law but always wanted to be a musician and so after school he went after his dreams.



Then next we have Ken Jeong. He is actually a physician but then he stopped practicing just so he could follow his dreams of being an actor.



And lastly, My Mother, a biochemist by nature later becoming an accountant. She did not want to work in the ministry which was my grandfather's plan for her, so she ended up taking ICAN she passed and To God be the Glory retired as a Senior General Manager in Access Bank.

These 3 people made me realize that just because you studied something that you never wanted to, doesn't mean you cannot still follow your dreams later in life, which is what I am doing right now. You can only be hopeful about the future, but you cannot really tell what the future holds. So, follow that dream and passion of yours with determination and a positive mindset.

I am happy I am doing this and I know I would fulfill my dream in life, but let me end again with this quote by Robert Ballard that says 'follow your own passion not your parents, not your teachers, yours'.