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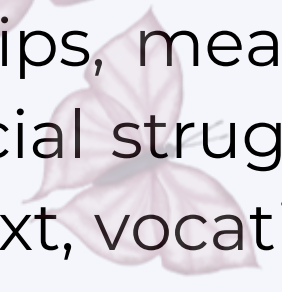
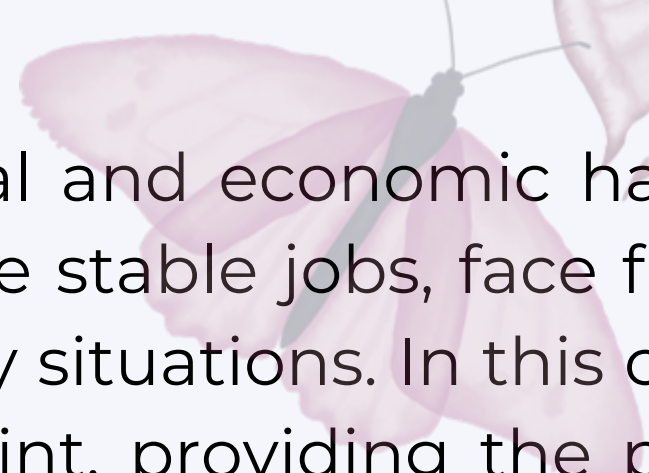
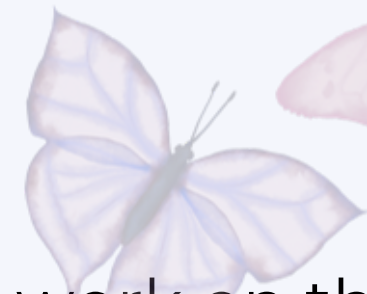
Stories 4 Wings

2024-1-ES01-KA220-ADU-000255317

Additional Stories

✦ Vocational Training & Professional Adquisition





This document offers a series of additional stories to work on the concept of the **VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND THE PROFESSIONAL ADQUISITION.**

Crime often arises from social and economic hardships, meaning that many inmates don't have stable jobs, face financial struggles, and come from difficult family situations. In this context, vocational training can be a turning point, providing the practical skills and the tools needed to build an independent life. Learning a profession helps inmates reduce the feeling of helplessness and gives them a sense of belonging, identity, and social status, which can further support them in rebuilding their lives after release.

The stories selected are:

The Path Forward

This story dismantles the idea that university education is the only real and professional path for young people. It highlights the value of technical jobs, their necessity, and the path to the future they offer. It invites reflection on career paths and the wide variety of options available.

The Turning Point

This story raises several important issues for reflection related to acquiring a profession: the responsibility of searching for and finding what to study; the fact that skills are learned and can be discovered (it is not always obvious what we are good at); that learning requires patience; and that having a profession gives us dignity and makes us feel proud of ourselves.





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Vocational Training, Profession Acquisition The Path Forward



Pierre stared at his bachelor's degree certificate, the official stamp still fresh. Eighteen years old, diploma in hand, yet he felt emptier than ever. His classmates buzzed about university plans or gap years in Australia, but Pierre had no idea what came next.

"What now?" he whispered to his bedroom walls in Lyon.

His mother entered quietly, sitting on the edge of his bed. "You know, Pierre, Marc from next door was asking about you yesterday. He mentioned something interesting about career paths."

The next morning, Pierre found himself knocking on Marc's door. His neighbor, a successful electrician, welcomed him with a warm smile. "Pierre! I heard you just graduated. How are you feeling about what's next?"

Pierre nodded, embarrassed. "I don't have any real skills. I can't code, I've never worked with my hands, and I barely know how to use Excel properly."

Marc smiled knowingly. "You know, I felt the same way twenty years ago. University seemed like the only 'respectable' path, but I discovered something better – vocational training."

"Vocational training?" Pierre's mother looked skeptical.

"Absolutely. The world needs skilled technicians, digital specialists, renewable energy experts. These aren't just 'backup' careers anymore – they're essential." Marc pulled out his phone, showing Pierre photos of solar installations. "I started with basic electrical training, then learned about smart home technology, solar systems, even some programming for automation. Now I run my own company."

Pierre leaned forward, intrigued. "But how do you even start?"

"France has excellent apprenticeship programs. You can learn while earning money. Plus, employers are desperate for people with 21st century skills – digital literacy, problem-solving, adaptability." Marc's enthusiasm was contagious. "You could study renewable energy technology, learn 3D modeling, master project management software. These skills are in huge demand."



"I always thought vocational training was for people who couldn't handle 'real' education," Pierre admitted.

"That's outdated thinking. Today's vocational programs combine hands-on expertise with digital skills, critical thinking, and innovation. You'll graduate job-ready with actual experience, not just theoretical knowledge."

Pierre's mother nodded slowly. "And there are real career prospects?"

"Absolutely. France is investing heavily in green technology, digitalization, and infrastructure. Skilled technicians earn excellent salaries and have job security that many university graduates lack."

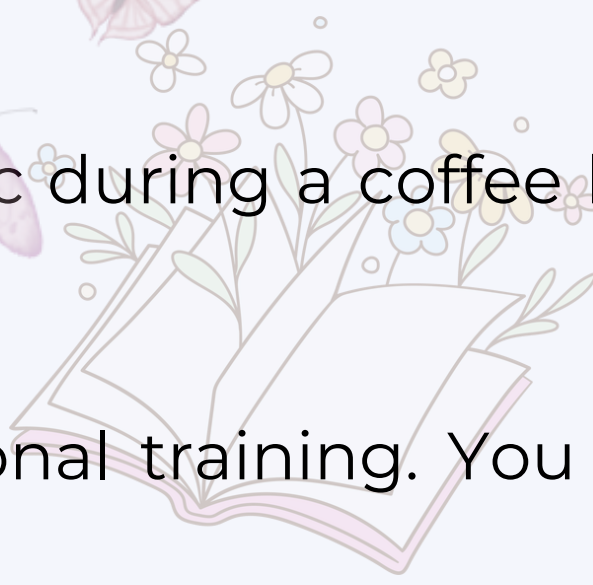
That evening, Pierre researched vocational programs online. He discovered courses in renewable energy, digital manufacturing, even cybersecurity – fields he'd never considered but found fascinating.

Three months later, Pierre started his apprenticeship in sustainable building technology. He learned to install energy-efficient systems while studying environmental science and digital project management. His hands got dirty, but his mind expanded in ways traditional education never offered.

By his second year, Pierre was programming smart building systems and leading sustainability projects. He'd found his path – not through prestigious universities, but through practical skills that solved real problems.

"I finally know what I'm doing," he told Marc during a coffee break at his latest solar installation.

Marc grinned. "That's the beauty of vocational training. You don't just learn a job – you build a future."





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Vocational Training,
Profession Acquisition

The Turning Point



Mustafa was twenty-two and lived in a crowded neighborhood with his parents, two younger sisters, and a little brother. He often sat in the small tea shop at the corner of the street, passing the hours with idle chatter. He had finished school years ago, but without any particular skill, his days slipped into one another. People in the neighborhood liked him—he was polite, easy to smile, always ready to run an errand—but no one could deny that he lacked direction.

His father, once a factory worker, had fallen ill and could no longer work long hours. His mother cleaned houses part-time, but her earnings barely covered groceries. Mustafa knew the family needed him, but he often told himself, “I don’t have any talent. I can’t do anything special.” That thought became his shield, protecting him from the responsibility he did not want to face.

One evening, his sister Leyla asked softly, “Abi, can you buy me a new notebook for school? Mine is full.” Mustafa reached into his pockets and found only a few coins. The disappointment on her face struck him harder than any lecture could. That night, he could not sleep. His father coughed in the next room, and his mother’s weary footsteps echoed in his mind. He realized that if he did not change, his family’s struggle would continue without end.

The next morning, Mustafa visited the local vocational center. The building was old, the walls covered with posters about carpentry, welding, and electrical repair. At first he hesitated, ashamed to admit his ignorance. But an instructor welcomed him warmly: “Everyone starts somewhere. Skills are learned, not born.” Those words cracked open the wall Mustafa had built around himself.

He enrolled in a course on electrical installation. The first weeks were difficult; his hands trembled when holding tools, and he often made mistakes. Some classmates laughed at him, but the instructor reminded him, “Patience creates mastery.” Slowly, Mustafa began to improve. He discovered a quiet pride in completing small tasks—connecting wires correctly, repairing a lamp, or reading a simple circuit diagram.

Months passed, and Mustafa earned his certificate. He applied for jobs with trembling hands, but soon a small workshop hired him as an apprentice. The pay was modest, but it was steady.



"For the first time, he returned home with an envelope of wages. His mother kissed his forehead, tears in her eyes, and his father said, "You are now the man of the house."

With each paycheck, Mustafa contributed to school supplies, medicine, and groceries. His siblings looked at him differently—not as the brother who wasted time, but as a role model who carried the family forward. Mustafa himself felt lighter, stronger. He understood now that dignity was not in being born with talent, but in working hard to build it.

One evening, sitting in the same tea shop where he once wasted hours, Mustafa listened to other young men complain about unemployment. He smiled quietly and thought of the tools in his bag, the workshop waiting for him tomorrow, and the family counting on him.

For the first time, he felt proud of who he was becoming. Vocational training had given him more than a job; it had given him purpose, respect, and the ability to protect the ones he loved.





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