

Career Satisfaction

Lindsay: Okay, so Vin, what do you think **makes for a satisfying career**? Are you satisfied in your career, would you say?

Vin: Yeah, really happy I picked optometry and I don't uh... I would never look back and say I regret it or anything about doing it.

Lindsay: Yeah. What about your everyday life, I mean, at your job actually makes you **satisfied**? What is it about the position?

Vin: Well, I love meeting new people. I love having new patients.

Lindsay: Uh-huh.

Vin: It is very nice to be able **to provide** something as important as vision to your patients when they come in seeking your help...

Lindsay: Super important I would say.

Key Vocabulary Terms

1. To make for
2. Satisfying
3. To seek help
4. To be off the hook
5. Trend
6. To provide
7. To go into
8. To take to something
9. Ultimate goal

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Vin: When people... Yeah...
When people come in with anxiety about their eye being red or concerned about their mother having been told that she has a blinding disease...

Lindsay: Right.

Vin: ...communication is the key and making people aware of... there are things that they can do to help their own... health of their own eyes and we would, uh, love to be partnering with them.

Lindsay: Yeah, and you really put them at ease, so they are able to leave, sort of, kind of, **feeling off the hook**, for their sort of situation right?

Vin: Yeah, you try to relax people. You do not necessarily make them... give them anxiety unnecessarily, but at the same time, you need to have them be aware of the reality of certain situations and how a follow-up can be very important in determining their ultimate outcome.

Lindsay: Yeah, what... so you also have a lot of conversations. One thing that is **satisfying** to you is that you have a lot of conversations with your patients about what they do, about their career. And what do you see as far as like what makes people satisfied? Any **trends** in career satisfaction, like knowing yourself maybe or following the thing you like to do. What have you seen?

Vin: Well, that is a tough one. I think people in general feel that they have less allegiance to their particular company.

Lindsay: Um-hm.

Vin: It's unlike it was 30 years ago...

Lindsay: Right.

Vin: ...where you worked for the company and get the golden watch at the end.

Lindsay: Yeah, that has really changed.

Vin: Many, many people, just, you know, go through multiple career changes and need to get back to school and get educated in a field that maybe did not exist when they were in school, so there is... not that sense of allegiance to the company I think.

Lindsay: So what is the allegiance to? Is it an allegiance to yourself? To your own interests?

Vin: I think... I think it is to your interest, to your own family, to be able to provide well-being for your... uh... for your family. That is always gonna (going to) be important.

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Lindsay: And how did you know that you wanted **to go into** optometry? I mean how... Did you know...? I mean you said you studied psych (psychiatry).

Vin: Yeah. I wanted to be a psychiatrist and then... then I kind of maybe wanted to be a dentist a little bit, but.

Lindsay: Aw. That would be...

Vin: When I took a course in, on vision as an undergraduate course in psychology that was very interesting to me.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Vin: So I wanted to learn

more about that.

Lindsay: Huh. And so you immediately kind of **took to it** and you thought 'Aw, this could be a really cool thing to study more.'

Vin: Absolutely. Then I went for my first eye exam.

Lindsay: What? Your first eye exam was in college? Oh man. Okay. Hmm.

Vin: I just thought everything that he did was really cool.

Lindsay: And, so then, overall would you do anything different... differently today? I mean compared with what you did...

Vin: No I'm glad I worked for a few years for somebody else to get some practice and to make some mistakes and to see how a... a successful business was run.

Lindsay: Yeah, that was a good move.

Vin: But I was... But I was looking every... Every day I had off I was traveling. I had licenses in four states in optometry and every day off I had I was traveling to an...

Lindsay: Wow!

Vin: ...office and looking to see what they were like...

Lindsay: Yeah.

Vin: ...and what made them successful.

Lindsay: So you knew you wanted to not only become an optometrist, but to have your own business.

Vin: Yeah, that was **the ultimate goal**, pretty much from day one. Yeah.

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Lindsay: Yeah. Cool.