

Finding work can be far too difficult

I have studied at university level for several years and could have studied for several more, this is all very well and I didn't do it for the good of my health. The problem from my own perspective is for some reason I have never really felt wanted or needed in the workplace. I have been lucky a few times and gotten good jobs from cold applications but even then the pay was never very good, things like a nice house or a nice car weren't happening and weren't even on the radar anywhere if I look back. I have been a university lecturer and an FE teacher which made use of my academic education and both jobs were good jobs but they didn't pay very well and when I left them in both cases I would apply time and time again for new jobs and be offered scraps like a few hours a week without holiday pay or not get replies at all.

I would have written a considered cover letter and polished my resume and sent it off with optimism at the time in my thirties and get no replies at all just an empty silence time and time again, simply nothing. All you can do is keep applying as the world is at work around you, as people drive their cars to work and go home to family homes you can't insist that someone gives you a job where you can gain these things. You can as I did look into it statistically and come to the conclusion as I did that I should probably be doing far better than I was statistically speaking anyway, but apart from re-polishing the resume and looking at each cover letter there's very little you can do to better your situation.

Unfortunately aggravated

When I got to my forties things got worse, I applied for literally hundreds of jobs without success and I am a shy person who doesn't like sending chronological lists of everything I've been doing for decades to hundreds of disinterested people but what other option is there? I found none, but I would have honestly loved a job that paid enough for a nice house and a good car and the nicer things for my family. After all, I was qualified in the top 5% of the adult population in 2001 and again in 2003 and even in 2009 I was still qualified in the top 7% of the population but for reasons beyond my understanding simply no replies to my applications for work anywhere.

I had to go to back to work club a few years ago because I was on incapacity benefit, I felt indignant because I had applied for numerous jobs and would have liked to have worked but there I was sitting at a computer applying for local jobs in a room full of long term unemployed adults feeling very annoyed with everything and everyone.

It all started in 1993

In 1993 I was 25 years old, I had worked in a supermarket and for a small business since leaving school at 16 apart from 92/93 when I went to university having studied at home with the Open University for a degree foundation course in technology. On the OU course I had designed a house, introduced electronic point of sale in a supermarket and cleaned up cryptosporidium in the water table amongst other things, at university I had written several essays and designed a database for a travel agent amongst other things but I dropped out after the first year. I set about looking for work straight away and found nothing apart from as an admin assistant for the benefits agency no qualifications required and £100 per week, I completed my probationary period but was told there wouldn't be a job for me.

I had the rest of that year on benefits then looked into studying at university again but as I'd already had funding it was going to be difficult but nothing else was materializing and I was now 26 years old and this was the first year out of work I had had since leaving school at 16.

I found a place at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education studying an HND in Business Information Technology, I was lucky enough to get a job as a night porter while I was there and worked while I studied for about two and a half years. I passed the HND and topped up to a science degree. When I left I moved to Hong Kong and looked for a job there but there was nothing for me, I spent several months looking and applying and getting nowhere until April of 1998 when I saw a small advert for English teachers, I applied and got a job part time plus another similar job part time. My HND and BSc helped me get the English teaching job but I would have much preferred to have gotten a job in an office.

Moving forward four years

I taught English in Asia for the next four years then left a position and looked for a new position in Asia for several months without success so I came back to England. I immediately set about looking for work here, I was refused benefits because they thought I was shirking and I couldn't find anything apart from one day a week at £80 doing training courses but she couldn't guarantee the one day a week, that was in the summer of 2002 when I was 34 years old and up to that point I was a graduate and only had one year of receiving benefits since leaving school at 16.

I was lucky enough to get a place on a PGCE course

In the Autumn of 2002 I was fortunate enough to be offered a place on a teacher training course at Greenwich University then two years teaching at a college in London but the salary I received was only enough for me to afford a studio flat, I didn't even have a car and by this time I was 37 years old and still only had one year of benefits but now I had five years of full time university behind me and I was postgraduate in two different disciplines but try as I might looking for work since that has been a mission impossible. I have applied from probably nearly 1000 jobs since then, I have had a few short term teaching jobs and I successfully volunteered for three years and I've been a stay at home dad for a lot of that time but it brings me up to date to 2019 and I haven't really moved forward since 2005 when I left my teaching job in London, admittedly, I have traveled abroad and I have had some problems with my health but prospective employers didn't know about that and I have tried very hard to polish my resume and write a good cover letter with each application,

To recap I had worked since leaving school at 16 and had five years of full time university education and about seven years of teaching, one year of receiving benefits and no criminal record up until 2007 when I was 39 years old. I was motivated, quite healthy and quite well intentioned. I am now 51 years old and still qualified in about the top 10% of the British public. I had been offered a master's degree in Intercultural Communication at Birbeck in 2011, something I probably should have done but it was very expensive in both time and money but then was the time to do if I was going to do it at all as I was 43 years old at the time but I honestly felt that it would be a lot of work to not be recognized in the workplace, for me to end up at job club for the long term unemployed and despite how unfair it would have been there would have been nothing I could do about it.

I have now been on benefits since 2007 which is shameful but in that time I have volunteered as I said and offered postgraduate study and been a stay at home dad but I haven't gained property, I haven't had a sense of satisfaction as you would find on Maslow's Hierarchy of needs which you may think is just the way life can be but I think it has been very cruel to me and people like me

Mark Benniman BSc PGDip PGCE

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