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networks. Academic libraries, too, are now becoming
hybrid libraries.

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CAREER IN SOUND ENGINEERING

Rruchi Shrimalli

Ashish Manchanda is one of the most famous recording engineers and music producers today. He is as much known for his Bollywood projects like Khosla ka Ghosla, DevD and Bhaag Milkha Bhaag as he is known for his work abroad, especially with Bruce Swedien (Grammy award winning artist who has worked with Michael Jackson!). He is also the recipient of the IRAA (Indian Recording Arts Award) thrice. He is also the founder and director of Sound Engineering and Music Production institute called The Media Tribe.

Talking about his journey from being the drummer at college to world renowned sound engineer, Ashish said, "Sound engineering plays an important role in creating that emotional impact. It is like driving. Everyone knows some bit of it but one can differentiate between a good sound engineer and a bad one depending on how good the quality of his music is. Bad sounds are like half-cooked food. In the words of the industry, it is like separating the men from the boys!"

Sound Engineers are the ones who understand the importance of the sound track and how it relates with the visual images. The career requires both technical knowledge and well-developed aesthetic sense and creative sensibili-



ties.

What is Sound Engineering?

Sound Engineers or Audio Engineers often work in music and film industries, radio and television channels as well as during live performances – to record, mix, reproduce and manipulate sounds using equalization and electronic effects. They are concerned with mechanical and technical aspects of sound and music. They are the ones

who place microphones at the appropriate places on the stage, set levels of audio equipment and technical instruments, and turn pre-amp knobs. They are also the ones to add music and sound effects (often using creative technologies and ways) to various shows, sports games, corporate events and even computer games.

Sound engineers basically improve the quality of music and speech during live shows or in a studio. They also develop new audio technologies and advance scientific understanding of sounds that are audible to human ears.

Many sound engineers work full-time at theatres, television and radio stations, live performance venues, and film studios on a permanent basis but there are some who work on a freelance

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ENRICH YOUR LIFE SKILLS & CAREER



Dr. Jitendra Nagpal

Life skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable our youngsters to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. These are a set of human skills acquired via teaching or direct experience that are used to handle problems and questions commonly encountered in daily human life. **Dr. Jitendra Nagpal** is a Life Skills Coach. He is a developmental trainer in youth wellbeing and soft skills for the schools, colleges and corporate sector. In this regular column, he will answer the questions of our readers.

Question. I am 17 year old girl studying in first year of college. I often feel out of place when I am in campus. I have zero self-confidence and have trouble in facing people. I often feel dominated by others or mocked by them and I can never answer back or express my feelings about that. Please help?

Answer Self-confidence is indeed desirable in maintenance of good mental health and wellbeing. To begin with, make a clear cut assessment of your strengths and weaknesses. Nurture your strengths and make them a part of your personality. Take pride in your opinions and ideas. Don't be afraid to voice out your opinions. Learn to be assertive in order to avoid

unnecessary domination. Ascertain your boundaries and communicate. Don't hesitate to tell your friends when they trample your feelings or cross your boundaries. They will respect you for your honesty. Instead of staying in your comfort zone, fearing failure and avoiding taking risks be willing to take risks and go the extra mile to achieve better things. Aim for accomplishments rather than perfection. People with high self esteem tend to have better relationships with peers and adults, feel happier, find it easier to deal with mistakes, disappointments, and failures, and are more likely to stick with something until they succeed.

Sometimes a change in appearance helps. Let go of the past. You can shape whatever happens from now on and create a new, confident you. The nagging voice that tells you are not good enough, strong enough or smart enough is the inner critic which is universal, in some it is quite persistent. If you repeatedly put yourself down, it will knock confidence right out of you. Drop self-deprecation. Learn to pick up and defeat the negative self-talk which can destroy your confidence. Frequently remind yourself of all of the good things you have done. Spend more time with positive people who sup-

port you and make you feel good. Confide your problem to a close friend and he/she may be able to help you in communicating with others. Connect with supportive people and recuperate their interest in you. You will feel better.

Q. I am a 19 yr old Male, studying in 2nd year in a college in Delhi University. Since the time I can recall, I have been into a habit of lying. I initially started to hide some petty faults of mine when I was young but I could not realize when it caught me in such a big way. Now I feel helpless when I am not able to check myself from lying to others but as a consequence of which my family and peer relations have started getting affected immensely. Please provide me with some help and guidance into the matter. Is this a mental illness?

A. It takes great courage to be aware of your behavior and sharing it, wanting a change. It is a beginning and from here on it may not be diagnosed as a disorder in itself. A new journey of self awareness and towards betterment of your habit has already started.

Lying is not usually a sign of mental illness. Yes, it may move into a symptom of illness. When people refer to someone

as 'pathological liar' they probably mean who finds lying as easy as telling the truth. Your behavior of lying could be therefor regarded as pathological lying. The first step for you would be to observe and introspect to know what causes you to lie. Ask yourself questions like, "what would happen if you told the truth", "why are you lying", how do you react when you stop yourself from lying and also observe how many times you lie in a day. The next step would be to realize how this habit is affecting your life and your relationships with other people. Do you want other people to be suspicious of you? Do you want your best friend to never believe in what you say? It is important to realize the harm and that being truthful would do well to your personal and social life in the long run. So the final step is to minimize your lying altogether. This has to be done systematically - lying lesser and lesser each day. It takes courage to face the problem and fight it. Seek help from your family members and friends. They will help you confront it and work for a positive tomorrow. If it still persists, then you should seek help from a professional. Coping with few securities and stressors in our subconscious is important. Best wishes.

CAREER IN SOUND...

Continued from page 1

basis. They often work long and irregular hours to accommodate hectic shooting schedules and piling up deadlines.

What all does Sound Engineer do?

Sound engineers often work with musical artists, television news channels, radio stations and movie directors to operate and maintain sound recording and broadcasting equipment. It is a highly technical job and requires excellent computer skills as well as knack for working with electronic equipment.

Flexibility and adaptability are key requirements to career growth in this field as sound engineers are expected to work with different types of audio inputs and equipment every day. They have to coordinate with editors, directors, video operators and other sound engineers, and choose appropriate equipment for different situations.

Planning, scheduling and getting work executed is also an important part of a sound engineer's job profile – and it requires fairly good management skills.

Sound engineers may also have to travel extensively for on-site sound engineering tasks.

Top Sound Engineering Colleges and Courses available in India

- Adyar Institute or MGR Government Film and Television Institute, Chennai offers Diploma in Film Technology and Television Production (Sound Recording and Engineering) (Duration: 3 years): Most of the seats are earmarked for natives of Tamil Nadu
- Amrita School of Arts and Science, Brahmasthanam, Edappally, Kochi offers MFA in Visual Media (Duration: 2 years); and B.Sc in Visual Media (Duration: 3 years)

Sound & TV Engineering (Duration: 3 years)

- Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT), Thiruvananthapuram offers Postgraduate Diploma in Science and Development Communication (Duration: 1 year): Only for Graduates
- College of Applied Science, Vadakkencherry offers Post Graduate Diploma in Audio Engineering (Duration: 1 year)
- Department of Film & TV Studies, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi offers Diploma in Video Editing and Sound Recording (EDT) (Duration: 1 year)
- Department of Music, University of Mumbai offers Certificate course in Sound Recording and Reproduction Course (SRR) (Duration: 6 months)
- Digital Academy – The Film School, Mumbai offers Sound Recording & Engineering Course (Duration: 10 months)
- Film Actor Mohan Lal's Vismaya Studio, Thiruvananthapuram offers Audio Engineering course
- Film and Television Institute of India, Pune offers Post Graduate Certificate Course in Sound Recording and TV Engineering (Duration: 1 year), and Post Graduate Diploma in Sound Recording and Sound Design (Duration: 3 years): For Graduates only
- Government Film & Television Institute, Bengaluru offers Diploma in Sound and Recording (Duration: 3 years)
- IIT Kharagpur offers M.Tech in Media and Sound Engineering (Duration: 2 years): Graduate Engineers have to appear for GATE

Mumbai offers Degree and Diploma courses in Audio Engineering, including BA in Digital Film and Recording (Duration: 3 years); and Diploma in Recording Arts (Sound Engineering) (Duration: 1 year)

- School of Communication, International School of Business and Media (ISB&M), Pune offers M.Sc in Media Communication, Television and Radio Production (Duration: 2 years); and B.Sc in Media Communication and Multimedia Technology (Duration: 3 years)
- Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication, School of Arts, New Delhi offers Diploma Course in Audio Engineering & Music Production (Duration: 1 year): Mainly for Graduates
- St. Joseph College of Communication, Changanassery (affiliated to MG University) offers MA in Cinema and Television (Duration: 2 years) along with graduate and postgraduate courses in Multimedia
- Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication, Pune offers Bachelor of Media Studies with specialization in Audio and Visual Production (Duration: 3 years): Open to students who have cleared Class XII with 50% marks in any discipline
- Whistling Woods International Institute for Film and Television, Animation and Media Arts, Mumbai offers full-time course in Sound Recording (Duration: 2 years)
- ZEE Institute of Media Arts (ZIMA), Mumbai offers Steinberg Certified Audio Engineering Programmes (Duration: 1 year)

(The list is indicative only)

Who are eligible for these courses?

as a major revenue source by film producers. Audio companies also play an active role in promoting and marketing film music.

In an industry, where sound and music is so important, the role of Sound Recordist or Sound Engineer automatically becomes one of the key functions. Sound Engineers may done many hats, such as:

1. Designing and Setting up Sound Recording Studios with right ambience, aesthetics and of course, acoustics,
2. Equipment Maintenance and Servicing,
3. Handling Sound System during live events held outdoors,
4. Producing software for broadcasting ad-commercials or commercial documentary films etc. in radio channels,
5. Song and Music Recording,
6. Sound Designing (or giving sound effects in films, TV shows, plays, animation or computer games),
7. Sound Engineering for live shooting of a movie or TV program,
8. Sound Mixing for Dolby DTS Surround Sound effect, and
9. Sound Recording in Radio Stations or FM Stations etc.

A successful sound engineer not only needs technical skills and sound knowledge about what they need to do but also creativity and aesthetics to do well in the field. An engineer also needs to be able to adjust fairly well to the new and emerging technology trends and adapt to the kind of studio environment offered to him or her – which may range from a single digital audio workstation to high-end production facility.

Professionally trained sound or audio

others M.A. in Visual Media (Duration: 2 years); and B.Sc in Visual Media (Duration: 3 years)

- ARM Academy of Radio Management, New Delhi offers Certificate in Sound Recording & Radio Production: Open after Class X
- Asian Academy of Film & Television, New Delhi offers Video Editing & Sound Recording course (Duration: 3 months)
- Bhavan's Institute of Media Studies, Kochi offers Postgraduate Diploma in Television and Journalism; and Diploma in Film Making
- Biju Patnaik Film and Television Institute, Cuttack offers Diploma in

(Duration: 2 years): Graduate Engineers have to appear for GATE to be able to do this course.

- Keltron Advanced Training Centre, Thiruvananthapuram offers Short-term Diploma course in Sound Engineering (Duration: 6 months)
- National Institute of Film and Fine Arts (NIFFA), Kolkata offers Certificate in Sound Recording and Editing (Duration: 6 months)
- Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata offers Postgraduate Diploma in Cinema Audiography (Duration: 3 years): Only for Graduates
- School of Audio Engineering (SAE) in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and

(The list is indicative only)

Who are eligible for these courses?

Students who have appeared for their Class XII board exams with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as their subjects can opt for Bachelor degree or Master degree in Sound Engineering, Audio Engineering or Acoustic Engineering.

Career Options and Remuneration

India is one of the biggest producers of movies in the world. Unlike Hollywood or World Cinema, songs and dances play a big part in Indian movies. In fact, many movies do quite well despite a weak script or direction – just on the strength of their music. Naturally, selling music and audio rights is seen

high-end production facility.

Professionally trained sound or audio engineers can find jobs in film and multimedia organizations, recording studios, TV channels, CD production units, advertising firms, postproduction units, animation studios etc. Most common job roles offered to sound engineers are audio technicians, studio managers, location recordists, sound designer, sound effects editor, music and dialogue editor and other related profiles.

The starting salary for a fresher in this field is around Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000. Once you prove your worth, there is no limit to what you can earn in this field.

(The author is a career counsellor)