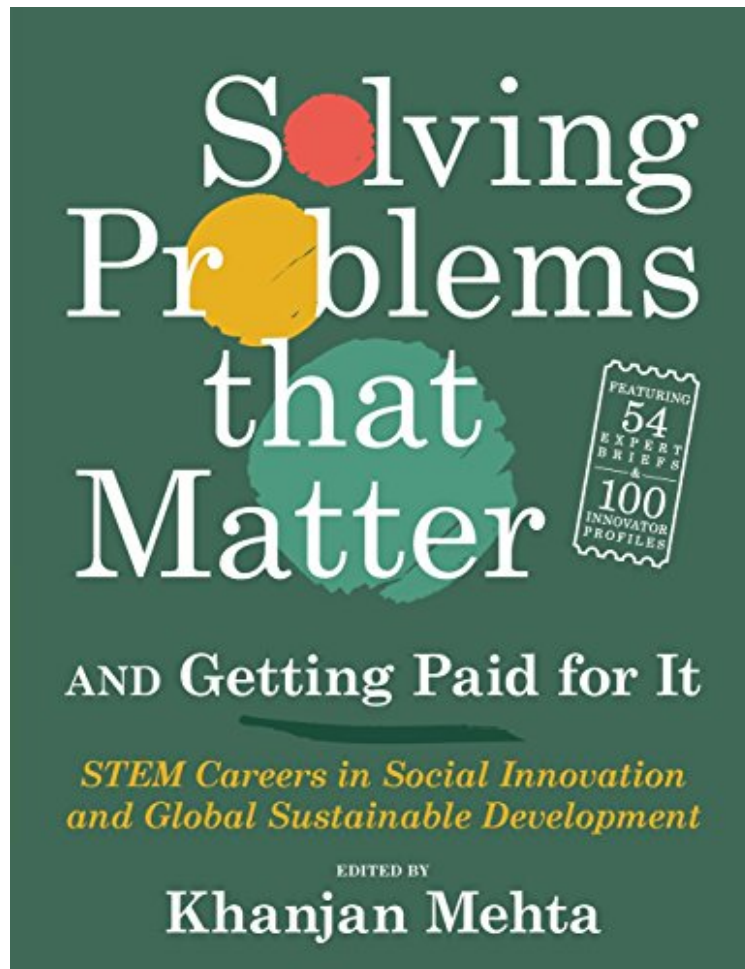


Solving Problems that Matter (and Getting Paid for It)

Khanjan Mehta

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innovation, either in-country or globally, the countless professions available can be overwhelming. Mentorship from individuals engaged in such careers can be formative in providing direction, but these kinds of role models may not always be easy to find for aspiring game changers. *Solving Problems that Matter* provides insight into the passions, responsibilities and even hobbies of 100 successful innovators working in careers as diverse as graphic design, computer programming and accounting. If you think that you cannot start a career in sustainable development based on your background, chances are that this book will prove you wrong. There is also expert advice of making yourself competitive for various positions as well as ensuring that you are choosing the right avenue, be it in higher education, non-profit work, multilateral organizations, and beyond. You will also learn how to navigate the semantics of the development world, further providing you an advantage with determining what your options really are. The myth of getting paid poorly for working in the social sector is also debunked, with clear tips about being appropriately compensated. While inspiring, the experts also keep it real. Some kinds of development work are not for everyone, and even those best suited for more intense careers can face frequent logistical issues and even burnout. The various benefits and challenges with work in social innovation are clearly outlined, from diverse perspectives. If you have even the slightest interest in social innovation, grab this engaging book, find your passion, and get going!

Do you want to harness the power of science, technology, and innovation to change the world? Do you want to channel your passion and education to pursue a life-long career improving the human condition? Regardless of where you are in your career today, what should be your next step? Sign up for Peace Corps? Pursue graduate school? Take on a corporate job? Join a nonprofit? Launch your own social enterprise? Should you focus on energy, health or food security? Should you stay in New York or move to Nairobi? The number of choices is daunting! *Solving Problems That Matter (and Getting Paid for It)* stitches together a mosaic of perspectives, experiences, and actionable insights to illuminate the smorgasbord of career pathways in social innovation and global sustainable development. 54 expert briefs penned by leaders from USAID, Peace Corps, MIT, Engineers Without Borders, FHI 360, and other organizations offer practical insights into a myriad of topics such as: * How do different kinds of organizations work? * How do you find your first impact-focused job? * What are the pros and cons of PhD, MBA, MPH and MPA degrees? * How do salaries and benefits work when placed in a developing country? 100 STEM innovators from the World Bank, UNICEF, Gates Foundation, Google, and dozens of social ventures, government agencies, nonprofits, academia, and corporations share their career profiles with you. Turn to any page to read an enlightening and inspiring inside story of a social innovator's role and responsibilities, career trajectory, and lessons learned along the way. Read *Solving Problems That Matter (and Getting Paid for It)* to let 165 of today's most inspiring game-changers help you find your passion, make informed career decisions, and propel you into the exciting world of social innovation and global sustainable development.

"*Solving Problems That Matter* is well worth the time it takes to read and the modest expense of procuring this extremely valuable book." - National Career Development Association (NCDA) "I have many students come to me seeking advice about non-traditional careers that directly impact the big problems facing the world. I often start the conversation by saying, 'It's complicated.' Professor Mehta's book is now my first recommendation to them and to faculty interested in helping students like them find their path. The book helps all readers understand the challenges and possibilities of careers that can make a difference globally." - Tom Brumm, ASABE Resource Magazine "Overall, this book gives one the experience of a really productive networking event, providing exposure to a variety of key players in the STEM world and their individual career trajectories, and offering insights into some of the many possible paths one can take with a socially conscious viewpoint and strong skills in STEM." - National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) "... reading the biographies of STEM career professionals could be really inspiring-- these are real people with real life stories. Within their profiles they cover not only the field but their interests and preparation. This would help students determine if this or that career might be suitable for them." - National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) "For newcomers to the field it is tough to find work in product design and technology for global development. The best advice is usually that it's hard and you should try to make your own job and launch a start-up or non-profit. But this book now offers a better response. It doesn't shy from the truth that breaking into the field is hard, instead it offers a map for job seekers. It's practical, comprehensive and shares some of the interesting new and known voices in the field." - Engineering For Change About the Author Khanjan Mehta is the Founding Director of the Humanitarian Engineering and Social Entrepreneurship (HESE) Program and Assistant Professor of Engineering Design at Penn State. Mehta has led technology-based social ventures related to food security and global health in Kenya, Tanzania, India, Sierra Leone, Mozambique and other countries.