

Dear Reader,

You're living in one of the richest and most advanced countries in the world. As an immigrant who has seen the world, I can personally vouch for this. Since completing my education in India a decade ago, I've traveled to countries all over the world, including Europe, Asia, and, of course, the Americas. If anything has impressed me in the years that I've worked and traveled, it is the astounding opportunities available here in the USA.

The United States leads the world in science and technology. Skilled workers are needed to maintain and advance this lead. The US has to rely on immigrants to staff the unfilled positions. These jobs are real opportunities, high paying and within your reach.

Whether you were born in the most distant country or in the heartland of America, you should be aiming for these jobs. With a good job, the good life can be yours.

However, to qualify for these jobs you need to start preparing for them during your teen years.

As a teen, you are in a critical phase of your life. The choices you make now will determine your future. That is what this book is all about. In the coming years, life will confront you with some of the most difficult and crucial choices you'll ever encounter. How you make these difficult and often-unpleasant choices will definitely shape your future.

This book is intended to help you see the possible effects of the decisions you make. This is very important. As you pass through the teen years, the decisions you make will decide the quality of your adult life. Of course, you can recover from bad choices, but making them in the first place can cause unnecessary, troublesome obstacles.

It really is your life, and what you decide to make out of it is your choice. Look at the big picture outlined in this book. Make your personal life choices knowing the consequences of your decisions.

And good luck in raising yourself.

— *Sumant Pendharkar*