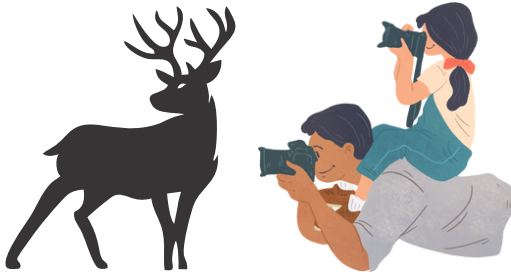


# THE EDUCAFÉ TIMES



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## Message from the Editor

Hello Readers!

We bring another edition of The Educafé Times where we talk about another sought after career opportunities - Wildlife Photographer. Here we discuss the scope of the career, the challenges, and the skill sets required.

Have some new ideas for our newsletter? Share them at [educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:educafestudentsolutions@gmail.com) and get a shoutout.

Happy Reading!!

## Capture the Soul of the Wild: Wildlife Photography as a Career

*“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.” — William Shakespeare*

Mesmerizing clicks of nature, birds in flight, gorgeous panoramas of giraffes grazing on the trees, elephants relaxing in the water spraying it on each other, lions with their cubs, jaguars stalking their prey, splendid sunrises and sunsets. If you enjoy all this, and are a person who likes taking still pictures of nature and wildlife in their natural habitat without harming or disturbing them, then, wildlife photography is a career you can pursue. If you like to take long walks, enjoy trekking, hiking, and like to be in the wild, then, again, ‘WildLife Photography’ is the best and most satisfying career you can opt for.

Along with all this, you need to have a lot of patience waiting weeks, months, or sometimes even a year to get the perfect shot. Learning and understanding the technicalities of how to use your camera, complete knowledge of animals and other species, the in habits and preferences are all part of a Wildlife Photographer’s job.

### What does a wildlife photographer do?

Wildlife Photographers produce powerful images of the wild and their natural realm with a variety of tools, techniques, lights, and lenses on a sophisticated camera and the play of lights in the forests. In a way, a wildlife photographer presents the story of the wild to the human world while also contributing towards spreading the messages of wildlife conversation to humanity.

## CAREER PATH

- There is no formal career pathway in photography
- Take up any of the three streams- Arts or Science or Commerce as your specialization, in your 11th/12th or +2 levels
- You can start right after you finish with your schooling [10+2] or you can take up photography after your graduation in any subject.
- You could also, after your 11th/12th or your +2 levels, pursue either a certificate or a diploma course in photography.
- Number of institutes and universities offer certificate and diploma courses in photography. Some also offer it as three year integrated courses with subsidiary subjects.
- You could also attend workshops conducted on various aspects of photography.



## CAREERS

### India :

- As a Freelance photographer
- For a Travel and Tourism magazine
- Wildlife NGOs / Wildlife Channels
- Photo stock website
- Publishing Houses
- The Wildlife Trust of India

### Outside India:

- BBC Wildlife magazine and other similar publishing houses
- World Wildlife Fund
- Lonely Planet
- National Geography, Discovery Channel

Apart from these careers, there are various other opportunities i.e. you can sell your work through your websites or other websites, through art galleries, publishing companies who might be interested in your work, host exhibitions and enter photography contests. One can use one's techniques to design cards and calendars, and even participate in brand launches.

As a wildlife photographer, the other option is to conduct tour operations for wildlife enthusiasts, such as safaris, summer camps, and so on. All these will help you to make money without compromising on your passion. Last but not least if you have the passion for this, then you should go ahead and explore your options. Live your life.

## Prescription to Success

I am Poorna Kedar, based out of Bangalore, an engineer turned User Experience Designer turned wildlife photographer/ filmmaker.

### *Snippets of an interview conducted with Mr Poorna Kedar:*

*While most of the students choose popular careers like law, engineering, and medicine, what made you choose wildlife photography as a career?*



Like many others, I initially pursued another career path. However, my passion and love for nature and animals eventually drew me more toward wildlife photography and filmmaking.

*What are some challenges and rewards of becoming a Wildlife Photographer?*

I would like to first answer the reward part, getting to be with nature up close and intimate with nature is the most rewarding aspect of wildlife photography. And challenges, there are many like being away from home during the project phase, living with little or no facilities, non-availability of good food, harsh weather a lot of times, etc. But then if you like to be in nature you don't see these as challenges.

*Could you give us any one example of when you felt really happy that you had chosen wildlife photography as your career? Any one moment when you felt a real sense of achievement?*

After my first documentary movie on Lion Tailed Macaques, an endangered endemic species from the Western Ghats, I felt a great sense of accomplishment when I took the story of this struggling species to the local communities. The local communities started knowing the issues created by humans towards this species. Many of them spoke to me personally and told me that though they have been seeing these creatures all their life, they didn't know they contribute to the well-being of their forest.

*Any suggestions for students regarding the soft skills they require, to succeed as a Wildlife Photographer?*

Patience! Being patient, focused, and determined are the soft skills that I would recommend for anyone who wants to become a wildlife photographer.

*Would you recommend this career to students? If yes, why; If no, why?*

It would be a mixed answer! There is no clear "Yes" or "No" to it.

It's a highly competitive area with very less demand. The opportunity to make an earning in this field (at least in India) is bleak. Most people earn money in wildlife photography in India through teaching, being tour operators, nature guides, etc.,

Knowing how this area works in India, I would not recommend anyone to consider this as a full-time career but if they are passionate about it they should try to pursue this alongside their main profession at least to begin with. Later if they find any good avenues in wildlife photography, they can probably move into it full time.

For someone starting, it's a very expensive career to get into photography equipment, time, traveling, etc., are a lot of parameters that are involved which need continuous investment. Sometimes it may take many years even to get recognized.

*How does one become a wildlife photographer? Is there any course you attended?*

I haven't attended any courses. I started my photography journey about 18 years back. To begin with, it was landscape and architecture. But my love for nature eventually took me into this area of photography. Having said that, one can attend any course related to general photography first, understand the techniques, equipment handling, etc., and then specialize in the wildlife area. There are quite a few college courses now offered in India for photography and quite a few professionals like me conduct wildlife photography courses and in-field training.

*Is wildlife photography a stable career in terms of remuneration? Would you suggest that they study something else, or should they follow their passion, immediately after school?*

As mentioned above, it's not easy to earn money with wildlife photography in India. It may look very glamorous from the outside but if someone wants to make a living out of it, it's not easy. I would suggest to anyone that they have a stable career in their area of interest and pursue this on the sidelines. For me, my main profession, which is design, complements well with my photography passion. Both being creative fields, they complement each other well.

*Is it 'expensive' to become a wildlife photographer?*

Yes, it's expensive for sure. Traveling, equipment, etc., all add up to the cost. One can also learn by visiting any place closer to their home but practically it won't be sufficient if one wants to make a career out of it. It's ongoing learning and takes many years to master and excel in that domain. Unlike other fields, here you cannot say one can become an expert in 3 years or 5 years. It takes a lot of passion, effort, and dedication along with continuous investment for someone to become a decent wildlife photographer.

**Keen to know more on  
Wildlife Photography ?**

**Contact: Poorna Kedar  
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## Career Queries

by : Dr. Sudha Bhogle



### **Q1.What is the eligibility criteria and stages involved in pursuing a Company Secretaryship course?**

A Company Secretary is responsible for the efficient administration of a company, particularly for ensuring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and for ensuring that the decisions of the Board of Directors are implemented.

Admission is open throughout the year. The duration of the foundation course is six months excluding the months of admission and examination.

The duration of the executive course is nine months and that of the professional course is 18 months.

The company Secretaryship course is divided into three stages- Foundation Programme, Executive Programme, and Professional Programme. This course is a mixture of postal tuition, optional coaching classes, and regular examinations at specified centers. Candidates who have passed senior secondary (10+2) can apply for the Foundation Programme. Graduates, post-graduates (excluding Fine Arts) and those who have passed the final exam of ICWAI or ICAI or any other accountancy Institution in India or abroad recognized by the Council of the Institute can directly enroll in the Executive Programme without doing the Foundation course. Candidates who have passed the Executive Programme can apply for the Final course. Registration for each examination should be done at least nine months before the month in which the examination is held. Every year, examinations are held in June and December. Study material is provided to the students at the time of admission.

Rapid corporatization has increased the need for Company Secretaries in recent years.

*We will talk  
about this in our  
next Edition .*

*Can you guess?*

Mail us your answers at  
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