TRACKING NOISE POLLUTION:

Studying Environmental Control:

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I'm Suresh Nesaratnam and I'm a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Engineering at the Open University. At the moment I'm the Presentation Chair of Course T210 which is Environmental Control and Public Health. I was the Production Chair as well. So I've seen the course from inception to its present form, and it is now in its seventh year of presentation.

I started life as a chemical engineer. I did my first degree at Imperial College in London and then I did my Masters and PhD in Birmingham. And the first job I got was an environmental consultancy. So that's where my, my path began on Environmental Protection.

That's where I worked first and then I worked in Applied Research Institute in the Middle East and then I worked for a government in the Middle East on pollution control regulation. And then I moved on to Scotland where I was working with offshore platforms, looking at pollution control on offshore oil and gas platforms.

And finally, we moved down south to be in Milton Keynes , to be near our parents and I've been in the Open University for about 18 years now.

Apart from my professional career, I've been on several different bodies and one of them was Ofwat which is the Office of Water Services. And within Ofwat they've got customer service committees in different parts of the country. And I was in the one for the Anglian region.

The key ideas in the course T210, are pollution control. So we're looking at water pollution, air pollution, noise pollution and waste pollution. Pollution control is vital because we rely on the environment for so many things. We, we need water to survive; we need good clean air to keep us healthy; so for our wellbeing and for the wellbeing of all of our children and grandchildren, we really need to look after the environment.

The course comprises a lot of text. We have DVDs. We have a home experiment kit. So the students get a chance to look at the theoretical side of pollution control, plus they get some practical experience using the home experiment kit. The home experiment kit consists of a number of chemicals and other artefacts like glassware, so that people can set up mini laboratories at home and undertake experiments with water, with waste and so on.

The practical experiments are indeed significant because you often learn by looking at things and by doing things, so the students actually get hands-on experience on experiments related to air, water, noise and waste.

And the course is aimed to people who want to learn a lot more about pollution control. Many people want to switch careers, they want to go into environmental conservation, environmental protection, so this is idea for those people. But there are many people who just want an interest, want to, want to gain knowledge of environmental protection and this is ideal for them as well.

The sort of skills they should come with are basic GCSE, maths and science. We also have, have some preparatory units in the course which, you know, gives us basic information, but if they come with that already it makes it a lot easier.

From this course people get an appreciation of pollution, how it affects the environment, how it affects people, and they will go away having gained knowledge and the techniques by which we can implement pollution control.

Also incidentally, we cover food safety in this course.

T210 fits in, into two undergrad degrees that we have in the Open University. One is on Environmental Studies and the other is in Environmental Science. T210 is a second level course and then we have a follow on third level course which people can take. And the two courses together comprise the diploma in Pollution Control which is recognised by a number of professional institutions.

Voice Over

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