

# Failure Is Never an Impediment to Success

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## ABSTRACT

Research has demonstrated that failure provides significant insights in variegated circumstances, from minor mistakes and blunders, product recalls, accidents, and medical errors, to large-scale disasters. Organizations and individuals often place a greater emphasis on learning from success. This article tries to bridge the lacunae between various levels of analysis by identifying three mechanisms—opportunity, motivation, and ability—through which people, groups, and organizations learn from failure. Opportunities to learn from failure typically come in the form of further knowledge regarding mistakes and failures that are caused by earlier failures or near-failures of oneself and others. Punitive Situations, leaders and organizations make it difficult for people to be motivated to learn from failure. Last but not the least, the capacity to learn from failure depends in part on innate attitudes and traits.

**Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall-----Confucius ---- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy of China.**

**Key Words: Failure, success, impediments, information, self-discipline, agnosticism, conviction, rationalization.**

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## INTRODUCTION

The wisdom of learning from failures is incontrovertible. Success and failure are two faces of a coin. The possibility of occurrence of each case can be equal or varied according to probability theory. The probability of either face is measured by the ratio of favorable cases to the whole number of possible cases. Many people speak lengths to avoid failing, but they should know that they are unavoidable and unprecedented occurrences. One can say they are unavoidable even on logical grounds of the law of probability. One can say they are unprecedented as they are dissimilar in nature. No two failures are similar leaving few aspects. Though the outcome or result of negativity are similar, their procedure may not be the same, in certain cases though their procedure is similar their effect may not have similar resemblance. So each experience would be unique in its own way leaving no chance of assuming the possibility of happening. That's why they are called unprecedented.

Failure is an unplanned and an inequitable event that consumes both physical and intellectual energy i.e., a heavy load of emotional burden. Failing many a time is quite probable. Deflated and disillusioned feelings follow obviously. “If you do something and it works, great! If you do something and it fails, maybe even better” (Roth, 2015, p.121).

A person could easily rise from the pit of despair and rise to new great heights with the awareness of the fact that failure is quite natural. Initially a failed person has to know the root cause of failure and its subsidiaries and make out his/ her flaws into a list. So to identify things clearly and mend them. Hence, here is an attempt to find out some common causes of failures. In a digitally connected world, communication is one of the key factors that determine whether to thrive or fail. It brings all aspects together in harmony.

“Failure isn't pleasant but it is a normal part of life and integral for success”—(Coping with failures by the university of Melbourne).

### Lack Of Adequate Information

Information is the prime requisite or raw material or stuff for the mind, on this basis the brain develops skills, knowledge and ultimately wisdom. Good information is essential for effective operation and decision making at all

levels. The need for information is an essential component of life. In a digitally connected world, information is one of the key factors that determines whether to thrive or fail. It brings all aspects together in harmony. When we advent into some new task we must be equipped with the maximum scale of data and work to accumulate all areas of information from all possible sources that can be either micro or macro. This is widely applicable to an increasingly globalized world of economic order. Communication of information is pivotal in all spheres of life. A minute mistake in transforming the information can bring a great gap leading to many misconceptions and in certain cases even one can lose opportunities. A resourceful person with required data is said to possess the initial ingredient of success. It helps us to make right decisions, avoid mistakes, to make efficient financial decisions, and to stay connected. In Fact information is a valuable resource that can help us make informed decisions and lead more successful, productive lives. A study reveals that 80% of failures are owed to insufficient information. Thus the mechanism of opportunity gets operated with the elimination of mistakes caused due to lack of information.

It is fine to celebrate success, but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure –Bill Gates

### **Agnosticism**

Agnosticism means having low confidence. If people have low esteem or meager confidence in their abilities, they may have unbalanced views and vacillating decisions, feel doubtful about their abilities or what they have to offer. Low esteem or lack of confidence will negatively affect people's lives in all spheres. Usually confidence comes from knowledge. If the knowledge is accumulated out of practice, the confronted quality will be confidence with conviction. There are varied ways to accumulate confidence as, through learning, one's own experience or from the anecdotes of others experiences. An accurate and untwisted confidence owes its roots of foundation to past experiences. But if it is based on assumptions that will be nothing other than over confidence. Low confidence can be attributed to another prevalent quality of weak minds i.e fear – fear of failure. This fostered quality underates the innate abilities down and lowers one's self esteem. Sometimes people go to the extremes of leaving the opportunities unaware of their latent virtues only for the sake of this fear of failure. The solution can be found only from experiences either of one's own or of one's associates.

### **Lack Of Self Discipline And Punctuality**

Success is synonymous with discipline. This is not an exaggeration to be observed. If we look into the lives of great personalities this is witnessed. The mechanism of motivation reveals that a well disciplined lifestyle that possesses punctuality, regularity and equanimity brings success and laurels. In Fact these are the qualities behind the success of noble personalities. Lethargy is far beyond quality to possess, and it hinders the progress and development of a person and acts as a great impediment to success. Neglecting the minute or ignoble things may cost a heavy penalty. Negligence is the result of less motivation. A burning desire to reach targeted goals may bring out focused attempts that must be freed from negligence. Self discipline is not an innate quality, one needs to develop it. Most of the negatives are due to erroneous notions, negativity, laziness, lack of inner strength and fear of failures etc. Adamant people can hardly expect success. Genetics play a part in our self-discipline, but this can be regulated through habituated practices.

The major ingredient to any path of success is nothing but discipline and punctuality, a useful skill in every sphere of life. There is no need of giving excuses for delay in work to a punctual person as he performs his work at the right time and never finds excuses. It guides the brain with a quality of promptness with etiquette. Righteous action, at Right time will have right and prompt results: qualities of integrity, manners and discipline are inculcated by punctuality, in a person's personality

“Doing the things that you dislike with liking and zeal is called discipline”. --- In Mike Tyson's Words

Discipline is something that keeps every person in control and acts as a driving force in the person's progress in life. In other words it is a practice of self control and should be cultivated from within.

Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly- John F Kennedy 35th president of USA

### **Lack Of Persistence**

GIVE UP is the preferred choice of many after one or two attempts. more people fail in life not because of lack of knowledge or talent but because they simply quit. SHRADDHA and SABURI (dedication and persistence) notions of great hindu saint Sai baba are adoptable qualities. The mechanism of ability to be resilient even in dire situations is put forth by the two words one should underline in bold letters are persistence and resistance persist in what might be done and resist what ought not to be done. Persistence does not mean repeating the same action over and over without any

proper attempt at correcting earlier mistakes. It doesn't get you closer to your objective. keep making mid course corrections and adjustments using your experiences as a guide. Researchers showed that systematic reflection stands out as a key technique for learning from experience, drawing on a growing body of empirical research that spans several psychological areas. Failure has long been regarded as one of the most effective learning opportunities. However, few academics have looked at whether people can also learn from their triumphs, despite the theoretical and practical relevance.

### **Lack Of Conviction And Perseverance**

Success is a consequence of a series of positive actions. Conviction towards one's destined goal is mandatory. Thus goes the precept 'WELL BEGUN IS HALF DONE', But for many reasons our actions miss conviction, thus leading to lack of tenacity in attempt. Conviction and strong faith owe great length to realities and factual analysis of propounded target and way of implementation.

A deep conviction towards the target, is a quality that distincts the successful entrepreneur, leader or a winner from the rest. One who detest failures needs a deep belief and endurance to take a stand of success. A steadfast conviction towards our beliefs does not change even in front of cheers or boos of a crowd, then how to foster our conviction-it comes naturally, never misunderstand it for motivation. In this world of the internet one can easily find loads of motivating sources like messages, inspirational speeches. At length they just lift up our lowering spirits to heights but persistence is needed to fuel that light to reach objective; A constant state of curiosity and empathy should be held to pave out the path. Maintaining an amazing conviction to succeed backed by determination and modesty, get the things done really in a good manner. Though our beliefs and convictions are not in line with others' thinking ,if they are born out of incredible curiosity and are a perfect blend of patience and perseverance , they will obviously lay the foundation to success.

### **Indolence And Procrastination**

The present widely elaborately growing technology along with its many folded advantages, is also leaving its users a lazy Hack. As one palm top or laptop is equivalent to several professionals serving all possible services, it develops an unintended dangling on them. That is because the human body takes solace from both the physical and mental assistance provided by technology. This in turn will result in us losing our innate qualities and an obvious laziness. Procrastination and Laziness make us weak in forecasting and having vision- viewing the possible chance of executing a particular action. Technology of course a boon to world one cannot contravene its remarkable projection that binds each of our actions captivated. Technology of course made our lifestyles highly modified and fast amended to the emerging needs right from food to macro industries. Technology of course made realities to be evident to everyone with multiple exploring ways. Technology of course, made access to any person in any identified corners of the world possible. Not only for these but in many areas technology is inevitable. Saying this one can stop sketching out calamitous upshots emitted by technology on mankind. Darwin says evolution is the trait of life. Evolution is good in a positive direction but it should not cost our original qualities. For example some useless organs of primitive man are lost owing to their uselessness like coarse skin, long tail and large ears. In the same way we will lose some of our innate qualities as this sophisticated equipment helps us. This leaves youngsters particularly affected. Barring high dependency on technology, the quality of indolence can also be hierarchical – a genetic quality in some cases. Another survey tells us that a continual series of earlier failures also leave a person lazy and weak. A Person's financial and economic conditions also result in indolence. An aspirant of success must be free from financial burdens to some extent, otherwise his decisions may be driven by responsibility and caution. Of course there are exceptional cases where fast and daring decisions, irrespective of expectation of results, may lead to success.

So, whatever the case is, procrastination or adjournment is a dangerous victim leading to failures. But unfortunately it is a very common attribute among youngsters particularly with a mediocre mindset. But they should identify their unexplored treasure of mental abilities, whatever be the cause of procrastination and laziness in executing the required action on time is always fatal.

As in the words of a great Hindi poet: *“kal kare so aaj kar ---- Aaj kare so ab”*.

Promptness and punctuality are always important to everyone. So a person who is in sheer need of success should avoid laziness and procrastination.

### **Rationalisation**

They are used to defend against feelings of guilt ,maintain self respect and protect one self from criticism and blame of failure. We are all going to fail at one or other time, at one or other thing. Hopefully we are learning from it. When we go into analyzing the facts we can find some failures are our fault and some are not , sometimes we could have done

something differently and sometimes not. We have to figure out what kind of failure is ours. Check our actions. Did you screw up or miss a step by your own or it is a rational failure. This is actually a fantastic realization, from a certain point of view one can have an obvious and correctable assessment of error so can rectify or mitigate it. But if the case is of rational mistake usually it is hard to find the solution. Here rationalization comes to our help. Indeed it is the rationalization that is needed to assure righteous ways of success. Emotions, Feelings, Prejudices, Stereotypes etc are rightly confronted and put into check by a systematic rationalized analysis. As the word itself suggests rationalization means step by step logical reasoning of our deeds. It opens our eyes to reality to mend our faulty behaviors.

### **Failures - The Scope Of Success**

When you accept failures and process it productively, you process the information associated with it and elevate the insight so that in future we get closer to the outcome we wished for.

You get to narrow it down and more effectively reach the right answer. When life throws many opportunities at us we use failures to reach our goal using the process of elimination.

\* you will earth your real self - but overcoming the hardship that comes along with failure is not an easy task.

\*If you get too attached to an event of failure, You start remembering it as a forecast of unavoidable future failures.

\* Never give too much importance to a failure event. Think it's great that you tried.

\*If you are currently dealing with a failure, put yourself in the back for having the courage to risk the failure, this means that you are at least tired, which most people don't as the fear of failure is too big for them.

\*You celebrate your courage to try and with the same spirit move ahead in life and try again or something new.

\*Feel the failure. cultivate the culture of self control to get the courage to have consistency in trying.

\*Child-like comfort with failure helps us in approaching life with light heartedness and block all our negativity and hence building path of growth.

"Every Winner Begins as Loser ", says Wang (Associate Professor of Management and Organization at Northwestern's Kellogg, School Of Management) Ref:(scientific america.com).

### **CONCLUSION**

Failure is neither a term to be dreaded nor a term to be avoided. Life's challenges make one strong and determined. To accomplish one's goals and succeed in life one needs to have the courage and willingness to accept the weaknesses that have served as major obstacles in one's path of success. Analyzing the reasons of failure and eliminating the impediments one after the other will lay the road to success. Perlich et.al.(in press) offer an extensive example of how success-Failure Analyses can be carried out in practice. The factors that determine success like self discipline, punctuality, perseverance and confidence need to be nourished and polished. These qualities would definitely bring unprecedented results that takes a person to the zenith.

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