

Is it a success or failure?  
**Re-defining success!**



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## Is it a success or failure? Re-defining success!

How do we define 'success' ?  
How do we measure it?

We all love success! No one wants to fail and live a defeated life. But, how do we define success? Someone said – “Success is progressive realization of a pre-determined goal”. Yes, success involves reaching a goal. Definition of success

varies from person to person. Recently, I heard a new definition for success. You are considered successful if you have the “1-2-3-4-5” success-id: 1 wife/husband, 2 kids, 3 BHK house, 4 wheeler and 5 figure salary! If you get all these before you are 30yrs of age, you are a successful person and society appreciates and applauds you. You are considered as a fast-tracker, a runner, an achiever and a champion.

Unfortunately, most of us do not fit into this category. But, we know, we worked hard; we strived against all odds and are reasonably successful in our own areas!



### The Success Id ?!

1. One Wife / Husband
2. Two Kids
3. Three BHK House
4. Four Wheeler
5. Five Figure Salary

I was born and brought-up in a remote village which houses around 100 families around a small lake surrounded by rice fields. I studied in a government school in that village till 7<sup>th</sup> class. I had to cycle 4 kms to go to a nearby village to study 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> classes in another government school. Fighting against the poverty and poor education systems, with God's help, I was able to struggle and strive through all difficulties, to finish B.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering) and M.Tech (Artificial Intelligence & Robotics). I gained rich experience in software development and moved along the dramatic changes in software industry worldwide. I got great opportunities to travel and work in different parts of the world for last two decades. Though I don't qualify for the above "1-2-3-4-5" success Id, when I look back into my own life and compare myself with my peers in school/ village, I feel I am 'reasonably successful'! **And so are you!!**

Take a moment and travel through the memory lane and you will feel that you have been successful compared with many others in your own school/ colony/ community/ village. Think through all the battles you fought, the teenage temptations you withered, the hardships you endured and the sleepless nights you spent to come to the place where you are today! So, take a minute break and pat your own back!! **You have been a great success!!!**

What does 'success' bring us? Money? Comfort? Higher-standard-of-living? Social status? Happiness?

Satisfaction? Yes, all of these!! More than anything else, the 'little success' we achieved triggers passion and drives us for 'more success'! There is an inner desire in all of us to move on, to climb greater heights, to build brighter career and to be more successful!

Let us look into some case studies and see what they could achieve and what we can learn from them. If you are longing to be 'more successful' than what you are today, this booklet is for you. So sit back, relax, be open-minded and read through these time-proven nuggets of wisdom.

## Great examples of highly successful people

### I. Successful Tech. guru

**Steve Jobs** needs no introduction. He was an Information technology entrepreneur and inventor. He was the co-founder, chairman, and CEO of Apple Inc. He is widely recognized as

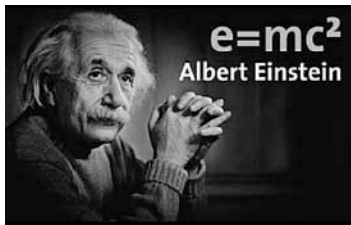


a pioneer of the microcomputer revolution of the 1970s. He was born out of wedlock, adopted at birth and was raised in a hotbed of counterculture. He dropped out of the college, but later founded Apple in 1976 through which he gained fame and wealth in the years that followed by. Nearly after 10yrs, following a long power struggle, he was forced out of

Apple. After another 12yrs, he became CEO once again to Apple which was on the verge of bankruptcy and quickly brought it back to profitability. Beginning in 1997 with the "Think different" advertising campaign, he developed a line of products that would have larger cultural ramifications: the iMac, iTunes, iPod, iPhone, iPad etc., which are very widely used across the globe today. Fighting against all odds, sticking to his core and unique skills, he transformed the world and stood as one of the greatest examples for all of us to look to and emulate his principles.<sup>1</sup>

## II. Successful Scientist

**Albert Einstein** was born to a middle-class Jewish couple in Germany. His family moved from place to place to make a living. At the age of 16, he sat the entrance examinations for the Swiss Federal



Polytechnic. He failed to reach the required standard in the general part of the examination, but obtained exceptional grades in physics and mathematics and somehow was enrolled into college. He went through teenage love-affair, divorce and remarriage related struggles. After graduating in 1900, he spent almost two

frustrating years searching for a teaching post. Later he developed the general theory of relativity, one of the pillars of modern physics. He is best known for his formula  $E = mc^2$  (which has been dubbed "the world's most famous equation"). He published more than 300 scientific papers and 150 non-scientific ones. In 2014, universities and archives announced the release of his papers, comprising more than 30,000 unique documents. His intellectual achievements and originality made the word "Einstein" synonymous with "genius". He received numerous awards and honours, including the Nobel Prize in Physics. <sup>11</sup>

### III. Successful Sport Star

**Sir Donald George "Don" Bradman** was an Australian cricketer who is widely acknowledged as the greatest batsman of all time. His Test career batting average of 99.94 is often cited as the greatest achievement by any sportsman in any major sport. His meteoric rise from bush cricket to the Australian Test



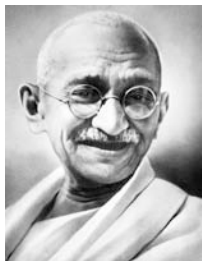
team took just over two years. Before his 22nd birthday, he had set many records for top scoring, some of which still stand, and became Australia's sporting idol. As a captain and administrator, he was committed to attacking,

entertaining cricket and drew spectators in record numbers. On personal front, he got married to Jessie in 1932. During their 65-year marriage, Jessie stood with him during the thick and thin of celebrity life. He paid tribute to his wife numerous times, once saying succinctly, "I would never have achieved what I achieved without Jessie". The Bradmans lived in a modest house in Adelaide. They experienced personal tragedy in raising their children. He fought through many hurdles on personal front and remained a national icon till his death. His name has become an archetypal name for outstanding excellence, both within cricket and in the wider world. He retained a preeminent position in the game by acting as an administrator, selector and writer for three decades following his retirement. Even after he became reclusive in his declining years his opinion was highly sought, and his status as a national icon was still recognised.<sup>iii</sup>

#### **IV. Successful National Leader**

India has rich history. We are a nation of multiple languages, multiple religions and multiple cultures. Without any doubt, **Mahatma Gandhi** was the all-time-great preeminent leader who led Indian independence movement in British-ruled India. Employing nonviolent civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to independence and

inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. He is called the Father of the Nation. He was born and raised in a middle-class family in Gujarat and trained in law at the Inner Temple, London. He led nationwide campaigns for easing poverty, expanding women's rights, building religious and ethnic amity, ending untouchability, but above all for achieving Swaraj or self-rule. He was imprisoned for many years both in South Africa and India. He influenced several important leaders and political movements across the world including Martin Luther King, USA. President Barack Obama in September 2009 said that his biggest inspiration came from Mahatma Gandhi. He lived in an era where there was no mass communication system, where there was neither electricity nor proper education system. Fighting against all the odds, travelling to different countries, learning the lessons from various religions and philosophies, he dreamed big and brought freedom and independence to India.<sup>IV</sup>





## Some common principles from these highly successful people

The above case studies we have just browsed through are of some of the greatest leaders of all time. They stood out tall among everyone else in their era and in their own sphere of influence – technology, science, sports or social leadership. They worked hard against all the odds. They brought-in great transformations in the lives of millions of people. They rewrote history. What made them really successful?

**We can draw few common principles from their lives:**

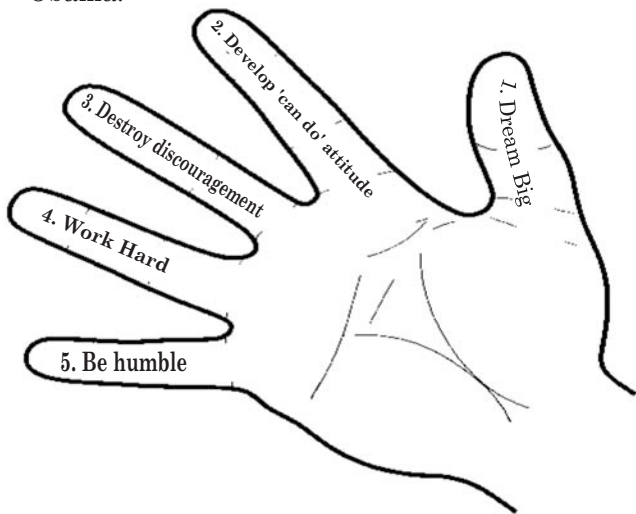
- 1. Dream Big:** In the case studies we read, they all dreamed the impossibilities. They dreamed big. They aimed high. Someone rightly said – “thinking small is sin”. If you want to be highly successful, you need to dream big and be driven by the vision you have independent of what others may say! And convert your dreams into goals. Harvey Mackay says - “A dream is just a dream. A goal is a dream with plan and deadline”!
- 2. Develop 'can do' attitude and stick to your core skills:** You need to have “I can...and I will” attitude to be successful. Believe in yourself. Understand your core competency. Do not mimic others. Everyone is unique. Einstein once said, “Everyone is genius. But, if

you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid”. One reason why Steve Jobs was so successful is that he stuck to his core skills in music and graphics and transformed the world with what he believed in.

- 3. Destroy discouragement:** Failures are part of success journey. Failures give us lot of experience. But, let not failures bring discouragement to you. Discouragement is one of the deadliest and dangerous weapons against successful people. It is cancerous and spreads very fast in communities. It drains off all our energy and emotions. We resign to ourselves and try to find alternate paths. You need to overcome these failure points and encourage yourself if you want to be highly successful. Someone rightly said - “Winners are those who overcome the failures and run with new strength”. Thomas Alva Edison did 10000 experiments before he invented electric light bulb. He said “I have not failed, I’ve just found 10000 ways that won’t work”. That is positive attitude. You need this in tons if you want to be in the elite group of highly successful people.
- 4. Work hard and Work smart:** There is no shortcut to success. Albert Einstein said - “Genius is 1% talent and 99% hard work... It’s not that I am so smart, It’s just that I stay with problems longer”. How true it is. There is no shortcut to victorious life. The backbone of success

is hard work, determination, good planning and perseverance. Stay on the track. Be focussed. Plan your resources well. Put first things first. Prioritize your goals. You need to be an effective leader if you want to achieve extra-ordinary results.

5. **Be humble:** Never let success enter into your head. Stay humble whatever your achievements are. There is a proverb that says it all - "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall". "Success is not about how much money you make, it's about the difference you make in people's lives" – Michelle Obama.



## **Is it a success or a failure?**

**B**ut, wait a minute... are they truly successful? Or is there any limit on their success?

Not only these, but all the so-called-successful people of this world have one major limitation and that is 'time'. When they came to the end of their lives, they could not carry the success beyond the death. They were all defeated by the death. Everyone, small or great, one day, needs to end his/her life on the earth. Unless our success is carried beyond the death and grave, we all are defeated people.

## **Victory beyond this life!**

**I**n the history of mankind, no one could defeat death. Many great men (scientists, socialists, sport stars, religious gurus etc.) came into this world. They excelled and motivated many and were highly esteemed by many, but they were all defeated by death! Jesus Christ is the only one who conquered death and grave. He died and rose again. Death could not hold Him. Death could not defeat Him. He rose again victoriously. There are many historical, archaeological, scientific and prophetic proofs today for the undeniable resurrection (raising after death) of Lord Jesus Christ.

**Who is Jesus?** Many think He was a good teacher and philosopher. Some think He was a miracle maker. Many agree that He was a socialist/ reformer, one who loved and

healed people. Others think that He was one among ‘many’ gods. No doubt, He taught great moral and spiritual truths and did many miracles. But that is not the fullness of what He is. He is none other than God Himself<sup>1</sup>. He alone is the one and only real and Holy God. He came down to earth in the form of human being in order to defeat death and bring us victory. He is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners<sup>2</sup>. He was born sinless and lived a sinless life. He defeated and defied death on the cross of Calvary. He rose again and was victorious over death!

It is not through wisdom, strength, strategies, power or money we get the success over and beyond death. Key to successful life beyond death is faith in who Jesus is and what Jesus did. “To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”<sup>3</sup>. And “everyone born of God overcomes the world”<sup>4</sup>. Independent of your level of success on this side of the fence, you will be made victorious. He loves all - rich and poor, educated and uneducated, elite and common, urban and rural, men and women. He gives that victory to everyone who believes in Him. Through faith in Jesus Christ you and I can be victorious.

Dear friend, are you living a defeated life? You may be successful in your career, but might be struggling in your family life! Or you may be struggling with some self-destructive bad habits! Bible tells us “Everyone who sins is a

slave unto sin"<sup>5</sup>. And "the wages of sin is death"<sup>6</sup>. Sin must be forgiven, purged and removed so that we can defeat death. Bible tells us "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"<sup>7</sup>. Jesus came into this world to offer us free gift of forgiveness. He went to the Cross and shed His precious, sinless and holy blood. He paid the price so that we can be delivered from sin and death. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, which he wants to give to everyone who comes to Him.<sup>6</sup>

Ask the Lord to forgive you and give you victory over sin and death. If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved<sup>8</sup>. If you receive Jesus into your heart today, you will cross from death to life<sup>9</sup> and from defeat to victory<sup>10</sup>. You will be successful in this world and in the world to come! You will be victorious before and beyond the grave!!

*May God Bless You  
And  
Make You A Successful Person!*

- Ravi G.

**Note:** If you want any help/ counsel/ guidance, please contact Interface at [interfacefellowship@gmail.com](mailto:interfacefellowship@gmail.com).

## References

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## Notes:





## Notes:



"Success is a lousy teacher.  
It seduces smart people into  
thinking they can't lose" - Bill Gates



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