

Nectar of Governance

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Part 13: Six principles of success



There is a positive statement that speaks as, “for the one who walks towards light, success follows him like shadow”. Though success is sweeter than sweet, one generally doesn’t know the ingredients of success. If someone is aware of the essential components of success, surely would endeavor in right direction for a predictable achievement. Everyone tries to take lessons from a successful person for implementing them in one’s own life. But, can such an approach really give our desired results? Many have a fashion or habit to buy books on successful persons to get motivation. Indeed, by reading such true stories, one would get inspired to achieve some remarkable

heights in life. But, such effects generally don’t last long. Because such books don’t deal with generic approach, but specific case study that would offer only inspiration, not insight. “Can Vedic wisdom provide any such clue to achieve success in life with certainty?”, an inquisitive may ask very curiously. A simple answer for such an interesting question is “yes”, based on the six principles approach for success as described in “The nectar of instruction”, a 15th century book in Sanskrit.

*utsāhān nīśayād dhairyāt tat-tat-karma-pravartanāt
saṅga-tyāgāt sato vṛtteh ṣaḍbhir bhaktiḥ prasidhyati*

“There are six principles favorable to the execution of pure devotional service: Being enthusiastic, endeavoring with confidence, being patient, acting according to regulative principles, abandoning the association of trouble makers, following in the footsteps of previous expert persons. These six principles undoubtedly assure the complete success in pure devotional service”. Though the above verse talks about success in devotional service, these time tested principles assures success in any sphere of life.

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First principle of success is “*utsaha*”, that is enthusiasm. One who aspires success should be enriched with abundant enthusiasm. Enthusiasm, thus, becomes the key to success. It is manifested by a person who makes attempts continuously despite many failures. For example, a child learning to walk falls countless times, but would never give up. One can learn the actual definition of enthusiasm from such a small child. In any new project, one shows lot of enthusiasm, but over a period of time, it tapers off. It is because of only lack of enthusiasm, which in turn is due to lack of specific goal. Any goal centric person would never become devoid of enthusiasm.

Second principle of success is endeavoring with confidence. Sanskrit word for this principle is “*nischaya*”. Confidence building is the resultant effect of meticulous planning and enriching oneself with all strength and skills. When one becomes free from weakness and builds good fighting mechanism against all threats, he could automatically become confident. Confidence in oneself is a manifestation of higher order Spiritual Quotient (SQ), which demonstrates cognizance and concern. Since a person of confidence is fully aware of himself and his surroundings, he would constantly move on his desired path. He would never try to compare himself with others, but move steadily towards his goal.

Third principle of success is patience. Generally, given example for patience is a newly married girl. She can't expect an offspring immediately after marriage. However, she can expect a child in due course of time after union with her husband. It means for any effort to fructify, one should demonstrate patience. Losing patience would lead to only deterioration of prospects rather than improving them. One should have complete faith in the process adopted by him and keep patience to reap the fruits.

Fourth principle of success is “acting according to all prescribed rules and regulations.” Whatever efforts that are required for achieving success have to be done with full concentration. There should be a good review mechanism, time bound targets, improvement plans and enhancing skills for better work efficiency to move towards the goal. Such skill development should be on a regular basis, not on occasional basis. These consistent and well-designed efforts should gradually eliminate all weakness in an individual. In this context, one can take some lessons from Pandita Chanakya as under:

*prabhūtam kāryam alpam vā yan naraḥ kartum icchati
sarvārambheṇa tat kāryam simhād ekam pracakṣate*

“The one excellent lesson that should be learned from a lion is that whatever a man is set upon doing should be achieved with great vitality and vigorous effort.”

Fifth principle of success is abandoning the association of negative thinking people. This is very important. People with negative thoughts are the real back-pullers or discouraging

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people. One should guard against such miscreants. Even intelligent enemy is better than such friendly back-pullers. One should avoid that association by all means. Bad association crops up due to one's mode of ignorance. A person who is constantly on spiritual quotient would carefully avoid negative elements.

Sixth and last principle of success is following the footsteps of previous expert persons. This clearly shows the requirement of following a role model in one's life for achieving success. This role model can be a mentor or simply an inspirational person. Following such extraordinary successful persons would put one on the fast track of success. Such persons may be seen in any sphere of life such as political, social, religious or scientific fields. Following the footsteps doesn't mean imitating, but it is actually following the instructions given by them with all body, mind and action. Such a sincere effort to follow successful persons would result in great success without doubt. Since a leader is expected to lead his team towards great success, he should meticulously follow all the six principles of success and make his team to adopt them with all faith. Successful governance is a combined effort of goal centric leader and subjects, who have well defined success path.
