

Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan

### 1- Introduction:

REFINE THESIS

Success and failure are two juxtaposed ideas, but they often compliment each other. Individuals, societies, and states usually celebrate success, but hardly own their failures. It is important to acknowledge success and failures both; where the former takes individuals and societies closer towards goals, the latter teaches the art of getting closer towards goals.

2- What does it mean for success to have many fathers, but for failure to be an orphan

3- How individuals own success, but disown failures

a) Individuals are trained to value success only

b) Fear of parents hardly makes space for failure to be discussed in rooms

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c) Professional environment keeps individuals from discussing failures

d) Societal stereotypes attached with failures prevents individuals from admitting failures

e) Better

4- How societies and states orphan failures

a) Societies approach towards failures as a weakness

b) Educational institutions and text books have no chapters upon failures

c) States do not acknowledge failures in the pursuit of saving state's image globally

5- How is it important to celebrate failures as well

a) Failures become lessons for individuals from an early age of individuals

b) Parents' acknowledgement of



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children's failures prepare them  
for life

c) Societies are built upon the outcomes  
of failures

d) Failures set states on the path  
of growth

6- Conclusion

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Success whenever reaches individuals, societies, and states is often owned and celebrated. Failure, on the other hand, is often times disowned. Success is acknowledged on all levels and by almost all, but failure hardly becomes the subject of discussion of rooms. It is purposely made the elephant in the room, because of the stigmas attached to it. Success becomes the subject of literature and text-books, but failure remains unheard.

Success and failures are two juxtaposed entities, but they often compliment each other. Individuals, societies, and states usually celebrate success, but hardly own their failures. It is important to acknowledge both of these ideas. Where the former takes individuals and societies meet the goals, the latter teaches the art of getting closer towards goals. Often times failure is orphaned, because of fears of individuals, societies and states of the reactions of other



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people. It is, however, important to defeat that fear. As Bertrand Russell in his *Unpopular Essays* says, "Fear is the main cause of superstition, and the main source of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of new wisdom." It means that the fear of people's opinions should be discredited in the first place. There are reasons for which people disown failures. Individuals are usually trained to discuss successes only. Professional environment and the stereotypes attached with the failures also prevent individuals from discussing failures. Societies and states' approach towards failures as weakness and consider it bad for their image. However, it is important for failure to be discussed on multiple levels. Its acknowledgement acts as a lesson and prepare individuals, societies, and states for growth.

Individuals are trained to value success only from the very early days of his growth. It is to say that, during the early

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days of a child, he is often encouraged for his little successes, but often times, failure are disowned. The early years of a child are crucial for the development of a child's personality. According to Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, the early five years of a child upbringing shapes his personality. In these early years, a child when is trained to celebrate success only, he is more likely to continue the same for the rest of his life. That is how, the early training of individuals make them value success only.

Along with that, fear of parents hardly makes space for failure to be discussed in rooms. The culture of strict parents does not allow individuals to open up to their parents and discuss multiple ideas with them. It often makes individuals to put the failure story aside and try to make parents happy by bringing or attaining success in life. This fear becomes ingrained in indivi-



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individual's life. In this way, individuals refrain from making failures' stories the subject of the discussion with parents.

On the other hand, narrow professional environments also keeps individuals from speaking about their failures. It is to say that, the first requirement that a job usually has is ~~the~~ any achievement of individuals professionally. In the resume' of individuals, for instance, failure or professional losses are never made part of experience history. Similarly, in job interviews as well, questions are hardly asked about one's losses. That is how individuals refrain from acknowledging failures, because it hardly brings them the desired jobs.

Societal stereotypes attached with failures also prevents individuals from admitting failures. Society celebrates all kinds of successes, but hardly pays heed to failures. They are usually buried somewhere which are hard to dig

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out. Individuals learn from his environment and from his society. Just like a girl or a boy learn how and what it is to be a girl or a boy in the society, similarly, they learn about multiple other practices as well. According to Gender Schema theory of Sandra Bem, individuals learn about their responsibilities and behaviour from the society. It means that society plays a vital role in shaping an individual's identity. In this way, along with many other behaviours, individuals also learn about burying failures and celebrating successes.

When it comes to societies, their faulty approach towards failure makes it an orphan. Society, often times, looks at an individual's failure as a weakness. It tells the tales of their children with successful lives, but little do they make failure part of them. It ultimately encourages all members of the society to repeat the same practices, till it becomes a structured reality.



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Societies construct these ideas, which are then believed to be realities. It is the rationale of constructivism as well. Such an approach of study towards the idea of failure makes little chances for it to be owned by the people of society.

Just like societies play role in ~~the~~ the construction of such ideas, educational institutions and the content of text books are no far behind in this process. The educational institutions and text books usually have no content about the failure stories of leaders or legendary personalities. The content, often times, describes the tales of success of people and disregarding the amount of failures it requires to be ~~successful~~. They together play a significant part in shaping the ideas regarding failures. For instance, a text book of any standard would most likely have at least one chapter upon a success story of any personality. The institutions concerned and the authors usually do

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not include failure stories. In this way, the idea of becoming successful only reaches the minds of individuals from early ages. They try to be successful by all means, but forget to go through failures as well.

When it comes to states, they also try to bury failure stories in the pursuit of saving their image globally. It is to say that states often make failure stories the part of their glory. For instance, no state declares failure in a war as a significant day. Contrary to this, a war won is mentioned almost everywhere and the day it is won is, usually, also made a day of celebration for the rest of state's life. However, the loss of life always accompanies wars, whether states win it or lose it. It is thought to be harming state's ego and image globally if made part of the state's story. Failure becomes an orphan in this way as well.





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always a part of. Parents' training helps children to learn from their failures and move on in life with the lessons that comes with them. In this way, parents' kind lap on the back of their children at the time of failure helps them and prepares them for life.

When it comes to societies, they are usually built upon the outcomes of failures. It is to say that, societies usually learn from their failures and avoid committing the mistakes that led to their failure in future. The failure in the battle of Uhud, for instance, made Muslims of Madina realise that disobeying the commands of the Holy Prophet, Muhammad (PBUH) was not a wise move. From then onwards, they always followed the commands of Sunnah and kept prevailing over the entire Arab land. The practice is applicable even today as well. Societies learn from their failures today as well and it should be done so, because order to last success, lessons from failures should always be kept in mind. In this



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way, societies grow from the outcomes of failures.

Failures also set states on the path of growth. States, too, take lesson from their losses and try not to repeat the same actions. For instance, the ten ASEAN countries always had their economies crippling. They had, and still have minor border disputes, but their declining economies made them realise that they have to join hands together multilaterally in order to grow economically. They learned from their failures and are now on the path of becoming independent economies of the world. That is how failures set states to reach growth. It is important to learn from these countries who grow without even shedding blood on either sides. This, according to Sun Tzu, is "a supreme art of war."

Therefore, success and failures often times come one after the other.

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As much as it is important to celebrate success, it is equally important to take notes from failure and acknowledge it.

However, it is often times, disowned on multiple levels - be it individuals, societies, culture, or states. It

takes the shape of elephant in the room upon which discourses are hardly made. From individual's training to societies' stereotypes to the content of text book,

all play their part in disowning the failures. It is very important to acknowledge failures

from the early age and learn from them. It sets the societies and states to take the flight

of growth, because it comes with volumes of lessons. That is how failure does not become a dangerous practice.

All that counts is the courage to continue by learning from the lessons that comes with it.