



Youth With a Future - Overcoming Challenges & Achieving Goals



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Introduction

Young individuals all over the world are facing tough challenges. These are present in not just their academic sphere of life, but also their professional and personal lives. While most have access to resources, ideas, awareness, and knowledge on how to address these challenges effectively, many are still left in a spiral of confusion. This has become a cause of concern, requiring urgent action by relevant stakeholders involved.

One such entity that has committed itself to helping equip young and talented individuals in exploring and discovering their true potential is Youth With a Future. This is why this book has been put together keeping all the challenges young individuals face while trying to achieve their goals. It seeks to help them overcome these challenges in a strategic and calculated manner. By viewing situations and circumstances from an analytical and abstract perspective, a clear path towards one's future can be paved.

From then on, knowing exactly how to get to the end goal, what resources to gather, the skills to learn and how to manage finances, all can come together in the desired manner. The result of which is becoming successful in whichever endeavors are pursued. This is the framework followed by most successful businessmen. And, it starts with a small step that leaps into bigger steps, aimed and reaching the anticipated destination with minimal disruptions and disturbances.

At Youth With a Future, we believe in the potential hidden inside every young individual today to create a sustainable and prosperous world. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and equipping them with the right tools and guidance is what our philosophy lies in.



Our Values

Choice of a Mentor

Choosing the right mentor is important. It reflects on your vision, your values, and says a lot about who you are as a person. The mentor you choose also determines how likely you would be in achieving your goals and aspirations in life.

Passion for Purpose and People

Without passion and perseverance, finding the path towards success is difficult. For this, having faith in God is the key element. Combined with the purpose and responsibility to help others around, especially those in need, can ensure the prosperity and progress of society as a whole.

Visionary Leadership

Having the foresight and ability to see the long term impacts of a decision add to the backbone of visionary leaders. They can steer through challenges by inspiring others to stand up for justice and being resilient and passionate in ensuring a sustainable future.

Culturally Relevant Communication

As globalization reaches its peak, borders have become blurred. Societies are now based on diversity and inclusivity. In a situation such as this conflicts may arise. What matters here is how these conflicts are addressed and what is done to mitigate them from arising again. This is why, fostering patience, tolerance, and mutually acceptable communication is important.

Multiplication of Leaders

Collaborating and working together results in more efficient and quick results. It widens the perspectives and outlook to a challenge, further aiding in the creation of visionary leaders. Thus, the multiplication of effective and competent young leaders is the need of the hour.

Family as a Priority

The pandemic has brought to light the importance of family and social relationships. Keeping family as a priority is what we value as an integral part of life. It is what helps us attain empathy with those around us.

Good Stewardship

As humans, it is our stewardship to God to take divine ownership, accountability for our actions and reap the principles of reward. All of which rests on humility, selflessness, and faith.

Integrity

Valuing integrity is the driving force that allows you to tread on a path that is just and transparent. It is something that lies within us, and displaying it in our behavior and actions in our everyday life is pivotal in achieving success.

THINKING

About Starting A Business?

Successful businesses begin with small steps. They start with an idea. But, this idea is not just any idea – it is integrated and interwoven with passion. Without the key element, the business idea is sure to fall to the wayside. This is because every struggle and journey comes with hurdles along the way. There are unexpected events that occur that may not be factored into your business model – what matters in this situation is how you respond, adapt, and adjust to the challenge.

This has been ever so apparent during the ongoing pandemic. Businesses that have been able to adapt and adjust to the new model of working from home, found alternative routes to combat the backstops in supply chains and logistics, and integrated the use of technology into their operations, have experienced resiliency. They have bounced back at a rate faster than those of their competitors who have not been able to adapt and adjust to the changing landscape.

If you have an idea that you believe has the potential to make it big someday, then keeping these small factors in mind is important. To get started and lay the ground work for any business idea, it is important to have a strategic and systematic formula of the framework in mind.

The Formula to Start and Sustain a Business

1. Drafting The Idea

Whether it is an idea to sell your paintings online or start a project with your friends that is aimed at helping those in need, it is important to remember that no idea is insignificant. They all create a greater impact in the long run. The best way to believe in your ideas is by drawing inspiration from the Butterfly Effect.

According to this phenomenon, a small and seemingly fragile creature such as the butterfly has been proven to be powerful enough to give rise to a storm in another part of the world by flapping its wings. So, even if your idea may seem small, think of it as being similar to the butterfly. It is sure to have an impact somewhere along the road.

2. Passion And Determination

The second and most important aspect is the presence of passion. And, this is not just any type of passion and determination, it is unwavering passion. One that does not deter from its place no matter what curveballs may be thrown at you. This is the fuel that keeps the business idea in motion.

3. Bringing Together Resources

Once the first two elements have been established, it is time to put together the resources needed. Does it include manpower? What skills and tools are required to cut back on costs and improve efficiency? Ask yourself these questions and list down the resources needed. You can then bring together a team of people who possess the skills and knowledge needed to execute the business idea.

If you are in it on your own, then explore and examine which new skills could help you expedite the process. Invest your time in learning those skills and honing them to prevent any mishaps later on. For instance, if your business idea rests on reaching out to potential customers online, then having the skills needed for social media marketing is important. You can find several courses online, along with resources, and guides that can help you reap the highest return on investment.

4. The Downfalls and Obstacles

Always be prepared and cognizant of the fact that downfalls and hurdles are going to come up along the way. This is something that requires a lot of patience. Only then can resiliency be achieved.

In times of unwanted hurdles, it's always a good idea to take a step back, trace the elements that may have given rise to the problem in the first place, and then look for solutions that are sustainable and practical.

5. Trial And Error

Trial and error is a given feature of any business. This is because the political, economic, social, environmental and technical aspects of the world are always transforming and evolving. There may not always be a one size fit all solution to a problem as well. Thus, exploring and discovering new areas of improving efficiency and business processes is important.

6. Making It Big

Making it big one day requires hard work, persistence, and patience. Not giving up and being put down by the obstacles that arise are sure to pave the path towards becoming successful in the long run. This is also what helps sustain the business in the future.

7. Expanding Into New Areas of Growth

Once your business has found itself progressing and becoming renowned to many, you can further expand into new markets and areas of growth. However, it is important to remember that all processes, ideas, and investments should be adopted keeping sustainability and the environment in mind. By taking an altruistic approach where future generations are benefited as well, the chances of your business to reach greater heights is surely a given.

The Story of Success

There is one such public figure whose story has been an inspiration for all. It is Bill Gates, the founder of the world's most widely used software program, Microsoft. From a very young age, he had a passion to explore and learn about the intricate world around him. His interest in playing cognitively challenging board games and taking part in various competitions was a defining feature of his personality. His curiosity to discover new and evolving aspects of technology, combined with the fervor to learn aided in his long and successful journey ahead.

It was this passion to learn that pushed him into writing his first ever computer program at the age of 13. With his business partner Paul Allen, he began small by tracking traffic patterns in his hometown Seattle. While this was not considered of much substance back then, it played a pivotal role in forming the bedrock for how Bill Gates would design future software programs. The vision he had in mind of what lay ahead, was what he pushed for in the coming years.

By the time he reached college, Bill Gates was even more determined to help add value to the expanding world of technology. He took the risk of dropping out of Harvard University founded the Microsoft software from his garage, A few years later, he expanded his ideas into creating new products such as Microsoft Word and Excel.

All this didn't come to him so effortlessly, there were hurdles along the way and risks that he had to take— Bill Gates faced criticism and several complaints about not having sophisticated and refined software during the initial stages. But, this did not deter him from staying focused on his end goal. The hard work and passion paid off as his business became one of the most successful ones in the world. Today his name is known to all – and it all started with a small business idea that was driven by the right amount of passion.



The Art of Communication: True Colors

If there is one thing that we have learned from the pandemic, it has been the importance of effective communication. Leaders all over the world have struggled to communicate the dire need to follow the rules of social distancing along with the importance of taking precautions such as vaccinations. Those who have been able to build and craft conversations that are mutually beneficial for all have proven to emerge as being effective leaders. This can also be reflected onto our daily lives and in our interactions in our academic, personal, and professional lives.

Communication does not just rest on being able to convey a message. It encompasses several features that work together to make the message received at the other end be interpreted the way intended. This goes for information and messages that are communicated both via verbal dialogue and written as text.

Here are some of the key features that you can keep in mind while communicating. By asking yourself these questions, you can be rest assured that the message being disseminated is being interpreted effectively.

1. Who is my target audience? What are their areas of interest?
2. How can I convey my message in a simplified manner – one that is easily understandable and lucid.
3. Am I able to address the other stakeholder's questions and concerns? If not, how can I do so while keeping their preferences and ideas in mind.
4. Have I utilized alternative means of communication as follows:
 - ✓ Brief proposals stating the relevant information
 - ✓ Reports
 - ✓ Agendas
 - ✓ Use of social media platforms to reach the target audience
5. Have I proofread the proposal or document being shared? Does it summarize the main idea of what is being addressed?

By keeping the aspects in mind, the art of communication can be achieved. It is important to engage in active listening as well. By being open to the ideas and insights being shared by others, an inclusive and welcoming environment can be attained. This will not only help find solutions to challenges being faced by the youth today effectively but also help form the basis for a progressive society.



RESUME WRITING AND ENGLISH

◀ Language Skills

With the right mix of variables required for effective communication, you can even go a few steps further and get started on your resume. However, resume writing is not all as easy as it may seem. It requires a calculated approach. One where the reader has a clear idea of your strengths, accomplishments, skills, and interests in under a minute. Getting all of this down on paper is a task. But not when you have the right structure and English language skills. For this, taking help from the right resources and following through on the tips and tricks presented by experts can help. Let's have a look at some of the elements that can take your resume writing as well as your English language skills up a few notches. These are the key aspect that you need to keep in mind.

1. Brainstorm Achievements & Unique Talents

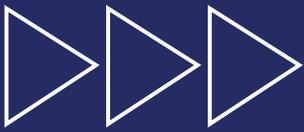
The first step of getting your resume right is brainstorming your strengths and skills. Break them down in terms of technical skills, any additional languages spoken, competitions won, or sports activities that you may have taken part in on a professional or formal platform.

For professional experiences and internships, try to showcase what your contributions were i.e. how you added value to the workspace and helped the respective company or business improve its prospects. This is where the gold lies. Thus, you want to make it known to the reader who is skimming through your resume.

The presence of these elements on your resume can not only make you stand out from the rest of the candidates that maybe applying for the same position but also indirectly put your competency on display. By cashing in on this, you can get the resume that is sure to help you get your dream job.

2. Follow The Format

The next on the list is to follow the general format of a resume. This may vary in terms of the structure, but as long as you have the main components in the resume, you're good to go. Here is what all should be included.



- Your Academic Information in reverse chronological order. i.e. most recent educational attainment to come first on the list.
- Your Professional Experiences – these include any projects worked on during or outside of the academic sphere. Internships are to be added as well including brief pointers on what your contribution towards the organization was.
- Your Extra Circular Activities - These include any sports engagements, book clubs, volunteer programs, and charity events that you may have taken part in.
- Your Technical Skills – ranging from any software program that you are skilled at using or in the process of learning. In the growing world of data analytics and technology, this feature stands out the most.
- Additional Skills – from mentioning any musical instrument that you know how to play, to the number of languages you are proficient at, be sure to make these known in your resume. They reflect on your ability to pick up complex tasks and multitask.
- Your Interests – these include hobbies and interests that are impressive and geared towards cognitive stimulations. Examples include painting playing chess, swimming, technology, or following current events happening in the world.

3. Proof Read

Once you have your resume ready and put together, proof read it for any edits and corrections. You can use online tools for this or ask a friend to help proof read for any errors. From checking grammatical mistakes such as spellings and punctuation marks to ensuring the alignment of the text, font type, and size are on point - make sure all are easy to read and comprehend.

4. Edit & Perfect

Resume writing can take a few tries to get right. So try not to worry too much about the feedback received. This is the perfect opportunity for you to edit your resume and make it perfect. Follow and take into account the feedback given and be sure to integrate it into your resume.

5. Send It Forward

Once your resume is ready, you can then send it forward to whichever organization or company you seek to work with. Research on which areas your interests lie and which companies have values that resonate with you the most. If you don't wish to take this route, and seek to start your own business, then too having a resume is important. It helps you showcase what your brand stands for in the larger market. Thus creating avenues for growth and potential collaborations with your business in the long run.



Personal Finance

One of the biggest challenges facing young and passionate people today is financial limitations. Not being able to figure out how to finance their daily activities and bigger investments such as education often result in dropping out of school. This phenomenon is common all across the globe. However, with greater emphasis being placed on the importance of education for ensuring the prosperity of a nation, efforts by public and private institutions to financially support students in need have picked up the pace more than ever.

If you are a student who struggles to manage money or are concerned about how to better take care of your investments, then the framework provided here is sure to help you get the kick start you need. By being wary and cognizant of these factors, the right money mindset can be achieved.

This is what successful businesses men have in common. They work well with managing their assets and have the expertise in assessing future risks. This might take some practice and time to get right, but nonetheless, it is sure to bear fruitful results when combined with the ideal level of persistence and resiliency.

1. Income, Saving – The 50, 30, 20 Rule

Figuring out how to spend and save your income can be tricky. Many different techniques can be used for this. The most common and effective one is the 50, 30, 20 Rule. This is essentially a formula that helps set benchmarks for how much money is to be spent and saved. Let's break this down further.



Your budget comprises of the amount you have access to on a weekly or monthly basis. It can be money received from parents in the form of pocket money, or wages earned by working part-time at a restaurant or store. You can plan your budget spending at the beginning of every month. The first 50% or half of the total amount ought to be reserved for essential needs that cannot be avoided or overlooked.

These can include the following:

- ✓ Books and stationery required for school
- ✓ Money for lunch at the cafeteria every day
- ✓ Phone bills – if you pay them yourself
- ✓ Any magazine or newspaper subscriptions you have signed up for
- ✓ Any amount you owe a friend and more.

Of the remaining amount, 30% is to be spent on your wants. Be it shopping and hanging out with your friends, to money needed for going to the movies, or buying a new pair of sunglasses, all add to this list. The key here is to set this allocated money aside and keep track of it.

One pro tip that you can follow is of keeping a receipt or bill of every purchase. This will help keep spending within the set limit and further aid in giving you an idea about your spending habits. If you are an impulsive buyer, the receipts gathered and analyzed are going to be the indicator that can help you become self-aware of your spending habits. Additionally, noting down every purchase in a small notebook or the memo pad of your smartphone can help as well, especially if taking care of bills and receipts is something that is an added stress.

Lastly, the remaining 20% is what is to be saved. While this may be something that is often overlooked by young people, especially students today, it is a vital element that helps create the ideal money mindset.

Saving can come in hand during times of need. Or it can be used to finance a big purchase that requires a hefty amount. For instance, you may be eyeing a pair of shoes for several weeks now. You can effortlessly have them in your possession by saving up for a few months. The utility gained from such a purchase is sure to be twofold as well.

2. Investment

Investments can be of many types. They can be resources and assets spent for a lucrative business that is at the pilot stage, or they can be a certain amount

spent on a product such as a laptop. The main aim of the investment is to seek a long-term payback. Thus, it may not necessarily be an investment in something complicated such as shares in the stock market. Anything can be an investment as long as the assessment of benefits in the future outweighs the costs. Here are a few more examples of an investment.

- ✓ Education is a long-term investment in one's future. It determines the ability to explore one's potential skill and acts as a catalyst in helping achieve success in the future.
- ✓ An investment can also be something as small as a good book – especially if it is directed towards helping solve a complex challenge. The lessons learned can then be applied in any future dilemmas that arise.
- ✓ To start a business, an initial investment or resources are required. From then on using the right business elements to execute processes effectively can reap profits, thus making the initial investment worth it.

Similar to these, there are countless examples of what investment can possibly entail. The term itself encompasses a broad spectrum of ideas and elements. A good tip to follow here would be to view every opportunity in life as an investment in one's self. By weighing out the long term pros and cons of any investment, the viability and effectiveness of the investment can be determined. A skill such as this is what successful and competent leaders and businessmen rely on.

3. Risk Management

By keeping the rules surrounding spending and saving, and investments in mind, risk management comes into play. This concept is what most young students and individuals struggle to grasp. Whereas, in reality, it only requires a few simple and systematic steps. By being wary of unprecedented events in the future, savings become a defining feature of money management. As a result, when any such situation is to arise, the risks and drawbacks can be mitigated almost immediately. Hence making money management a vital aspect of risk management.

A Successful **BUSINESSMAN**

Success comes with a lot of trial and error and resiliency. What makes an individual successful is the willpower to strive for excellence. Having this as the central aspect around which goals and aspirations are centered, makes the path towards success less challenging and stressful. This is the key element successful businessmen internalize and execute in their daily tasks. Thus, to become a successful businessman, knowing what characteristics to focus upon and what features to add to your personal profile is vital. Let's have a look at what these are.

1. Characteristics of a Successful Businessman

Successful businessmen never miss out on or forgo any opportunity to improve. This goes for opportunities for improvement in the professional and well as personal domains. Every challenge, task, and idea is interpreted in terms of the long term benefits. For instance, if there is an opportunity or project which may not have short term consequences, but has the probability of long term paybacks, a successful businessman would seek to get on board with the project. Why is this so? Well, for one, the path towards executing the project would be an opportunity to learn something new.

Moreover, even if the project fails, a successful businessman would not account for it as a failure. Rather, it would be viewed from a lens of careful analysis. The hurdles along the way would be studied and pondered upon. The factors that led to the unprecedented situation, coupled with a holistic perspective of how it could have been prevented and addressed are what the successful businessman would further de-construct. By doing so, the probability of the next project or task at hand succeeding and bearing fruitful results is enhanced.

A successful businessman also has the ability to lead large groups of people cooperatively

and collectively. Successful businessmen are humble, inclusive, and open to constructive criticism. This combined with active listening and acknowledging their team member's ideas, opinions, and strengths goes a long way into improving efficiency and helping obtain the desired results.

2. Building a Strong Personal Profile

The next on the list is of building a strong personal profile. While professional experiences account for the competency one is able to display, the personal profile of a successful



businessman cannot be overlooked. To build a strong personal profile is a lot more challenging than it seems, and rightly so. This is because a strong personal profile is not built overnight. It requires persistence, time, patience, and self-actualization. Some of the features that go into building a strong personal profile can be identified as follows:

Academic Excellence

This is the first on the list. Excelling academically is what most students take for granted. It is often seen as insignificant. In reality, however, a strong academic profile highlights key aspects of your personality. It brings to the forefront how persistent and meticulous you are at reaching academic goals and excellence. If your academic profile is not where you would like it to be at the moment, then it is never too late to start building one that stands out. An academic profile that shows clear progression has a greater impact on recruiters. It is quite powerful and convincing of your abilities to work hard and overcome challenges.

Diversity

The next aspect to gauge is diversity. This refers to your extracurricular activities. You can have a well-rounded approach towards this. Trying out new activities that are out of your comfort zone helps prepare for an unwanted situation in the future. So, don't be hesitant about trying out for the swimming team, or taking part in playing chess with your friends. You will be surprised at how many hidden talents you have. And, without exploring new activities, the path towards unlocking your true potential can never be reached.

Technical Skills

Technical skills stand out on a resume. In the fast paced world where technology has encompassed all aspects of life, being wary of how to integrate key technical skills is important. There are several online courses that you can enroll in for this or make an effort to learn through workshops and seminars organized by your school or local educational institutions.

Language Skills

Language skills are another way to add vibrancy to your personal profile. It is a great tool that indicates your ability to interpret new ideas and concepts and adds to your communication skills. In the highly multicultural world today, knowing how to speak several languages is a skill that helps foster coordination, build trust, and lead to greater engagement with people of different cultures.

Hobbies

Lastly, your hobbies are an overall reflection of who you are as a person. They indicate your interests and unearth skills and strengths that may otherwise be hidden or unknown. For instance, playing chess, or board games is a great way to hone your ability to make calculated decisions. This skill can be useful when trying to overcome challenges in the professional and personal domains of life. Thus, by keeping these key aspects in mind, a strong personal profile can be built. One that is aligned to that of successful businessmen. Several influential figures can be mentioned in this regard. For instance, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and even Jack Ma, all have the similar characteristics mentioned above that have aided in helping them become successful in their businesses. A strong personal profile, therefore, requires hard work and years of persistence and perseverance. And, it is never too late to start working on your personal and professional development. Small and short term successes are sure to snowball into long term successes and wins.

Job Orientation

Every individual has an interest that they are passionate about. This is what forms the basis of their career going forward. If the job orientation does not encompass these features, then the struggle to fit into the designated role becomes a challenge. This is why most young individuals find themselves stuck in the wrong career. They then find avenues through which they can switch their career. To save yourself from this, exploring your passion and interest is the first task on the list. From then on various career prospects can be outlined.

For instance, if you are someone who is inclined towards art and creativity, then exploring career prospects in art, media, and marketing is what you can focus on. The same goes for an interest in numbers. Data analytics, computer sciences, ad engineering would be a better suite option in this case. Thus, the opportunities to put your passion and interest at the forefront are plenty. Figuring out what your passion is, is the key element here.

To find out what you are passionate about can take a while. Academic and professional experiences play an important role in this. And, interests can change with time. Therefore, if you haven't found your interest or passion yet,



you need not worry. By taking a proactive approach towards exploring different avenues, the path toward self-discovery can be expedited. Hence, it is always recommended to engage in extracurricular activities, internships, volunteer projects, and social initiatives that provide a holistic and comprehensive insight into various career types.

In addition, the advent of the internet has allowed for this process to be made effortless as well. Online courses, documentaries, and resources on what different types of jobs entail, what they have to offer, and how they have progressed over the years can be accessed with the click of a button. Thus, charting out a plan today can bear fruitful results geared towards the right career trajectory in the long run.

How To Build Your Dream?

To build your dream, the right mix of resources is needed. This encompasses a wide range of aspects such as knowledge, patience, and resilience. The analogy here can be drawn to manufacturing a product. Several components go into bringing the product to life. It starts with an idea that is transformed into reality via a systematic process.

The resources needed to make the product are explored, procured, and then put together. During this process, faults and mishaps may emerge, requiring the craftsman to re-evaluate the manufacturing process and start again. Trial and error combined with the patience and persistence to improve lead to the desired outcome of the exact product that was once envisioned. The same goes for building a dream. To bring it to life and have it become an accomplishment requires hardwork, dedication, and patience.

Finding Your Dream

While finding your dream may seem like a daunting task, in reality, this process can be made stress free. For this, being open to new ideas, concepts, and opinions tops the list. By equipping yourself with information on different types of aspects in the political, economic, social, technological, and environmental sphere, the start of a dream can take place.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

All in all, overcoming challenges to become successful in any task in life requires determination and resiliency. It also requires a plan. One that accounts for possible hurdles along the way and contingency plans on how to address them as soon as possible. This is the framework successful businessmen follow. They too face challenges along the way. The approach and mindset that they take towards dealing with the hardships are what matters the most.

The guidance provided here can help aid in professional and personal development. By following the steps provided, a prosperous and successful future can be built in no time. From having the right communication skills to the passion and determination to push forward, all play an important role in how the future outcome is to be like.

At Youth With a Future, we are committed to helping make this process as simplified and accessible to youth all across the world. Our aim to spread awareness on how to make it big and strive for excellence is not limited in its scope and capacity. We believe that within every young individual is the potential to reach greater heights, all that is required is the right mentor and assistance.

