

The Complete Education Portal

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Horizons

The Path to Career Accomplishment



If students are allowed to take up careers they are passionate about they are likely to succeed. We can find inspiration from

many Indian professionals abroad.

Many of us have listened to the song by Donnie McClurkin, “We Fall Down, but We Get Up.” It is indeed a life lesson for us to keep marching in life. Given the competitive environment we are in and the growing population with high aspirations, winning and being successful have become the norms these days. More importantly, parents are under more stress than their children as competition for good schools, colleges, and then a rewarding career is fierce. Success is demanded right from the school age, and failures and not reaching set goals lead to disappointments in the whole family.

Reality and Rewarding Career

Since the 1980s, aspirational nations like India have invested heavily in professional degree institutions, building their strength in engineering, management, and biomedical sciences. These investments in tertiary education institutions have placed India as a leader in IT and other allied fields. Professionals in these areas, particularly IT, have had a good ride for three decades. However, as there is saturation in every field, the IT sector seems to have hit a wall. Even preeminent technological institutions are not able to fully place their graduates. These recurring situations necessitate acquiring broader skills that boost confidence and social skills to survive and have a satisfying career.



Sanjay Rangarajan

“I have always encouraged my kids to pursue what they were passionate about. I encouraged them to keep an open mind and explore various options. I will always support their choices and provide guidance when needed,” stated California-based Sanjay Rangarajan, an electrical engineer who moved to the U.S. from Thiruvananthapuram after his undergraduate studies to chase his dream.

Controlling Destiny and Marching Ahead

“No man or woman born coward or brave can shun their destiny,” scribed Homer in The Iliad. Self-confidence, determination, and hard work are valuable and time-tested traits for growth and development.

While writing about all these values that are important, it will add value to highlight real people who have accomplished a position in society by using these traits. Indeed, for the benefit of the present and future generations, it is important to know about such determined individuals.

In my life, I am fortunate to have encountered one such personality who has had a positive influence on me to advance my career. Dr. Manickavasagam Sundaram, MD, PhD, is a practicing physician in a big hospital system in Toronto. He has been a constant support to our family and counsels us on our personal and medical situational needs. We all would have, at some point in time, encountered role models like our grandmother, uncles, and aunts—it is important to pass on their advice and document their selfless deeds.

Dr. Manickavasagam Sundaram, based on his determination, has overcome odds and achieved his goal, conquering his destiny. He had his early education in a remote village in Tamil Nadu and then moved around Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to get his master's in Biochemistry. Never letting his childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor go away, he kept chasing it in foreign lands. He moved to Canada from his stay in England and got his medical degree from the University of Alberta. To support his living and studies in foreign lands, he worked as a security guard and a researcher, all the while keeping his eyes on his medical degree, which he succeeded in getting. This is a story of grit and getting the dream fulfilled.



Dr Manickavasagam Sundaram

We hear all the time the phrase "never give up," but people like Manickavasagam are the living embodiment of persistence. Parents and society must showcase people like Manickavasagam and the world's first triple amputee, Craig Wood, who intends to sail solo from Mexico to Japan, as they are role models for us.

It is becoming clear that subject-specific degrees alone are not enough to meet the needs of a dynamic and changing society. A career can be made if there is passion and drive. When we hit the wall, we change direction and follow the path. Parents and family should support the interests of their children while providing the necessary help to settle them in their careers.

Agreeing with the need for support and skill upgradation, Sanjay stated, "Constant learning and upgrading one's skills and being aware of industry trends and society's needs should help identify next moves."

"When you get knocked down, you get back up again," stated President Joe Biden in an election campaign in Raleigh just a day after his faltering performance in his first debate with former President Trump. This is the positive spirit and the way to move ahead.

Adding to the above sentiment, Sanjay stressed, "not to dwell on the disappointment and to look at what to do next."

A career should be chased, but it should be enjoyed!

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