

eBOOK FOR GROUP DISCUSSION PREPARATION



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1. “If you can dream it, you can do it”

Number of members= 5

Time duration= 25 minutes

A -Every great journey begins with one small step. Similarly, every great success begins with a dream. A dream is what it takes to make things happen in our unique world. Dreams hitch our wagons to stars and make us reach for success and prosperity. A person who has no dreams is incapable of living a wholesome, rewarding life.

B –However, it is important to note that in order to transform our dreams into reality; we must wake up and chase our dreams. We must not dream of acting when the circumstances are ripe or perfect, instead, we must create those circumstances for ourselves because success will never be served to us on a platter. We need to work hard daily and progressively in the direction of achieving our dreams. It is a gradual, continual process. Success cannot be achieved in one fell swoop. It requires patience and perseverance.

C –Dreams are what give meaning to human life. Each day when we wake up and pursue a positive action plan, our life automatically becomes worth living. All great success stories in the world have begun with simple dreams, executed by utmost care and dedication. For instance, had the Wright brothers never dreamt of a flying machine, we would have never had the luxury of covering great distances across the globe in a matter of hours. As a result, we would have remained in our own comfortable little shells, not knowing about the wonders which awaited us in far off and distant lands.

D –Dreamers are often labelled as wastrels by our society, since they are, ostensibly, not performing any perceivably productive task. Such is the height of our utilitarianism and emphasis on reason and logic, as dreams are dismissed as a waste of time and effort, because nothing comes of dreaming, in the stereotypical conviction. The people who actually ‘do’ something are not dreamers, they are men of action, who fill each second of their lives with positive action and result-oriented performance. Dreamers are looked down upon as lesser beings, who have nothing constructive to do. They are often dismissed as day- dreamers who engage in useless pursuits because they have nothing else to do. It is essential to understand that it all begins with a dream – no matter how far-fetched or unachievable a task might seem, what the human mind conceives it achieves. And therein lies the beauty of life.

E –One must work towards making one’s dreams come true. At the end of each day, it is important to introspect and ask oneself – how much further has one proceeded towards achieving one’s dream? What other efforts need to be made? How can one enhance one’s quality of life? Making an attempt to discover answers to all such questions will inculcate within us a habit of continual dedication. We will become better human beings, as we will begin to have a sense of purpose and duty.

CONCLUSION –Dreams are the stepping stones upon which the foundations of our lives are laid. More essential than conceiving a dream is to pursue it whole-heartedly even in the face of dire adversity. Mere dreaming has not led anyone anywhere. Implementation of a proper strategy will ensure fulfilment of dreams and a fuller, vibrant life.

2. “Employability skills can't be learned overnight”

Number of participants : 10

Time : 30 Minutes

A: The employment scenario in the contemporary world is dismal. Today our youth are accumulating degrees by the dozen but they lack the necessary 'employability' skills which can land them respectable jobs corresponding to their level of educational qualification and subject-matter expertise.

B: Of course. Employability skills are a must in this world of cut-throat competition where the next individual is always more well-qualified and well-prepared. One cannot afford to neglect this skill-set especially in the era of globalization, in the inter-connected nature of the present-day world.

C: Today, youths across nations compete against each other to get that 'best' job. Employability skills are those skills necessary for getting, keeping and being successful in a job. They are the skills and attitudes that enable employees to get along with their colleagues, to make critical decisions, solve problems, develop respect and ultimately become strong ambassadors for the organisation.

D: Employability or 'soft skills' are the foundations of our career. They are the building blocks . Several graduate and post-graduate students, although masters in their respective fields, lack these skills and hence, end up faring badly in the job market.

E: Several organisations spend a lot of time and money in providing the necessary soft-skill training to their staff, in order to ensure a higher and quality productivity in their employees.

F: Employability skills such as negotiation, decision-making, problem solving, communication skills, critical thinking skills, assertiveness, personal presentation, delegation and so on are the life blood of any organisation. Thus, it is imperative to gain knowledge of them over a sustained period of time and call them into action when required

G: These skills are not acquired overnight. It is a gradual process which occurs by reading books on personality development, communication skills , listening to motivational tapes and also putting their teachings to practise at the requisite moment.

H: The essential employability skills can be divided into - foundational, interpersonal and communication skills - such as being dependable, friendly, polite, adaptability, constructive criticism, task completion, listening, understanding, respect for co-workers and so on.

I: Other employability skills are - problem solving, conflict resolution, critical thinking, honesty, contribution to team goals, honesty and professionalism. It is believed that the current supply of graduates is broadly acceptable in terms of quantity, there are question marks over quality – especially what they’re studying and how they use what they’ve learnt.

Thus, employability skills are highly valued.

J: There is no single, unitary method to learn employability skills - they must be central to one's education. They must be embedded within education programmes, and not treated as marginal, so that their practical application can be ensured.

Conclusion

Employability skills need patience and perseverance to be perfected. They cannot be mugged up or learnt by heart overnight . They should be developed and tested continuously.

3. “MBA means assurance of Job”

For The Motion

- Undoubtedly, the need for the managers has grown over time and corporate have preferred MBA’s for these positions.
- Various researches suggest that as competition intensifies in an industry, marketing and analytics activity increases, resulting in more demand for MBAs.
- As MNCs expand into emerging markets like India, the demand for MBAs is going to go up.
- Higher GDP growth of emerging nations led by industry has created a platform where skills and knowledge with right attitude are in huge demand. Professional B-schools have catered to this demand by polishing graduates into world - class professionals.

Conclusion

Industry will continue to have huge demand for professionals who can take their business forward in an environment of cut-throat competition. B-schools are ready to accept this challenge of developing effective and purposeful managers for the industry. As long as these two things continue to complement each other, jobs are assured.

Against The Motion

- Entry barriers in the education industry have come down drastically, resulting in mushrooming of many new B-schools in the country.

- But in this process of expansion, quality of academics has gone for a toss. Moreover, the number of faculty has not increased at the same pace. There is a shortage of quality faculty across the board.
- Moreover, the supply of MBAs has outpaced the demand by the industry. This has made placements very challenging.
- Jobs per se is not an issue, the challenge is to get a job which matches one's expectations from the point of view of profile as well as decent compensation.
- In this scenario, only the best with the right skills and attitude will get quality jobs.

Conclusion

Just getting into a B-school is not an end in itself. The real challenge starts after that. What a student does in two years will decide his or her fate? Getting the best out of the B-school should be the real motive of the student. If he does well in that, a good job will automatically be the natural outcome.

4. “Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result”

For the Motion

- Success is defined as the accomplishments of a person. It is an event that fulfills the indented purpose in his life. The meaning of success differs from person to person. It is extremely complex as every individual defines it in his own way. For some success means attainment of wealth while for others it is the achievement of his goals.
- Success can be considered a science. If you have set some conditions, you will surely get the result. As science refers to the body of knowledge, success depends upon your knowledge, ability and skills to achieve your desired goals. This knowledge should be sensibly explained and constantly applied and if you have set the targets of success in your mind, no one can stop you from accomplishing your set goals and desired success in whatever form you expect.
- Though achievement of set goals can make you successful for the time being, but it is temporary. Once there is attainment of set goals you proceed for getting more. It is an ongoing process and is tentative in nature. Success is non dogmatic in nature. There is always much more requirement of what you currently possess. Like science there is always innovation of new goals and aims which need to be realized to be at the top of the world.

Conclusion

Success has its own definition. People think that the situations and circumstances they possess coerce them to take every next step leading to the ultimate success.

Against the Motion

- Success is not a science. There is not any necessity of conditions and situations which drives you to take actions and success. Science involves knowledge and skills to be applied but if you are smart you can be successful. Not only does your intelligence is the primary thing to gain success, you smartness in your every footstep can lead you miles away you had thought. Similarly many people don't have any conditions or situations to proceed in their life with such targets; it is their own will which forces them to achieve what they want.

- Success is an inner feeling for self actualized people. There are no conditions set for them to drive them to success. If they have to achieve it they will without considering any

circumstances, and in the worst situations also they are focused to their

plans. **Conclusion**

People are just concerned with the achievements in their life, no matter what conditions and situations they may have to face in future. They are concentrated and focused on their goals and decisively attain success. They are dedicated to achieve success facing out every problem and hindrances in their path.

5. “You won't get success with Ifs & Buts in life”

Ifs & Buts in your attitude can be a barrier in the path to success. People having an attitude with Ifs and Buts in their life are mostly unsuccessful as they do not welcome everything in life without these two words. So what is the main reason for that?

Experience matters a lot in life. There are some people who involve themselves with others in gaining experience. Interacting with others and sharing your views with others is a great way to gain knowledge. Knowledge is something that never goes waste. So the people who welcome everything happily without arguing are the ones successful in life.

On the other hand, the people who always try to block themselves from various opportunities by using various Ifs and Buts often loose themselves from going ahead in life. Without proper experience, no one can reach to the path of success. Without experience, the people often stop themselves from the basic foundation of success.

Ifs and Buts in your mind can make you unsuccessful in life. Usually they do not do the things which they are capable of doing. So it is better that people should move on to something more positive, rather than stopping themselves from various opportunities. The people should try to gain more and more experience and also try to share the knowledge to achieve success.

The people who restrain themselves from opportunities that come their way are often known as unsuccessful people. And till the time, they realize the fact that they are losing their potential in everything and they are not able to gain success in anything, they have lost everything. The inactivity of them leads to an unsuccessful life.

The people should always try to replace the failure with success by replacing “If” and “But” from their life. This way they can achieve the most from their life without much pain which otherwise will be the barrier in the path to success. The people should look for opportunities everywhere by involving themselves with others and sharing each other’s experience.

So if you want to achieve success in your life, then you should positively look for opportunities and also remove the possibility of Ifs and Buts from your life. Then success will automatically come at your door, thus leading to a successful career in your whole life. So start replacing your Ifs and Buts with some positive thoughts.

6. “Money alone can't be motivator”

We have been told from childhood to follow our dreams and not get perturbed by the amount of money we make in the initial stages of our careers. It is true that money alone cannot be a motivator. The amount of money we get for the work we do fluctuates all the time – sometimes, when there is recession, we have to take a pay cut, and when the economy is doing well, we may get a raise.

However, that should not determine the amount of hard work we put into our work. We should be driven by our passion and determination to excel in life – only then will we be able to overcome all challenges and succeed in what we do.

Life is not a bed of roses – there are ups and downs. There are many obstacles along the way and we may have to struggle at times to overcome these obstacles. Successful people are those who look beyond these obstacles and focus on their ultimate goal(s), and they don’t get distracted or carried away by money or other gains.

Bill Gates and Narayana Murthy did not give up when their businesses did not do well – they learnt from their mistakes and worked hard at achieving their goals. Before setting up Microsoft, Bill Gates had established a company called Traf-O-Data to read raw data from roadway traffic counters and then create reports for traffic engineers.

The company was not a roaring success but the experience that Bill Gates got from establishing Traf-O-Data was helpful in setting up Microsoft. If money alone had been the motivator for Bill Gates, we would not have a company called Microsoft today.

Money is important for survival, but it should not dictate our lives. Once money starts controlling us, we lose our purpose in life and life becomes meaningless and shallow. A person’s success is not measured by how much he/she earns but how much he/she contributes to society. Money is an additional benefit that comes with success. Once we keep this mantra at the back of our heads, we will view success and failure in the same light and we won’t get affected by money or the lack of money.

In conclusion, money alone cannot be a motivator – if we take steps in life while keeping money at the forefront of our decisions, we will not go far in life. We ought to remember that one can be successful if he is determined in life. He has to be focused on his goals and overcome all obstacles and challenges that life throws at him. Only then will he reach his full

potential. So, don't give up on your dreams – follow your passion and you will reach your destination.

7. “Social networking sites are waste of time for career oriented youth?”

Members-8

Time-30 minutes

In today's era when people don't seem to have time to connect with near and dear ones over a cup of coffee, social networking sites seem to be the perfect solution. The rise and rise of social networking sites in the last decade has come as a saviour for those who cannot and do not want to make the effort of meeting people personally and for those who are always 'busy.'

A. Social networking sites have come as a boon for people wanting to connect with friends, especially old friends with whom they have lost touch. If they can renew their acquaintance just by logging on to one such site, then the emergence of these sites needs to be appreciated.

B. True. Social networking sites have changed the way we communicate with people. It is, now, possible to catch up with old acquaintances as well as make your friends a part of your life by sharing pictures, videos, places you visit and so on.

C. These sites intrude your personal space. By feeling a compulsion to share your personal pictures, videos, location, you are actually living for others and vying for their approval. Looking for others' approval is definitely a sign of insecurity and lack of confidence.

D. The biggest disadvantage of social networking sites is that one ends up wasting a lot of time. Since, it is addictive in nature, a person surfing these sites loses track of time and ends up wasting quality time that may have been used in some productive activity.

E. This is especially true for career oriented youth, who desire success and a great career. Due to these sites, they end up spending a lot of their time doing various unproductive activities, time which could have easily been spent in thinking about their careers and improving their performance at work.

F. These sites, at best, serve as mere distractions. The youth of the country, who should be burning the midnight oil to think of becoming productive and successful citizens, instead, focus on keeping up with the latest trends on social networking sites.

G. These sites also become an alternate world for the youth, who find an escape from the drudgery of the real world in the time they spend on such sites. For such people, because they are not able to come to terms with their immediate world, the virtual world becomes a preferred reality.

H. The fact that such sites allow revisiting old ties and acquaintances and keeping in touch does not mean that the nature of interaction and conversation is necessarily qualitative. A major drawback of these sites, especially for the youth, most often than not, they do not gain

anything out of it. The quality of conversation, in general, is poor, with the nonsensical gibberish forming a chunk of the talk rather than some meaningful dialogue, which raises the intellect and curiosity of the people involved.

Thus, the youth of the country should realize the futility of significant man- hours lost and the futility of spending time on social networking sites.

8. “Hard work or Smart work”

Gone are the days when only hard work could get you somewhere in life – today, employers are looking for people who work diligently, in a smart manner. Hard work may help you to complete your tasks but you may not be able to do so efficiently, and that’s where smart work comes into play.

When someone works in a smart manner, he not only completes his tasks but ensures that time is utilized properly. A smart worker makes a list of the tasks he needs to do and prioritizes them based on the importance – as such, he completes urgent and important tasks first and leaves the rest for a later date. This way, he does not get bogged down by the enormity of the tasks.

In school, we would have come across both hard workers and smart workers – hard workers would study the entire year, make notes and prepare diligently for examinations whereas smart workers would pay more attention to theories or concepts they are unsure of and focus more on these areas and this way, they would work on their weaknesses and ace their examinations.

Sometimes, we may see smart workers getting better grades than hard workers and this is because smart workers know how to prioritize their work and manage their time efficiently. Many students have the misconception that the more number of hours they put into their studies the better grades they will get. This is not true. Even if you put in less number of hours into your studies but you manage to grasp the concepts, you will be able to ace the exams too.

At work, we come across hard workers, who only focus on getting their work done, but sadly, they don’t get the proper recognition from their bosses. This is because they forget to do important things like building good relationships and making their voices heard. In meetings, you should voice out your opinions and during lunch time, you should try to mingle with people so that you stay in their good books.

At the time of promotion, it is not the person who puts in the most number of hours who gets promoted but it is the person who has managed to do work on time, taken the time to build relationships with his colleagues and bosses and gone the extra mile to assist his peers.

It is not wrong to be a hard worker – hard work is important, no doubt, but it is more important to work smart. So, do not simply focus on your work but get to know people too – try to enhance your interpersonal skills and time management skills and you will get recognition quickly.

9. “If you are aggressive, you will be a winner”

Studies have shown that winners are more aggressive than losers. Be it in a sports competition, in the workplace or at school, people who want to succeed in life will go the extra mile to ensure that they are not defeated. Winners practice hard and are always in a fighting mood. Since winning is their goal, they put their best foot forward to gain success in their lives.

Many people associate aggression with negative actions. When one is aggressive, it does not mean that he is going to harm someone. Aggression is a state of mind where one appears calm on the outside but inside, he has a burning desire to attempt a difficult task and succeed in it.

David Ortiz, a famous American baseball player, once said, “I try to be as quiet as I can at the plate, but still aggressive”. Before India became independent, Mahatma Gandhi fought aggressively for the country. Although he appeared calm on the outside, he was a brave fighter. He did not give up his mission. Without weapons, he fought courageously until India was declared independent. If Mahatma Gandhi had given up in the midst of his mission, he would never have been considered a hero and a winner.

On the other hand, winners need to possess other qualities apart from aggression. The determination to win should be present in a winner. However, apart from determination, hard work and humility are also required. Many winners tend to be aggressive and arrogant. When one is on a winning streak, he gains confidence. When he becomes over confident, he becomes arrogant and this is the cause of downfall of many bright individuals.

Certain roles in the society require one to be aggressive. For example, a salesman has to be aggressive in order to make a living. If he is not confident about the product that he is selling, then how can he expect potential consumers to purchase it? The world has become a competitive place for people from all walks of life, including students, employees and sportsmen. To stay ahead in the competition, it is important to stay confident and not get carried away by negative thoughts.

Aggression is not linked to violence. When someone is aggressive, he is determined to make it big in life. Determination, coupled with hard work, will help one reach the peak of success. It is true that one should be aggressive in order to be a winner. However, it is important to note that there are many people who may be better than you. So, to remain a winner, it is important to practice humility.

10. “We have lost empathy towards old citizens”

Today’s world is driven by commercialization, where people are becoming more and more self-centered. There is no time left in people’s schedules for empathy, care and concern.

In addition, with an increasing number of Indians shifting to foreign lands, there has been a phenomenon of growing distance (both physical and emotional) between the younger and the older generations.

There is no empathy left in the hearts of children today towards old citizens because families have become more nuclear in nature. In the past, joint families used to exist, which led to people of different generations living under one roof, with the cultivation of social values.

In a fast-paced lifestyle that we lead today, it has become difficult to manage time between work and family. And there are no strong bonds between families today, which is why we see the lack of empathy towards old citizens.

When travelling in buses or intra-city trains, we do not give up our seats for the elderly. We have become more concerned about our welfare, safety and comfort that we have stopped taking into account the welfare of others.

Old citizens are seen as a burden to the younger population. Today, we see old citizens staying alone or in nursing homes because their children do not have the time for them. We are unable to feel the pain and suffering they go through and keep their emotions at bay.

The younger generation has become materialistic, only thinking about physical gains and entertainment. We often forget the hardship our parents had to endure to bring us up, and we take their existence, love and support for granted.

In Bangalore, the International Day of Older Persons is celebrated every year on October 1 to cultivate empathy, love and concern towards the older generation. The SSMRV College in Bangalore actively participates in bridging the gap between the older and younger generations, and this is what the entire nation should follow. In fact, we should show love for older citizens all year round instead of compressing all the love into one day – 1st October.

The 21st century has seen a shift in importance from intangible goods to tangible goods. Now, it is time to show gratitude to the older generation by setting aside some of our valuable time for their happiness.

We ought to remember that we wouldn't be who we are without their support. So, the least we can do as a gesture of gratitude is to show empathy towards them.