



What does **SUCCESS MEAN** to you?

EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT DEFINITION OF SUCCESS. BUT HOW DO THE PROFESSIONALS AT THE TOP OF THE LADDER VIEW THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS?

IMAGESAZAAR

Ankita.Shreeram@timesgroup.com

Time was when the world had an immutable definition of success – a good family, enough income to run the home and some repute in society. These days, most of us measure our accomplishments against those of our peers, because that’s what we witness closely. But truth be told, one man’s success may be another man’s mediocrity. And at the end of the day, it is as relative as what makes one happy and content.

When it comes to a conversation on success, it makes sense to ask the people who’ve already achieved it. So we asked a few CEOs and company heads to rate the following three aspects in order of importance, as measures of their success:

1. Money/possessions;
2. Titles/influence;
3. Friends/family/admirers.

Unanimously, all of them rated family and well-wishers as top of their list and money at the bottom. Influence and the power to make a change were secondary for all of the five leaders we spoke to. It would seem that people do think alike, after all. One reasoning that we may apply

is that money only matters in the initial stages of one’s professional life. Later, when you have achieved all the basic needs of life, it is the love and support of the people around you that keep you going. But for Ambarish Dasgupta, partner and head, management consulting, KPMG in India, organisational success comes before individual success. “A CEO’s success is often measured by his/her capability to have a clear point of view; his/her ability to be forward-thinking even though in some cases, it may conflict with the short-term goals; his/her ability to make himself/herself convincing and make his/her thoughts owned by his/her bigger team,” he says.

A business leader will always see success differently from a professional at the lower rung of the ladder. Manoranjan Mohapatra, CEO, Mahindra Comviva’s response demonstrates this fact, “It is imperative to be able to create business leaders within the enterprise. Stronger talent in turn increases your chance of greater shareholder value. True demonstration of success lies in the creation of future leaders through clear career direction and guidance. Success for me is

the credibility that I have built over time for my employees, customers, shareholders and stakeholders.”

However, having personal benchmarks for success is vital to weathering the ups and downs that one’s career and enterprise may go through. “Success, to me, is sustaining the ability to constantly evolve for the better. The ability to handle criticism and using it constructively to build your potentials gives mileage to your accomplishments. I measure my success based on the challenges I have overcome in my professional career and the opportunities that I have explored,” avers Sushil Mantri, chairman and MD, Mantri Developers Pvt Ltd.

Some would say that success is more a feeling than a quantifiable commodity. As Pradipta Sen - president India, Middle East & Africa at Emerson says, “Success is a sense and state of well-being. I feel successful when a customer thanks us for our extra effort, when an engineer in our team comes up with a new solution, or when everyone in a plant achieves 365 days of safety. I feel successful every time we are chosen over others for providing a solution and thereby contributing to the well-being of the world we live in.” This sentiment is echoed by Vikaas M Sachdeva, CEO - Edelweiss Asset Management Limited, “Success to me means the ability to change things for the better in whatever way one can. Admiration, titles and financial stability will follow. Alternatively, when you see the lives of people changing for the better around you, it makes you feel responsible for their success and therefore, yours.” These insights from CEOs have a deep significance for professionals at any stage of the professional lifecycle. Rather than chasing plum packages alone, striving to find environments where one feels respected and valued, may be the key to a successful career.



WE ENCOURAGE FEEDBACK FROM OUR READERS. For editorial queries, contact:

Editor (Ascent): Viren Naidu
(viren.naidu@timesgroup.com 022-6635 3679)

TEAM ASCENT: YASMIN TAJ, ANKITA SHREERAM
DESIGN: Resp-Art, Mumbai