



VISION

Compiled by Mr. M. H. Dalal

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The Meaning of Vision:

We have heard a lot about vision, but very few people know its true meaning. "It means the ability to foresee the future very clearly as you want it to be and take action towards its achievement"

Everyone has dreams but very few have a vision about their future. Those who have no vision are people with no sense of direction. We should have a vision for our lives. And to realise that vision we must take actions towards its achievement.

The Benefits of Vision:

Why do we need to have a vision? There are many benefits of having a vision, chief among them are:

1. A Sense of Direction

A Vision provides us with a sense of direction so that we know where we want to go. This enables us to focus our attention on our vision and persist despite difficulties and problems. If we don't know what we want from life, we will have no purpose and will wander aimlessly. We should become the best in whatever we do. If we are Designers or Planners or Project Consultants we should have the vision to become one of the best. If we are managers we should become the best managers. In Short whatever we do we should believe and aim to achieve excellence. And we cannot achieve excellence if we don't have vision. As such vision help us to reach the goals which we choose to achieve.

Example:

Mahatma Gandhi: Father of the nation. Made the British quit India by Non- violence.

"Be the change you want to see in the World"

"Your attitude determines your altitude!" -- Denis Waitley

2. Vision Provides Hope

One of the main ingredients to achieve success in life is hope. And to hope you should have something to hope for! That something is called a vision, which gives ordinary people the hope to become extra ordinary persons. Vision provides hope for people to look up to the future. This enables them to face difficulties, work hard and strive for achieving that vision. People who have no vision of their future lack hope. And those who lack hope indulge in self destroying habits like resorting to drugs, cheating, stealing and other bad habits. Vision provides us with the hope to live and happily spend our lives. Visions remind us that after every dark night there will be a bright morning and after every difficulty there will be happiness.

Example:

E. Shreedharan: The Architect of the Delhi Metro and the Konkan Railway.

A modest man. He believes that all his achievements were the result of team efforts. He achieved this by the application of some 'commonplace values'-discipline, punctuality and honesty.

"Morale and attitude are the fundamental ingredients to success." -- Bud Wilkinson

3. Vision Leads to Motivation

A Vision provides the fuel of enthusiasm to keep people motivated. People with vision are highly motivated because they have their eyes fixed at the milestone, not stones on the road. Difficulties, frustrations, disappointments, may come in the way, but if you know your ultimate destination, these factors will not discourage

you. A Vision also helps you to motivate others. Suppose you are a Manager and have a vision which you share with your colleagues and subordinates it will gear them to work harder. In essence a vision is useful for self motivation and for motivating others.

Motivated persons don't just show up for work. They don't separate work and life, because their love of their work is part of the fabric of their lives.

Example:

Past President, Dr. Abdul Kalam.

He grew up on the island of Rameshwaram in south India, where his father was a boat builder. A First World dream for a third world nation. But the same sense of purpose that made Pokharans and Prithvis possible can propel whole populations into prosperity. In his co-authored book India 2020, A Vision for the New Millennium, he identifies exactly the bricks of technology that could build our dream.

4. Vision leads to the strength Of Character and Delivers Excellent Results:

People with a vision have their eyes focused on long term noble goals and refuse to get tempted by short term temptation. They are guided by their vision, take the right steps and become morally strong. Contrarily, those who have no vision, lack moral strength.

Examples:

Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, Prakash Padukone, Geet Sethi and Vishvanathan Anand.

"Some men have thousands of reasons why they cannot do what they want to, when all they need is one reason why they can." Brian Tracy

These and many more benefits make it mandatory for everyone to have a vision.

How to Acquire a Vision:

There are many ways which can help you acquire one. The following are some of the ways which will enable you to figure out your own vision

Sometimes very ordinary people dream of big dreams and realise them. They start from zero base and reach the highest level of achievement and excellence.

1. Self and Situation Analysis

The greatest knowledge is self knowledge and the greatest tragedy is the fact that many people don't know themselves. To determine your vision you need to ask few basic questions about yourself. These are :

Who am I ?

What is my purpose in life ?

What do I want from life ?

Why do I want it ?

How to get it ?

To support these questions let us understand that God has created human being as his representative on this earth.

This status and position itself should empower you to become the best in whatever you do. Look inside and answer the questions I mentioned. You will figure your vision by answering these questions. Additionally you should look around and search for better opportunities.

2. Acquire More Knowledge

The old proverb “Knowledge is Power” holds true. Why is it necessary to acquire knowledge ? The reason for acquiring more knowledge is that knowledge broadens our thoughts and mental outlook. With more knowledge we think better. Knowledge can be achieved everywhere. We are living in an information age and information is easily and freely available. Internet, TV, Radio, newspapers and books are full of very useful information. Additionally there are many opportunities to acquire formal education even on part time basis. If you don't have more knowledge than the other person you are preparing for your own failure. By acquiring more knowledge, you will get a better view of yourself, the world and be able to articulate your vision.

Example:

Bill Gates: “It is Fine to celebrate Success but It is more Important to heed the Lessons of failure”.

3. Relate With Successful People

Finally, one of the ways to acquire a better vision is to make friendship with good and successful people. When you join the company of good and successful people they will positively influence you to reach for higher goals. On the other hand if your friends consists of negative, bad and toxic people you will also become like one of them.

Examples:

Dhirubhai Ambani: “Think Big, Think fast, Think Ahead: Pursue your Goals even in the face of difficulties and convert adversities into Opportunities”

Karsanbhai Patel: Started as a Salesman, took on the might of a Multi National and today runs a 2000 Cr. Company

Henry Ford: “Don't find faults, Find remedies, Anybody can complain.”

Now I will focus on the final aspect of vision.

Key Criteria for a Vision :

These are :

1. Positive and Right

One should have a positive vision and that vision must be the right one. Positive means a vision which is aimed at positive results like the highest education, reaching the top of a career, helping human beings etc. Contrarily a negative vision would be something like harming others, cheating and achieving something at the cost of others.

Example:

Thomas Edison: “Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration”.

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time” .

2. Inspiring and Challenging

One's vision should be a vision which pushes him to the limits of his potential. A leading manager, an ideal son, father, husband, brother etc. are some of the examples. A Vision which is challenging is also worth the effort and struggle. This will inspire a person to do his or her best and become the best. We should aim at the best and top positions and not the second best or second top. In the business world today the criteria for excellence is no more first in class but Best in Class. What do these two words mean? First in class means for example

MEPL becoming the best Engineering value chain service provider in Aurangabad. But Best in Class means MEPL becoming the best not in Aurangabad alone, but in Maharashtra, India, the world.. and as the best example to follow.

For individuals Best in Class meaning becoming no 1. performer not in their professions alone but in all aspects of their lives.

3. Clear and Elaborate

A vision should be clear, detailed and elaborate. It has got to be a vision which you articulate clearly with minute details. You can't have a blur and uncertain vision. An unclear and blur vision will relay confusing signals to your mind, which will not motivate you to achieve what you envision. The clarity of vision is like the clarity of your target. If your target is not clear you will not hit it. In view a good vision should be clear, elaborate and detailed.

Example:

Edmund Hillary: The first man to Conquer Mount Everest.
“It is not the mountains that we conquer but ourselves”

4. Backed Up With Actions

A vision without actions is just a dream, desire or blur idea but not a vision. Whatever we want to achieve we must work for it. After determining our vision we should take necessary actions for making it happen. Actions speak louder and actions differentiate winners from losers. Winners take massive actions to reach their goals while losers have grand plans but don't take actions. In this competitive age working smart is not enough. One should work both smart as well as hard.

Example:

Walt Disney: Creator of the Walt Disney theme parks across the world. He had an Idea, a Dream, he believed in it while many others did not.

I have the following words in bold just opposite me in my cabin. I see them every minute I am in office.

Vision without action is merely a dream

Action without Vision is merely passing Time

But vision and Action together can change the World

Example:

Dr Kiran Bedi: First woman officer in the elite Indian Police Service. She saw a great potential for the "Power to Do" the "Power to Get Things Done", and the "Power to Correct".

Abraham Lincoln: Became the President of USA after 11 failures.

Galileo, Albert Einstein, Neil Armstrong.

John Kennedy: "Ask not what the country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country"

Finally, I have 2 examples of 2 very ordinary persons, like you and me, ex-members of our staff who had all the qualities enumerated above and gave us the full benefits of their potential and when leaving, took away with them the experience they had with us and savoring their success in their present positions acknowledging in some measure what they gained when they were with us

Ms Seema Mathur

She joined us as a draughtsman with a certificate course in drafting. By her single minded devotion to learn and give better results she rose to become the team leader with capabilities of single handedly executing large projects, as like a full fledged experienced Architect.

Ms Masuma Jadhav

Joined us as a Receptionist, went forward as an Assistant Saleswoman in our furniture showroom and finally become the showroom in-charge. Now married and settled in Australia, she is in charge of a furniture showroom there specializing in the design of kitchens.

Vision is the hall mark of success, achievement and glory. Understanding the true meaning of vision and articulating a clear vision for our lives will give us a sense of direction. Keeping in view the key criteria for a positive vision will guide our actions and this will lead us to the zenith of achievements.

"You were born to win, but to be a winner you must plan to win, prepare to win, and expect to win." -- Zig Ziglar

**DO YOU HAVE A VISION?
IF NOT,
IT IS HIGH TIME TO HAVE
ONE.**



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