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SOULMATTERS

Goodness And Success



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I have been pondering over the question of difference between good human being and successful person over the years during my teaching career of 38 years. Is goodness better than success? What is the difference between good teacher and a great teacher?

On my retirement, I was feeling satisfied even with confession of many failures of various kinds in making the stakeholders happy including my boss, colleagues (teaching and non-teaching) and students at Department of Economics, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

It needs to be noted that the achievements of a good person remain in the memory lane more than the successful person.

Let us try to comprehend the issue for the sake of motivating Indian youth who is victim of competition both healthy as well as unhealthy in the globalized economy of today.

Many established writers of repute believe that a successful person is recognized by the achievements. Although, their achievements were benefiting themselves only in terms of higher pay package, name and fame, wealth, power and status, yet the work of a good person is beyond self for others—the true altruism.

I learnt altruism from the logo of National Service Scheme 'Not Me but You' to do something for others without expectations.

Sadly, more importance to success than the goodness is given by the society at large through awards and recognitions.

To be successful, there are lessons from Noble Laureate economists Oliver Hart & Bengt Holmstorm (2016) for their contract theory for risk, incentive and reward based on informativeness principle. I foresee policy implications for the Indian Government to be successful in using the research for fixing bonus for the employees through healthy discussions on the issue with the stakeholders ensuring no unrest.

This research may be used for becoming successful but there is no guarantee to become good human beings. Let me confess as an economist that maintaining goodness is not easy as becoming successful. One need to make honest efforts for becoming good before becoming successful which can be more useful for serving the society at large.

The morality and values are clouded today in the name of success. Let us understand that goodness will always be superior to success. It needs to be noted carefully that there is no qualification to become a good person. At the same time, it is not so easy to become good person. We have to do good work even at our own cost of harming ourselves. It demands patience and enthusiasm to sacrifice something if not many things. There is no guarantee to become good in any educational program by any topmost ranking university of standing in the world. We may be weak but can become unique to be called good if not great or successful. It gives confidence and satisfaction that any successful person cannot be equal to good person who need to be identified if not honored and recognized by any award.

Let one change one's behaviour to become good to oneself and others in the society. One needs to be simple to become good without fear of failures. Let us remember that goodness is good but proud of goodness is bad.