



SOMETIMES YOU WIN,
SOMETIMES YOU LEARN

Students' Scaffolding Series
LEARNING FROM FAILURES

Pre-Session Activity

Step 1: Make groups of five students each. Give a small white piece of paper to each group.

Step 2: On the white chit of paper given to each of you, write the name of the activity you like to do most, for example, 'dance', 'sing', 'story-telling', 'paint' and so on, fold the chit and drop it in the bowl given to your group.

Step 3: The presenter will collect all bowls and transfer all chits in one big bowl.

Step 4: She/he will now ask any one of the participants to come forward and ask her/him to pick one chit, and then the participant has to perform that task.



Discussion Questions

- (a) Suppose you get a task that you think you are not good at, will you feel bad?
- (b) Do you wish that you get the chance with your favourite activity?
- (c) Should one feel like failing if she/he is not able to perform well in a task?
- (d) Can everybody do everything?

Learning Outcomes

- **What** is failure?
- **How** should we handle challenges?
- **What** we learn from the feeling of performing not well ?



Is This a Challenge/Failure?

Each of us thinks differently about performance.

Is it a failure if something did not work in the manner we wanted it?

'I do not have any friends', is it a challenge?

'I am not good at playing football', is it a challenge?

'I got less marks in class test', is it a challenge?



...but **NONE** of the above is a failure....

What is a Challenge/Failure?

When we start losing our confidence or when we stop trying, then it is a non-performance/failure.

When we think there is no other way, then it is a challenge.

Challenge or failure is in our thoughts only.



...If we are **determined**, we can do anything in our life, and we can **learn from challenge/failures** also...

Sometimes people who score low marks go on to achieve desired goal in life.

They get learning from the situation and improve things in life.

Here is an inspiring post, about an IAS officer Awanish Sharan who shared his Class 10th marksheet.

**Shocked by Student's suicide over failure
IAS-Officer shares own marks**



Name: Awanish Kumar Sharan **B.A.:** RB College 2002 **60.7 %**
 Father Name: Lokesh Sharan **Inter:** RB College 1998 **65 %**
 D.O.B. – 20 Jan 1982 **Matric:** RH School 1996 **44.5 %**

96/A 355035

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD, PATNA
SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATION 1996

FOLLOWING ARE THE DETAILED MARKS OBTAINED BY

ROLL CODE	ROLL NO.	NAME OF THE CANDIDATE	EXAMINATION
06334	0798	AVANISH KUMAR SHARAN	1996-ANNUAL
SCHOOL NAME →		R H S DALSINGH SARAI	GRADE IN SUPW →
LANGUAGE		SOCIAL SCIENCES	COMPULSORY OPTIONAL SUBJECT
MIL	SIL	MATH HIS CIV GEO	THEORY PRAC
100		100 100 50 50 50	100 70 30 100
30		30 30 15 15 15	30 21 09 30
MARKS OBTAINED	HN 54	SNK 30 31 24 28 19	EC 63 54
SCIENCE		AGGREGATE	RESULT
PHYSICS CHEMISTRY BIOLOGY		700	1ST DIVN - 420
THEORY PRAC TOTAL	THEORY PRAC TOTAL	210	2ND DIVN - 315
45 05 50	45 05 15	35	3RD DIVN - 210
MARKS OBTAINED	6 05 21	13 05 18	21 05 26
			314
			3RD DIV

SECRETARY.

A Case Study : Story of Akanksha

Akanksha belonged to a middle class family, was a well mannered girl at school and respected her teachers. But she was hopeless at academics, sports and other activities such as singing, dancing, dramatics, etc.

- She would barely clear her exams by the time she reached class 5th . In her 6th class, half yearly exams she failed in three subjects; mathematics, science and social science. Thus, she practically flunked academically in class 6. And she was also not good at any other skills.
- Due to her class results, her own mother did not go to attend the PTM and instead sent her maternal aunt. The maternal aunt discussed her performance back at home. Akanksha just passed in her final exams.



She felt:

***I am a hopeless person
at everything!***

I am a non-performing!!

Story of Akanksha (Contd. ...)

Things started changing!

- Somehow, things started to change! In spite of her failures, Akanksha started dealing with her failures, she got 78% in her class 10th Board exams. Everyone was very happy. With Commerce as her subject, 12th Boards were even better. She got 86%
- She graduated from a recognized college, pursued Chartered Accountancy course and cleared it at the very first attempt! She now works at a reputed multi national company as a CA



Someone who was practically a failure in class 5 turned out to be a success at one of the most difficult courses in studies!

Discussion points on Akanksha's story

1. During her primary schooling, Akanksha considered herself as a failure. Do you also feel the same way when you score badly in school academics or other activities?
(a) Yes (b) Sometimes (c) No
2. Do you think the *feeling of failure* is justified?
(a) Yes (b) May be (c) No

The way Akanksha handled and overcame her fear of failures, there are many such people who have handled and overcome their failures and became a huge success.

We should learn also from other's mistakes or failures in life.



Classroom Activity-1

You all might have heard the story of King Bruce and the spider. Let's listen again and discuss in group. Write the answer of asked questions.

Write the answer of below questions-

1. Who failed in the video?
2. What inspired king to take more attempts?
3. How the king overcame his defeat?
4. What lesson you learn from spider in this story?
5. What is your key takeaway from this video?



How Should We Handle Challenges?

In case you have ever felt like facing a non-performance, think about it and decide what you want to do.

DOs

- Try again
- Face the situation and accept the challenge
- Plan and improve
- Stay calm and face it

DON'Ts

- Don't lose hope
- Don't avoid the situation
- Don't feel frustrated
- Don't be angry

...Focus on improvement...

...Stay positive and don't let negative emotions in...

Story of Sangeeta

Here is an interesting story about a girl who never gave up when she was not taken in the cricket team of her school. Let us read this story.

Today, it is the selection day for the cricket team of Sangeeta's school. She was very excited as she loves to watch cricket matches. She thought that she will also be selected. However, she could not pass the test and was disqualified. She was upset but didn't think much.

The other day, she was playing badminton at school, and the sports coach noticed her. She was impressed by her playing skills and immediately took her as the captain of the badminton team that was going to play outside country next month.



Discussion Forum

- *Sangeeta was disqualified for cricket.* What would have been your reaction if you had you been at her place?
- Do you think everybody is good at every sport?
- *Sangeeta knew that she was good at badminton.* Do you think one should remember one's strength?
- Should one feel like 'failing' if something didn't work as per expectations?



We play many sports. We may not be good at some while we may be very good at other sports. Each sport has a different strategy.

Each of us is unique.

We should remember our strengths and work on them, also we should remember our weakness and work to improve on them.

There is nothing like 'failure'.

Dealing with the Feeling of Performing Not Well

Similarly, challenges is important because it teaches us a lot of things in our life. For example,

- How to face challenges
- The importance of staying motivated
- Gives us courage
- Enhances our creativity
- Encourages us to think out of box

...failure is a great teacher of our life...



Tasksheet

Here are given some situations. Read them, think and write your action to face the situation.

SITUATION	YOUR ACTION
1. You prepared well but got less marks in a class test. The teacher has announced that there will be one more test on the same topic next week. Will you keep feeling bad about getting low marks or prepare with more dedication for the next test?	
2. You often get angry on your friends. They have started avoiding to talk to you. Who is at fault? What will you do so that your friends do not leave you?	
3. Your friend got selected for football and you were not. Will you feel like a 'failure' or try to practice at cricket where you are strong, and also after a month, there is selection for the cricket team?	

Remember there is no such word as Failure, it is only 'learning through challenges!

