

WHAT ENTREPRENEURS CAN LEARN FROM



TO THIS DAY, MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI IS ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIA. WHILE GANDHI'S MOTIVES MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT-HIS PRINCIPLES, HIS STRATEGIES, HIS EXEMPLARY EXECUTION, AND HIS MESSAGE WAS ENTREPRENEURIAL IN EVERY SENSE.

NO WONDER THAT HE SUCCEEDED IN HIS VENTURES.



INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

GANDHI ALWAYS LED BY EXAMPLE AND HE PRACTICED WHAT HE PREACHED. HE WAS FIRST TO IMPLEMENT WHAT HE EXPECTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO DO.

AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, YOUR JOB IS TO SET EXAMPLES FOR YOUR TEAM AND YOU CAN'T EXPECT TO DRIVE A TEAM WITHOUT BEING DRIVEN YOURSELVES.

SACRIFICE

IN THE PURSUIT OF HIS GOAL, GANDHI MADE NUMEROUS SACRIFICES ALONG THE WAY AND SOMETIMES IT EVEN MEANT PROLONGING HIS STRUGGLE. HE WAS NEVER OPPORTUNISTIC AND KNEW VERY WELL THAT THE MEANS ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THE END.

AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, YOU ARE NOT ONLY REQUIRED TO MAKE MATERIAL SACRIFICES AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL BUT ALSO NEED TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR THE BUSINESS. A BUSINESS BUILT ON DELIGHTING CUSTOMERS WITH EXPERIENCE IS FAR MORE SUSTAINABLE THAN A BUSINESS BUILT ON DOLING DISCOUNTS.



FORTHRIGHT

AT VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN HIS LIFE, GANDHI DID NOT HESITATE TO MAKE UNPOPULAR DECISIONS WHICH WERE BASED ON HIS NOTION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, YOUR INTEGRITY SETS YOU APART IN THE MARKETPLACE. WHILE YOU ARE ALWAYS CHASING PROFITS, THE BIGGER PRODUCT YOU ARE BUILDING IS AN EQUITY OF TRUST WITH YOUR CUSTOMERS, YOUR VENDORS AND THE PEOPLE YOU DO BUSINESS WITH.



GANDHI CONSTANTLY MEASURED THE SHORT TERM TRACTION OF HIS MOVEMENT AGAINST ITS LONG TERM IMPACT. HE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF WHAT KIND OF A COUNTRY INDIA WOULD BECOME AFTER ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE. HE CONTINUOUSLY EXPERIMENTED AND RE-EXPERIMENTED.

TO A GREAT EXTENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP IS ALL ABOUT EXPERIMENTATION. AND NO BETTER RESULTS CAN BE EXPECTED WHEN ONE EXPERIMENTS WITH SELF TO IMPROVISE.

CONVICTION

GANDHI BELIEVED IN HIS IDEAS WITH UTMOST CERTITUDE AND PRIMARILY SUCCEEDED AS A CONSEQUENCE.

AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN YOUR IDEAS AND ABILITIES AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR SHORTCOMINGS WILL HELP YOU BUILD A TEAM THAT COMPLEMENTS YOUR SKILLS.

SWADESHI

GANDHI'S CONTINUAL SUPPORT TO THE LOCAL ARTISANS' SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE BY BOYCOTT OF FOREIGN GOODS AND PROMOTION OF INDIAN GOODS WENT A LONG WAY IN IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF MANY.

AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, YOU MUST ALSO EXTEND THE SAME KIND OF SUPPORT TO YOUR LOCAL ECOSYSTEM AND HELP THE LOCAL TALENT AND RESOURCES TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES, CONNECTIONS AND RESOURCES.



AHIMSA

GANDHIAN AHIMSA IS A PHILOSOPHY (AND STRATEGY) FOR SOCIAL CHANGE THAT REJECTS THE USE OF VIOLENCE.

IF YOU'RE BENT ON CONSTANTLY BADGERING YOUR COMPETITION IN THE HOPES OF HIGHER DIVIDENDS, YOU'LL SPEND LESSER TIME BUILDING YOUR OWN VENTURE.

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AS HUMAN BEINGS, OUR GREATNESS LIES NOT SO MUCH IN BEING ABLE TO REMAKE THE WORLD – THAT IS THE MYTH OF THE ATOMIC AGE – AS IN BEING ABLE TO REMAKE OURSELVES.

- MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI

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