
MARK ZUCKERBERG - AN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ICON?

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Most of the people globally know about Facebook. You must also know the brain behind this amazing social networking site. He is none other than Mark Elliot Zuckerberg who surprised the world through his innovative and creative internet technology and who raised the hopes of billions of youth by dreaming and achieving big. He bust traditional leadership myth that leadership is meant for experienced and aged people alone.

Mark's CV

Mark Elliot Zuckerberg is an American entrepreneur and a programming prodigy who co-founded Facebook and is its CEO and President. He achieved the impossible by becoming the youngest billionaire in the world through his internet innovation of creating a social networking site. Here is the quick look at his CV.

- He was born on May 14, 1984.
- He enrolled in Harvard College in 2002 and dropped out in 2004
- He floated Facebook on 04 February 2004.
- He became the world's youngest billionaire as on 2008.
- Facebook reached half a billion-user mark On July 21, 2010.
- The film titled The Social Network, was released on October 1, 2010.
- He was named as the person of the year in 2010 by TIME magazine.

Mark's Facebook

"You're writing a public diary...the presumption is that anybody can see it. It's not hard to get into the Facebook, no matter who you are." - John Palfrey, lecturer and executive director of the Berkman Centre for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School.

Facebook is one of the largest websites in the world, with millions monthly users. The site that was once limited only to Ivy League students has gathered vast amounts of information about users that can be used in any way it wants. In fact, Facebook success story calls for a case study for management graduates as Mark has made it in a very young age as one of the most popular websites in the world. It appears that there is Bill Gates and Michael Dell in Mark who are also not graduates.

Facebook connects people worldwide. It is online directory basically and began evolving by including several features through innovation. It is for chatting, dating, socializing, recording and other connecting activities. It is a silent revolution. After the advent of Facebook Orkut slowed down and users prefer to use Facebook to Google and Yahoo messengers. It is rightly remarked, "If Facebook was a country, it would be the third largest in terms of population, after India and China, and Zuckerberg would be its undisputed leader sitting at the epicenter of it all."

Mark - A Symbol of Success

You must have fire in your belly to excel as a leader. Don't worry about the bottlenecks that come on your path towards success. Pursue your passions up to the hilt. Mark had initial setbacks when he first started his website with a severe criticism that his means and mechanism were wrong. Subsequently he dropped out of Harvard and set up Facebook website and there has been no looking back for him ever since. Although several companies are ready to buy Facebook, Mark declined their offers.

Mark's Passion

What counts at the end of the day is passion. It is the first and foremost thing that determines your success. Mark was passionate about programming since childhood. He was, in fact, a programming prodigy. He was constantly working in internet and computer related activities since childhood. His father arranged tuitions so that Mark could grow in his passionate domain of programming.

Controversies

As success breeds controversies, Mark's meteoric rise kicked up several controversies. Most of the times, it is tough to achieve success without making controversies. Hence, controversy has become the middle name of Mark. For instance, there are allegations that Mark stole the idea from his friends in Harvard College. However, court ruled in favor of him. Within the Harvard University also there were controversies such as Mark hacked University's computers. However, Mark has successfully managed his expulsion and came out clean.

Facebook vs. Diaspora

Another initiative against Facebook is Diaspora which almost caters the needs of Facebook with similar features. It was

founded by four New York Students - Daniel Grippi, Ilya Zhitomirskiy, Maxwell Salzberg and Raphael Sofaer. But how far can it sustain is a million dollar question. It seems to be a good beginning. In Diaspora, you can post photos, pictures, videos and you can have control on your online identity. Analysts are of the opinion that it would give tough fight to Facebook. Will Diaspora succeed in replacing Facebook's half a billion active users? We have to wait and watch.

Mark - An International Youth Icon

Mark has become a symbol of hope, role model and inspiration for youth internationally. He broke the traditional barriers and dreamt big and succeeded as the world's youngest billionaire. He proved to the world that leadership has got nothing to do with age and experience. According to Mark, leadership is all about taking risk and dreaming big. We can say that Mark is an entrepreneurial genius. Most of the youth across the globe draw inspiration from the meteoric rise of Mark.

Advantages for Youth

Youth don't have pre-conceived mindset as they have not tasted failures. They are virgin in their views and thoughts. They are fresh in their approaches and attitudes. Besides, age excites them to dream think big and achieve big. They are blessed with novel thoughts. Even if they fail and fall age supports them as they are young and can bounce back with energy and enthusiasm. They are born at the right time of history where the technology is growing rapidly throwing several opportunities open. For any success, timing is also equally important. Hence, the Generation Y is also called Generation Why for their questioning, and is blessed with several strategic, technological and educational advantages to take on the challenges for leaving a mark behind for others to follow.

Youth are blessed with intellectual curiosity and energy and enthusiasm. Wisdom is not the prerogative of the experienced people. Any one can possess. Several IT companies encourage young people for innovative ideas for several solutions. With the changing times and technologies youth are going to take on the world much faster and smarter way as the aged and senior people are busy with their problems and with pre-conceived mindset. The young are energetic and dare to be different. They want to be unique and go by the road less traveled. They can see the invisible and they can see possible in impossible and, finally, they make things happen.

When you look at young people who achieved big are Alexander the Great who conquered the world by the age of 32 at a time there was no proper communication and transportation facilities. Adi Sankaracharya, Indian spiritual leader; John F Kennedy, the former American President and Swami Vivekananda achieved everything in young age itself.

Lessons from Mark

Here are the lessons from Mark's success:

- Everything is possible in this world. There are number of opportunities in this cut throat competitive world. Only thing you must do is to look at the door that is opened rather than the one that is closed.
- Age is not a deterrent to achieve success and leadership. People often think that leadership goes with aged and experienced people. In fact, it is a myth. The truth is leadership lies with the people who take responsibility and who takes things forward.
- Don't chase money and chase your passion so that money runs behind you. Studies reveal that those who chased money and acquired could not enjoy their life as they easily reached their saturation point and

found nothing beyond. However, those who followed their passions struggled initially but they made good money and lived their lives fully.

- Follow the road that is less traveled. If you get into conventional route that is cluttered with competition, you get into rat race and end up nowhere. In contrast, if you follow an unconventional path that is unexplored and untested, you stand to come out with something new and leave a mark behind for others like Mark.
- Focus on your goals firmly. Goals keep you aligned and focused. It helps you manage your time. It helps you remove negative thoughts and fill you with positive and significant thoughts. It holds your dreams high. Above all, it enhances your longevity.
- Spot your talents and push forward. Don't run around skills and abilities alone by ignoring your hidden talents. Mark pursued his talents in programming that helped him. Consequently he has built skills and abilities around his talents paving the way for his meteoric rise.
- Know the pulse of the people and move on. Mark recognized the need for connecting with people when he was in Harvard College and worked on. He moved on with changes and modifications and it ultimately led to founding of Facebook. Therefore, knowing the pulse of people and their needs is an imperative to stay ahead of others.
- Have a dream and work on it. Don't get distracted from your dreams and by criticism. Stick to it and you will soon see yourself on the top of the world. Mark has a dream and achieved.
- Make a difference in the lives of others and it gives you greater satisfaction apart from people remembering you beyond your lifetime. Mark has made a difference in the lives of others through his technology.

Facebook and Innovation

Facebook survived by enduring several storms. It survived because of innovation and continuously including several features to meet the rising expectations and aspirations of the people. Stephen Shapiro, Author of 24/7 Innovation noted, "In today's age of change, as soon as you achieve success, someone is nipping at your heels, learning your unique strengths and planning to take a portion of your market. The only way to succeed is to have the ability to change - rapidly and repeatedly. This requires perpetual innovation from you and your entire staff at all times." Facebook Innovated and survived and it must innovate constantly to stay relevant in this rapidly growing technology by shedding the image of being an internet hangout and widen its base with more features and applications.

Final Word

"The thing I really care about is the mission; making the world open." - Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook is the fastest growing phenomenon in internet history. Nobody could predict and imagine that it would hit globally in a huge way. It will become face of the mankind in the technological world in the near future. Microsoft survived and succeeded despite competition and Apple survived competition through innovation. Similarly Facebook will survive only through innovation. Mark would like to make his company as of the most powerful companies in the world. He is bullish and ambitious and optimistic about Facebook. He says, "If you look five years out, every industry is going to be rethought in a social way"

Mark has done a good job! He is awesome! Age is not a deterrent to dreaming. Anyone can dream at any age. Hence, the message for youth is to believe in their dreams and move forward aggressively to stand out from others. Remember that sky is the limit!

References

Author's Blogs:

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