

To Fail Or Not To Fail; That Is The Question

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From an early age we are taught to value success, the focus clearly being on achievement rather than failure. This philosophy is initially instilled in us from our parents and continues to become more prevalent as we advance through our college years and into our business lives. As we mature the consequences of failure increase exponentially. Ultimately we are rewarded for success and reprimanded for failure.

How can one succeed without first failing? Anyone who has taught a young child to ride a bicycle will appreciate that it can be a slow process and despite the best precautions the child will inevitably fall off a few times before mastering the art of riding. Numerous business writers have celebrated the success of entrepreneurs and inventors whose actions and ingenuity have pushed the boundaries and challenged the norm, significantly improving peoples' lives. It is no surprise then that society often fails to mention the pathway to success, but look beneath the surface of many great business successes, and your likely to find a trail of failures that preceded them:

Thomas Edison performed 9,000 experiments before developing a successful version of the light bulb. He

stated "I have not failed. I have merely found 9,000 ways that won't work".

Henry Ford only succeeded in producing motor cars on his third attempt.

National cultures can also have an impact upon success. In Germany, bankruptcy can end a business career whereas in Silicon Valley it is often seen as an inevitability of pushing the boundaries and a fantastic grounding for creativity.

Current market conditions are tougher than ever and it is imperative that organisations succeed in everything that they do in order to meet stakeholders' varying expectations. Some organisations such as Honda are encouraging failure in the pursuit of excellence; however this can be a costly strategy and is certainly not something that is suitable for all organisations. So how does an organisation push the boundaries of success without incurring the costs of failure?

One of the easiest and most overlooked options is to learn from other people's mistakes and experiences.

Linea has supported many organisations across a diverse range of market sectors to improve creativity and help them to succeed through knowledge transfer and the development of a learning, development and forward thinking culture. We can share our experiences to help clients avoid common mistakes and adopt best practice.

If you would like to maximise your organisations chances of success without incurring the costs of failure, contact us today for a free no obligation conversation, to discuss your current challenges and the deployment of timely and cost effective Organisational Excellence solutions.

Ian Chambers - Chief Executive - Linea Group

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About the Author

A substantially experienced performance excellence and organisation transformation professional with 17 years of strategic and operational management experience supporting International private and public sectors organisations.

An expert in lean operations management, programme management and supply chain / procurement optimisation with an impressive track record of delivering a wide range of complex business transformation and change management programmes across a diverse range of market sectors including; Retail, Automotive, Manufacturing, Healthcare and Supply Chain.

Chief Executive of Linea Group, an organisation providing Organisational Excellence support to Public and Private sector clients across a wide range of industries via integrated Consulting, Recruiting, Training and Managed Service Practices.

About Linea

Linea is a results focused organisational excellence consultancy with a track record of delivering sustained superior performance that meets and where possible exceeds client expectations.

We combine the credentials of a top tier firm with the depth of expertise and flexibility of a niche practice to support clients in addressing their most pressing organisational issues through the provision of highly professional, innovative, customer focussed solutions which deliver expected business benefits on time every time.

With an exceptional track record of delivering multi-million pound savings for prominent Public and Private Sector clients, our Organisational Excellence approach provides the skills and capability required to support clients to maximise efficiency, improve quality and reduce cost.