

SOFT

SKILLS

LESSON-10

TEAMWORK & HARMONY

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CONQUER EVEREST?

Mount Everest – the world's highest peak – a gigantic 29,029 feet high!²¹ The climb presents lethal dangers such as extreme temperatures, frostbite, oxygen deprivation, and avalanches. Even the most experienced of climbers have failed. It takes just one small slip to fall to your death. As of 2017, nearly 300 people have died on Everest, many of whose bodies still remain on the mountain.²²

In 1935, Maurice Wilson – a British mountaineer, set out to conquer Everest. He didn't have the permission of the Tibetan Government, so he snuck into Tibet from India with only three porters to carry his equipment. Once they reached North Col (22,000 ft.), Wilson's porters refused to climb any higher. Foolishly, Wilson decided to continue the climb alone – this decision killed him.

There were 7 more failed attempts to summit Mt. Everest over the course of the next 32 years. In 1953, a British group of climbers, led by John Hunt, set out to reach the peak of Everest. Hunt enlisted an experienced local, Tenzing Norgay, into the team. Norgay himself was a part of six previous Everest expeditions. He was to hire, organize and lead the porters throughout the journey. This was a difficult task because the higher the climbers wanted to go, the more team members would be needed, and as a result, a greater level of teamwork.

Tenzing hired almost 300 people just to carry the 2½ tons of equipment and food near the mountain. From there, the supplies could be carried 180 miles through complex Himalayan terrains to the base camp. Forty experienced porters would carry the supplies further up Everest. After making one more stop, only 1/3 of the most highly qualified porters would take the supplies to the next stage.

His entire group of porters were enlisted to support a core group of ten international high altitude climbers. The ten climbers split themselves into five pairs. The first pair would lead the climb, creating a path, cutting steps, and securing ropes. They would also be carrying the heavy equipment. This pair, once they had exhausted all of their energy, would pass this task onto the second pair. The second pair would carry on until they no longer could and would pass the task onto the third pair. This selfless method of teamwork created an opportunity for the last two pairs to attempt at reaching the peak. One pair tried but failed. Even though they were completely fatigued and very disappointed, they willingly encouraged the final pair to make an attempt at summiting Mt. Everest. On the 29 May 1953, Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary did the impossible and became the 1st to conquer Everest.²³

इतिहास- पहाड़

Could they have done it alone?

No! Look at the first example of Maurice Wilson - his lone attempt ended in failure and death. But when a team was created, each member selflessly played their role - only then did they master Everest.

As Helen Keller (author and activist) once said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

This is the power of teamwork!

"You do not climb a mountain like Everest by trying to race ahead on our own,
or by competing with your comrades. *མཉེན་པོ་སྤྲོད་པ་ལས་*
You do it slowly and carefully, by unselfish teamwork."²⁴

Tenzing Norgay



མཉེན་པོ་
competing



Taste the Teamwork

Each ingredient is tasty on its own but when they come together, they become a mouth-watering, delicious combination.

an Ice Cream Sundae!

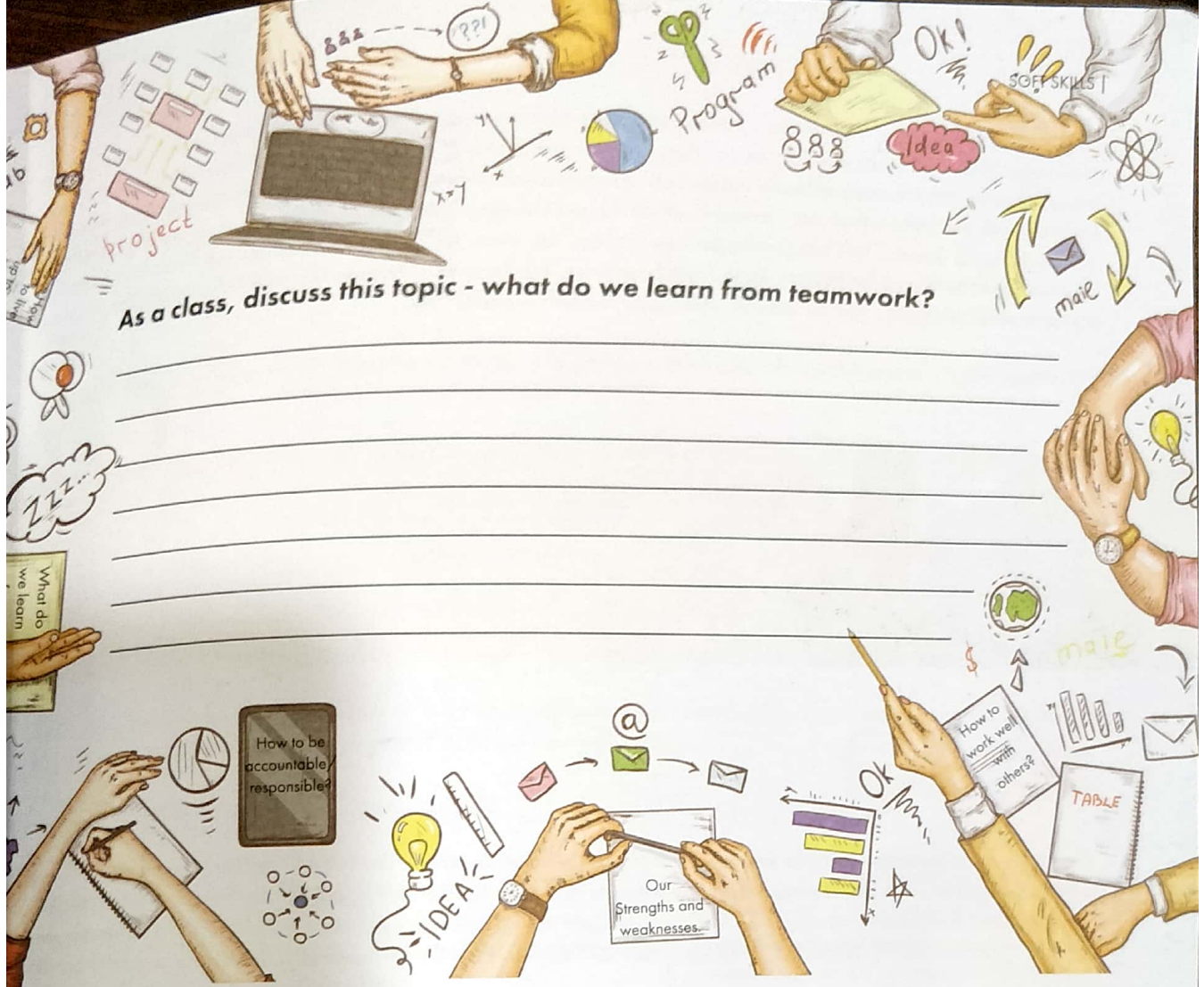
Similarly, each person individually is unique and talented, but when those individuals come together, guided by a common goal or desire, something much more potent and powerful is created -

A TEAM!

Why is it better to win as a team?



- You gain a meaningful and shared experience
- You become close to your teammates
- The journey becomes more enjoyable - even if you don't win the first prize
- Worries, pressures, and obstacles become easier to overcome
- Fosters creative idea generation
- You gain new perspectives



As a class, discuss this topic - what do we learn from teamwork?

IVE 100% TO YOUR TEAM

Don't give your absolute honest effort then you won't feel that you are part of the team. You won't enjoy the journey to the goal or the result of the process.

HOW TO BE A GOOD TEAM PLAYER?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHO GETS THE CREDIT

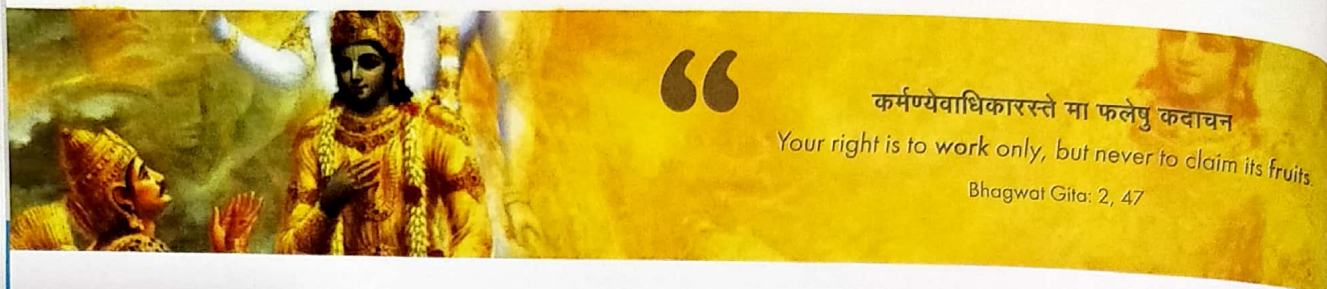
When we involve ourselves in any team project, we may think – "who will get the credit?" But when we keep a selfish desire to get the credit, this can obstruct the progress of the team.

There is no limit to what can be achieved, if no one cares who gets the credit.



The celebrated politician, L.K. Advani, attended the Dedication Ceremony for the brand new Akshardham, New Delhi on November 2005. He expressed that Akshardham was 'a distinct, matchless and amazing creation.' When he asked the volunteers who was the responsible for the success of Akshardham, they told him that the sadhus were behind the success. When he spoke with the sadhus, they told him that Pramukh Swami Maharaj was the reason for the success. When Advani met Swami Maharaj, Swamiji told him that the success was due the grace of God and Guru along with the tireless efforts of volunteers and sadhus. After hearing these humble answers, Advani said – **'I am in absolute disbelief! They have created a grand Akshardham, yet no one is willing to take the credit!'**

At that time, Advani realized this truth - that there is no limit to what can be achieved, if no one cares who gets the credit.



3 SACRIFICES

"You have to be willing to sacrifice what you want for what the team needs. You have to decide to move from selfishness to selflessness. We live in a world where everyone wants to be great, but the truth is, only through service and sacrifice will you become great. This means you may have to play a different position than you are used to. It means that sometimes you are a star and sometimes you help the star." (The Hard Hat: 21 Ways to Be a Great Teammate, Jon Gordon, Jeremy Schapp)

When you are a part of a team, sometimes, in order for the team to grow or win as a whole, you may have to make a sacrifice.

Which things should you sacrifice to be a good team player?

Here are a few things to remember about sacrifice:

- Self-less – Think about yourself less
- Best for the team = Best for me
- We > Me (Always)

4 EVERY TEAM MEMBER HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER

Consider the Gujarati letter 'ઁ':



Write four words that start with this letter -

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

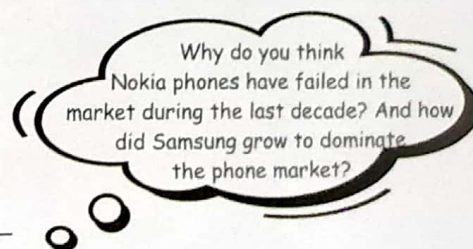
You probably figured out that there are no words that start with the letter 'ઁ', but without it there is no સફળતા (success), there is no બળ (strength), and there is no સરળતા (ease).

Although every team member may not be a leader or in a role of authority, every member has something special to offer the team. Don't underestimate them. Listen to everyone and try to learn something new.

Keep in mind that 'I might be wrong and they could be right.'

5 LEARN TO CHANGE, CHANGE TO LEARN

Don't be stubborn or close-minded. Learn to adapt and evolve within your team. Let's explore this principle through a case study.

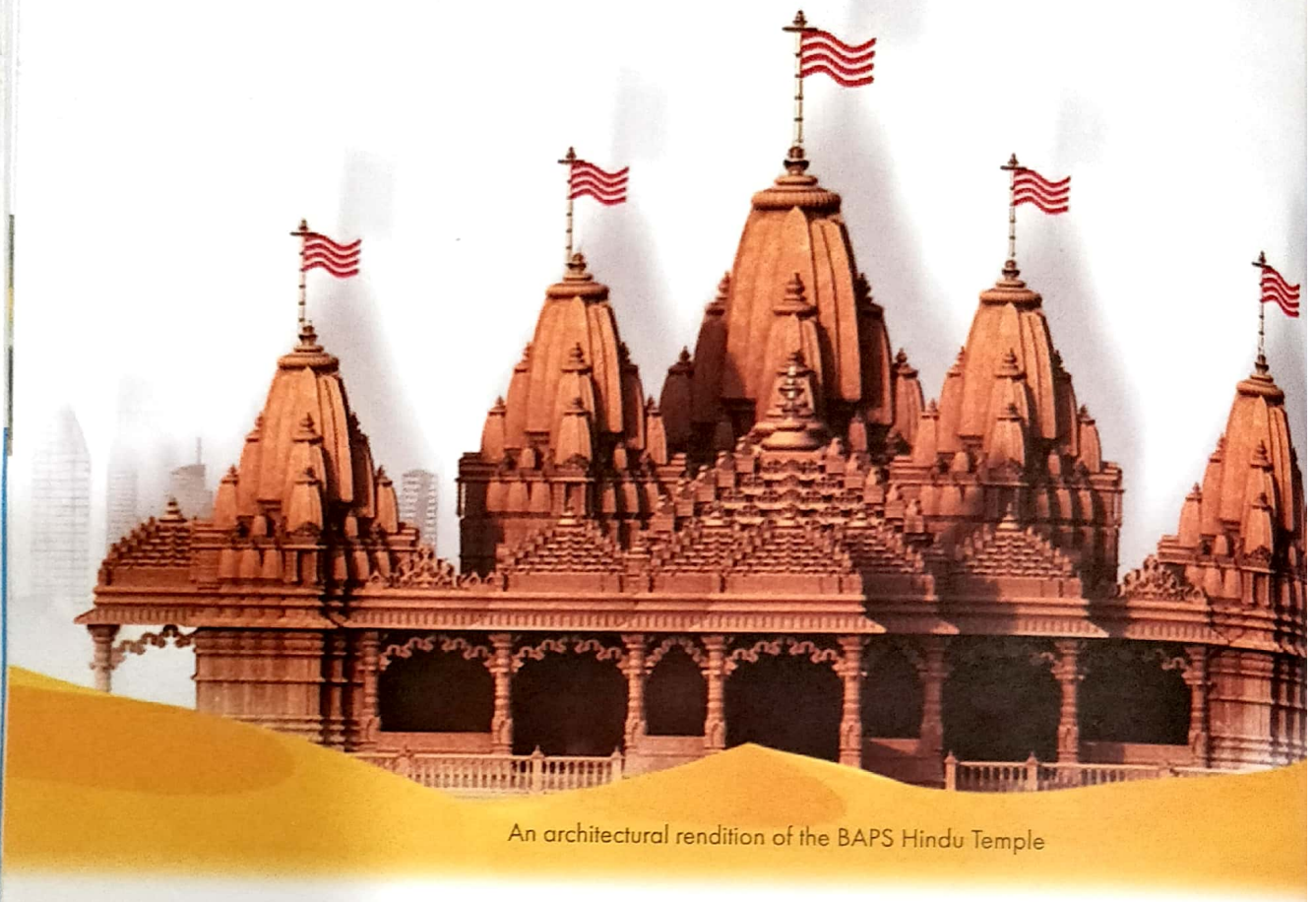


6 KEEP HARMONY

We should keep not only our minds open but also our hearts too. In a team, it is important to accept and respect people even if there is a difference in culture, opinion, belief, and religion. When one keeps harmony, even the whole world can come together. Color, creed, and caste dissolves and everyone becomes one.

A wonderful example of harmony, is that of the BAPS Swaminarayan organization building a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi. In 15, Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi donated 13.5 acres for the building of this temple. Imagine, a Muslim country donating land to build a Hindu temple! Puja Brahmanvihar Swami stated that - "The mandir not only bring two countries, two cultures, two communities, two religions, but the entire humanity together; this is the beauty of this country is doing." Furthermore the architectural company for this project, called Raglan Squire and Partners (RSP), is based in Singapore²⁶; the lead designer is an Irish Catholic and the main consultant is a communist and atheist. Each member regarded their differences and are combining their efforts to create a millennial project. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said "this temple will embody 'the timeless Vedic values of vasudhaiva kutumbakaran (the whole world is one family)'".²⁷ This probable project is only possible because every member is working with harmony and for harmony. So if we actively keep harmony, we can bring all our team members together and achieve extraordinary results.

'An Embodiment of harmony'



An architectural rendition of the BAPS Hindu Temple

"Harmony makes small things grow, lack of it makes great things decay."

—
Sallust

IPDC Essentials

Individually you are great, but together you become something greater!

How to be a good team player:

1. Give 100% to your team
2. Don't worry about who gets the credit
3. Sacrifice
4. Every team member has something to offer
5. Learn to change, change to learn
6. Keep harmony