

ULTRA-SUCCESSFUL SELF-EDUCATED MILLIONAIRE AND BILLIONAIRE TRADITIONAL COLLEGE DROPOUTS

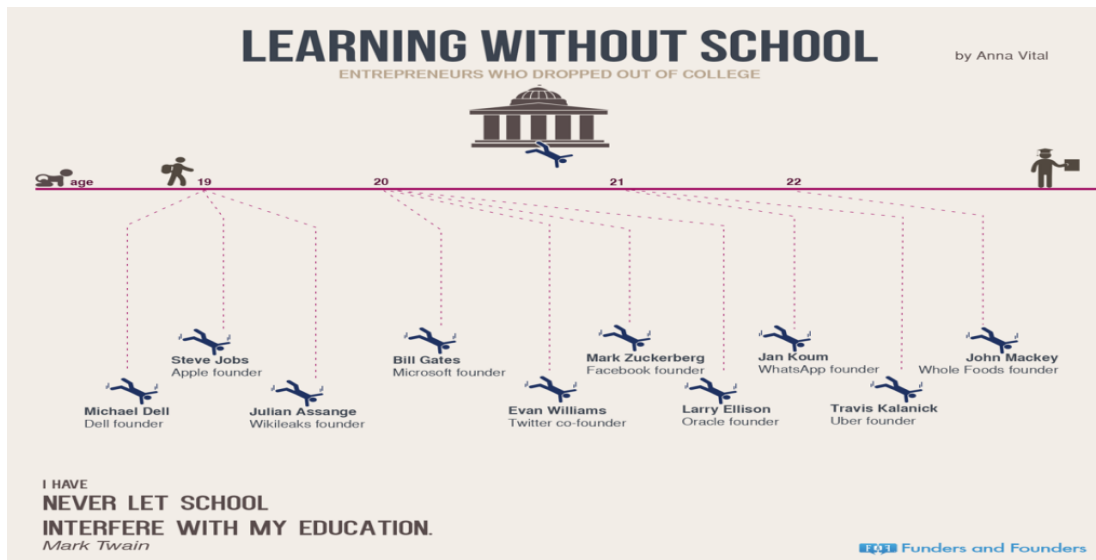


Bill Gates

Some of the wealthiest and most influential entrepreneurs in the world dropped out of college.

Steve Jobs, Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg all left college before they could collect their diplomas. Peter Thiel even encourages talented students to drop out of college by funding a scholarship that awards recipients with \$100,000 if they quit.

This infographic, created by Funders and Founders designer Anna Vital, pinpoints the moments when some of the most successful millionaire and billionaire college dropouts decided higher ed wasn't for them.



While staying in school as long as possible is proven to increase your wealth and future job prospects, these 10 accomplished entrepreneurs bucked convention and still achieved success.



Michael Dell

Michael Dell

Michael Dell dropped out of University of Texas at Austin his freshman year at the age of 19. He would go on to found Dell Technologies and is now worth \$20.9 billion.



Steve Jobs

The founder of Apple left Reed College when he was just 19, reportedly because it was too much of a financial burden for his family. Despite his short tenure at Reed, Jobs still found

his time there valuable. In a 2005 commencement speech at Stanford, he credited a Reed calligraphy course for providing the inspiration for the typography he used on the first Mac.



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has claimed asylum in Ecuador's London embassy since 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden on accusations of rape.

Julian Assange

Before he was a controversial computer hacker, Julian Assange studied mathematics at the University of Melbourne. The Aussie WikiLeaks founder showed early indications of his anti-establishment ideals when he dropped out at the age of 19 over objections to the practice of students working on computer projects for the Australian military.



Bill Gates

Bill Gates

Bill Gates attended Harvard for two years before leaving to build what would become Microsoft. The Harvard Crimson describes him as "Harvard's most successful dropout," and today he is the wealthiest person on the planet.



Evan Williams, co-founder of Medium and Twitter.

Evan Williams

Evan Williams grew up in Clarks, Nebraska, where his family ran a farm. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for three semesters before dropping out.

Williams was a freelance software programmer for Hewlett-Packard and Intel before landing a gig at Google. He later quit his job at Google to build Twitter, and became a billionaire.



Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive officer and founder of Facebook

Mark Zuckerberg

Mark Zuckerberg dropped out of Harvard, founded Facebook and became the 5th wealthiest man alive. According to the book "The Facebook Effect," it took him just five minutes to make the decision to quit college.

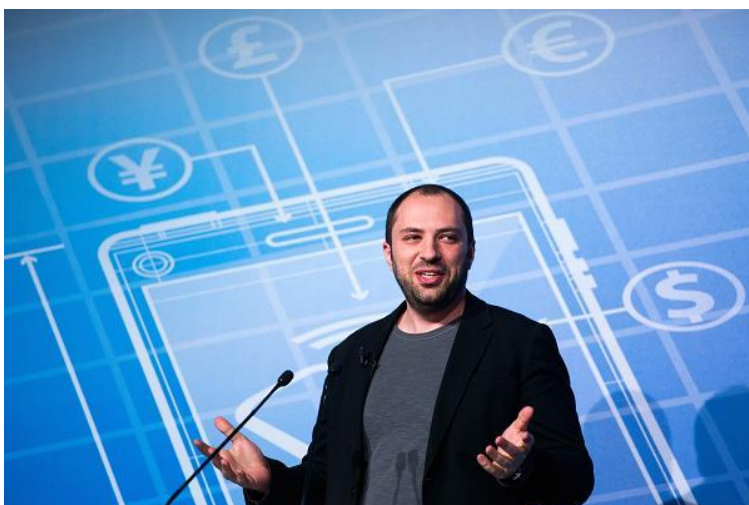


Larry Ellison

Larry Ellison

Today, Larry Ellison is known as a software billionaire and founder of Oracle. When he was growing up, however, his adoptive parents encouraged him to be a doctor.

He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Chicago, but struggled with his medical courses and dropped out. Today he is worth over \$55 billion.



Whatsapp CEO Jan Koum

Jan Koum

Immigrant entrepreneur Jan Koum worked his way through college only to quit before graduating. He would go on to work for Yahoo, and then to invent the incredibly popular messaging application WhatsApp.



Travis Kalanick

Travis Kalanick

Before becoming the CEO and founder of Uber, Travis Kalanick studied computer engineering at UCLA. Kalanick decided to quit college just months before graduating to work for now-defunct peer-to-peer search engine Scour.



John Mackey

John Mackey

John Mackey studied religion and philosophy at the University of Texas before dropping out, borrowing \$45,000, and starting a health food store called SaferWay in downtown Austin. Mackey grew his business into what is now organic grocery behemoth Whole Foods.

55 Self-Educated, School/Traditional College Drop-Out Billionaires

Do you feel dejected or left behind by your peers because you don't have a traditional college degree? Do you feel dejected because you are not educated? If YES, here's a list of famous richest traditional school / college dropout billionaires & entrepreneurs without college degrees.

Do you see your supposed illiteracy as a limitation to achieving your dreams? Or are you in the group that thinks education is the ultimate yardstick for success? If any of these questions best describes you, then please read on.

How does it sound to your ears that most of the world's richest men and women were school drop outs? Well don't be surprised; it's the truth; and you too can become a billionaire in ten years or less.

“I have nothing against education. But at times, education gives people false confidence. It makes people relax, trusting in the power of their certificates rather than in working hard.” – Rasaan Okoya

Today, I will be sharing with you a brief compilation of the entrepreneurial success stories of self made men and women; who took the bull by the horn by building a business, without being held back by the lack of a college degree. These men and women found their entrepreneurial spirit, surmounted business challenges, completed the entrepreneurial process and became successful entrepreneurs.

“I have been within the four walls of school and I have been on the street. I can confidently tell you that the street is tougher, challenging, daring, exciting and more rewarding. In school; you play alone. But on the street, you play with the big boys.” – Ajaero Tony Martins

Warren Buffett, Mo Ibrahim, Mike Adenuga, Oprah Winfrey, George Soros, John D. Rockefeller, Sam Walton, Jerry Yang and David Filo, Anita Roddick, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, Jeff Bezos, Pierre Omidyar, Martha Stewart, Henry Ross Perot and Aliko Dangote; the richest black man in the world did not make the list because they possessed college degrees. Without wasting much of your time, below is a comprehensive list of some of the world's richest school drop out billionaires.

“Behind every adversity is an opportunity. If you lament over the adversity, you will miss the opportunity.” – Ajaero Tony Martins

- The Richest People in Nigeria that Did Not Go to School
- The Richest People in Nigeria

55 School Drop Out Billionaires Without College Degrees

1. Bill Gates: He is the billionaire co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, the world largest software company. Dropped out of Harvard to focus on building Microsoft. According to Forbes magazine, Bill Gates has held the position of the world richest man for thirteen consecutive years and he not showing a sign of letting go that position.

“To win big, you sometimes have to take big risks.” – Bill Gates

“We were young, but we had good advice good ideas and lots of enthusiasm.” – Bill Gates

2. Thomas Edison: Thomas Edison was labeled dumb and scatterbrain by his school teachers but he went on to become one of the world’s greatest inventors and founded General Electric; one of the most powerful companies in the world.

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” – Thomas Edison

3. Orji Uzor Kalu: He is one of the richest men on the soil of Africa. This young billionaire was rusticated from college for his participation in a student’s protest. Instead of lamenting over his predicament; he started trading on palm oil and from that humble beginning, he grew his business into a conglomerate “Slok Group.” Though he was later pardoned by the school authorities, he rejected the amnesty offer thereby refusing to return to school.

“A good businessman must have nose for business the same way a journalist has nose for news. Once your eyes, ears, nose, heart and brain are trained on business, you sniff business opportunities everywhere.” – Orji Uzor Kalu

4. Li Ka Shing: Billionaire owner of Hutchinson Whampoa; one of the largest conglomerates in Hong Kong, with operations that span over fifty countries and more than 220,000 staff worldwide. Dropped out of school at the age of 15 and started out by selling watch bands.

“The first year, I didn’t have much capital so I did everything myself. I had to keep my overhead low by learning everything about running a business, from accounting to fixing the gears of my equipment. I really started from scratch.” – Li Ka Shing

5. Richard Branson: Best known for his adventurous spirit and outrageous business tactics. He dropped out of school at the age of 16 to start his first successful business venture; Student Magazine, bought his own 79-acre Caribbean island when he was just 24 and he was knighted in 1999. He is the billionaire founder of the Virgin brand and its 360 companies. His companies include the famous Virgin Atlantic Airways.

“I wanted to be an editor or journalist. I wasn’t really interested in becoming an entrepreneur, but I soon found I had to become an entrepreneur in order to keep my magazine going.” – Richard Branson

6. Lawrence J. Ellison: Larry Ellison dropped out of college twice and was told by his adoptive father that he would never amount to anything but he went on to become a billionaire by building Oracle, the world’s second largest software company.

“I have had all the disadvantages required for success.” – Larry Ellison

7. Michael Dell: He dropped out of college at the age of 19 to start PC’s Limited; later renamed Dell Computers Inc. Dell became the most profitable PC manufacturer in the world making Michael Dell a billionaire.

“I had to give it a full go and see what happened.” – Michael Dell

8. Steve Jobs: Billionaire co-founder of Apple Inc and Pixar; dropped out of Reed College to start Apple.

9. Henry Ford: This automobile billionaire was born in abject poverty. He never saw the four walls of school but he went on to build Ford Motor Company and become one of the richest men that ever lived.

“Thinking is the hardest work to do, that’s why so few people are engaged in it.” – Henry Ford

10. Walt Disney: Walt, regarded as the most influential animator because of his creativity with cartoons. He dropped out of high school at 16 and founded Walt Disney; a company which now has an annual revenue of about \$30billion.

“If you can dream it, you can do it.” – Walt Disney

11. Ray Kroc: Billionaire Ray Kroc never saw the four walls of school and spent most of his life working as a salesman. He bought McDonald’s in 1961 for \$2.7m and grew it into a multi billion dollar company.

“Press on. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.” – Ray Kroc

12. Debbi Fields: A 20 year old housewife with no education and business experience started Mrs. Fields Chocolate Chippery and became the most successful cookie company owner. She later renamed, franchised, and then sold Mrs. Field’s Cookies.

“You don’t have to be superhuman to do what you believe in.” – Debbi Fields

13. Cosmos Maduka: Nigerian Elementary school drop out and billionaire founder of the Coscharis Group.

14. Ingvar Kamprad: Billionaire founder of IKEA. He dropped out of high school at the age of 17 to start IKEA; now the top home furniture retailer in the world, with over 90,000 employees working in its 200-plus stores, and annual revenues in excess of \$10 billion.

“I’m not afraid of turning 80 and I have lots of things to do. I don’t have time for dying.” – Ingvar Kamprad

15. Carl Lindner: Billionaire investor and founder of United Dairy Farmers. He dropped out of high school at the age of 14 to deliver milk for his family dairy.

16. Simon Cowell: Famous for his involvement in American Idols, he dropped out of school at age 16 and started his own record label “Fanfare” at the age of 23.

“Good is not enough; you’ve got to be great.” – Simon Cowell

17. Mary Kay Ash: Founder of Mary Kay Inc and best known as the most outstanding business woman in the 20th century. Mary never saw the four walls of school.

“When you reach an obstacle, turn it into an opportunity. You have the choice. You can overcome and be a winner, or you can allow it to overcome you and be a loser. The choice is yours and yours alone. Refuse to throw in the towel. Go that extra mile that failures refuse to travel. It is far better to be exhausted from success than to be rested from failure.” – Mary Kay Ash

18. Coco Chanel: Fashion magnate and founder of the Coco Chanel brand, she never saw the four walls of school.

19. Wayne Huizenga: Wayne is the only person in history to build three Fortune 1000 companies practically from scratch: Waste Management Inc, Blockbuster Entertainment and AutoNation. He is the only person to have developed six NYSE-listed companies. He also owns the Miami Dolphins and is previous owner of the Florida Marlins baseball team and the Panthers hockey team, making him the only person ever to own three pro teams in a single market, two of which won national championships. He dropped out of college to join a friend in a garbage collection business.

20. Barry Diller: This billionaire media magnate dropped out of college to start Fox Broadcasting Company. He is chairman of Expedia, and was once the CEO of IAC/InterActiveCorp which includes Home Shopping Network and Ticketmaster.

“There’s a world in which reasons are made up because reality is too painful.” – Barry Diller

21. Andrew Carnegie: Founder of Carnegie Steel Company and one of the richest men that ever lived. Born in abject poverty, Andrew never saw the four walls of school.

“I shall argue that strong men conversely know when to compromise and that all principles can be compromised to serve a greater purpose.” – Andrew Carnegie

22. Sir Philip Green: Billionaire retail mogul and owner of the Arcadia brand, he dropped out of school at the age of 16. After four business failures, Philip Green made his first million at the age of 33.

“If you’ve got a natural talent, I think it’s fantastic. If I wasn’t in retail, being a singer or a tennis player would be a better idea.” – Sir Philip Green

23. Madame C. J. Walker: She was born into the family of ex-slaves and farmers. Despite being widowed at the age of 20 and faced with extreme hardship, she started a cosmetics business and went on to become the first American self made female millionaire.

“I had to make my own living and my own opportunity! But I made it! Don’t sit down and wait for the opportunities to come. Get up and make them” – Madam C.J. Walker

24. Mark Zuckerberg: The youngest billionaire in the world, dropped out of Harvard to promote his social networking platform; Facebook. As at 2010, he was 23 years and worth \$4billion.

25. Ted Turner: Billionaire drop out media mogul and founder of CNN; pledged a billion dollars to the United Nation.

“All my life, people have said that I wasn’t going to make it.” – Ted Turner

“Over a three year period, I gave away half of what I had. To be honest, my hands shook as I signed it away. I knew I was taking myself out of the race to be the richest man in the world.”
– Ted Turner

26. Cornelius Vanderbilt: Dropped out of school at the age of 11, began operating his own boat at the age of 16 and became one of the richest men in history.

“If I had learned education, I would not have had time to learn anything else.” -Cornelius Vanderbilt

27. Mayer Amschel Rothschild: was born in a ghetto; started business as a money lender and built the largest private fortune in history. He never saw the four walls of school.

“Give me control over a nation’s money supply and I don’t care who make the laws.” – Mayer Amschel Rothschild

28. Ty Warner: Billionaire real estate investor, hotel owner, sole owner, CEO, and Chairman of Ty, Inc. Ty Warner is a savvy, yet private business man. Ty, Inc; made \$700 million in a single year with the Beanie Babies craze without spending money on advertising. He has since expanded to include Ty Girlz dolls, directly competing with Bratz dolls.

29. Howard Hughes: Dropped out of California Institute of Technology and Rice University; founded Hughes Aircrafts and Co and went on to become a billionaire.

“I intend to be, the richest man in the world.” Howard Hughes

30. Giorgio Armani: Billionaire founder of the fashion brand; Giorgio Armani S.P.A. Dropped out of medical school at the University of Bologna because he couldn’t stand the sight of blood.

“Remain true to yourself and your philosophy.” – Giorgio Armani

Successful Entrepreneurs and World’s Richest School Drop Out Billionaires

31. Asa Candler: Founder of the Billionaire company and world’s most popular brand; Coca Cola. He dropped out of school at the age of 10.

32. Jenny Craig: With no college degree, this woman started Jenny Craig Inc from scratch and grew it to become one of the largest and most recognized companies in the weight management industry.

“If I make a commitment to something, I will stick to it no matter what.” – Jenny Craig

33. Rachael Ray: Despite having no formal training in culinary arts, Rachel Ray made a name for herself in the food industry. With numerous shows on the Food Network, a talk show and cookbooks, high-energy Rachael never slowed down. She has also appeared in magazines as well as having her own magazine debut in 2006.

34. Milton Hershey: With only a fourth grade education, Milton Hershey started his own chocolate company. Hershey’s Milk Chocolate became the first nationally marketed chocolate.

35. Frank Lloyd Wright: surpassed all odds to become the most influential architect of the twentieth century. Frank Lloyd Wright designed more than 1,100 projects with about half actually being built. He never saw the four walls of high school.

36. David Geffen: billionaire founder of Geffen Records and co-founder of DreamWorks.

“I never went to business school. I was just bumbling through a lot of my life. I was like the guy behind the curtain in the Wizard of Oz.” – David Geffen

37. Billy Joe (Red) McCombs: founder of Clear Channel media, real estate investor.

38. Craig McCaw: billionaire founder of McCaw Cellular.

39. Dave Thomas: billionaire founder of Wendy’s.

“There’s no one to stop you but yourself.” – Dave Thomas

40. Jay Van Andel: billionaire co-founder of Amway.

41. Micky Jagtiani: billionaire retailer, Landmark International

42. John Paul DeJoria: billionaire co-founder of John Paul Mitchell Systems and Patron Spirits tequila.

43. David Green: billionaire founder of Hobby Lobby.

44. Frederick “Freddy” Laker: billionaire airline entrepreneur.

45. Kirk Kerkorian: billionaire investor, owner of Mandalay Bay and Mirage Resorts, and MGM movie studio.

46. Leandro Rizzuto: billionaire founder of Conair
47. Leslie Wexner, billionaire founder of Limited Brands.
48. Marc Rich: billionaire commodities investor and founder of Marc Rich & Co.
49. S. Daniel Abraham: billionaire founder of Slim-Fast.
50. Theodore Waitt: billionaire founder of Gateway Computers.
51. Y.C. Wang: billionaire founder of Formosa Plastics.
52. Paul Allen: billionaire co-founder of Microsoft Corporation; dropped out of Washington State University.
53. Ralph Lauren: Billionaire fashion mogul. Studied business at Baruch College for two years and dropped out.
54. Dean Kamen: Billionaire Kamen holds more than 80 US patents; famous for the Segway PT, Auto syringe and IBOT robotic wheelchair; dropped out of Worcester Polytechnic.
55. Dhirubhai Ambani: Famous founder of Reliance Group and father to two billionaires; Anil and Mukesh Ambani. Started Reliance Industries from scratch and never saw the four walls of school

INDIAN DROPOUTS, WHO MAD IT BIG WITH SELF EDUCATION

Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg! Everyone has heard the names of these wildly successful founders of two equally revolutionary behemoths. Acknowledging their success, it is often highlighted that they were college dropouts. So we decided to figure out what exactly makes a college dropout stand out from the crowd, if at all? Is it their zeal to achieve or their out-of-the box thinking which sets them on the path of success? Or were they just one-off coincidences as are most successful startups and founders?

We came up with a list of college dropouts turned entrepreneurs from the Indian startup ecosystem who have taken the country by storm.



Varun Shoor

A self-taught programmer at 13 and web designer, he took a natural interest in the development of web applications. Seeing a clear market gap for an easy to use, user centric approach to web-based ticketed support and visitor engagement, Varun established Kayako in 2001. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of Kayako Infotech Ltd. and oversees the overall direction as the leading product architect, takes an active role in the design and development of the product line. He started the company in 2001 when he was just 17 with its first office in Jalandhar after dropping out of college.



Kailash Katkar

Born in a small village at Rahimatpur in Maharashtra, Kailash Katkar worked his way to the top to be chairman and CEO of INR 200 Cr business. He is the man behind Quickheal technologies Pvt Ltd. He started with a job at local radio and calculator repair shop and later went ahead in 1990 to start his own calculator repair business. In 1993 he started a new venture, CAT computer services where around that time his younger brother Sanjay developed a basic model of antivirus software which helped in solving the biggest problem of computer maintenance at that time. Later in 2007 it was renamed as Quick Heal Technologies. He achieved all this without any formal education.



Deepak Ravindran

A computer science dropout from LBS College Of Engineering in his 5th semester in 2007 end, Deepak never let his ideas caged by book and syllabi, he broke all the bounds imposed by the education system and followed his passion for computers which made him follow the entrepreneurial way. He founded Quest technologies which let people answer someone else's question which has been asked by a text message. His primary company was Innoz Technologies which was behind 'SmsGyan' handing internet's knowledge to people via texts. His latest venture is Lookup, which is a local commerce messaging app which lets users chat with local businesses and shops.



Ritesh Agarwal

Ritesh Agarwal is the man behind the 'Ola' for rooms, OYO Rooms. The startup is a network of technology – enabled budget hotels. This Gurgaon-based company, was founded by him in 2012. It is backed by Lightspeed Ventures, Sequoia Capital and Green Oaks Capital and has more than 700 hotels under its brand. A college dropout who founded Oravel when he was 18 received its share of fundings and accolades and later he rebranded it to OYO Rooms. He completed his higher schooling at St. Johns Senior Secondary School.



Kunal Shah

Freecharge, the famous platform which revolutionized the online recharge system with three step recharges along with providing offers of same value was the brainchild of Kunal Shah and Sandeep Tandon. The company was founded in 2010 and was recently acquired by Snapdeal. He did Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Wilson College and later went to Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies from which he dropped out later.



Mahesh Murthy

Mahesh has spent 29 years helping big brands with marketing counsel, and 13 years helping startups with marketing counsel and funding too. 19 of these years have been in digital media. Mahesh dropped out of Osmania University, sold vacuum cleaners door to door . He won notoriety and awards as Creative Director on Unilever, The Economist, Pepsi and MTV for whom he wrote and shot a series of top award-winning commercials. He is now the founder of advertising company pinstorm which is an ad firm offering pay-for-performance solution to companies across the world.



Azhar Iqbal

There must be something wrong with IIT, Delhi because this is second dropout who made 'news'. He dropped out in his 4th year of college(seventh semester). He made news by introducing News in Shorts the one and only app which cuts to the chase delivering only vital details in a news to all those lazy people and even to those who don't have enough to go through all of them. The app makes sure that each news is conveyed in less than 60 words. Got a minute to spare? Keep up with the world with news in shorts. It started as a Facebook page and now it has made its share of fame so well that it received INR25 Cr in funding three months back.



Rahul Yadav

The brain behind Housing.com's rise, Rahul Yadav is one the co-founders of the company and a dropout in his fourth year (seventh semester) from IIT Bombay. This didn't deter him from stopping what he wanted to achieve. He knew that he was building a brand and working to solve a problem which no one ever tackled head on. Being in a mire of controversies, he has played it cool, be it resigning or then taking it back or giving away half of his shares to his employees. This guy has a brash attitude with a load of confidence.



Bhavin Turakhia

Bhavin Turakhia is the founder and CEO of Directi, an internet domain name registrar company founded in 1998 by him and his brother, Divyank. He managed to have a vision

about the internet industry in India, which only a few have rivaled. He is credited for the impressive growth of Directi into a global web products company, with a number of businesses and millions of customers worldwide! Though he is an engineering dropout who cut off from it after 12th, he never stopped dreaming big. In his words, “Everything the Byte touches should be our kingdom” is the vision that Directi is looking forward to.”



Pallav Nadhani

Pallav Nadhani is the co-founder and CEO of Fusion Charts and RazorFlow and CEO at Collabion, seemingly a serial multi-tasker. He started this company in 2001 at the age of 16 from his bedroom as he found himself dissatisfied with Microsoft Excel’s charting capability while completing his high school assignments. The company is a service provider of data visualization products and owing to its success it was included in NASSCOM EMERGE 50 leaders in 2009.

Even after he dropped out from University of Calcutta, this setback didn’t stop him from achieving what he aimed for. He later earned his degree in Masters Of Computer Science From University of Edinburgh.



Abhishek Gupta

He is an entrepreneur who loves to code and instill people with new ideas, being engrossed with the idea of connecting people through web and mobile, he co-founded Frankly.me with Nikunj Jain. Frankly is a platform which is based on the idea to expand the horizon of conversations that people take part in. It has onboarded various celebs and many people have

taken it to the platform to ask anything from them and getting video answers in back. Prior to this he founded Zumbl.com. Though an IIT,Delhi dropout where he was pursuing Computer Science, he wants to increase the IQ of an average conversation on Internet.



Ankit Oberoi

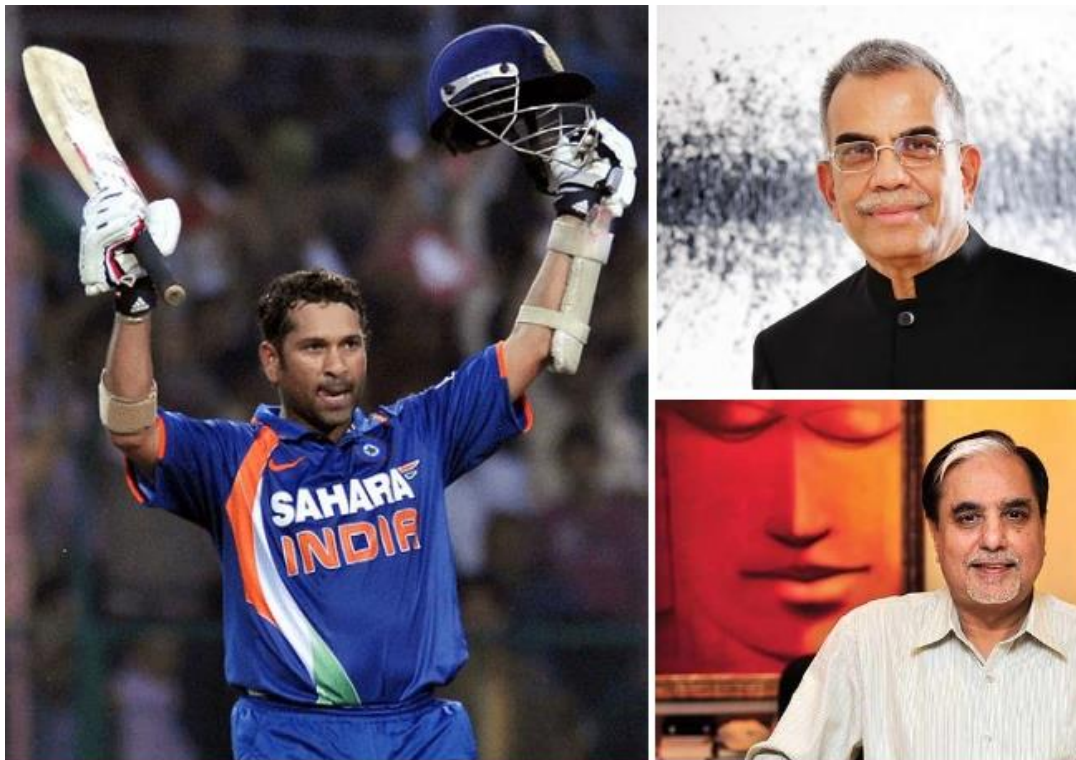
Ankit Oberoi is co-founder of Adpushup, which provides optimization of ads so that publishers and bloggers can benefit from their existing website traffic without the need for any coding skills. The company uses A/B testing to compare between different ad variation like different placements and different sizes. He dropped out from Maharaja Agrasen College in the first semester because he found it was a waste of time, in his words, **“You don’t have to be at the college to learn something – Internet can teach you better”**. His fascination with internet made him find Tamranda Web Solution which provided web hosting, domain registration and more. He served as director as Innobuzz before starting up adpushup.



Amritanshu Anand

Amritanshu Anand is the co-founder of Retention.ai, which allows app developers and marketers to track uninstalled users and understand their behaviours. It also enables companies to re-target users who have uninstalled the app. He started his as an advisor at Entrepreneurship Cell at IIT Kharagpur where he worked to foster spirit of entrepreneurship in India. Though, he dropped out of IIT he didn’t let anything stop him from pursuing his interests which made him found his company in May 2013.

Top 10 Indians Who Are Successful Even Without A College Degree



Indians Who Are Successful Even Without A College Degree

Recently, the newly appointed human resource development minister Smriti Irani was in the midst of raging controversy due to her educational background. However, the HRD minister sought to settle the matter by appealing her critics to judge her through her work. Irani is not the only person to achieve success in spite of her incomplete education. Here is a list of top 5 Indians, who have attained laurels despite not completing their graduation.

1. Sachin Tendulkar

The legendary Sachin Tendulkar is a greatest cricket icon of our generation. Well-known as ‘God of Cricket’, Sachin is the only player, who has scored the perfect 100 international centuries, the only batsman to make 30,000+ runs in the international cricket and the first Indian to have scored 50,000+ runs in all cricket forms. Despite his poor performance in academics, this Mumbaikar with sheer hard work and diligence coupled with unfathomable talent has created history in the cricket arena.

2. Gautam Adani

This billionaire from Ahmadabad is often compared to the legendary Industrialist Dhirubhai Ambani. Although he enrolled at the Gujarat University, he dropped his studies to establish a colossal multi-billion dollar business empire. The Adani Group has its presence in oil & gas exploration, coal mining & trading, gas distribution & ports, generation & transmission of power etc. His limited education background has never been a hindrance in his success. He is one of the richest man in India today and according to Forbes, his net-worth is around 6 billion dollars, which is indeed an unbelievable triumph for a college dropout, isn't it?

3. Subhash Chandra Goel

This Indian Media Mogul dropped out of class 12 to start a vegetable oil unit at the age of 19. He started exporting food grains and in 1981, he entered the packaging business under the brand Essel Packaging. He set up Essel World in the year 1988 in Mumbai, which as one of its kind in the country. His bouquet of business ventures includes television networks, cable systems, satellite communications, education, flexible packaging, family entertainment centres, infrastructure development, online gaming etc. Credited with incredible business astuteness, Mr. Subhash Chandra has charted tremendous growth and success, unmatched in business history.

4. P.N.C. Menon

PNC Menon, an NRI, established Sobha Developers, a Bangalore-based construction company. According to Forbes Magazine, Mr. Menon ranks 897 in the list of World Billionaires. His net worth is estimated to be 1.25 billion dollars. Menon faced tough times as a child because he lost his father at a young age. He dropped out of college in Thrissur, to pursue an interior decoration business and the rest is history.

5. Vinod Goenka

The co-founder and Managing Director of DB Realty, (India's biggest real estate firms) Mr. Vinod Goenka is one among the billionaires in India. According to the Forbes Magazine, his net-worth is 1.18 billion dollars. Vinod Goenka is one among the college dropouts, who attained new heights in his business ventures.

6. Azim Premji

The IT Tycoon Azim Premji, the 3rd richest man in India is the chairperson of Wipro with a net worth of \$11 billion. He dropped out of college because of the sudden loss of his father. He left Stanford and became the Chairperson of Wipro at the age of 21. He has successfully led the company, which has emerged as one of the biggest software industries in India.

7. Kunal Shah

The CEO and cofounder of Freecharge, which is a famous online recharge site made a revolution in online recharge coupon and gained the attention of many by raising 20 crores

from Sequoia in 2012. This event took India by storm. The founder, who is a college dropout of MBA from NMIMS is a successful online entrepreneur.

8. Micky Jagtiani

Mickey Jagtiani owns and heads the Landmark group, which is well known for books and music. A college dropout of an accounting school based at London, has a net worth of 5 billion dollars today. He is the first Indian to hold a top position in the list of richest entrepreneurs' of Indian origin in the Gulf cooperation council. His business is spread across 18 countries with more than 1300 stores.

9. Mukesh Ambani

Mukesh Ambani, the richest man in Asia, is the Managing director and chairperson of the multibillion Reliance Company in India. He is the 4th richest man in the world with a net worth of \$29 billion. He dropped out the MBA of Stanford as he decided to focus on business. Under his leadership and guidance, the Reliance industry has grown into a foremost publicly traded company, leading India on the rise.

10. Shahid Bawla

Sahid Bawla is one of the partners and promoters of the DB group, the largest realtors in India. He is the youngest Indian entrepreneur to be listed in Forbes Youngest Billionaires list. He dropped out of college to take over his father's business and later collaborated with a construction company, which has a net worth of \$ 798 million currently.

The accomplishment of these people proves that success is a complex blend of passion and flair and sometimes education is not a defining criterion here. We Indians need to think out of the box and allow the youth to take chances and plan their own course.