

TEEN

Entrepreneur Club

GGROWTH
VALLEY COMMUNITY

DESIGNED &
PUBLISHED
BY THE
"TEEN
ENTREPRENEUR
CLUB"

TEC
TEEN ENTREPRENEUR CLUB

“Most people want to be accepted, so they won’t take risks that could make them look crazy—which actually makes them wildly miscalculate risk.”

**Sam Altman,
CEO OpenAI**

Why is an *Entrepreneurial Mindset* important for Teens?

Mentor's POV:

“

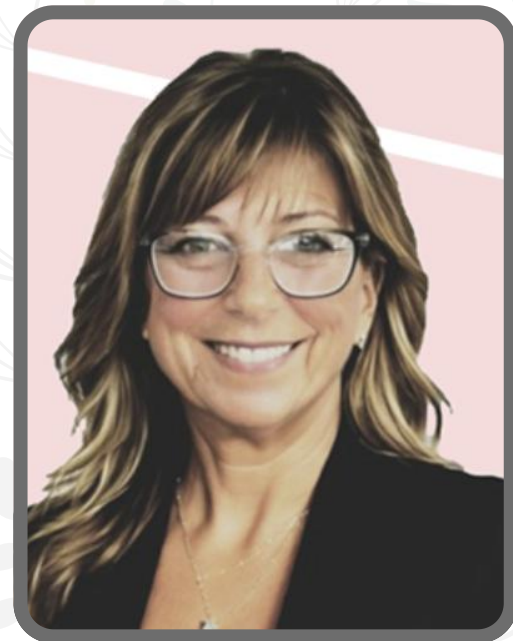
Well, the nature of entrepreneurship is *experimenting, experimenting, and experimenting*. And the earlier you start, the longer your runway is to actually eventually find the business that gains traction, that gains customers, and gives it value that gets compensated. So, the best answer to that question is that the earlier you start, the more likely you are to succeed as an entrepreneur, whether you're in your teens or even before your teens. Make sure to practice, practice, practice, and that's what will get you to success.



Mentor - Vladimir Baranov,
Advisor to 30+ startups on
Space & AI, Tech Founder,
Columbia Business School

“

I believe the next era of work belongs to the self-starters from the “Teen Entrepreneur Club” - Because creativity, initiative, and problem-solving are essential aspects. Running a project teaches teens soft skills like public speaking, persuasion, and collaboration. Entrepreneurs thrive in uncertainty, and teenagers who learn to adapt, pivot, and create their own opportunities will stay resilient. The workshops at Growth Valley teaches teenagers how money flows, including value creation. It helps students understand how wealth is built. Because entrepreneurs see problems and ask, *how can I solve it?* This **mindset** builds critical thinking and a bias toward action.



Mentor - Madeline Johnson,
Business & Marketing Strategist,
Reebok, Nintendo, Fairmont Hotels

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“Practice noticing problems, things that seem inefficient, and major technological shifts. Work on projects you find interesting. Go out of your way to hang around smart, interesting people. At some point, ideas will emerge.”

**— Sam Altman,
CEO OpenAI**

BUILT, NOT BORN: HABITS MAKE SUCCESS

MAAHER KHAN,
10th GLENDALE ACADEMY,
HYDERABAD

Many people believe that the most successful people in the world are just born with it, or it's a talent, or that it's simply their destiny to succeed. I used to think the same, until something changed my mindset a few months ago.

I realized that people who have massive influence aren't gifted. They're disciplined. Whether it's running a business, or something as basic as maintaining a sleep schedule, they do it with consistency. In other words, success is built.

I once saw a quote on Instagram that really stuck with me: "I'm not scared of a man who knows 1,000 different styles of kicks. I'm scared of the man who knows one kick, but has practiced it 1,000 times." I see so many people trying to do ten things at once, only to get overwhelmed and give up. But true founders, real entrepreneurs, focus on doing one thing and doing it with consistency until they master it.

A few weeks ago, I was full of motivation and challenged myself to wake up at 5:30 AM every day and read just one page of a book. Sounds simple, right? But the weekend hit, and I started staying up late. I kept missing my goal until Thursday. But on Friday, I finally decided to reset my routine and start again.

"Success is the product of daily habits— not once-in-a-lifetime transformations." – Atomic Habits by James Clear

I didn't want to give up because I knew that if I could do this for 21 days straight, it would become a habit. That, to me, is what consistency really means. It is choosing to show up again after you fall off.

Founders aren't consistent because they have more motivation or energy than the rest of us. They're consistent because they focus on building habits. And those habits are what pave the way to success.

"MAAHER ORGANIZED HIS OWN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT, RAISING MONEY THROUGH CREATIVE VENTURES LIKE A LEMONADE STAND!"



But here's the best part: you can build those habits too. One small step at a time.

A book that has helped me understand this better is *"Atomic Habits - An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones"* by James Clear.

Although I am yet to complete the book, parts of it have already begun influencing my thought process. I have learned that motivation may go away, but the discipline that we build will be with us for the rest of our lives. Thus, we must start building our habits now because as we grow older, it may become tougher to create new habits and routines. The sooner we start, the stronger our habits will be.

“

True founders, real entrepreneurs, focus on doing one thing and doing it with consistency until they master it —they're consistent because they focus on building habits.

Viraj loves smashing tennis shots and plotting chess moves, always ready for a challenge. A huge Harry Potter fan, he even wrote his own book, turning imagination into magic. Curious and adventurous, he's always exploring, learning, and creating new experiences!

VIRAJ SINGHAL, 5TH, DALY COLLEGE, INDORE



Jhanavi led an eco-themed movie night with 500+ attendees, promoting sustainability through her NGO.

JHANAVI REDDY, 12TH, FUTURE KIDS HIGH SCHOOL, TELENGANA

HOW CURIOSITY SHAPED THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET OF STEVE JOBS

OM BATAVIA, 11th,
THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL,
AHMEDABAD

When people hear the name Steve Jobs, they usually think of iPhones and revolutionary ideas. But if you look deeper, you'll see something more meaningful - the true reason behind his success.

His success wasn't just because of his creative genius — it was due to his mindset. Jobs thought like an entrepreneur long before he ever built a company. Jobs once said: "I've never found anybody who didn't want to help me if I asked them for help." He wasn't just talking. He had lived it.

When he was just twelve years old, Jobs wanted to build a frequency counter (a device that measures how fast something vibrates). But he didn't have the parts he needed.

Next, Jobs grabbed the phonebook (this was way before Google) and looked up the phone number of Bill Hewlett, the co-founder of Hewlett-Packard, one of the biggest tech companies in the world and called him.

Think about that.

A twelve-year-old cold-calling one of the most powerful men in tech to ask for spare parts!

And Bill Hewlett actually picked up!

"Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice." - Steve Jobs

Not only did Bill speak to Steve for twenty minutes, he also sent him the parts! Bill even offered Jobs a summer job at HP - working on assembly lines alongside real engineers. That **one moment** didn't just get Jobs a project - *It gave him a glimpse into a world he would eventually change.*

"OM RACES GO-KARTS PROFESSIONALLY AT 120 KM/H AND SPENDS THE WEEK CHASING TENTHS OF A SECOND NOT TRENDS!"



This incident alone gives a glimpse of the entrepreneurial mindset:

Seeing opportunity instead of obstacles: Jobs didn't focus on what he didn't have. He focused on what he could do.

Taking initiative: Entrepreneurs don't wait to be picked. They make their own opportunities.

Not fearing rejection: Jobs knew he might get a "no." He asked anyway. That's what separates builders from bystanders.

Learning from others: He understood early that success doesn't come from knowing everything but from being willing to learn.

This way of thinking shaped the rest of his life. Jobs kept asking. Kept learning. Kept moving ahead even when he wasn't sure he'd succeed. That's what entrepreneurs do. They don't need perfect conditions. They build with what they have, and they find people who can help them grow faster.

The truth is, anyone can develop that mindset. One has to be willing to be curious and focused on growth. Because sometimes, one brave question, like a twelve-year-old calling a tech legend, can change one's entire future. The entrepreneurial mindset isn't about being fearless. It's about asking anyway.



Seeing opportunity instead of obstacles: Jobs didn't focus on what he didn't have. He focused on what he could do.

The entrepreneurial mindset isn't about being fearless. It's about asking anyway.

Navya takes the *entrepreneurial mindset* to creative endeavors - as a foodie who loves exploring new cuisines. She's recently discovered a growing passion for cooking and experimenting in the kitchen.

**NAAVYA MUCHHAL, 7TH,
DALY COLLEGE, INDORE**



WILLOW TREES TO WORKER BEES: THE NATURE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL GRIT

SNIGDHA SAXENA, 12TH,
MORNING GLORY INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL, ABIDJAN, WEST AFRICA

We love to dress entrepreneurs in big words like “Visionary, Trailblazer, Fearless pioneer, etc.” - albeit missing out on two very important values that drive their spirit: **Resilience and Hard Work**.

Resilience is successfully adapting to challenging life experiences, especially through mental and emotional flexibility and adjustment to external and internal demands. Let’s understand this dictionary definition with the help of an example from Nature (because no one does it better!) - *With their deep roots and flexible cellular structure, Willow Trees can withstand strong winds without breaking, showcasing adaptability to harsh environments.* Resilience refers to being able to withstand a challenge and then bounce right back! It’s the ability to learn, keep going, and not break down.

Hard work is the consistent and dedicated effort required to achieve a goal with perseverance, and a willingness to push oneself beyond comfort zones. I draw inspiration from some of the hardest workers on this planet who push themselves relentlessly every day - *Worker Bees spend on average 10 hours a day, traveling to thousands of flowers to gather nectar, carry it back to the hive, eventually turning it into honey.*

Isn’t that so commendable?

*“That which does not destroy, strengthens” -
Friedrich Nietzsche*

Reading about the adventurous journeys of successful entrepreneurs, I found out that: The price of success is hard. There are no “easy” routes available when running a business. Successful entrepreneurs expect the blows and use setbacks as their drive for success.

Their mantra is simple: **Learn. Adapt. Repeat.**

You must develop the ability to get back up after getting knocked down. Nothing replaces consistent, relentless effort. Hard work is the foundation on which all other success habits are built. It’s all about showing up, doing the work, and outlasting the noise.



**“SNIGDHA SPEAKS 4 LANGUAGES,
PERFORMS IN SHOWS, AND STILL FINDS
TIME TO PRIORITIZE SLEEPING!”**

MEET OUR MENTORS



Kevin is a veteran in growth marketing with three decades of experience in VP roles in top brands like AT&T Wireless, Viacom, 21st Century Fox, Universal Music etc.. Not only has he worked with Elton John and Tom Petty, but a music label he founded has a Grammy-nomination! An MBA from Harvard, he also writes for Mashable, TechCrunch, GeekWire.

Kevin Nakao, Harvard Business School



Aside from working on DeepTech, Robotics, and monitoring SPACE traffic (!!?), Vlad is always ready to engage with young budding entrepreneurs whether they are at Cornell, Columbia or Growth Valley Community!

Vladimir Baranov, Columbia Business School, London Business School



When Madeline is not building Orseund Iris and taking on brands like Gucci and Versace, she loves to stroll the beaches of Miami with her dog. With 20 years of helping brands like Reebok and Fairmont hotels, her experience is extraordinary.

Madeline Johnson, Marketing Strategist, Reebok, Nintendo, Fairmont Hotels

AI ISN'T THE FUTURE — IT'S MY EVERYDAY TOOL

MAHIT JAIN, 12TH
JAYSHREE PERIWAL
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, JAIPUR

Often, AI or tech associated with artificial intelligence has a futuristic inclination, but in my experience, this AI-enabled future is here and now - and it listens and learns faster than I can type.

As a teen entrepreneur building my concepts from scratch, I have found that **AI agents** aren't merely digital tools. They're the best possible co-founders. They code, design, edit, arrange, and even brainstorm, and don't require breaks to accomplish all that!

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the manner in which businesses are born. From automatic customer care to copywriting of products, everything is being managed through the application of AI. You don't require a team of 10 any longer. You just require ten quality prompts.

I used AI in my own workflow to write articles, build instant presentations with clean organization and format, and assist with coding when I was stumped. Wherever ideas were jumbled together, AI sorted them out. It is not that I am completely dependent on it. It just makes my life and workflow faster, easier, and efficient. Things that would take hours are now completed in a matter of minutes, and with improved results.

"AI is one of the most profound things we're working on as humanity. It's more profound than fire or electricity." - Sundar Pichai

You don't need a technical background to unlock this. You just need curiosity, a laptop, and a goal. I realized early on that the faster I could learn to communicate with AI, the more freedom I had to build. Every chaotic plan could become real.

This isn't the age of man vs machine. It's *the age of man with machine* and I'm not just riding the wave. I'm contributing to it.



" MAHIT HAS LED DANCE CLUBS, BUILT ROBOTS, TAUGHT UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS—WHILE LOWKEY BEING OBSESSED WITH ISEKAI ANIME!"

PERSPECTIVES FROM OUR WORKSHOP WITH IPS MACEDONIA:



"We had the opportunity as a school to participate in a Growth Valley Community Workshop. Our students were truly motivated after attending the session. They are now excited to attend more workshops by GVC and we are looking forward to another collaboration soon."

Vesna Horvatovikj
Principal
IPS Macedonia

"I attended the Growth Valley Community workshop, and honestly it was just perfect. I liked the approach of the mentors. I also learnt everything about AI and Chat GPT, especially how it was made, the founder's perspective. More importantly, I got the chance to make my own AI chatbot, and this chatbot was about Mercedes - on how to choose your first car from Mercedes. This workshop inspired me to look more into AI, and into building chatbots. As I now have the skill, I wish to help local businesses around my city by making chatbots to help them with customer service."

Filip Popovski
Student
IPS Macedonia



"I've been a part of the GVC workshop where I learnt about artificial intelligence, and also had the opportunity to create my own chatbot called "Digibot ". My chatbot is basically regarding digital school - a school where you learn how to program. I created this chatbot so I can extend the AI horizon for the school. I trained my AI via a website and now you can ask Digibot any questions regarding digital schools. I am truly thankful to the community for being such good mentors, and for teaching us about artificial intelligence and the workshop in general."

Lis Aliu
Student
IPS Macedonia



BREWING BUSINESS WITH PURPOSE: LESSONS FROM A HOSPITALITY INNOVATOR

DHRITI BANG, 11th,
P Obul Reddy School,
Secunderabad

I'm fascinated by how founders bring their dreams to life. Recently, I had the chance to sit down with **Amar Ohri of Ohri's** about his latest venture **Qaffeine**. Our conversation was about much more than just coffee. It was about curiosity, determination, and finding your own voice in a crowded world.

What inspired you to start your own coffee chain?

I'm a huge coffee addict and love making coffee! In 2003, when I did our first food court, that's when I launched cappuccinos. When I got a call from a huge developer that they needed a new coffee brand, I jumped at the idea.

One of the differentiators was that we felt big brands like Starbucks were very expensive. So we asked if we can we bring a better-tasting product at a more affordable price point? That became our strategy.

What was the biggest challenge you faced when launching your startup, and how did you overcome it?

Loving coffee is one thing. Starting a business, understanding which machine to pick up, which beans to select, what food, the layout – is another.

"Finding your own DNA in a crowded space—that's the real challenge" - Amar Ohri, Founder, Qaffeine

I went to Coorg and Chikmagalur to learn about how coffee is grown, the process involved, met the estate owners, learned about the beans - how some coffees are priced at 600 a kg, some at 2000 a kg. It depends on the elevation, the soil, the cherry.

That trip was a learning experience about the product itself. Then I roped in friends in the business and asked them - basically a willingness to learn and ask for help. All this took about two to three months of research before I took a step forward. Once you learn all that, the decision-making becomes easy. **Then we began with our first cafe.**

What strategies did you use to differentiate your business from your competitors?

When we began, coffee wasn't this busy in the city. We were one of the few brands. The first thing we did as a differentiator was invest in the right machine, the barista, and finally, the product. We are using La Marzocco machines that come from Italy. They're like the Ferrari of coffee machines.

How have emerging technologies played a role in your business's development?

Coffee is still tech-free to a large extent. It's a very manual-centric approach, but feedback

measurement and digital marketing have really helped us. With Instagram and other platforms, reaching out has become easier, growing the brand is easier.

What advice would you give to young entrepreneurs who are just starting out?

Number one: No one knows everything. I didn't know. Number two: Don't aim for perfection at the first go. Build and evolve as you go along. Don't think everything has to fall into place on the first go.

Start with whatever you can do best, and then keep evolving it, fine-tuning it, honing it, and growing from there. That is the best advice. You try to do the best food, training, service, people, interiors. It's not possible. So whatever your core is, communicate that, launch that, execute that. The rest, keep growing it and getting better.

What is your biggest fear today as an entrepreneur?

Right now it's the escalation of costs. In Hyderabad, there's a growth in cafes. The cost of running a business is going up from rents, salaries to overheads.

Second, finding your niche within this crowded space is becoming more and more important. We need to have clarity on what Caffeine means for the next 10 years. To make a different brand, you need to find your own DNA. That's the challenge.



Don't aim for perfection on the first go. Start, then keep growing.

Failures and learning trips have been the pillars of building our coffee brand.

**Amar Ohri,
Founder, Qaffeine**

"DHRITI RECENTLY PUBLISHED A BOOK OF POEMS, AND IS ALSO AN ATHLETE AND MUN DELEGATE!"



TECH VS TEENS - FINDING THE BALANCE

KRISH SOBTI, 9TH, PATHWAYS
WORLD SCHOOL, ARAVALI

The human spirit must prevail over technology - Albert Einstein

Technology has become an integral component of a teenager's life lately, significantly influencing how they communicate, learn, and understand themselves, presenting both opportunities and considerable challenges.

Teens have begun treating social media like their next child, spending countless hours nurturing their feed. There are a variety of negatives and positives for this topic, and this report covers it all.

Now, on the beneficial side, technology unites adolescents with friends and communities turning the big world into a small one - making it accessible and creating feelings of belongingness and social relatedness. YouTube and learning apps open up access to knowledge previously available only in textbooks or classrooms. So learning to code, or even learning to play a musical instrument - is now simpler than ever before.

Technology promotes empathy among teenagers, too, since studies indicate that social media can enable young people to see and express the emotions of others, increasing their emotional intelligence. It is a lifeline in difficult moments, providing support networks that can prove instrumental for mental health.

The darker side of technology cannot be overlooked, though. Too much screen time usually breeds addiction, where teenagers spend hours a day stuck on their screens at the expense of social interaction.

This brings about what experts refer to as "mobile phone zombies," where teenagers are always distracted by their phones. Social media also negatively affects mental health since sites tend to encourage unattainable beauty ideals and lifestyles, causing poor self-esteem and body image problems. Most teenagers say they feel left out or overwhelmed by cyber drama which can foster anxiety and loneliness.

In addition, screen's blue light interferes with sleep, particularly when used as a pre-bedtime activity. Sleep is necessary for growth and brain development, but 90% of teenagers leave their phone in their bed at night something associated with poor sleep. A balance must be maintained to make sure that technology benefits teens without jeopardizing them. Parents have a significant role in limiting screen time, and promoting offline activities.

Teenagers themselves need to acquire self-regulation and good online behavior. Knowing when to log off whether from social media or gaming is vital to their mental well-being.

Schools, too, can make a difference through the education of digital literacy and responsible online conduct. Through awareness and balance, we can provide technology to enrich the lives of teens and not control them.

In the end, technology must be employed as a tool for growth and connection and not as an agent of distraction or danger. If used judiciously, it can enable teenagers to pursue their passions, forge strong relationships, and tackle adolescence with resilience and confidence.



Teens have begun treating social media like their next child, spending countless hours nurturing their feed.

“KRISH IS DRIVEN BEING A HIGH-ACHIEVER IN CRICKET AND WSC - WINNING ABOUT 12 MEDALS IN 2 YEARS!”



Teenagers themselves need to acquire self-regulation and good online behavior. Knowing when to log off whether from social media or gaming is vital to their mental well-being.

RESILIENCE + HARD WORK: THE SECRET SAUCE OF TEEN FOUNDERS

**Sampreeti K.K, 12th, Chinmaya
Vidyalaya, Tamil Nadu**

In the world of entrepreneurship, resilience is the soul, and hard work is the heartbeat. Entrepreneurship isn't just about having a unique idea but its success depends on how gritty, consistent, and courageous the entrepreneur is in taking risks.

Success might appear overnight from the outside, but behind the scenes, it's the result of balancing passion, perseverance, smart decisions, and learning from failures. Every wrong turn becomes an opportunity when viewed with the right mindset.

In 2008, Airbnb's founders: Brian Chesky, Joe Gebbia, and Nathan Blecharczyk were struggling to pay rent. They came up with the idea of renting out air mattresses in their apartment during a conference, which started Airbnb. But their journey was anything but easy. Rejected by investors over 20 times, and doubted by many, they even sold custom cereal boxes like "Obama O's" and "Cap'n McCain's" to raise money. Yet, they didn't quit. They kept improving their idea and believed in their vision. Today, Airbnb is a global brand all because they stayed resilient when no one else believed in them.

I recently came across a quote that stuck with me: ***"If you are 10 failures away from the ultimate success, how fast would you fail?"***

*"I'm convinced that about half of what separates successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance."
— Steve Jobs*

Whenever fear of failure creeps in, I think about this. It motivates me to keep going, to see every failure as a stepping stone, and to work harder than before.

In conclusion, entrepreneurship is not just about launching companies but about solving real problems, making bold decisions, and growing through uncertainty. At the heart of it all lies resilience and hard work. They don't promise instant success, but they form the unshakable foundation on which every great journey is built.

**"A STATE-LEVEL ATHLETE, SAMPREETI
FOUNDED NEXTDOOR CHAMPS TO
SPOTLIGHT UNSUNG SPORTS HEROES"**



FAILURE AS FUEL: TURNING SETBACKS INTO STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

Diya Goel, 8th, The Shri Ram School, Mousari, Gurgaon

Success is often just failure that refused to stop evolving. Instagram started as a clunky check-in app. Slack was born from a failed video game. Sometimes, the biggest breakthroughs begin with breakdowns. Failure provides us with opportunities to learn and grow, it gives us the boost, the motivation to expand our minds and go for what we believe is important.

Failure isn't the opposite of success, it's part of the formula. Without it, the entire equation falls apart. It gives you something most people overlook, a second chance.

This isn't one of those "just believe in yourself" articles, This is a real look at how failure, especially in the startup world, can actually work in your favor.

Because honestly? Failure is a pain in the moment. It's frustrating. Embarrassing. It can make you question why you even started. But if you sit with it long enough, not ignore it, not rush past it, it starts to show you things you wouldn't have seen otherwise.

When a startup crashes, it forces you to slow down and figure out what really matters. It makes you get scrappy. Real. It pushes you to stop chasing what sounds good and start building what actually works. And that's where the magic happens.

"Failure is an option here. If things are not failing, you are not innovating enough."
— Elon Musk

The truth is, every founder, every big idea, has hit a wall at some point. That awkward pitch that didn't land. The product no one wanted. The launch that flopped. But those moments? They're not the end. They're just messy, necessary steps on the way to something better.

What separates the ones who make it from the ones who give up isn't that they never failed, it's that they didn't let failure be the final word.

"DIYA'S A SPARKLE-CHARGED WHIRLWIND. SHE WRITES POEMS THAT GLITTER, STRUMS ROCKING GUITAR RIFFS, AND WHIPS UP CUPCAKES SO TASTY THEY VANISH IN A FLASH!"



They listened, they learned, they tweaked things. They kept going, just a little wiser than before.

In the end, failure's not a sign you're off track. It's often proof you're on the edge of figuring something out.

So here's the truth: you're going to fail. Everyone does. But that doesn't mean you're not cut out for this. It means you're actually in it fully. Trying, learning, evolving. And sometimes, the idea that didn't work? It ends up pointing you to the one that does.

So the next time it all falls apart, don't panic. Let it hurt, take a breath, and then look at what it's trying to show you. You're not starting from scratch you're starting from experience. And that's the best place to begin.



Failure isn't the opposite of success, it's part of the formula.

Without it, the entire equation falls apart. It gives you something most people overlook, a second chance.

He is a tech whiz who loves to build and code all day long. Having build AI Agents, Chatbots, E-Commerce brand concepts, etc. he is not one to slow down!

**VIPULAN ARUL KUMAR, 9TH,
VMJ SCHOOL, MADURAI**



He is a chess champ, winning second place in the Under-14 Rook Tournament. On the cricket field, he powered his team to second place at the OIS Sports Fest. A true all-rounder, he shines with both brain and game!

**DHANVEER DOSHI, 8TH,
OBEROI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,
MUMBAI**

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AI AGENTS & AUTOMATION

Contact us today to
explore a partnership!

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SCAN HERE

BUILT BY TEENS, BACKED BY GRIT: AN E-COMMERCE BRAND BY TEC MEMBERS

The teens from the “Teen Entrepreneur Club” learned hands-on from industry leaders themselves. Then, they took initiative, ownership, and applied their learnings in the real world. In other words, **they created, led, and now run an brand**. Introducing: tecteenshop.com

Origin Story

The “TEC Teen Shop” is a brand by the members of the “Teen Entrepreneur Club” (TEC) by Growth Valley Community. TEC is an exclusive international club for teens designed to cultivate the “**entrepreneurial mindset**”: the mindset of winners and leaders.

Watch 11-18 year olds learning about bleeding-edge tech tools, the latest developments in **AI-ML, business strategy, marketing and finance** from the business leaders **Harvard and Columbia**

Business School, branding experts from leading brands like Reebok, Nintendo, experts from Wall Street and Silicon Valley, and Founders from UC Berkeley.

TEC members haven’t just learned. They’ve built.

From pitch decks and product press releases to marketing strategies and automation via tools like HubSpot, Apollo, and Replit, they’ve even created their own AI agents and no-code Apps using platforms like Adalo.

Beyond just acquiring skills, this experience has instilled in them the mindset of successful entrepreneurs: initiative, resilience, and real-world problem-solving. The “TEC Teen Shop” is a proud manifestation of that mindset.

Meet the TEC Teen Shop Team

Built by Teens. Backed by Grit.



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MEET OUR MENTORS



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Dr. Stephanie, Harvard Medical School



From humble beginnings in China, to a boarding school in Switzerland, and then at MIT Sloan, Evy brings forth a global perspective in all her endeavours. From building Evy Tea to Venture Capital, she has done it all!

Evy Chen, MIT Sloan



Meet Eugene—a finance whiz with 20+ years at Bank of America, AIG, and Neuberger Berman. He's built VC-funded startups, invested in six companies (four didn't crash and burn), and knows how money moves. Buckle up!

Eugene Lee, UC Berkeley

LEARNING NEVER STOPS: AN ENTREPRENEUR'S PERSPECTIVE

ADITI ADARSH, 10th,
DELHI PRIVATE SCHOOL,
SHARJAH, UAE

I've always been curious about how real-world founders and leaders turn challenges into opportunities. Recently, I got the chance to interview **Professor Jessica Pius—entrepreneur, and an educator at Westford University College.** Beyond teaching, Professor Jessica runs a bakery venture called *Tasty Delights*. Her story is a beautiful mix of education, entrepreneurship, and a curiosity that drives her forward.

Professor Jessica, did you ever face any doubts during your entrepreneurial journey? If so, how did you push through them?

I've always been passionate about cooking, but I didn't know that there was a difference between being a chef and being a businesswoman.

People usually assume that if you're passionate about something, you're automatically good at business, too. My first event was barely delivered as expected. I wasn't a professional. I had zero experience and was juggling everything: handling the cash counter, taking orders, and rushing to get cakes from the kitchen. It was chaos! But failure didn't stop me.

I had mentors who told me that's how everybody begins. You can't expect success overnight. There's too much competition, too many people doing similar things.

"Failures keep us grounded. They teach us better lessons than success ever could." - Jessica Pius

How do you stay ahead of trends and competition in your industry?

I have to give a lot of credit to my students here. They constantly update me about trends, memes, and what's happening.

I also have this innate curiosity. It's something I'm proud of. Even when I look like I'm sitting idle, I'm probably thinking about scenarios to change or things to improve, whether in teaching or my bakery business. Curiosity is very important. I read a lot, watch videos, and listen to audiobooks. That keeps me updated and helps me teach better, which I love.

What advice would you give to young entrepreneurs just starting out?

Be relentless. Setbacks are reality, so don't stray from that. Work in reverse. Think about how you'll find a solution to them. Don't waste time thinking, "Oh, it could have been better." Focus on finding better solutions every single time. It's not about having multiple outlets or being a billionaire. It's about being consistent. Every episode is a learning curve. Surround yourself with resourceful people, mentors and those who give you fresh perspectives. Never stop learning, even if you're 50, 60, or 70. Curiosity and adaptability are the keys to grow.

How important is failure in the entrepreneurial process? How do you personally learn from mistakes? How do you keep your team motivated, especially during tough times?

Sir Ratan Tata said if your life's path looks like a straight line, it means you're dead. The more you fail, the better your stories. Personally, I don't waste time thinking about what could have gone right. That's a waste.

Surrounding yourself with people who are always negative isn't good for finding solutions. I prefer to be around people who are doers. For me, optimism works when it's based in reality. My positivity comes from knowing the outcomes because I've lived them before. I actually work best in panic. I see it as an opportunity to outshine. I motivate my colleagues and team by setting an example. I'd rather show them through my work than give a lengthy speech. When they see me working hard, they're inspired to do the same.

How have emerging technologies played a role in your business's development?

This is something I learned from management in college. The day you decide you don't want to engage with technology is the day you stop learning. I'm curious about anything new that's helping people perform better. Even if I can't learn it completely, I'm willing to listen and ask questions no matter what others think.

As an educator, I need to stay relevant. That constant need to connect with people and learn from them keeps me going. Humility and curiosity ensure I stay updated. That's how you keep up with new trends and technology. By never stopping learning.

“

My positivity comes from knowing the outcomes because I've lived them before.

Never stop learning. That's how you stay relevant, no matter your age.

**Jessica Prius,
Educator & Entrepreneur**

“ADITI HAS BEEN DRAWING SINCE SHE WAS 2, DANCING SINCE 4 AND HAS HAD A RAGING SUPERHERO OBSESSION SINCE SHE FIRST LAID EYES ON A COMIC BOOK!”



NO ONE WINS SOLO: THE SUCCESS FORMULA OF MENTORS + NETWORKING

AYAAN KHAN, 9th

Podar International School, Akola

If success were a video game, then mentorship would be the cheat code, and networking would be the multiplayer that helps you grind and level up fast!

Think about the most successful people in history—scientists, athletes, entrepreneurs, and even celebrities. Almost all of them had mentors who guided them and a network of people who supported them. The truth is, no matter how talented or hardworking you are, having the right people around you can make all the difference.

Why Mentors Matter

A mentor is someone who has already walked the path you're trying to take. Instead of figuring everything out on your own, you get to learn from their experience

Think about your favorite superhero. Almost all of them had a mentor: Luke Skywalker had Yoda to teach him the ways of the Force. Tony Stark had Jarvis and Pepper Potts to keep him on track. Even Naruto had Jiraiya, Kakashi, and Kurama who guided him to become one of the greatest Hokage of all time.

Let's look at famous entrepreneurs - Bill Gates had Warren Buffett, Mark Zuckerberg had Steve Jobs, and even G.O.A.T.s like Michael Jordan, had coaches and mentors who helped them reach their full potential.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." — African Proverb

The Magic of Networking

Networking may sound like something only business people do, but it's more than that. It is about building relationships. Ever heard the phrase, "It's not just what you know, but who you know"? That's because sometimes, the right connection can open doors that skills alone cannot.

Imagine you're playing a team-based game. You wouldn't go into battle alone, right? The more skilled teammates you have, the better your chances of winning. Networking works the same way. When you know people who share your interests and goals, they can introduce you to opportunities or even teach you new skills. It's about building real connections with those who inspire and support you.

Mentorship + Networking = The Winning Formula

A mentor and a strong network are amazing by themselves, **but when both come together - that is the real Konami code of success.** A mentor gives you **guidance**, and networking gives you **opportunities**. The most successful people in the world have both.

For example, let's say you want to start a business. A mentor can teach you how to avoid beginner mistakes, and your network can introduce you to potential partners or customers. Or maybe you're an aspiring game developer. Learning from someone experienced will speed up your progress, and knowing the right people could help you land an internship at a top company.

So don't be afraid to reach out, ask questions, and connect with people who inspire you. Whether you are aiming for its business, gaming, science, or anything else, who you learn from and who you surround yourself with can change everything.

So, go ahead! Find your Yoda, build your team, and start leveling up!

“AYAAN LOVES PHOTOGRAPHY, COOKING AND GAMING (TOP 5K RANKED IN COD THREE TIMES IN A ROW)!”



If success were a video game, then mentorship would be the cheat code, and networking would be the multiplayer that helps you grind and level up fast.

A mentor gives you guidance, and networking gives you opportunities — together, they're the Konami code of real-world success.

FUTURE-PROOFING LEARNING: LESSONS ON INNOVATION FROM AN ED-TECH VISIONARY

SANJAY MADHAV, 8th
St. Francis School, Kerala

As a GVC TEC Fellow, I'm always inspired by how leaders in education blend vision, adaptability, and technology to transform learning. Recently, I had the chance to speak with **Dr. Thomas George, Director and Chairman of Lead College of Management in Palakkad, Kerala**. Dr. Thomas's journey from running a tech business to founding a college is a testament to curiosity and continuous learning. Here's what he shared with me.

What motivated you to become an educational entrepreneur?

Basically, I was doing a business earlier in computers and touch screens. This was about 25 years ago. It was all technical: computer service, sales, networking, and education. Then I started doing training and found that I loved it. That's how I created a program called *Turning Point*. I kept doing that for engineering colleges and, over time, I realized there was a better way to teach MBA students. More application-oriented than just chalk-and-talk. So I decided to start a college.

What was the most significant challenge you faced, and how did you overcome it?

The biggest challenge came in 2010. We had all the approvals: LOA, NOC from the university, and even 115 out of 120 seats filled. Classes had started.

In a world that's changing really quickly, the only strategy that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks." - Mark Zuckerberg

But in November, due to politics the university suddenly decided not to give affiliations to any college, including mine. I had students already studying here. So I took them to other colleges to ensure they didn't lose a year. But 65 students and their parents said they'd stay if I promised them admission next year. So we created diplomas in entrepreneurship and retailing for them and patched it up. In their words, they learned a three-year MBA when others could only do two!

How has emerging technology, like AI, impacted your college?

Today, everything is technology and AI.

We moved from manual work to a Learning Management System (LMS), where all internal work is loaded. From alumni to placements, we use separate software for everything as managing data manually became impossible as numbers grew.

The latest AI project we started was face recognition attendance. A student sits in class and attendance is taken automatically. The next level is using cameras to read expressions like tiredness, interest, etc. and share that with teachers so they can adapt.

What key skills have helped you as an entrepreneur?

Leadership — being able to create and guide a team across campuses. Second is communication: the ability to convince and get things done. Third is effective decision-making: asking what we need to do for a certain output or what output to expect from an action.

What advice would you give to young entrepreneurs?

Keep innovating. Even if you're copying, tweak it to suit what's needed. See what the community wants and serve them accordingly. It's not about what I want to produce or sell. It's about understanding what they want.



“SANJAY LOVES FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL, AND BADMINTON. WHEN NOT ON THE COURT, HE ENJOYS DIVING INTO PYTHON PROGRAMMING!”



The day you stop innovating, you stop growing.

It's not about what I want—it's about understanding what *they* want.

When you listen closely to what students need, that's when real education begins.

**Dr. Thomas George,
Director and Chairman -
Lead College of
Management, Kerala**

WAKE UP CALL OR CRITIQUE? TEENS UNPACK JENSEN HUANG'S MESSAGE TO STANFORD GRADUATES

"I wish upon you ample doses of pain and suffering" -

"Jensen Huang didn't drop that line just to scare Stanford grads. It was a wake-up call.

As a 12th grader facing the chaos of an uncertain future, I've had my share of struggles. Balancing academics, side projects, and personal goals while trying to keep my sanity? The pressure from parents, the weight of expectations, that feeling of never being enough. It eats away at you. Bombing a test after hours of studying; hitting a creative block in a project; each of these moments felt like a punch in the gut. But looking back, I see them for what they were: lessons in resilience, proving that setbacks are just plot twists in a bigger success story.

Huang's words aren't a curse; they're a reality check. Struggles, failures, and setbacks aren't there to stop us. They're there to shape us."

-Mishti Mahajan, 12th, Montessori Cambridge School, Pathankot

"Not because he's secretly a villain in a movie, but because he knows that discomfort forces reinvention. You don't grow by failing. You grow by adapting. Think about it: if someone has only ever sailed smooth seas, the first storm they face might sink them. But here's the catch: not all suffering leads to growth.

"Embrace the unknown and embrace change. That's where true breakthroughs happen." - Jensen Huang

If you trip on the stairs and just sit there feeling sorry for yourself, you're not moving forward (you're just becoming part of the floor décor). Growth comes from processing hardship, not just experiencing it.

It's what you do with the struggle that defines your future."

-Tanya Jain, 12th, Mount Carmel School, Delhi

"His message challenges current expectations of instant success in society, asserting that meaningful growth emerges from repetitive failures and pain that promotes growth; a process that develops resilience and character.

Jensen's experience proves it. Before founding the acclaimed NVIDIA, Jensen went through a lot of pain searching for a better job than working at Denny's as a dishwasher. He created a company that would eventually become a trillion-dollar technology unicorn, which faced numerous challenges in its early years. Huang's wish was a sensible realization that struggle is a crucial step toward greatness.

Jensen's wish prepares students for reality: success requires tough decisions, perseverance, and a willingness to fail."

-Eric Anand, 11th, The Aquila School, Dubai

BOON, BANE, OR BOTH - REAL FUTURE OF AI IN BUSINESS

Pravalika Nandhini, 12th,
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Delhi

Artificial Intelligence can stimulate human learning, problem solving, decision making, and more. More significantly, AI has been revolutionizing entrepreneurship in many ways. With AI Agents creating chatbots that efficiently handle customer queries, automation making bulk tasks smooth, enabling further innovation in every aspect at lightning speed. However, all at once, there is also a big fear - will relying on artificial intelligence lead to the loss of the human edge?

Is AI in entrepreneurship a superpower or a silent saboteur? Let's explore both sides of the debate.

AI is helping Entrepreneurs by enhancing productivity, decision making, customer experience, and cost efficiency. How? Well, by automating repetitive tasks like customer support, scheduling, data entry, etc, AI allows entrepreneurs to focus on strategy and innovation, which is key to growth. It also helps businesses make smarter decisions by analyzing the vast amount of data quickly; For example, online shops use AI to suggest products based on what customers like. It also improves customer service through smart algorithms, like on Amazon or Netflix.

However, AI has its own set of risks, especially vis a vis entrepreneurs. Since AI can do a lot in less, (it's a robot to begin with!), many human jobs are being replaced by machines, causing job loss and unemployment.

"AI will not replace humans, but those who use AI will replace those who don't." - Ginni Rometty

Also, if business owners rely too much on AI, lack of human touch can cause inconsistencies, and a small mistake can cause bigger repercussions. AI can't think like humans. It doesn't have emotions or true creativity.

AI isn't fully good or bad. It all depends on how we use it. Smart business people will use AI to help with their work, but won't forget the importance of human ideas & feelings. It's all about keeping a balance between using machines and using our creativity.

So, the real deal is how we choose to use it in the right way because *"The key to success with AI is not just having the right data, but also asking the right question"* – Ginni Rometty, former CEO, IBM.



"AS AN ASPIRING ENTREPRENEUR, BUILDING PROJECTS AND BUSINESS PITCHES INTEREST PRAVALIKA"

AT IIT DELHI, TEENS BUILT AND PITCHED BUSINESSES TO VENTURE CAPITALISTS

Growth Valley Community hosted a Teen Entrepreneurship Bootcamp at IIT Delhi in May. In collaboration with IIT Delhi's Entrepreneurial Development Cell (EDC), this 7-day workshop involved mentorship on building a business from scratch with a focus area on Artificial Intelligence, AI Agents & App Building. Here, Teens (aged as young as 9 to 12th standard kids) were mentored via hands-on interactive workshops with global industry leaders. Esteemed mentors included: **Vladimir Baranov** (advisor to 30+ startups in Aerospace & Tech Founder, Columbia Business School); **Madeline Johnson** (Branding & Marketing Strategist, Reebok and Fairmont Hotels, Miami); and **Shivam Pujara**, (Founder - Madhupa, UC Berkeley, San Francisco).

"If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way." - Napoleon Hill

Over 150 teens from top-tier schools across India, including Shiv Nadar, Jaysree Periwai International School, DPS Mathura Road, Pathways World School, and Heritage Xperiential Learning School, gathered at IIT Delhi for the bootcamp. Participants included new faces from Delhi NCR and enthusiastic "Teen Entrepreneur Club" members who travelled from cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Srinagar and more. These young minds with an entrepreneurial bent worked in groups, brainstormed, and collaborated in teamwork to pitch their structured business plans to top Venture Capitalists, top-tier IAS bureaucrats & IIM-IIT Founders.



Although the top three best pitches were awarded a token of USD 100, every teen was a winner because they took home experience of a lifetime, that which would aid them in their careers, now that they tasted the “entrepreneurial mindset”.

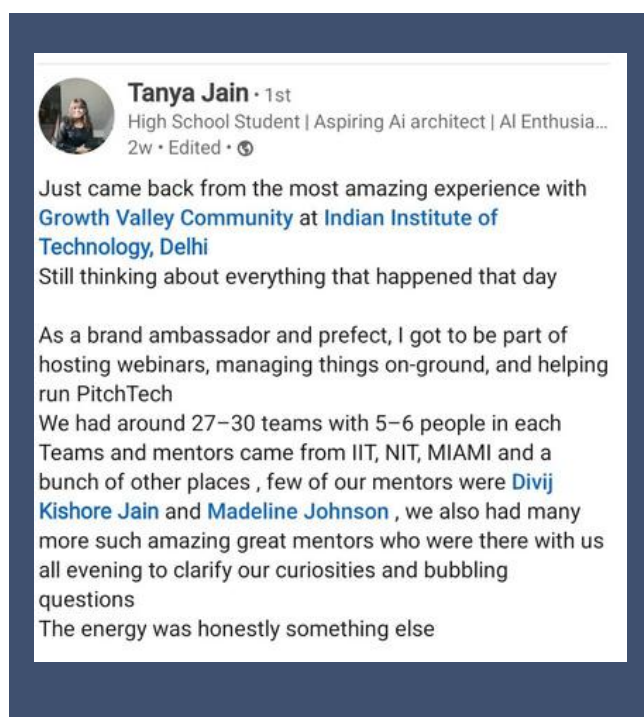
Each team displayed unique, creative USPs, embodying strategy, business acumen, teamwork, and leadership. More importantly, the real value and purpose of the bootcamp was way beyond learning skills, winning prizes, or pitching the best. It was a one-of-a-kind experience including global exposure, and learning from leaders whose decisions shape the latest developments in Artificial Intelligence, Technology and governance, across global markets. These Teens got to be “entrepreneurs for a day”. Thinking, acting, and being one in every sense of the term, satiating their curiosity, learning valuable insights from Industry Leaders.

This foundation was strong in members of the regular international “Teen Entrepreneur Club” (TEC) as they harboured organizational skills, hosting, being ambassadors, and leading by example. This ongoing exposure was reflected in their innovative thinking, strategic mindset, and confident leadership throughout the bootcamp.

This experience further fuels their entrepreneurial journey as they gear up to launch an e-commerce brand, for & by teens, while launching the second edition of a one-of-a-kind Teen Entrepreneur Magazine (150+ school distributions).



While TEC is forever aligned to young, enlightened minds, its goal is not just building or creating future leaders via skill-development but rather to inspire and nurture the inherent potential into being winners as they must be. Because entrepreneurship is a mindset, and success follows thereafter.



PARENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH GROWTH VALLEY

“For young minds, you have given this platform that guides them to utilize it right. Garvit has been doing much research, using the internet in a good way, now it's good screen time as he is motivated in learning new things. I am very happy with the platform you provide because of the knowledge he seems to have gained.”

**Mahima Gupta,
Mother of Garvit Gupta, VI
(Modern School, Barakhamba Road)**



“Even after the end of the session, you do not feel exhausted but energized - this is the quality of a good program. She is excited for her Saturday class, which means that she is really interested. It also means that I am not forcing her to create that energy. That energy is self-created. And it only happens when you are extremely motivated.”

**Vinay Kumar Singh
Father of Vanya Singh, IX
(DPS, Gurgaon)**

“As far as Rayaan is concerned, I see him very enthusiastic for the classes even when he has his examinations. Even during his examination days, he would still want to attend the workshop.”

**Upasana Mahant
Mother of Rayaan Mahant, VIII
(Delhi Public School, Rohini)**



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FOUNDER

Arishka and Samika Kejriwal, 8th,
Jayshree Periwal International School, Jaipur

At 2:13 a.m., the phone buzzed. A customer in another time zone had hit a bug right before checkout. Half-asleep but fully alert, Laptop was turned on. Crisis mode? Business as usual.

Being a founder means wearing ten hats before breakfast. The day usually begins early, often with emails, dashboards, and scribbled to-do lists. There's no "typical" day. Just a constant mix of meetings, decisions, and problem-solving. Founders are often seen as masters of strategy, innovation, and hustle. But behind the headlines and highlight reels lies a messy, often unpredictable day that's anything but ordinary.

The day usually begins early. Mornings are sacred. It's when they plan, reflect, and set the tone for what's to come. By 9 a.m., the calendar is in full swing. Meetings with team leads, investor check-ins, product reviews, and brainstorming sessions. Founders are constantly switching hats. From visionary to manager, problem-solver to motivator.

Lunch is more likely to be a protein bar at the desk or a rushed takeout order between Zoom calls. Despite the chaos, founders carve out time for one crucial habit: listening. Whether it's customer reviews, or market trends, staying in tune with what's happening on the ground is what keeps the business alive. The afternoons are often where decisions happen. Should the company pivot? How to keep costs at their lowest and maximize sales? Founders make countless micro-decisions daily, all while balancing risk and reward.

"Being an entrepreneur is like eating glass and staring into the abyss."
- Elon Musk

Evenings don't mean "off the clock." It is the second shift. Once the team signs off, founders dig into deep work: strategic planning, writing or revisiting the vision. It's a time for reflection. Of course, no two days are the same. Some are smooth, others full of fires to put out. But through it all, one thing remains: consistency.

Founders live in a constant state of building. From teams to products to relationships. The weight can be heavy, but the mission drives them forward. So what does a day in the life of a founder really look like? It's part planner, part improviser. And despite the long hours, most wouldn't trade it for anything else. Because building something from nothing isn't just a job. It's a calling.



**COMPASSIONATE, CURIOUS,
CHARISMATIC, CO-CREATORS - NO
BETTER WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE
WONDER TWINS - SAMIKA AND ARISHKA**

MEET OUR MENTORS



Originally from Persia, as an Automation Expert in the United States, Ramin helps in making businesses and startups tech-savvy. An alumna of the prestigious Texas A&M University, Ramin has always been driven to be his own boss and an entrepreneur.

Ramin Darzabi, Texas A&M University



Shivam recieved a full scholarship to study Computer Science in UC Berkeley - after which he worked in Venture Capital firms - and then started his own company "Madhupa" - wherein they build software for startups in San Francisco.

Shivam Pujara, UC Berkeley



Dan helps businesses build apps without writing any code! He is the founder of "Dapper No Code" advocating and guiding entrepreneurs to use AI and no code software to make their work easier. He lives in Pennsylvania, USA, with his two dogs.

Dan Hafner, University of Maryland



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P.S. You also need to be a teen :P

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As a future TEC member, you're the captain of your ship, navigating innovation with GVC mentors as your guiding winds. Competing alongside clubmates, you sharpen skills, fuel ambition, and build the legacy that awaits.

JULY 2025
ISSUE NO. 8

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