

Learning Beyond Classrooms: Meet Successful Indian Entrepreneurs Who Are School And College Dropouts

Here are the stories of visionary individuals who, despite lacking formal education, carved their paths to entrepreneurial success.



Learning Beyond Classrooms: Meet Successful Indian Entrepreneurs Who Are School And College Dropouts (image source: iStock)

Breaking conventional norms, these successful Indian entrepreneurs shattered the stereotype that a college degree is a prerequisite for success.

Here are the stories of visionary individuals who, despite lacking formal education, carved their paths to entrepreneurial success.

1. Kunal Shah: CRED & Freecharge Co-Founder Background:

Kunal Shah, co-founder of Freecharge, dropped out of Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies. Journey: Freecharge, started in 2012, revolutionised online recharge with cashback offers. Acquired by Snapdeal, it changed the recharge system.

Achievement: Kunal Shah's venture marked a shift in the digital payment landscape. Related News Shark Tank India 3: Anupam Mittal Refuses All-Shark Deal; Says 'Either Choose Me Or...'

2. Rahul Yadav: Co-Founder of Housing.com

Background: Rahul Yadav, co-founder of Housing.com, left IIT Bombay just months before completing graduation.

Journey: Determined to solve housing issues, Rahul co-founded Housing.com, a portal simplifying property search and sales.

Achievement: Featured in Forbes' 30 under 30, Rahul Yadav's portal sold properties worth eight million in its first week.

3. Ankit Oberoi: AdPushup CoFounder

Background: Ankit Oberoi, co-founder of AdPushup, dropped out of Maharaja Agrasen College after the first semester. **Journey:** Founded in 2013, AdPushup optimizes website ads for publishers, using A/B testing to enhance ad performance.

Achievement: Ankit's fascination for the internet led to the creation of AdPushup, revolutionizing ad monetization. Related News Shark Tank India 3: Sharks Ask Pitchers To Shut Down Their Business

4. Nikhil Kamath: Zerodha Co-Founder

Background: A school dropout, Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of Zerodha, transformed India's trading landscape. **Journey:** Disliking school, Nikhil started selling used phones at 14. Leaving school after 10th grade, he worked at a call centre. His interest in stock trading led to the founding of Zerodha.

Achievement: Zerodha made a profit of Rs 2,000 crore in 2023. Nikhil's net worth is a staggering \$1.1 billion.

5. Ritesh Agarwal: Oyo Rooms Founder

Background: Ritesh Agarwal, the mind behind Oyo Rooms, dropped out of college, and survived by selling sim cards. **Journey:** Founded in 2012, Oyo Rooms boasts a network of 2,200 hotels across 154 cities, backed by prominent investors.

Achievement: Ritesh Agarwal, a high school graduate, is a recognised entrepreneur, speaker, and Thiel Foundation fellow.

6. Azhar Iqbal: InShorts Founder

Background: Azhar Iqbal, a dropout from IIT Delhi, founded InShorts, a content discovery startup. **Journey:** InShorts delivers major news details in 60-word stories, catering to busy individuals.

Achievement: InShorts raised over \$29 million in funds and became a prominent player in content discovery.

7. Kailash Katkar: Quick Heal Technologies CEO

Background: Kailash Katkar, chairman and CEO of Quick Heal Technologies, dropped out after 10th grade.

Journey: Quick Heal, founded in 1995, offers IT security solutions, simplifying security management for users.

Achievement: Rising from a village in Maharashtra, Kailash built a successful IT security company without any formal education.