

elections and suffered two nervous breakdowns before going on to become the 16th president of the USA.

Anyone who ever did something worthwhile has overcome an adversity. There is a certain skill set that one needs to crack any threshold in life. Also one needs a bit of theory. The skill won't come easy; one has to rub against harsh situations to get the hang of it. Our story as a nation that shifted from socialist economy to an open market one bears the experiences of our bankruptcy, our crises of food and fuel and our near surrendering of sovereignty.

Horace- Adversity has elicited talent which prosperity has laid dormant. If it wasn't for all the banishment that **Ambedkar** faced in his early years, the father of the most inclusive constitution in the world would have not found his true mettle.

Aristotle- Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity. A corollary to the idea that a bad situation teaches a man better than anything else is - that education becomes a man's only dependable weapon in adversity. Raghuram Rajan is the economist whose name would be written in gold for evading the effects of 2008 World economic slowdown upon India. He predicted it and kept it at bay. His education and mastery over his work sailed us through the Storm.

Education means an overall evolution of how a man acts and reacts. One cannot buy that sense only from books or formal literacy. The most prudent personalities may have had an illustrious academic career but there is more to know about their lives and how they traversed through it. **Abdul Kalam**, the scientist and former president of India, is a standalone example of a man who is a product of his situation.

Experiences are more capable of shaping a man's overall disposition. They reflect his choices which are wiser and more correct than they were in the past. To be able to choose correctly from a set of options available to you is a mark of a learned man. Case in point here is **Syed Ahmad Khan**. He was very pertinent and vocal about his choices when it came to motivating Muslim youth to study and not indulge in politics of the day. He was aware of the perils that poor education would unleash upon Muslim youth.

Social adversities-

All down trodden sections- lgbtq, SC ST, tribals, women and handicap have found laws and society align with their needs, now, after a very hard struggle for countless years. Examples are many.

- give one for each.
- And tell how their situation today is a culmination of their learning from their despair.

Economic adversities

Dadabhai Naoroji talking about drain of wealth from India and how moisture collected over Ganges rains upon Thames is one of our early realisations of the economic havoc about to fall