We publish cutting edge ideas, lessons and insights, written by and for the people.

AMIYA WALIA

Terms of Use

Arghyam could have been much more impactful. But one could also say that the time. Is this a failure of the organisation and the vision? I think we could say that look at us and say that the water situation in India has actually gotten worse in this happen, and especially as philanthropists, we need to be aware of this. It's been to create safer roads.

my very first failure in my professional life as an activist philanthropist was way back it. There was a lot of enthusiasm, passion, and intelligence in the group, but I think we didn't structure ourselves. And so, the whole initiative faded away; but the other new methods to increase equity and access. What can they learn from the old

important to accept that.

achieve failure; we are not always possible to

innovations—sharing knowledge so that we don't make the same mistakes again.

This is a very important point because the goal of the social sector should be to ensure that even if organisations, institutions, or leaders fail, their mission shouldn't failures that allowed them to innovate and succeed in the long-run will build an

organisation and the failure of some individuals within the organisation. There is a While doing this we also have to be careful to distinguish between the failure of the

funder trusts an organisation, they need to think about committing to multi-

looks like a lot of success.

Once a looks like a lot of success. Over 90% of our interventions were successful. Arghyam

Dropout rates were high and the number of out-of-school children was large. But to think about

organisation, they need

leadership, management, recruitment and mentoring of interns, and

experimentation.

for these failures to be talked about and explained, and then allow more

structures that support them are not ripe enough. Philanthropy needs to create space

upfront and transparent. For me, it all begins with trust. The relationship between

trust, patient capital, and allowing the conversation on failure and innovation to be

This effectively, we need patient philanthropic capital that will allow organisations

PHILANTHROPY & CSR

To fail is to have dared

Rohini Nilekani

SHASHANK RASTOGI

HUMOUR

In this interview with IDR, Rohini speaks about why we need to underwrite failure failures in practice and what she has learnt from her own failures as an activist philanthropist.