



**"Greater energy and greater passion is more extraordinary than greater genius."**

— Lt. General Arjun Ray, (Retd.), PVSM, VSM

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### **Self-Reliance and Leadership**

The leadership process of unlocking a child's potential must start at the earliest. Presently, our children are over-protected, and not exposed to risk and failure.

The first and the most foundational and critical stage in a child's leadership journey is self-reliance, the ability to be independent in thought, courage in expressing one's point of view, exercising choice and trusting one's abilities and efforts. Self-reliance is a philosophical concept that inculcates the ideals of individualism, develops a growth mindset and enhances creativity. History testifies that innovation is born out of self-reliance. It is, therefore, critical that parents and teachers encourage their children to take risks and not be over-protective.



Training in self-reliance happens at home and in classrooms. The aim of fostering self-reliance in children should be fourfold: reducing adult dependency in learning and experimentation through self-directed learning, persuading risk-taking where it matters, encouraging children to experience what life is and not what life should be, and teaching self-sufficiency to make them more independent and confident to deal with difficult situations as they grow, and take hard decisions.

**With warm regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Arjun Ray'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

**Lieutenant General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Indus Trust**