Why Intelligent Students Fail

1) Lack of motivation - Talent is irrelevant if a person is not motivated to use it. Motivation may be external or internal. External sources tend to be transient, while internal sources tend to produce more consistent performances.

2) Lack of impulse control - Habitual impulsiveness gets in the way of optimal performance. Some people do not bring their full intellectual resources to bear on a problem but go with the first solution that comes to mind.

3) Lack of perseverance and preservation - Some people give up too easily, while others are unable to stop even when the quest will clearly be fruitless.

4) Inability to translate thought into action - Some people are buried in thought. They have good ideas but can't seem to do anything about them.

5) Lack of product orientation - Some people seem more concerned about the process than the result of activity.

6) Inability to complete tasks - For some students nothing ever reaches closure. Maybe it is the fear of what they would or should do next or fear of becoming hopelessly tangled in detail.

7) Failure to initiate - Some people are unwilling or unable to initiate a project. It may be indecision or fear of commitment.

8) Fear of failure - People may not reach their intellectual performance. They avoid the really important challenges in life.

9) Procrastination - Some people are unable to act without pressure. They look for little things to do to put off the big ones.

10) Misattribution of blame - Some people blame themselves for even the slightest mishap; some always blame others.

11) Excessive self-pity - Some people spend more time feeling sorry for themselves than expending the effort necessary to overcome the problem.

12) Excessive dependency - Some people expect others to do for them what they ought to be doing themselves.

13) Wallowing in personal difficulties - Some people let their personal difficulties interfere grossly with their work. During the course of life, one can expect some real joys and some real sorrows.

14) Lack of concentration - Even some very intelligent people have very short attention spans.

15) Spreading oneself too thin or too thick - Undertaking too many activities may result in none being completed on time. Undertaking too few can also result in missed opportunities and reduced levels of accomplishment.

16) Inability to delay gratification - Some people reward themselves and are rewarded by others for finishing small tasks, while avoiding bigger tasks that would earn them larger rewards.

17) Inability to see the forest for the trees - Some people become obsessed with details and are either unwilling or unable to see or deal with the larger picture in the projects they undertake.

18) Too little or too much self-confidence - Lack of confidence can gnaw away at a person’s ability to get things done and become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Conversely, individuals with too much self-confidence may not know when to admit they are wrong or in need of self-improvement.