

## What Makes A Project Succeed?

Recently, I started a small Quality Improvement Project to understand the knowledge, attitudes and practices around blood pressure measurement in children.

It was a simple project — an online questionnaire.

Unfortunately, despite reminders, I struggled to get enough responses and eventually had to stop. I was disappointed.

Around the same time, I came across the Dunedin Study — 1,037 children followed from birth into adulthood for almost 50 years.

It made me wonder: What makes one project survive for 50 years, while another struggles to get enough responses?

Perhaps success isn't just about having a good idea or an important question.

It also needs commitment, persistence, trust, relationships — and people who believe their contribution matters.

My project didn't succeed in the way I had hoped.

But perhaps unsuccessful projects teach us something too. Not every project needs to succeed to be worthwhile. Sometimes, the failure itself is the lesson.

And maybe that is one of the greatest lessons from the Dunedin Study:

Great work isn't always about the size of the idea. Sometimes, it's about having the commitment to keep going.

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