



**East Spring Secondary School**  
**Power of Positive Energy (PPE)**  
**Staff Presentation**

Name of staff: **Mr Basheer Khan**

Department: **Mathematics Department**

Position: **Head of Department**

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Hi everyone, it's my turn today to share the power of positive energy with you, and well I think I have the perfect story just for that.

It is the story of me failing math. YES, you heard it right the story of the Math HOD failing Math. Well I did.

When I first came to Singapore at the age of 7 having had no formal education back in my village in India, I was struggling to understand Math. In fact I found Math so hard to cope that I failed it consecutively for the first 2 years of primary school life.

I told my father then I will never be able to make it in Math and it's just useless, he might as well send me back to India.

Well my dad did not say a word.

That year he did bring me back to India and he brought me to see a herd of elephants in a nearby village.

As I was there watching these elephants I was confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg.

No chains, no cages.

It was obvious that the elephants could, at anytime, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

I asked my father why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," my father said, "when they are very young and much smaller the villagers use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it was strong enough to hold them. As they grow up, they became conditioned to believe they cannot break away from this rope. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

I was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

I learnt a lesson from my father that day, I realised that I was starting to believe that I will never pass Math and it was holding me back. It took me quite an effort to break that belief and since then I never looked back.

So like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto this false belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is just part of learning but that does not mean we should give up on our goals.