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Life Cycle Funds

The market regulator's recent initiative has brought the concept of "Life Cycle" to the fore. We would like to extend it a bit and cover Life Cycle Funds in the context of an old realisation -- the stages that need sharp, efficient planning. Here are some inputs for you.

In personal finance, we often speak confidently about funding goals -- education, a house, retirement or even an expensive holiday. Yet the most defining transitions in human life rarely behave like financial line items. Five of the most powerful life-stage changes (marriage, divorce, childbirth, job change or job loss and retirement) remind us that money is often only a supporting actor (in the lead role, yes) but not the real solution.

- Marriage is commonly planned with budgets for ceremonies, homes and lifestyles. But the real adjustment is emotional, social and psychological -- learning to share decisions, expectations and vulnerabilities. No financial corpus can fully prepare someone for that shift.
- Divorce is even more revealing. Financial settlements and legal costs may be calculated, but the emotional rupture, the rebuilding of identity (as well as the impact on family structures) are not things money can meaningfully "fund."
- Childbirth similarly defies neat planning. Parents may budget for hospitals, education and future expenses. But the transformation of priorities, sleepless nights and lifelong responsibility cannot be captured in spreadsheets.
- Job change or job loss is another turning point. Emergency funds and savings can provide temporary stability, yet the deeper experience — uncertainty, reinvention loss of identity, or the courage to start again — sits outside financial planning models.
- Retirement, often described as toughest financial challenge, is perhaps the most misunderstood. Accumulating a corpus is important, but retirement ultimately confronts individuals with questions of purpose, relevance, health and, yes, social belonging. In other words, money can buffer transitions, but it cannot fund transformation.

Life stages reshape identity, relationships and meaning. Financial planning should therefore aim not merely to accumulate wealth, but to build resilience -- we are referring to emotional, social and intellectual resilience here.



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* Mutual funds are subject to market risks. Please read all scheme-related documents carefully before investing. Past performance does not indicate future results. Investments are subject to market fluctuations, and there is no assurance of returns.

