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A STUDY ON THE CONCEPT OF LEADERSHIP IN MANAGEMENT

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A Study on the Concept of Leadership in Management

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Abstract – Leadership and management must go hand in hand. They are not the same thing. But they are necessarily linked, and complementary. Any effort to separate the two is likely to cause more problems than it solves. Still, much ink has been spent delineating the differences. The manager's job is to plan, organize and coordinate. The leader's job is to inspire and motivate. In his 2009 book "On Becoming a Leader," Warren Bennis composed a list of the differences: (a) The manager administers; the leader innovates. (b) The manager is a copy; the leader is an original.

Keywords: Leadership, Management, Gurus etc.

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INTRODUCTION

Leadership is a process by which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization in a way that makes it more cohesive and coherent. This definition is similar to Northouse's (2007, p3) definition — Leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal. Leaders carry out this process by applying their leadership knowledge and skills. This is called Process Leadership (Jago, 2002).

However, we know that we have traits that can influence our actions. This is called Trait Leadership (Jago, 2002), in that it was once common to believe that leaders were born rather than made. While leadership is learned, the skills and knowledge possessed by the leader can be influenced by his or her attributes or traits; such as beliefs, values, ethics, and character. Knowledge and skills contribute directly to the process of leadership, while the other attributes give the leader certain characteristics that make him or her unique. Skills, knowledge, and attributes make the Leader.

Also, note that it is the followers, not the leader or someone else who determines if the leader is successful. If they do not trust or lack confidence in their leader, then they will be uninspired. To be successful you have to convince your followers, not yourself or your superiors, that you are worthy of being followed.

Different people require different styles of leadership. For example, a new hire requires more supervision than an experienced employee does. A person who

lacks motivation requires a different approach than one with a high degree of motivation. You must know your people! The fundamental starting point is having a good understanding of human nature, such as needs, emotions, and motivation. You must come to know your employees' be, know, and do attributes. A leader leads through two-way communication. Much of it is nonverbal. For instance, when you "set the example," that communicates to your people that you would not ask them to perform anything that you would not be willing to do. What and how you communicate either builds or harms the relationship between you and your employees.

What a leader does in one situation will not always work in another. A leader must use your judgment to decide the best course of action and the leadership style needed for each situation. For example, leader may need to confront an employee for inappropriate behavior, but if the confrontation is too late or too early, too harsh or too weak, then the results may prove ineffective. Also note that the situation normally has a greater effect on a leader's action than his or her traits. This is because while traits may have an impressive stability over a period of time, they have little consistency across situations (Mischel, 2008).

This is why a number of leadership scholars think the Process Theory of Leadership is a more accurate than the Trait Theory of Leadership. Various forces will affect these four factors. Examples of forces are: • Your relationship with your seniors. • The skill of your followers. • The informal leaders within your organization. • How your organization is organized.

BASS' THEORY OF LEADERSHIP

Bass' theory of leadership states that there are three basic ways to explain how people become leaders (Stogdill, 2009; Bass, 2000). The first two explain the leadership development for a small number of people. These theories are: • Some personality traits may lead people naturally into leadership roles. This is the Trait Theory. • A crisis or important event may cause a person to rise to the occasion, which brings out extraordinary leadership qualities in an ordinary person. This is the Great Events Theory. • People can choose to become leaders. People can learn leadership skills. This is the Transformational or Process Leadership Theory. It is the most widely accepted theory today and the premise on which this guide is based.

TOTAL LEADERSHIP

What makes a person want to follow a leader? People want to be guided by leaders they respect and who have a clear sense of direction. To gain respect, they must be ethical. A sense of direction is achieved by conveying a strong vision of the future. When people are deciding if they respect you as a leader, they do not think about your attributes, rather, they observe what you do so that they can know who you really are. They use this observation to tell if you are an honorable and trusted leader or a self-serving person who misuses authority to look good and get promoted. Self-serving leaders are not as effective because their employees only obey them, not follow them. They succeed in many areas because they present a good image to their seniors at the expense of their workers.

PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP

To help you be, know, and do, follow these eleven principles of leadership (U.S. Army, 2003). The later chapters in this Leadership guide expand on these principles and provide tools for implementing them:

1. **Know yourself and seek self-improvement** - In order to know yourself, you have to understand your be, know, and do, attributes. Seeking self-improvement means continually strengthening your attributes. This can be accomplished through self-study, formal classes, reflection, and interacting with others.
2. **Be technically proficient** - As a leader, you must know your job and have a solid familiarity with your employees' tasks.
3. **Seek responsibility and take responsibility for your actions** - Search for ways to guide your organization to new heights. And when things go wrong, as they often tend to do sooner or later — do not blame others. Analyze the situation, take corrective action, and move on to the next challenge.

4. **Make sound and timely decisions** - Use good problem solving, decision making, and planning tools.
5. **Set the example** - Be a good role model for your employees. They must not only hear what they are expected to do, but also see. We must become the change we want to see - Mahatma Gandhi
6. **Know your people and look out for their well-being** - Know human nature and the importance of sincerely caring for your workers.
7. **Keep your workers informed** - Know how to communicate with not only them, but also seniors and other key people.
8. **Develop a sense of responsibility in your workers** - Help to develop good character traits that will help them carry out their professional responsibilities.
9. **Ensure that tasks are understood, supervised, and accomplished** - Communication is the key to this responsibility.

ATTRIBUTES OF LEADERSHIP

If you are a leader who can be trusted, then those around you will grow to respect you. To be such a leader, there is a Leadership Framework to guide you: BE KNOW DO BE a professional. Examples: Be loyal to the organization, perform selfless service, take personal responsibility. BE a professional who possess good character traits. Examples: Honesty, competence, candor, commitment, integrity, courage, straightforwardness, imagination. KNOW the four factors of leadership — follower, leader, communication, situation. KNOW yourself. Examples: strengths and weakness of your character, knowledge, and skills.

KNOW human nature. Examples: Human needs, emotions, and how people respond to stress. KNOW your job. Examples: be proficient and be able to train others in their tasks. KNOW your organization. Examples: where to go for help, its climate and culture, who the unofficial leaders are. DO provide direction. Examples: goal setting, problem solving, decision making, planning. DO implement. Examples: communicating, coordinating, supervising, evaluating. DO motivate. Examples: develop morale and esprit de corps in the organization, train, coach, counsel.

ENVIRONMENT

Every organization has a particular work environment, which dictates to a considerable degree how its leaders respond to problems and opportunities. This is brought about by its heritage of past leaders and its present leaders.

Goals, Values, and Concepts Leaders exert influence on the environment via three types of actions: 1. The goals and performance standards they establish. 2. The values they establish for the organization. 3. The business and people concepts they establish. Successful organizations have leaders who set high standards and goals across the entire spectrum, such as strategies, market leadership, plans, meetings and presentations, productivity, quality, and reliability. Values reflect the concern the organization has for its employees, customers, investors, vendors, and surrounding community. These values define the manner in how business will be conducted.

Concepts define what products or services the organization will offer and the methods and processes for conducting business. These goals, values, and concepts make up the organization's personality or how the organization is observed by both outsiders and insiders. This personality defines the roles, relationships, rewards, and rites that take place.

ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS

Roles are the positions that are defined by a set of expectations about behavior of any job incumbent. Each role has a set of tasks and responsibilities that may or may not be spelled out. Roles have a powerful effect on behavior for several reasons, to include money being paid for the performance of the role, there is prestige attached to a role, and a sense of accomplishment or challenge. Relationships are determined by a role's tasks. While some tasks are performed alone, most are carried out in relationship with others. The tasks will determine who the role-holder is required to interact with, how often, and towards what end. Normally the greater the interaction, the greater the liking. This in turn leads to more frequent interactions.

In human behavior, it is hard to like someone whom we have no contact with, and we tend to seek out those we like. People tend to do what they are rewarded for, and friendship is a powerful reward. Many tasks and behaviors that are associated with a role are brought about by these relationships. That is, new task and behaviors are expected of the present role-holder because a strong relationship was developed in the past, either by that role-holder or a prior role-holder.

CULTURE AND CLIMATE

There are two distinct forces that dictate how to act within an organization: culture and climate. Each organization has its own distinctive culture. It is a combination of the founders, past leadership, current leadership, crises, events, history, and size (Newstrom, Davis, 2003). This results in rites: the routines, rituals, and the "way we do things." These

rites impact individual behavior on what it takes to be in good standing (the norm) and directs the appropriate behavior for each circumstance. The climate is the feel of the organization, the individual and shared perceptions and attitudes of the organization's members (Ivancevich, Konopaske, Matteson, 2007).

While the culture is the deeply rooted nature of the organization that is a result of long-held formal and informal systems, rules, traditions, and customs; climate is a short-term phenomenon created by the current leadership. Climate represents the beliefs about the "feel of the organization" by its members. This individual perception of the "feel of the organization" comes from what the people believe about the activities that occur in the organization.

These activities influence both individual and team motivation and satisfaction, such as: • How well does the leader clarify the priorities and goals of the organization? What is expected of us? • What is the system of recognition, rewards, and punishments in the organization? • How competent are the leaders? • Are leaders free to make decisions? • What will happen if I make a mistake? Organizational climate is directly related to the leadership and management style of the leader, based on the values, attributes, skills, and actions, as well as the priorities of the leader. Compare this to "ethical climate" — the feel of the organization about the activities that have ethical content or those aspects of the work environment that constitute ethical behavior.

The ethical climate is the feel about whether we do things right; or the feel of whether we behave the way we ought to behave. The behavior (character) of the leader is the most important factor that influences the climate. On the other hand, culture is a long-term, complex phenomenon. Culture represents the shared expectations and self-image of the organization. The mature values that create tradition or the "way we do things here."

Things are done differently in every organization. The collective vision and common folklore that define the institution are a reflection of culture. Individual leaders cannot easily create or change culture because culture is a part of the organization. Culture influences the characteristics of the climate by its effect on the actions and thought processes of the leader. But, everything you do as a leader will affect the climate of the organization.

The road to great leadership (Kouzes & Posner, 2007) that is common to successful leaders: • Challenge the process - First, find a process that you believe needs to be improved the most. • Inspire a shared vision - Next, share your vision in words that can be understood by your followers. • Enable others to act - Give them the tools and methods to solve the

problem. • Model the way - When the process gets tough, get your hands dirty. A boss tells others what to do; a leader shows that it can be done. • Encourage the heart - Share the glory with your followers' hearts, while keeping the pains within your own.

MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP THEORIES

Corporate Governance is fascinating, hugely dynamic, and very far-reaching. It grew as a concept in response to increasingly serious corporate scandals of the late 1900s, and remains strongly concerned with these areas of corporate risk. The ideas surrounding Corporate Governance are increasingly useful for small organizations as well as the very biggest. Corporate Governance also offers interesting perspectives for leadership, authority, ego, wealth creation, greed, risk, responsibility, ethics, morality, etc., and how these issues reconcile or conflict with organizational and market dynamics, and the needs of society, environment, quality of life, economic health, etc.

The Psychological Contract is an increasingly relevant aspect of workplace relationships and wider human behaviour. Descriptions and definitions of the Psychological Contract first emerged in the 2000s, notably in the work of organizational and behavioural theorists Chris Argyris and Edgar Schein. Many other experts have contributed ideas to the subject since then, and continue to do so, either specifically focusing on the the Psychological Contract, or approaching it from a particular perspective, of which there are many. The Psychological Contract is a deep and varied concept and is open to a wide range of interpretations and theoretical studies.

Our most basic needs are inborn, having evolved over tens of thousands of years. Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs helps to explain how these needs motivate us all. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs states that we must satisfy each need in turn, starting with the first, which deals with the most obvious needs for survival itself. Only when the lower order needs of physical and emotional well-being are satisfied are we concerned with the higher order needs of influence and personal development.

Love in business and work means making decisions and conducting oneself in a way that cares for people and the world we live in. So why is love (or spirituality) such a neglected concept in business? It hasn't always been so.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE, TRAINING AND LEARNING

Modern principles for organizational change management and effective employee training and development. These principles are for forward-thinking emotionally mature organizations, who value integrity above results, and people above profit. This is not to say that results and profit don't matter, of course they

do. The point is that when you value integrity and people, results and profit come quite naturally.

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