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Leadership Personal Philosophy and Reflection

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Introduction to leadership

When talking about leadership the mind thinks of the great leaders; such as Nelson Mandela (political leader), Bill Gates (technology leader), Warren Buffett (business leader), and others. However, it is important to understand that leadership skills are not just for those who are leading the public or huge corporations, but also, they are essential in many aspects of life. For example, parents are leaders of their children and teachers are leaders of their students. Depending on the people that are being led and the situation or the goal to be achieved, a leader would adjust and adapt. Moreover, leadership can be thought of as a trait that is inherited and further developed or an ability that can be acquired and perfected. Therefore, to be a successful leader, one needs to recognize the traits he/she possess and work on strengthening them and recognize the abilities that are missing and work on acquiring them. Furthermore, a leader is an influencer and a motivator. People's behaviour is largely influenced by a row model. This fellowship behaviour is more noticed in children. Because of that, to achieve a goal as a leader, you need to set a good example to your followers and keep their passion for the common gaol alive.

Great technology leaders have emerged since the invention of transistors; one of which is Bill Gates. He is the founder of the computer company Microsoft. What makes Bill Gates special is his determination and hard work. In his twinness and thirties, he says that he did not believe in weekends. His mission was to learn as much as he can in pursuit of success. One of his abilities as a leader is moving forward; for example, he had to fight litigation claiming that Microsoft was a monopoly for 21 years until it was finally put to rest in 2011. Furthermore, he encouraged hard work, ethics, consideration for others and determination.

The passion he had for technology and communities and the visionary ideas he developed and executed are some of the reasons for his legendary success. Lastly, one of his main and important characteristics is his emotional intelligence that can be seen in the way he pays back to those in need, by co-founding the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The lesson learned from the Bill Gates experience is that it is not enough to have a passion to accomplish a goal, but also, it is important to understand how to persuade others to believe in your goal and carry your passion with you. In the same time, it is important to understand your followers and attend their problems. Every team needs a visionary and competent leader.

Reflections on personal leadership skills and performances

Working in a grocery store few years ago taught me that not all people work for the pay check, but also, some people who like their job and have passion for it, work to achieve self-satisfaction. I believe that people will enjoy and look forward to accomplish their tasks at work if they have high regards for their leader's instructions and vision. In the same time, a leader who does not believe in his followers and never give them the chance to express their opinion, will have a hard time accomplishing his/her goal.

Depending on the task that need to be done and the personalities of the followers, I would pick the style of leadership. For example, if I was given a leadership position to solve a certain problem, first, I will try to understand the problem and make sure to have the right team to solve it; then, I would briefly explain it to my followers; I would then lay out agenda on how we will approach the solution; finally, I would encourage my followers to come up with plans on the steps they will take in order to accomplish their tasks. By doing so, I manage to mix the authoritarian style with the democratic style.

In order to establish trust, some jobs require more of a relationship approach. However, other jobs might need separation from the personal life. I try to always read the situation I am in and make the right decision on whether or not I should extend or limit the relationship approach. Furthermore, being task oriented is one of my strengths. I find myself doing my best when I have a pre-organized list on what and how I am going to do something. When I write down my plan, I put myself in kind of a challenge, where if I do not accomplish what is in the list, I would feel disappointed, which makes me work harder.

Lastly, becoming a competent leader requires a lot of practice, determination, and self-evaluation. I went through a journey in my life trying to push myself to trust and use my potentials. I graduated high school about ten years ago with a high grade. However, I faced a dilemma where I could not keep my high performance up in university. So, I decided to study abroad hoping that a new environment would bring me back to my old self. I lived in Canada for 5 years, having the same issues with studying as I did in my country. When I finally decided that it was time to go back to my country, I discovered that I have gained a lot of life experiences. Going through that gave me a new perspective on how to deal with self-doubt and how to be better at dealing with problems in general. Now at PMU, I am way passed my dilemma and my performance is getting better and better.

Conclusion

The most important lesson learned is that one has to understand him/herself in order to become a successful leader. Knowing your strengths will allow you to further develop them, and knowing your weaknesses will allow you to avoid them or work on turning them into strengths. Moreover, competent leaders have a clear vision on what they want to achieve and how they will do it. Finally, believing in one's self is a key to never give up and keep the determination.