**The Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics(KCGI)**

**Leadership Philosophy**

**KYOTO STUDENT GUIDE**

**BY**

NAME: GAIRE ANANTA PRASAD

STUDENT ID: M24W0272

**Introduction**

Leadership philosophy is the outcome 1 which is the system of ideas that a leader has in mind with regard to guiding other people. This includes a person’s orientation about his or her values, a person’s awareness of and attitude towards acceptable and productive modes of leadership. As a conceptual framework, leadership philosophy provides an understanding of how things get done and the manners they get done within a given team or organization. It is not fixed, but it is as mobile as a person’s developing perceptions and the circumstances that occur when addressing leadership roles.

The task to be accomplished here is the development of Kyoto Student Guide as a project of Group 5 of Leadership Theory course of Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics (KCGI) is perfect to digress and construct the leadership theory regarding and beyond. The concept behind this problem was to create an extensive site that would assist foreigners including the foreign students to cope with life in Kyoto, Japan. As a diverse stream be it finding a solution to the first issues that the natives of a particular country face in a new land.” The project also covers a number of concepts related to students’ daily experiences: choice of residence, acculturation, housing choice and acculturation to housing price differences. Therefore, apart from enriching the experience of creating a valuable tool for potential students in the future, the project contributed in enhancing leadership skills, as well as cooperation between people of different cultures for achieving certain goals.

**Description of Group Project**

Our team made efforts in creating the flow of website for international students coming to Kyoto, based on the difficulties that the authors experience when coming to Japan. The idea was to develop a single source which people can turn to in order to be able to minimize their time-to-comfort.

The website that has been designed contains a large number of features which provide the necessary information:

* Written abstracts of the first few days of the stay
* Advices for cost of living and spendings in the city of Kyoto
* Comprehensive information concerning the housing of the students
* General advice on getting around in Kyoto to avoid confusion in the mode of transport.
* Key information regarding the culture that any student who is going to the given country needs to respect.
* They are available in the form of free online material and are aimed at the minimum effective dose of Japanese needed to get by.
* Data about local legislation which may affect foreign students

Team Composition: The students consisted of eight effective members who engaged in different thinking patterns allowing to determine the likely issues international students may encounter.

Project Timeline: We completed this substantial project in four weeks: Week 1: Preliminary research and examinations of the possibilities Week 2: Creation of the website design and content development Week 3: Official testing and feedback collection Week 4: Final adjustments and finalized deployment. Moreover, this project gave a useful contribution to the students of the next year but, at the same time, enriched the experience of my team in the aspects of leadership, teamwork, and project management.

**Assessment of My Team Performance**

The overall sentiment of the team can be deemed positive throughout the Kyoto Student Guide project, according to the results of the survey carried out on the assessment of team dynamics and individual members’ response. The work done proved efficient in the completion of the project and the utilization of the strengths of the team members as well as pointing out their weaknesses

Strengths:

1. Effective Communication: The message board served as a hub for regular, concise information exchange, keeping all members engaged and updated.
2. Strong Commitment: Team members, driven by their shared experiences as international students, remained focused on creating value for future students despite challenges.
3. Trust Among Members: A foundation of trust fostered open idea-sharing, constructive criticism, and utilization of diverse expertise.

By acknowledging these strengths our team demonstrated a commitment to continuous growth and learning, which is crucial for effective leadership and teamwork.

**Positive Experience as a Team Member:**

1. Effective Communication: This notice board acted as our one-stop communication and sharing of ideas and other crucial information. CCs always posted on matters that affected everyone creating a sense of togetherness and quick solutions were made.
2. Successful Task Division: No one was overloaded with work, and regarding the preferences and weaknesses of the employees as well. For instance, web developers dealt with technical issues while others for content, research, or design. This led to so much effectiveness and everyone in the group was able to make their valuable input for the project showing how we are all rowing in the same direction. These positive experiences showcased our team's ability to communicate effectively and work collaboratively, key components of successful leadership and project management.

This indicated that our team has embraced the spirit of growth, good communication and collaborative work that are hall marks of good leadership and project management.

**Negative Experiences**

Despite our overall success, our team faced some challenges during the project: Challenge 1: Initial difficulty in getting all members equally engaged At the outset of the project, we noticed varying levels of participation among team members. Some were highly vocal and proactive, while others seemed hesitant to contribute their ideas or take on responsibilities. This imbalance in engagement posed a risk to the project's success and the team's cohesion. Challenge 2: Balancing diverse opinions on website content Given our team's diverse backgrounds, we often encountered differing opinions on what content should be prioritized on the website. While this diversity was ultimately a strength, it initially led to debates and potential conflicts about the site's structure and focus.

**My Experienced in Leadership**

Headership is actually vast concepts hence there is no only right way to do it. Subordinates, institutions, objectives are different and that is why leading people should be different too. Just as there is a popular phrase that management is what manager does; similarly leadership is what leader does. Here is the element that should not be missed when we are developing complimentary philosophy of leadership. Emotional intelligence, communication, decision-making are very important in the process of leadership regardless of the field. In our project context we are involve in continuous communication, if any of our group member is not able to join the call or if he/she does not understand anything, we explain them and try to make this project environment a very comfortable one to learn and get things done. In this entire project I gain many different aspects that can be demonstrated like, the editing, the scripting. But the thing I learn is not be shown physically at least for this specific lesson that I learned from the video. Emotional Intelligence is one of such things because I am “by the book guy”; I work in the place where some of it was necessary to complete the project in certain deadline with certain quality however doing work for free and without pressure from above I have time to develop leadership philosophy.

These challenges provided opportunities for leadership to emerge within our team:

Decision-making process: To solve the engagement problem, we incorporated the structured decision-making process with the help of the voting system where everyone equals. This helped in making sure that everybody’s esteem was taken especially in the selection of our projects. For example, while selecting core features for the chosen website, the team had a vote where everybody could promote necessary aspects.

Conflict resolution: When the opinions varied regarding the content of the websites, our team had to organize a debate when each member could put forward his/her argument. Thus, we endeavored to provide the international students with valuable information and try to find the necessary compromises containing the opinions of various people. For instance, we had to select between the academic sources of information and cultural events considering the necessity of the two. The advantage was this enabled creation of a more complete website.

Empowering quieter members: Thus, in order to oblivate the tendency of domination by enthusiastic individuals, we decided to rotate students in leading certain aspects of the project. The latter provided an opportunity for everyone to be in charge of certain affairs, which increased involvement and self-confidence. We also came up with idea of putting an anonymous suggestion box to improvement to make sure all improvements are considered.

They al turned threats to opportunities and made them into new forms of cooperation. It was even clear that the ideas of adaptive leadership were prominent when making an inclusive environment, decision making, and resolving conflicts within the team.

**What I Learned About Leadership**

This project provided valuable insights into effective leadership, shaping my emerging leadership philosophy:

1. Importance of clear communication: The success of our message board system highlighted how crucial clear, consistent communication is for team cohesion and project success.
2. Value of diversity in team composition: Our diverse backgrounds brought a wealth of perspectives to the project, enhancing the final product's relevance and accessibility for a wide range of international students.
3. Need for adaptability in leadership style: Different team members and situations required varying approaches, from democratic decision-making to more directive guidance when facing tight deadlines.

**Emerging Leadership Philosophy:**

1. Emphasis on inclusive decision-making: I believe in creating an environment where all team members feel their voices are heard and valued. This not only leads to better decisions but also fosters a sense of ownership and commitment among team members.
2. Importance of creating a supportive team environment: Trust and mutual respect are foundational to effective teamwork. As a leader, it's crucial to cultivate an atmosphere where team members feel safe to express ideas, take risks, and support each other.
3. Balance between task focus and relationship building: While achieving project goals is important, I've learned that paying attention to team dynamics and individual growth is equally crucial for long-term success and team satisfaction.
4. Continuous learning and adaptation: Leadership is an ongoing journey of growth. I commit to regularly reflecting on experiences, seeking feedback, and adapting my approach to best serve the team and project goals.
5. Leading by example: I believe in demonstrating the work ethic, communication style, and collaborative spirit I expect from my team members.

**Conclusion**

The Kyoto Student Guide project has been a transformative experience in my journey as a leader. Through our successes and challenges, I've gained invaluable insights into the complexities of leading a diverse team towards a common goal.

Key lessons include the critical importance of clear communication, the strength that comes from diverse perspectives, and the need for adaptability in leadership approach. I've come to appreciate that effective leadership is not about having all the answers, but about creating an environment where every team member can contribute their best work.

This project has significantly shaped my leadership philosophy, emphasizing inclusive decision-making, the creation of a supportive team environment, and the delicate balance between focusing on tasks and nurturing relationships. I've grown to understand that leadership is not a fixed set of skills, but a continual process of learning and adaptation.

Moving forward, I am committed to applying these lessons in future leadership roles. I will strive to foster open communication, celebrate diversity, and create inclusive environments where all team members feel valued and motivated to contribute. I recognize that there will always be room for improvement, and I embrace the opportunity for continued growth and learning.

This experience has reinforced my passion for leadership and my belief in the power of collaborative effort. As I step into future leadership roles, I carry with me not just the knowledge gained, but also a deep appreciation for the potential of well-led, diverse teams to create meaningful impact.

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