

Chameleon Principles

How many of you heard of a chameleon?

A chameleon or camleon like Karen calls it, is a tiny animal and it's able to adapt to situations and blend its colors.

Now you must be wondering why did chameleon come into a speech about leadership?

Well, the truth is, even I'm not sure. When I read the topic the animal came into my mind and then I suddenly realized how leadership can be compared to the qualities that a chameleon possesses.

How? Well I designed a set of chameleon principles.

let's jump into our first Chameleon Principle, which is called adaptability

Principle 1: Adaptability

As a kid, I was super shy. So naturally while everyone else found group projects an easy and fun task, to me it was terror. My social battery was never charged enough to handle it. I felt like a chameleon in a jungle – always trying to blend in and listen more than talk.

But then one specific day, during a science project, i was unexpectedly placed in a group with many other "chameleons," In that situation, I was forced to step up and be proactive to get work done. Surprisingly, I turned into an extrovert with ideas and the power to delegate.

Many such childhood experiences were pinnacles in my leadership journey. They taught me vital leadership lessons.

listening well to your team, knowing when to lead and when to step back, and how to evade conflict. In a way you can say that, it taught me adaptability and how it's a person's superpower.

Moving on from principle number 1, let's talk about another Chameleon Principle – I like to call it “The Balancing Act”

Principle 2: Balancing Act

In college, my first real exposure to leadership was through an organization called AIESEC. My team leader there was awesome – super friendly and empathetic. I loved how he made every single person on the team feel comfortable and included. These qualities were some things which i really admired and looked up to. When I became a senior manager, I followed his lead, being extra friendly.

I am soo happy to say that we bonded really well as friends. Many of them actually ended up telling me things that they had never discussed with anyone else. But here's the twist – work suffered, and there wasn't a whole lot of productivity. I learned that being too lenient and

understanding isn't an ideal characteristic. Bonding is crucial, but not at the expense of work. So being stern when required and making sure your team knows that they are held accountable is very crucial.

So much like a chameleon finds the perfect balance between blending in and maintaining its distinct identity, a leader must have a delicate equilibrium.

Now, let's talk about the third Chameleon Principle – "Harmony in Action."

Principle 3: "Harmony in Action"

Volunteering with Toastmasters during our college fest and working with TeamC taught me another valuable lesson in leadership.

Collaboration is the secret sauce for success.

I discovered that leadership is not just about leading; it's about working with the strengths of the collective team and learning from others. Some people are good at designing, some at PR some at making taglines, and more. No matter how small or big their strengths are, the collective effort and collaboration is what makes a masterpiece.

So much like the unique colors on a chameleon's skin and how they all end up causing a chameleon to look so pretty, everyone brings something special to the team so harmony is crucial.

And I can attest to the fact that through all these experiences, not only will you be learning and growing yourself as a person, you will also make amazing memories and creating special bonds with the people around you. It certainly makes all the blood, sweat and tears worth it.

These are not just stories but a collection of my most crucial leadership lessons encapsulated in a chameleon principle.

Leadership is about highlighting the delicate dance of ABH: adaptability, balance, and harmony in the vast leadership jungle.

So let's embrace these principles or as I call them "chameleon principles" and continue to add to them and grow as better leaders. Thank you!

Feedback received:

- Throw light on leadership styles other than my leadership styles
- Increase speech time