FBG-4

Foundations of Leadership | C-U 002

09 December 2022

**Leadership Film essay**

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| By my signature below, I certify that I have not received improper help nor given it to others in writing this assignment, nor have I used any method that would give me an unfair advantage over others in the class. This assignment represents my own work only, and I had no assistance from another person or any other source unless it is referenced at the bottom of each appropriate page.  FBG-4  Date: 09-12-2022 |
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**Thesis:**

**“Even in the most difficult of times, the leader not only does their best and motivates the people around him by his optimism and actions but also trusts them too.”**

In "Life is Beautiful," Guido's determination to protect his son and to maintain a sense of hope and optimism in the face of great adversity demonstrates strong leadership traits such as resilience, resourcefulness, and empathy.

In the movie, We can see that Guido came after a lot of hard physical labor, and when his son asked him for his points, he replied that there was no problem, so he remained optimistic.

Also, in the entire movie, there are a lot of scenes when he blindly trusts his son. Like when the German children play hide-and-seek, then he not only guides Joshua to mingle with them, literally by just keeping quiet, but also believes in him that he won’t screw up.

In the entire sequence of the concentration camp, we can notice the **Positive Emotion** in his behavior that helps his son to believe everything is alright, even though they are not.

Along with that, he **engages** everyone even from the starting day of his camp. That’s why can able to gain the trust of to such an extent that not only they kept his secret but also in a sense became a part of the game. Like in a scene, when Joshua asks another participant about his point then instead of being mad at him, he just says I earn 20 points today.

He also believes in making **relationships**, which we can notice in his interaction with Dr. Lessing in the concentration camp. But he also knows the limitations of the people around him and never asks anyone to do the thing which he was unable to complete. That's why he had not asked for his help to escape from the camp.

Also, when his family was thrown in the concentration camp. A normal human would lose hope and may find it a bit sensible for Euthansia for his son by sending him for the shower but even in that situation, he had a **meaning** of his life, i.e, to save the life of his son. He also shows his never give up attitude to us which is the jewel of the crown for every leader.

If we also talk about his early life, before getting to the concentration camp, then we can say that it’s also a very **accomplished** life. As he got to marry the girl he wants even after all odds against him.

So, we can also conclude that his life is very much following the **PERMA** model.

Other than that, we can see examples of the same type in Victor Frankl’s book, “**Man Search for Meaning**.” where he was responsible for helping others to survive and maintain hope in the face of extreme adversity. Frankl emphasizes the importance of having a strong sense of purpose and meaning in order to inspire and motivate others. For example, in the concentration camp, Frankl found a group of young boys who were struggling to survive. They had lost all their hope and were on the brink of giving up, but he was able to inspire them and help them to find new meaning and purpose by encouraging them to focus on their relationships with each other and to support one another. He also provided them with practical advice and support, such as helping them to find food and shelter, and sharing his own experiences and insights. As a result, the boys were able to overcome their despair and continue fighting for their lives.

Along with that, Frankl is also able to trust others even in the darkest moments of the concentration camp. Like the story prisoner who helped him to escape from death marched. Frankl writes that he was exhausted and close to death, and that he had almost given up hope of surviving. However, his friend convinced him to trust in his strength and determination, and helped him to escape from the march and find safety. This act of trust and support allowed Frankl to continue fighting for his life and ultimately to survive the concentration camp.

Not only in terms of the above examples, there are also a lot of researches that points to the same thing. For example: **“Development and Validation of the Short Grit Scale”** talks about grit, perseverance and determination as the key qualities of leaders. It tells that, Leaders who are able to maintain their focus and determination in the face of obstacles and setbacks shine the most.

Even After whatever we wrote, the main stepping stone for our thesis will come from the “The Blake Mouton Managerial Grid”. In this grid, the main two dimensions are:

i). People

ii). Results

That grid identified five different leadership styles: Impoverished Management, Country Club Management, Middle-of-the-Road Management, Authority-Compliance Management, and Team Management.

According to the Blake Mouton model, Team Leadership (High Production/High People) is the best managerial style. These leaders stress production needs and the needs of the people equally highly

And we are claiming that our thesis also matches this description as when a leader trusts his followers then followers also understand the premise of the organization. Also, when he motivates his employee with his work then it creates a team environment based on trust and respect, which leads to high satisfaction and motivation and, as a result, high results.

All those things are very obvious, like Warren Bennis also mentioned in his book, “**On Becoming a Leader**” that true leadership is not about power or status, but about inspiring others and making a positive difference in the world.

He argues that trust is a key component of effective leadership, as it allows leaders to create a positive and collaborative work environment, to delegate tasks and responsibilities effectively, and to build strong relationships with their team members. Bennis also emphasizes the need for leaders to be trustworthy themselves in order to earn the trust of others. He advises leaders to be honest, transparent, and consistent in their words and actions, and to demonstrate their trustworthiness through their behavior and decisions. Overall, Bennis argues that trust is an essential quality for leaders to possess in order to be effective and to inspire and motivate their team members.

Hence, we can conclude that a great leader is not only a good worker, but also someone who leads by example and motivates others through his/her/them/**lauda-lasan(Pronoun kya likhne hai😭😭)** through hard work and dedication. They show their followers how to do the work, rather than just telling them, and they inspire them with their optimism and determination. In addition, a great leader trusts his team members and allows them to take on responsibilities and make their own contributions to the work. By being a role model and building trust with their team, a great leader can help to create a positive and productive work environment and to achieve success together.

1. Resilience and determination: Guido, the main character in "Life is Beautiful," shows incredible resilience and determination in the face of adversity. He is separated from his family and sent to a concentration camp during World War II, but he refuses to give up hope and continues to try to protect his young son from the horrors of the camp. His ability to maintain a sense of optimism and hope in the face of such terrible circumstances could be seen as a demonstration of strong leadership.
2. Resourcefulness and creativity: Guido also shows great resourcefulness and creativity in the way he deals with the challenges he faces in the concentration camp. He uses humor and imagination to create a game for his son that helps him to understand their situation and to cope with the fear and uncertainty they face. This ability to think outside the box and to find creative solutions to difficult problems could be seen as a valuable leadership trait.
3. Protecting those in your care: Another important lesson from "Life is Beautiful" is the importance of protecting those in your care. Guido is willing to sacrifice his own safety and well-being in order to keep his son safe and to ensure that he grows up with a sense of hope and optimism. This kind of selflessness and commitment to the well-being of others could be seen as a key component of strong leadership.
4. Leading by example: Throughout the movie, Guido sets a strong example for his son and for those around him. He shows courage and determination in the face of adversity, and he remains optimistic and hopeful even when the odds are stacked against him. By setting this kind of example, Guido inspires those around him and demonstrates the kind of leadership that can help people to overcome even the most difficult challenges.
5. Empathy and understanding: Another important leadership lesson from "Life is Beautiful" is the importance of empathy and understanding. Guido is able to connect with his son and to understand his perspective and feelings, even in the midst of the chaos and terror of the concentration camp. This ability to put oneself in others' shoes and to understand their needs and concerns is crucial for effective leadership.
6. The power of positive thinking: One of the key themes of "Life is Beautiful" is the power of positive thinking and optimism. Guido refuses to give in to despair, even in the most difficult circumstances, and he uses humor and imagination to create a game for his son that helps him to maintain a sense of hope and optimism. This ability to stay positive and to see the good in any situation could be seen as a valuable leadership trait.
7. The importance of communication: Another important lesson from "Life is Beautiful" is the importance of communication in leadership. Guido is able to communicate with his son in a way that helps him to understand their situation and to cope with the fear and uncertainty they face. He also uses his communication skills to persuade others to help him and his son, and to build connections with those around him. This ability to communicate effectively and to build relationships is crucial for effective leadership.
8. Leading through adversity: One of the main challenges faced by Guido in "Life is Beautiful" is the adversity of being separated from his family and sent to a concentration camp. Despite this, he remains determined to protect his son and to keep him safe. This ability to lead others through difficult circumstances and to help them to overcome adversity could be seen as a key leadership skill.
9. The value of humor: In addition to its more serious themes, "Life is Beautiful" is a comedy, and humor plays a key role in the story. Guido uses humor to create a game for his son and to help him to cope with the fear and uncertainty they face. This ability to use humor as a tool to help others and to diffuse difficult situations could be seen as a valuable leadership trait.
10. The importance of family: Finally, another key theme of "Life is Beautiful" is the importance of family and the bonds that connect us to those we love. Guido is willing to do anything to protect his son and to keep his family together, even in the face of great adversity. This commitment to family and to the people we care about could be seen as a key component of strong leadership

To support this thesis, one could provide evidence from the movie showing how Guido exhibits these leadership traits, such as his ability to stay positive and to find creative solutions to difficult problems, his willingness to sacrifice his own well-being for the sake of his son, and his ability to connect with his son and to understand his perspective and feelings. Additional evidence could be drawn from other sources, such as research on the traits and skills that are essential for effective leadership, to further support the thesis.