# Introduction:

A definition of leadership and what it involves:

Leadership is complex and defining it has been seen as a challenge for many years. Definitions of leadership can vary greatly based on personal bias and perspectives despite this, we can give a broad overview of what leadership should be; most definitions involve influencing a group towards a goal through motivation (Bolden, 2004). Leadership also involves training and coaching a group or team towards that goal, leadership would also rely on effective management for the delivery of a goal, this could contain guiding a path for the team or creating a vision for the future (Bennis and Nanus, 1974). The ultimate aim1 of a leader is to inspire the group or team towards the vision and not dictate towards it.

# Body:

**Role of a leader:**

The majority of teams include certain members who are in charge of setting the groups objectives and organising the group to achieve these goals, the role of the leader. A major factor in the performance of the group is the leader’s ability to effectively give the group directions and organise the members to increase productivity (Zaccaro et al., 2001).

Leaders frequently have an ability to see the whole situation. As a result, by addressing obstacles and highlighting the unique attributes that teams offer, leaders’ actions could have a major impact on the team (Balcerzyk, 2021).

There are responsibilities that successful leaders are supposed to meet. They include a guardian, someone who is reliable, trustworthy, caring, strategic, motivating, and a hardworking leader (Benoliel and Somech, 2015).

**How does the role form:**

The leadership role can be given to someone in a job for example however, the role actually forms from the person given the title. New leaders may not see themselves as a leader but still understand their role as a leader, whereas experienced leaders will actually shape their role as a leader from their understanding of themselves in a leader role. This forms a relationship between the interpretation of a leadership role and the perception of a leadership role in a leader or person (Gjerde and Ladegård, 2019).

**Benefits for the team:**

A good leader will benefit a group or team greatly. A leader will act as a positive example and role model making sure that the values of the team stay on track. Leaders outline the teams responsibilities and main goal by using effective communication skills. Leaders will enhance productivity towards a goal through operational organization and investing in the team to develop and guide them. Lastly leadership sets a level of respect in a group (Muteswa, 2016).

**Challenges:**

* **Leader:**

There are many challenges a leader may face as today a role of a leader is not any easy one. A leader must constantly motivate a group and always be looking for improvement and growth along with the advancements towards a goal. Another challenge a leader could face is how prepared they are for the role. This involves staying focused on the goal despite other factors. Also managing time is key as a leader. Leaders can risk being consumed by the role and if a person is not prepared to be a leader this will almost always be the case (Hawkins, 2009).

* **Team:**

In the case of the team, they shouldn’t have as many challenges if the leader is fit for the role and doing it correctly. Some challenges for the team could be the leader is doing the job ineffectively and overworking the team, or there could be conflict within the team as a result of an ineffective leader.

**Summary:**

Leadership is a broad and complex concept; it involves guiding a group towards a common goal through motivation and effective management. A leader should be responsible for setting out objectives, organizing and coaching the team, solving, and addressing challenges and creating a positive environment for the team. Great leaders have traits such as trustworthiness, reliability, motivation, and strategic thinking serving as a role model for the team. The leadership title can be given to anybody, the role of leadership is defined by the leader themselves, shaping their own approach and behaviour. Effective leadership benefits a team by providing direction and creating respect within a team. Leaders face many challenges such as maintaining motivation, staying prepared and manging time effectively. While strong leadership will help stop these challenges, ineffective leadership may lead to overworking conflict within the team, this highlights the importance of a good leader in a team.

# Personal Reflection (Working in a team):

I found working in a team for our college projects to be okay. I found it hard to try effectively managing what we were going to do and sometimes it felt as though I was the only one who was actually thinking about the project. I found that it was hard to arrange a time and place for all of our team, for one reason or another at least one person wouldn’t be able to jump on a call or meet at the college campus. We had two groups to manage for three projects, this was because we couldn’t pick our group for the Operating Systems module, I think that if we had of been in the same group for all three projects it would make it easier to try arranging a time for everyone to meet or call to discuss the project. This would make it easier for us to do the Web Dev and Software engineering and testing projects as we were in the same group for that and could discuss the two projects the chances we did get to meetup. For the operating system module I think we only met up once or twice and the project was mainly done by two of us with the third helping somewhat and the fourth barely doing anything at all. For the web dev and software testing projects I found it was hard to manage as we didn’t all have the same drive and this threw me off a bit, I wanted to get things done quickly and then have time to look over and polish off the projects, however my team had a different approach which was more laid back and was about doing things as they needed to be done and that’s completely opposite to how I view things so it took me a while to get used to that, I would try to manage and give objectives where I could but sometimes they would fall on deaf ears.

Overall if I was to do the projects in a group again, I would have the same group for all projects and spend more time going into the detail of what needs to be done and when it needs to be done for.

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