



The Pursuit for a Sociology of Leadership

Sociology of Leadership gives a person a new look at understanding self and the world around the individual with emphasis on the various aspects of leadership. Recognizing that leadership is a life skill, one must engage in actions that place an individual to become better members of society. Key concepts and skills are introduced in the sociology of leadership that not only enhance one's personal development, but one of the hallmarks of this course is designed to move an individual to set personal goals to reinforce healthy behaviors levied in society.

Emulating healthy behaviors takes leadership. Sociology of Leadership also incorporates a variety of methodologies which includes leadership exercises, personal stories, business scenarios, small group discussions, role-playing, as well as other activities and games designed to make you a better person. Sociology of leadership also set the stage to reveal one's personality through a Myers-Briggs exercised designed to help an individual understand self, more precisely. Simply, the rationale for all of this is that leadership is all around us, and the great thing is that anyone can be a leader because you can start off by leading self. By leading, one has the potential to guide self toward success. If we explore our leadership ability in a classroom setting, one can also tap into the connection between different cultures which signals a willingness to understand another person's beliefs, customs, and to some extent language, as one attempts to learn how others might lead who are different in our society. Leaders are charged to become more sensitive to the cultural needs of individuals in their circle with the confidence of starting a relationship that will build a long lasting friendship.

A leader's openness to diversity plays a vital role in the construction of a great organization. Each of us has to become more acceptable in the eyes of others, looking to understand and embrace other values and perspectives as they are introduced in various situations. A review of leadership throughout history gives us another opportunity to see how leaders have succeeded, not only in society but also after elevated to positions of leadership in an organization. One will create a personal leadership development plan designed to help you take charge of your life and change your habits for the benefit of society and self. However, it goes somewhat deeper in that we must begin to think of ways to build organizations that excel in leadership more effectively.

We continue to see failures of leadership in organizations and society alike because again, it is all around us. We hunger for creative and compelling leadership that will stand out to help us maintain the competitive advantage in life. Realizing that leadership is situational, and in to some extent contextual when we associate the term with followers, we must understand that it is often effective in only one situation at a time. In other words, it boils down to this in that leaders of thought are not always effective as leaders of action. Leaders must sense when people are ready for action and at that point take the lead to accomplish whatever mission one is assigned. Max Weber, one of the founding fathers of sociology, got it right. Leaders are sensitive to the distinctions between power and authority, what is real or acceptable in the eyes of others. He talked so elegantly about this in his publication of bureaucracy. Power is the strength that allows a leader to not only exercise control over someone, but a leader is the one that is placed in a

position to coerce someone to complete an action or goal. On the other side of the coin, we find that authority is the power that followers believe to be legitimate based on leader-led relationships. Therefore, sociology of leadership recognizes this exercise as a social acceptance of the leader's authority.

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