

## The Qualities Make Leaders Effective

We have always wondered what truly makes a great leader. Leaders have a responsibility and have values that they are meant to uphold, but they have to maintain a certain standard around their company or within their following. However, the question that remains is what qualities truly make these leaders effective.

The first thing that a leader does that is completely selfless is their ability to show off their weaknesses. Though this may seem counterintuitive, by showing weakness, the leader and the followers are put on the same playing field. Doing so allows leaders to find the root cause of a specific problem by establishing a deeper and more emotional connection with their employees. By showing weakness, the leader can show their rawness and authenticity, which makes people more comfortable with them and willing to listen and follow their actions since they come off as a genuine person. In a way, by showing one's weakness, it makes it evident that a leader is human just like all of us so it helps others relate to them on a more personal level and get motivated to take action just like their leader who is similar to them.

Another quality leaders have is "tough empathy." Leaders cannot always be soft and easygoing, so to show that they are devoted to their followers, they need to step up and make more tough decisions for the benefit of the company. "Tough empathy" makes leaders effective because it helps leaders gain respect from their peers and makes it clear that their colleagues cannot take them lightly because they are serious about working hard. Though making the right decision is difficult, it could mean the difference between the business succeeding or failing. This emphasizes why tough empathy is so important because direct words can motivate peers and employees to work harder and strive for long term gains.

Leaders who dare to be different are the ones who can express their ideas more eloquently and capitalize on what makes them unique. Leaders can use individuality to motivate others and their uniqueness allows them to express ideas that people would be willing to follow. Leaders are also able to identify differences in others and harness them for maximum efficiency in an organization. Mr. Patel, CEO of LyondellBasell, is a great example of this since his success stems from his desire to lead differently, such as the incident where he decided not to lay off workers, unlike his predecessor. By understanding the unique value of the people on their team, leaders are more effective in striving to accomplish a goal as they know the strengths and weaknesses of their followers.

Lastly, great leaders can be a sensor in their workspace. Being a sensor means that they can understand other people's soft skills and make more informed decisions. They can understand what is going on in their room without it being told to them or by reading subtle cues. They can also gauge relationships among people and can tell whether things are going well or going sour. Not only that, but the variety in and of itself is very useful for leaders, as having many different viewpoints and perspectives help leaders find better and more efficient methods of accomplishing tasks. By understanding the dynamics within the group that they lead, leaders can better understand those they work with and how they can work more efficiently. They take

into account the sentiments and the emotions of their followers. Understanding and recognizing the worth of each individual shows that a leader truly cares about those who follow them.

Each of these four qualities - showing weakness, tough empathy, daring to be different, and being a sensor - make better leaders. However, some of these are particularly important for our demographic of teens and young adults. As Mr. Patel highlighted, it is beneficial to be different and take daring risks. While our age group is predisposed to conformity, having the courage to embrace our differences is what makes us capable of innovation - an important part of leadership. We should each strive to display each of these four qualities. In addition, we should take the time to evaluate ourselves and our strengths and weaknesses to work on the qualities that most need improvement. Ultimately, each of us leaders must focus not solely on organizing others, but also on constantly improving ourselves and being the best we can be.