

LEADERS HABITS AMONG THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) STUDENTS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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Abstract:

“Excellence is not an act, but a habit” - is the famous quote of Aristotle. To excel as a leader, one should acquire good habits. There are seven and eight habits of highly effective people of leaders discussed by various authors. This study predominantly focuses upon the habits that exist among MBA students to foster their leadership effectiveness. Therefore 18 Colleges in Kanyakumari district which offers the Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses are selected as universe. Hence the sample size is 180 consist of 10 respondents from each college. The results are purely out the perception of the students themselves. It is also found that how far students are aware of their strength and weakness. It may be concluded that educational institutions should initiate steps to enhance the leadership qualities and abilities of the younger generation.

Key Words: Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Think Win-Win, Put First Things First, Seek First to Understand, Synergize, Sharpen the Saw, Find Your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Theirs

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Introduction

*“Excellence is not an act, but a habit” - is the famous quote of Aristotle. To excel as a leader, one should acquire good habits. There are seven and eight habits of highly effective people of leaders discussed by various authors. They are *Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Think Win-Win, Put First Things First, Seek First to Understand, Synergize, Sharpen the Saw, Find Your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Theirs*. Therefore, it is a well-known factor that the*

leader should be ethical, honest, long-term visionary, recognizing and empowering people, who adopt these eight habits. An eminent leader is the one who possesses mixture nature of flexibility, optimistic as well as pragmatic. In the present business scenario of high competition, the leader should know all the nuke and corner of the employees and should head them with dynamics. A habit is a routine of behavior that is repeated regularly and tends to occur unconsciously. It is the intersection of knowledge, skill, and desire. This study predominantly focuses upon the habits that exist among MBA students to foster their leadership effectiveness. They are the future managers and ultimate leaders even if they are going to start their own firm or become an entrepreneur.

Statement of the problem

The outgoing students of MBA degree holders' strength are added year after year. But the results in the career aspect differ when compare to the outcoming students. Very few numbers become professionals or entrepreneurs. It is evident that the MBA students lack one among this eight-leadership habit. Hence it is a need to tackle these issues. Therefore, the present study is undertaken on the tittle "Leaders Habits among the MBA Students in Kanyakumari District".

Objective of the Study

- To study the demographic profile of the respondents.
- To examine the leaders' habits among the MBA students in Kanyakumari District.

Methodology

This study contains both primary and secondary data. There are 18 Colleges in Kanyakumari district which offers the MBA courses. Hence, the total population of the MBA Department is considered as the universe for the study. The primary data were collected with a structured questionnaire under simple random sampling method. The total sample size is 180 consist of 10 respondents from each college. The reliability of questionnaire was examined using Cronbach's alpha test for 40 statements and the result showed the reliability with the value of 0.882.

DISCUSSION AND RESULT

The analysis has done with the help of Percentage Analysis and Garrett Ranking Test. The frequency table is used for the demographic profile of the respondents. To find out the most existing leadership habits among the respondents the Garrett Ranking Test used by the researcher.

Table 1.1
Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Variables	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Gender	Male	87	48.3
	Female	93	51.7
	Total	180	100.0
Age	20 – 22	35	19.4
	23 – 25	109	60.6
	Above 25	36	20.0
	Total	180	100.0
UG Degree	Arts	146	81.1
	Science	18	10.0
	Engineering	16	8.9
	Total	180	100.0
Work Experience	Freshers	136	75.6
	1 - 2 years	24	13.3
	3 - 5 years	14	7.8
	Above 5 years	6	3.3
	Total	180	100.0

Source: Field Data

From the Table 1.1, it could be understood that 48.3 per cent of respondents are male and 51.7 per cent respondent are female. 19.4 per cent of respondents belong to age group of 20 - 22 years, 60.6 per cent belong to the age group of 23 - 25 years and 20 per cent respondents above 25 years. 81.1 per cent of respondents belong to arts stream, whereas 10 per cent and 8.9 per cent of respondents belong to Science and Engineering respectively. 75.6 per cent of respondents are freshers, 13.3 per cent have 1-2 years of experience, 7.8 per cent of respondents

have 3 – 5 years of experience and 3.3 per cent of respondents have above 5 years of work experience.

Table 1.2

Ranking the Existence of Eight Habits of Leaders among the Respondents

S. No	Habits	Rank Scale Value	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	Total Score
			X								
1	Be Proactive	F	20	27	33	22	18	13	12	35	180
		Fx	1,480	1,728	1,881	1,100	792	481	336	175	7,973
2	Begin with the end in mind	F	18	17	30	18	22	20	34	21	180
		Fx	1,332	1,088	1,710	900	968	740	952	105	7,795
3	Think win-win	F	10	13	10	30	36	22	30	29	180
		Fx	740	832	570	1,500	1,584	814	840	145	7,025
4	Put first things first	F	60	28	23	21	20	15	8	5	180
		Fx	4,440	1,792	1,311	1,050	880	555	224	25	10,277
5	Seek first to understand	F	25	16	17	23	19	35	20	25	180
		Fx	1,850	1,024	969	1,150	836	1,295	560	125	7,809
6	Synergize	F	18	14	19	21	28	15	35	30	180
		Fx	1,332	896	1,083	1,050	1,232	555	980	150	7,278
7	Sharpen the saw	F	14	30	21	32	18	20	25	20	180
		Fx	1,036	1,920	1,197	1,600	792	740	700	100	8,085
8	Find your voice and inspire others	F	15	35	27	13	19	40	16	15	180
		Fx	1,110	2,240	1,539	650	836	1,480	448	75	8,378

Table 1.3

Garrett Ranking Test

Habits of Leaders	Garrett Ranking Mean Score	Rank
Put first things first	57.09	I
Find your voice and inspire others	46.54	II
Sharpen the saw	44.92	III
Be Proactive	44.29	IV
Seek first to understand	43.38	V
Begin with the end in mind	43.30	VI
Synergize	40.43	VII
Think win-win	39.03	VIII

Source: Statistically analyzed data

The above table displays the rank of the existence of eight Leadership habits among the respondents

It is found that, the habit 'Put first things first' is 1st Rank, 'Find Your Voice and Inspire other' is 2nd Rank, 'Sharpen the Saw' at 3rd Rank, 'Be Proactive' at 4th Rank, 'Seek First to Understand' at 5th Rank, 'Begin with End in Mind' at 6th Rank, 'Synergize' at 7th Rank and 'Think Win-Win' at 8th Rank.

It is inferred that, 'Put first things first' tops the Garrett Rank Table in the existence of eight leadership habits among the respondents. They don't get distracted by urgency instead prioritize their work and concentrate on the important task, in order to fulfill the vision of the future.

Suggestions

- The educational institutions should initiate steps to enhance the leadership qualities and abilities of the younger generation.
- Self -motivation is very much needed for today's youth to mastery over themselves and to achieve the goal in life.

Conclusion

The role of a leader is incidental irrespective of the situation they function or perform. The study elicits the existence of eight habits of highly effective people propagated by Stephen R. Covey in his universally acclaimed books “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” and “The 8th Habit”, among the students of MBA in Kanyakumari. The predominant findings of the study states that most of students feel that they have the habit ‘Put first things first’ topping the list based on the result of Garrett Ranking.

The results are purely out the perception of the students themselves. It is also found that how far students are aware of their strength and weakness. It may be concluded that educational institutions should initiate steps to enhance the leadership qualities and abilities of the younger generation, if not all of them going to leaders’ others, the skills may be essential for self-management.

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