

Leadership Development

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader. ~John Quincy Adams

Over the decades, many companies could not compete with global competition. Among the ones that did succeed, most could not sustain their position in the market. Leaders like Steve Jobs, Elon Musk, and Warren Buffet, with their vision, unshakable determination, and persistent hard work, led their respective companies to great heights. With their belief and strong leadership qualities, they gave a new dimension to the world of business. This blog, though, is not about them but about the good leadership qualities that help people make their company great, achieve greatness, and bring new transformations in the world. Before deep-diving into the leadership qualities, let's understand leadership in brief.

What is Leadership? According to John Maxwell, 'Leadership is influence - nothing more, nothing less.' Warren Bennis called it the capacity to translate vision into reality. If you google the term 'Leadership,' you will find endless leadership definitions by the great minds and leaders. After working with some good leaders and being in a leadership position myself, the understanding I have developed is that leadership can influence the crowd to believe, act, and work with perseverance to meet the greater good. Being a good leader is not a cakewalk. One must possess effective leadership qualities that help them achieve higher goals and objectives. Be it resistance and persistence of Mahatma Gandhi or the vision of Elon Musk.

Belinda Robnett - [Informing Activists: What are the different types of leadership I can choose from?](#)

This module is to help persons to become effective global and local leaders.

What does it mean to lead? First and foremost, a leader cares about the people who are expected to follow and knows how to delegate responsibilities so that a strong trustworthy team is evident to those on it. There are a variety of differing styles based on the situation and the persons. Much depends on what goal a team of people contributing to common goals hope to achieve. And once the task is clear and one is self-aware as a leader (or follower), then one can apply values and skills to the implementation of Action Plans.

What Inspires You? In these narratives, young interfaith leaders share what inspired them to get involved in interfaith leadership and how they use storytelling to communicate with others.

What is Leadership? Podcast: <http://soundcloud.com/ifyc/what-is-leadership>

Building Skills

The leadership traits that one identifies are meant to help a person in behaving with certain clear values: self-respect, respect of others, patience, understanding, honesty, humility, listening, and cooperative compassion. The following four goals for the behavior of both leaders and followers include the exercise of all the values named.

A leader whether on a global or local level will likely be most successful when practicing the following four behaviors:

1. A capacity/skill to interpret a given situation with compassion and understanding of persons and differing perspectives
2. Nondefensive learning involving emotional intelligence and critical thinking
3. Nonviolence - an ability to know the practical alternatives to psychological, emotional, structural, or physical violence
4. An awareness of what leadership traits are most natural to one's own personality and a willingness to create a team to provide balanced leadership

Thomas Elliott - **Informing Activists: In what ways do social movements make a difference?**

Jennifer Earl - **Informing Activists: How/When do movements affect culture?**

Sarah Gaby - **Informing Activists: What are some considerations for youth in organizations?**

Rachel Einwohner - **Informing Activists: How do I build identity and solidarity in a movement?**

Making an Action Plan

The major hope of a good global or local leader is to accomplish plans and projects for the good of the common good or what some call “the public square.” This civic engagement is intended to create trust and serve the values of the community. Also local projects often are connected to global efforts discussed in the next module or human rights and a global ethic.

Goal setting is often defined by five important traits. A goal for an action plan to implement values, tactics, and strategies for the common good will be **SMART**:

- Specific
- Measureable
- Achievable
- Realistic
- Timely