

Leadership Talk

26th September 2020

Theme: Leadership lessons from method actors



Speaker: Mr. Subhra Arabinda Mohanty,

Leading Analytics and AI initiatives for Alliance and Technology Unit of TCS

The first-year students of School of Human Resource Management, Xavier University, Bhubaneswar, attended a Leadership Talk on the theme – ***Leadership lessons from method actors*** on September 26, 2020, delivered by our esteemed speaker – Mr. Subhra Arabinda Mohanty, Leading the Analytics and AI Initiatives for Alliance and Technology Unit of TCS. The talk focused on leadership skills beyond education and job, borrowing the learnings from method actors. It changed the belief of our students that leadership and management can only be learnt from textbooks and classrooms and taught that it can be best learnt from the practical exposure of different scenarios.

Talk Summary

Mr. Subhra took inspiration from a number of actors and one book. Method Acting has a book named “An Actor Prepares” from which we could actually learn the leadership skills from certain chapters like Imagination, Faith and a Sense of Truth, Emotion Memory and On the Threshold of the Subconscious. From these chapters the speaker says that we get to know that every leader shall know how to behave in front of his/her team. They should be empathetic but at the same time know what are his goals for his team and should motivate his team efficiently. A leader should not show his vulnerability in a negative way but rather keep motivating his team to achieve the goal and also take part in doing the work because that would keep the strength of the team high.

The speaker mentioned an important point that we normally hear that people learn from their failures but successful leaders are people who learn from their success.

A leader should be a star. The leader should know how to articulate their thoughts. A leader should be calm and insight the different managing. A leader should know how to convert their negative emotions to positive emotions and create magic so as to help growing the team strength. They should know how to help the team grow and gain knowledge.

A leader should appear healthy. The reason for this is that it positively affects your team. As a leader you must practice meditation and other physical activities so that it would keep you healthy to manage the stress levels of managing a team and leading it towards success.

A person always plans to obtain a post. Thus, to achieve the role of higher management a person must have the desire and plan efficiently. After planning you must execute your steps effectively to achieve your personal goals but also concentrate on your team goals.

Another most important fact that the speaker shared about a change in the attitude of good leaders during this pandemic is Trust. Nowadays good leaders are believing on their team members that they would finish their task effectively. Now the measure of work has shifted from number of hours spent in office to number of tasks done. The leader believes in their team which helps them promote it much more effectively and lead their team in the path of development and success.

These are some of the great points that the speaker told while relating it to acting and showing a video of Mahatma Gandhi as to how he could motivate people through his speech and various other characteristics we can learn from him.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Every leader is a performer.
- ✓ A leader should know how to channelize the energy of the team in the right direction so that it can be productive.
- ✓ Success teaches one as much as their failures.
- ✓ If you are mentally and physically fit it creates an aura around you which would help you move in an influential role.

Q&A session

1. We talked about learning from one's success which is a different perception from the majority. How can one actually do that?

One shouldn't speak about the incidents where they were successful but rather share with their teams their experiences and what they exactly learnt from the same. This gives everyone to learn from it and adapt to the new situations as well which is an important job of a leader.

2. How can a leader deal with their own problems and negativity surrounds them as we're only human and prone to weak moments as well?

Like mentioned earlier briefly, a leader can always consciously decide to keep their physical and mental being healthy. In this context, practicing meditation and other physical activities like playing games, sports, dancing, etc., can help. Being physically healthy when combined with staying mentally healthy compliment each other so well that one can face most of the problems easily.

Mr. Subhra Arabinda Mohanty is a B.Tech graduate. After his graduation, He worked with iGate Global Solutions and Mahindra Satyam before completing his Masters in Business Administration from the prestigious Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB) in 2012 where He majored in Systems and Operations. Thereafter He worked in the Corporate Sector with Tata Consultancy Services since more than 8 years in varied sets of roles. Now he is the Business Architect for the Analytics and AI initiatives for Alliance and Technology Unit of TCS since almost a year. He has a knack for reading across a wide range from politics to art and music. His love for Bollywood songs and movies led him to choose the topic for the talk.

Compiled by: Ms. Sushmita Dikshit

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