

Effective Leadership

Inauguration of the programme on “Effective Leadership in Life: Importance, Quality and Skills” organized by Central University of Orissa, Koraput at IDCOL Auditorium, Bhubaneswar on 05.01.2011

I feel very happy to be at this programme organized by Central University of Orissa. The university has been organizing lectures and workshops from time to time since its inception. I have the pleasure to attend few of them. Recently, it organized a lecture in memory of father of modern economics, Adam Smith. I commend the initiative taken by the Central University of Orissa and such activities alongside regular academic programmes will surely help the University to play its role to the fullest to the cause of addressing various problems before the nation.

The topic of today's programme is “Effective Leadership in Life : Importance, Quality and Skills”. It is my privilege to share my views with this august gathering that includes students on this very relevant topic before our nation as it is fast becoming a superpower. This great land of India has given birth to many illustrious sons and daughters who went on to become great leaders and showed the world their leadership quality. Mahatma Gandhi is such a great leader who with his principle of Non-violence and Satyagraha inspired millions of Indians and drove the mighty British from India. Another great leader was Subhas Chandra Bose, an illustrious son of this soil. In today's corporate and business world we find that two Indians figure among the top ten CEOs and it shows how much they are committed to their work.

Similarly, there are also great leaders across the world who cast magic on the people with their strong leadership quality. A good leader is always effective in every sphere of life be it in politics, business, sports and games and social works to name a few. Without good leaders, it is difficult to achieve a goal. The essence of leadership lies in the basic personality and character of a person which has to be nurtured and at the same time it is needed to develop the skills to manage people well.

Here, a question arises what makes one an effective leader. First of all, it is discipline that leads one to be upright in life. Honesty, integrity, dedication, commitment and involvement are the major parameters leading to effective leadership. If we consider the art of leadership in a team we find that a good leader makes others confident and brings in a spirit of unity and passion to achieve satisfactory results. But it should always be reciprocal, I mean if the leader expects other members or subordinates to render their services in honest manner then the leader must be honest and even he has to give respect to others' opinion and not to forget to praise for their excellence that will give boost to the spirit. An ideal leader should have the knowledge about the ethical values of effective leadership so as to guide the team in best possible way. Effective leadership skills are something which must be there in a person who wishes to sit on a higher position. Whatever may be the task, it always helps to have the right perspective or approach towards the work or responsibility assigned that will enable to visualize the goals, assess situations and implement the required changes for achieving the target.

An effective leader having the right approach and spirit towards work can motivate others to be equally energized about work. When schedules are tough, it is advised to be a little firm about things. One should create a happy atmosphere to make everyone feel at ease on the excellent success of the team. When one has a happy set of people following for the team achievement one can achieve all the respect with productive results. To achieve target, always set goals individually and for team as well. Delegation of authorities to the right persons is one of the good qualities of an effective leader. Knowing and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of your team would help one to manage things efficiently. One should try to learn the potential skills of others and distribute tasks among them accordingly. Give authority to deserving people and ensure they help other teammates to perform better.

On our journey on earth, we all face difficulties, struggles, rejections and setbacks. It is seen some of us get bogged down by them while others stay on top, choosing happiness over any feeling or dejection or failure. One should inculcate positive thinking in life to enhance one's ability to handle various challenges well. Here, my advice particularly to the young students to always be optimistic and look to the positive side so as to prosper in life. Always

try to stay positive by engaging yourself in constructive social work. It will give you real peace as your little effort will bring smiles on the faces of those who hardly smile. Always remember, a positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieve the impossible. As the youths of the country you have to develop leadership quality and become effective leaders in your own sphere and do lot of things to take the country forward.

I express my happiness that our youths are taking up this challenge and I am confident that the country will march ahead and our young leaders will be well equipped to meet the future challenges and uphold the rich legacy of our great leaders. With these words, I have great pleasure to inaugurate today's programme and wish the endeavour of Central University of Orissa all success.

Jai Hind