

# THE CHANGING ROLE OF A LEADER

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Over the past few years, the role of leadership has changed dramatically. Leaders are discovering the benefits of team members and teamwork. Up-and-coming leaders are being challenged to critique themselves, facing their own securities and insecurities. They need to step outside their own comfort zone and examine the barriers that are keeping them from moving forward.



Addressing areas that are uncomfortable can cause leaders to display defensive behaviors and inappropriate use of power. Leaders, in today's world, are seeing the value and importance of forming team environments which will enhance a business's overall productivity. Leaders need to implement strategic integration within their team including supporting other member's skills and developing strong communication skills. A leader's role must successfully guide their team to success.

#### **DEVELOPING A STRONG TEAM**

A leader must define the structure of a team and communicate clearly and decisively with others. It is essential to clearly visualize what the team structure should consist of, including using an assortment of individual's capabilities and strong points. A leader who is straightforward with what they are expecting out of their team members, willing to lead from the front and is open to answer questions is going to be well respected.

#### FORMING A SOLID PROJECT

A leader must define the structure of a team and communicate clearly and decisively with others. It is essential to clearly visualize what the team structure should consist of, including using an assortment of individual's capabilities and strong points. Leaders should have members that have certain strong skills, but can also cross platforms in order to provide help or mentor in another area.

#### COMMUNICATION

Without a doubt, communication is an extremely important aspect for building a solid team.
Well-structuredmeetings should offer motivation and ideas and remove uncertainties. Lack of good communication only leads to anxieties, mistrust and a great deal of stress. Good leadership sees opportunities, sets priorities and focuses on

individual talents within the team. Expressing and communicating these insights through meetings or other communication avenues will keep everyone on the same page.

#### **PROBLEM SOLVING:**

Problem solving is critical for teamwork. Team members will be highly motivated and excited when allowed to solve complex problems together. Great ideas and formations will arise from problem solving because unique strengths and the variety of your team will most quickly stand out when placed in a high pressure situation. These great ideas come from individuals' minds within the team, not from just one person within the team.



### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A strong leader should be able to assess each team member and delegate responsibilities and roles by individual skills and expertise. While assessing, the team leader needs to also pay attention to the different variety of the team member skills. Teamwork can be extremely productive and exhilarating when everyone works together for a common cause.



## MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AND TWEAK ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

As team members work together, they will learn and discover new processes and how to make valuable improvements. Once members see problems that are causing a lack of productivity they are able to eliminate what is not working. In order for organizational structures to run smoothly, leaders need to tweak any non-workable problems and prepare the company for a long-term success in the ever-growing market. Structuring how employees relate to customers, production issues, suppliers and partnerships make for solid management.

#### **STAY OUT OF THE CLOUDS**

There are many leaders who lose sight of business operations because they have placed themselves in an Ivory Tower. When upper management disengages from business operations, employee roles and other concerns, they are no longer able to see the big picture and are unable to lead effectively. Stay involved, continue to grown and learn by participating and being a part of the team. Growth happens when teamwork is the foundation.

