

The background of the image is a dark blue and purple night sky filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. In the foreground, there is a silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The overall aesthetic is serene and wintery.

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

JANUARY'20 (23 to 29 JAN)

Leaders-From success to elevation

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why. –Mark Twain”

At one time, Star Wars was just an idea in the mind of George Lucas, but now the Force is as strong as ever. J.K. Rowling had a vision of Harry Potter and now he’s an iconic part of our society – and as real as a roller-coaster in Universal Studios. John F. Kennedy had a vision for sending a man to the moon. Ronald Reagan saw the Berlin Wall come down before it crumbled. Steve Jobs imagined the iPod and iPhone long before the world was addicted to them. Abraham Lincoln envisioned a united America. Martin Luther King, Jr., had a dream about equality.

Understanding the role and impact of good leadership in society makes for an interesting study. While it’s easy to break down the effects of leadership in the work environment into small, easily identifiable structures, analyzing how positive leadership affects society is somewhat complex. Society is a multi-phenomena structure, with a myriad of social forces, elements and factors at play all the time. Society is not limited to a few defined goals, and hence, leadership in society is a vast,

and often intangible, phenomenon. Everyone can be a leader: it's not a position or job title. Leadership is a process. It is distributed across a group as people collaborate and can emerge from different people at different times. Rather than always standing out in front with an inspiring vision, leaders today need to be able to make the space for people to create the future together.

But unfortunately today's leaders, contrary to popular belief, aren't effective. They're precisely the opposite: ineffectual and inadequate. May be at the real challenge of leadership, they have failed abysmally. They contend that leadership is a game of domination, power, and conquest to be won. And that doesn't just excuse power-seeking and wealth-hoarding and dynasty-making at the expense of real human prosperity.

"Try it, you might like it."

This old television commercial slogan can help us to incorporate changes. It's natural that people do not like change. Leaders should try to transform their own thinking, and be more open to fresh ideas. If leaders are able to do that, they can be an example to others to embrace change as well. People may witness that shift in attitude and embrace it.

We are facing challenges that are immense: the impact of a population close to overwhelming the earth's natural resources; the challenge of ageing populations where, in some cases, the economically inactive will soon outnumber the active; and the impact of digital technology, which is transforming how we communicate, consume, learn and engage. Therefore, if we're going to re-imagine leadership, we've got to think about what makes truly effective leaders. For many people 'leadership' is a dirty word and they don't want anything to do with it as they experience it as being elitist, divisive and negative. Yet from our perspective, we see all sorts of people leading every day. We need to reclaim the word 'leadership' for everyone. Every voice is of value. Experience and age does not denote what you've got to contribute to society. A new narrative for leadership will be created by having dialogue between people from diverse groups across our society.

For reference:-

- <https://www.industryleadersmagazine.com/the-impact-of-a-good-leader-and-good-leadership-in-society/>

- <https://www.servicefutures.com/traits-of-effective-leadership-its-driven-by-purpose>
- <https://hbr.org/2014/05/from-purpose-to-impact>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/women-in-leadership/2013/oct/26/redefining-leadership-solve-big-problems>

Additional Readings:-

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jan/21/the-guardian-view-on-the-new-coronavirus-be-alert-not-afraid>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jan/19/the-guardian-view-on-the-duke-and-duchess-of-sussex-goodbye-and-good-luck>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-editorials/welcome-start-to-a-freer-life-in-mumbai/>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-editorials/blackrock-affirms-climate-imperative/>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/playing-with-learning/article30627773.ece>

- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/quiet-for-now-on-trade-deal-between-us-and-china/article30588863.ece>

Suggested Refresher Book:-

Dare to Lead

Book by Brené Brown (Author)