

## Leadership of Technical Students through Co-curriculum Activities in University

Nur Izza Ainaa Mohd Ridza<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Wan Hanim Nadrah Wan Muda<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

---

Application of leadership skills through extra-curricular activities at the university seek to prepare students as potential human capital. This concept paper discusses the issues in the application of leadership skills among university students through leadership skills. Conclusions of this paper can be applied to other evaluators to make a guideline to implement leadership skills in their education systems. The generalization of conclusions is however limited to the undergrads environments only. The evaluation of co-curriculum concept that was developed needs a further revision if applied to other platforms of education and target audience. Some of the conclusions, related to additional needs and required educator abilities, could affect further development of leadership implementation, as well as development of co-curriculum in general.

---

### 1.0 Introduction

Leadership is an important aspect of forming an organization to achieve the goals, vision, mission and objectives desired by an organization (Mohamad B. and Mohamad Salleh, 2009). In terms of individuals, forming a leadership becomes more focused and responsible. Ab. Aziz (2003), says that an individual who is an effective leader in the worst situation possible performance in one situation to another.

Thus leadership must be guided by moral values from the early life of an individual. Leadership not only be learned through formal methods, but also can be followed through the example of those around.

---

<sup>1</sup> Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia Parit Raja Batu Pahat Malaysia.

<sup>2</sup> Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia Parit Raja Batu Pahat Malaysia.

Forfas (2007) describe the leadership skills as a set of skills that create harmony and communication among group members, promote and contribute to the sharing of knowledge, ability to motivate team members and the ability to use the method of distribution roles effectively and efficiently. Leadership is one that affects thinking, behavior and attitudes of others and ability to make decisions, deal with complexity, and willing to take risks (Mills, 2005; Said,2006).

Soft skills in leadership skills must possessed of knowledge about the basic theory of leadership and ability to lead projects, while generic skills addition is the ability to understand and take on the role of alternating between the team leader and team members as well as the ability to supervise team members (Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, 2006).

Ability to lead is important in life where everyone is at least the leader of himself. On the job field, the organization must have a leader. Industry leader in terms of leadership and accountability will have to lead the organization. There are different types of leadership styles that can be applied within an organization. A psychologist, Kurt Lewin (1939) has made a study of the types of leadership and leadership styles outlined as follows:

- i. Autocratic leadership.
- ii. Democratic leadership
- iii. Laissez- Faire Leadership

## **2.0 Leadership through Co-Curricular Activities**

At the university level, the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (2006) outlines the leadership skills involving the ability to practice leadership skills in a variety of activities, knowledge about the basic theory of leadership, the ability to lead projects and ability to supervise team members. However, this level should be consistent with the applicability. Curricular activities are very important in the education and learning process for students to balance and integrate the students in terms of self-physically, emotionally and intellectually.

Implementation of curricular activities is to produce climate and culture more colorful, fun and had a positive effect on students (Wee Eng Hoe, 1999)

An extra-curricular activity is to complement and be subset of the curriculum. Most of the time students are allocated to the learning activities in the classroom, and the time allocated for co-curricular activities is quite limited (MohamadZaid M. et. al., 2011). To make a leading position, as described by Robbins & Decenzo (2004), the one who can lead and guide staff in the event that to achieve the objectives set, can influence others in the performance of responsibilities base on honesty and ethical leaders, have confidence to convince others of the decision, wise in synthesizing, interpreting information and finally the leader has an extensive knowledge of the department and subordinate staffs.

## 2.1 Effective Leadership

Smoothness of the work is dependent on one's leadership skills. Rahayah et al., (2010) interpret leadership as the ability to distribute a good job, the ability to lead the negotiations, the ability to solve multi -dimensional problems, leaders and followers and respect the principles of others. This dominance can be instilled in university students through co-curricular activities. A good leader is not only a strong leader but also an effective leader. Characteristics of effective leadership are shown in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: Characteristics of Effective Leadership**

Leadership Characteristics	Leadership Characteristics
Higher thinking level Abundant ideas Fast thinker Manage ideas efficiently	Ready to accept the challenge Treat problems as challenges Collective responsibility Protect subordinates
influential Strong initiation Able to convince others Inspire followers	Having navigation Mission and vision The goal of clear direction Visionary and firm
Thruster Its strong impetus Encouragement and contributions employee motivator	Proactive Action without waiting for direction Treat problems as challenges foresight
Creator reform Pilot changes Adjusting the flow changes Always follow the changes in the bidding	Person in the bidding easily approachable Likeable by everyone
Calm The rationale in all cases Organizing wisely No hurry	Affordable role Abilities to prioritize of the problem or iss Alternative solutions

(Source: Aziz, 2000)

## Conclusion

There is several aspects of leadership that should be taken into account when discussing the leadership module in extra-curricular activities at the university. Leaders need to have leadership qualities in managing the problems that demonstrate competence and commitment as a leader. Most studies on leadership style management system classic finds, there is the assumption that leaders see employees as one of the factors of production (Ab. Aziz, 2003). Leadership is important in organizing things in facing the challenges of globalization in the present and the future. Therefore it is important for universities students as jobs candidate to master the leadership skills concept to avoid of such an event.

## References

- Ab. Aziz Y. (2003). *Gelagat Organisasi: Teori, Isud dan Aplikasi*. Petaling Jaya: Prentice Hall.
- Aziz, A.R. (2000). *Pekerjaan Dalam Kehidupan Manusia*. Petaling Jaya: Prentice Hall.
- Forfas (2007). *The Changing Nature of Generic Skills*. Forfas Publication Title.
- Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia (2006). *Modul Pembangunan Kemahiran Insaniah (Soft Skills) untuk Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia*. Serdang: Universiti Putra Malaysia.
- Mills, D.Q. (2005). *Leadership: How to Lead, How to Live*. Dicapai pada Mar 15, 2014 dari <http://www.mindedgepress.com/PDFs/htlhtl.pdf>.
- Mohamad B. & Salleh M. J. (2009). *Kepimpinan Pendidikan Dalam Pembangunan Modal Insan*. Prosiding "Seminar Pembangunan Modal Insan 2009", Tema: Kecemerlangan Modal Insan. Pada: 23 – 24 Mac 2009.
- Mohamad Zaid M., Ali S., Badaruddin I., Sufian M., Kahirol M. S., Ahmad Rizal M. & Nor Lisa S. (2011). *Penguasaan kemahiran berpasukan menerusi penyertaan di dalam Kokurikulum: satu tinjauan di Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia*. Persidangan Pembangunan Pelajar Peringkat Kebangsaan 2008 Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.
- Robbins, P.S., dan Decenzo, A.D. (2004). *Supervision Today*. New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Said, H. (2006). *The Effectiveness of Student Leadership Training Programme in Public Universities in Malaysia*. ProQuest Information and Learning Company.
- Wee Eng Hoe (1999). *"Gerak Kerja Kokurikulum (Sukan)"*. Shah Alam: Fajar Bakti Sdn. Bhd.