

Effective Leadership for Active Community Participation

What is leadership ?

Leadership:-

- Leadership is a critical ingredient of good governance.
- Leadership is a talent for transformation: the ability to bring out the best in others for the greater good of all.
- It means inspiration and illumination - guiding others through personal example and charisma.
- It also means defining and designing a direction and then enabling others to reach the goal.
- Leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal.
- It is a process by which a person influences others to accomplish a mission.
- Leadership is inspiring others to pursue your vision within the parameters you set, to the extent that it becomes a shared effort, a shared vision, and a shared success.

The success of an organization depends on its leader—his/her attributes, approaches, and problem solving techniques.

Leadership simply means giving direction and the quality of a good leader comprises of the personality and style of treatment which influences the behaviour of others.

There are three important features of leadership:-

influence or support,

voluntary effort and

goal achievement.

A good leader creates vision and inspires others to achieve goals through stretching their capabilities. A leader influences members of the community so that they perform together willingly for the achievement of their goal.

In a democracy, effective leadership is very important to enhance good governance, transparency, openness and accountability which are cornerstones for active community participation. A democratic environment requires a good leader who inspires and develops followers to achieve the stated objectives. He/she assumes the responsibility of looking after the well-being of a community.

Threats and coercion are not part of good leadership. It is mutual trust and confidence which helps the community to attain its objectives.

Traits of a Good Leader

Some personal qualities that are required from a leader to promote public participation include being:

- A planner:-

Somebody who has the ability to set appropriate courses of action through well-prepared plans.

- Versatile:-

Somebody who is adaptable, flexible, resourceful, multitalented and an all-round personality. A leader can work in situations totally different from routine functions. Intelligence, ambition, assertiveness, politeness and psychological stimulation are essential attributes of a leader.

- A motivator:-

It is a quality of a leader to inspire others to be willing, feel enthusiastic about, interested, and committed to the objective of the task.

- It is the ability to give somebody a reason or incentive to do something. The leader's own performance guides and motivates the members; for example, being prompt themselves when asking members to come on time.

• Engaging:

A good leader has personal qualities of being charismatic, attractive, appealing, charming and influential.

A leader must have the quality to influence others morally and socially by using good communication.

• Realistic:

A leader will realise what is achievable or possible, based on known facts. This is evidenced by setting realistic goals and being practical.

Generally, active community participation requires effective leaders who have-

- personal integrity,
- self-confidence,
- analytical ability,
- knowledge,
- creativity,
- charisma,
- flexibility and
- direction.

'STAY HOME, STAY SAFE.'