

INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP

by:

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Gary Marx in his book *Future Leadership* described what intellectual leadership is. He stressed that educators and others who hold key position in society should be expected to be an intellectual leader. He said that an intellectual leader is a person who is in touch with the issues, see things in context, can clearly explain both the big and little pictures, demonstrates both critical and creative thinking skills, and understands the meaning of what is going on around us. He further stressed that a true intellectual leader is an independent generalist. People who understand that fact of life know that strategic, future focused communication and intellectual leadership go hand in hand.

For me, the new millennium brought with it an air of great anticipation among individuals and organizations, academic institutions and in the field of education in general, felt the winds of change. Talks of paradigm shifts in education were rife through the last decade of the past millennium. In this time of globalization a classroom teacher can also be considered an intellectual leader, or else he or she cannot disseminate his/her lessons clearly, creatively and critically.

The present day teacher is creative. She can see easily where others cannot see easily. He can make his or her students as inventors, or producers. He or she can convert his or her students as critical thinkers. He or she can teach the learners to answer not only the What, Who, Where and When questions. Most of all students through the guidance of their teachers can explain well the Why and How questions.

As a teacher he practices the use, development and exercise of the intellect, he practices being an intellectual. An intellectual classroom teachers spearheads searching

for problems in the school and the students, thus solve it through research. Teachers are used to hard work, determination, perseverance, endurance and inspiration at the right moment. One quality of an intellectual leader is to inspire others, and this is one usual job description of many teachers, to inspire the co-workers and learners. Another quality that can make ordinary teachers to be intellectual leaders is their good communication skills. He can motivate students and fellow workers to strive hard and reach the ladder of success. What can make him or her an intellectual leader? It is his ability to inspire coworkers and students to reach greater heights of performance and success. They can easily be an intellectual leader since they know and have access to the organization's mission, vision and strategic plan.

References:

Marx, Gary, Future Focused Leadership . Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Alexandria, Virginia, USA.