

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

by:

Joy A. Baluyot

Teacher I, St. Francis National High School

Many scholars argue whether in education we need a leader or a manager. Have you come to that realization? How does leadership differ from management? I suppose in many different occasions, they appear very much alike. Both leadership and management bring an institution success in its specific endeavor and venture.

Let us now look at the characteristics of both a leader and a manager. A leader makes the way for the members to follow. A leader is someone who puts on top of his priorities the best of interest of his members even when it means he would have anything in return. A leader is someone who walks the talk and makes sure that he practices what he preaches. A leader takes more action than words, in other words, someone who leads by example. He is someone who does not run away when problems arise. He makes sure that he is with his members during troubled and challenging times.

A manager is also a leader who is goal-oriented. He knows the rules and the policies. He is responsible in deciding whether a member should be reprimanded or not. A manager is someone who shows the way and allows members to discover what in it. He is someone who oversees the members from the top level and bottom level. He decides what is good for the members and what is bad for them.

When we look closely on the items above, we may have remembered people. The principal is a classic example of a leader and/ or manager. What do the schools in our country need? What role should a principal perform? Is it a being leader or a manager? It is always known to us that education requires so much from our principals. Thus, making it quite hard to answer the question and choose between a leader and a manager.

What I am certain about is that we cannot just be entrapped between two options. There are circumstances when a principal does need to perform the function of a leader and there are situations when a principal should act like a manager. In other words, both being a leader and a manager are the duties of a principal. There are basically two main priorities a principal should always make as his priorities. These are the teachers and the learners.

In dealing with the teachers, it is ideal to say that a principal should function as a leader. The faculty members are the best asset of the school for they have direct contact with the students. Whatever they say and do have big impact in the development of the children. The role of the principal is to be able to assist the teachers on how to deliver instruction competently. This can only be done when the principal has the guts to demonstrate how this can be done. Remember that a leader shows the ways and walks with his/ her members.

When does a principal function as a manager? In practical and logical circumstances, the principal must have a firm decision and must act accordingly to what is written in the school's manual. In this way, his fidelity to what is just and right is seen. Unquestionably, this upholds integrity not just of a principal's persona but of the school's.

References:

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