

THE JOYS AND PAINS OF BEING A SCHOOL LEADER

by:

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Being a school leader is a role filled with profound joys and inevitable challenges. It is a journey that demands passion, resilience, and a deep commitment to the growth of both students and staff. At its best, leading a school is incredibly rewarding; at its most difficult, it can be deeply taxing.

One of the greatest joys of being a school leader is witnessing the transformation of students. School leaders have the unique privilege of shaping young minds and nurturing potential. Watching students grow academically, socially, and emotionally provides a deep sense of fulfillment. Moreover, nurturing a positive school culture, where teachers collaborate and feel supported, is another deeply rewarding aspect. Celebrating the achievements of both students and staff, whether big or small, brings immense pride and reaffirms the purpose behind the hard work.

Additionally, school leader often experience personal growth. The leadership role hones critical skills such as decision-making, conflict resolution, and strategic planning. Building meaningful relationships with students, teachers, parents, and the wider community enriches the experience, creating a strong sense of belonging and shared purpose.

However, the pains of the role are equally significant. The immense responsibility that comes with being a school leader can be overwhelming. Every decision, from curriculum choices to disciplinary actions, carries weight and often invites scrutiny. Balancing the expectations of various stakeholders – students, parents, teachers, and education authorities – can create intense pressure.

Managing limited resources while striving to provide quality education adds to the stress. Furthermore, the emotional toll of dealing with student issues, teacher conflicts, and parental concerns can lead to burnout. Many school leader find themselves working long hours, sacrificing personal time, and carrying the emotional burden of the entire school community.

Despite these challenges, the role remains a noble calling. It requires a balance of heart and mind – a passion for education and a resilience to overcome hardships. The pains may be great, but the joys, when they come, are profound and lasting. Being a school leader means accepting the difficulties in exchange for the chance to make a lasting difference in the lives of many.

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