

INCORPORATING LEADERSHIP SKILLS INTO MEDICAL STUDENTS-STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

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The life & leadership at a medical college is different & unique the majority think that It is so adventurous like someone has put someone in a grinder machine and forgot to switch it off! It is not because of how to manage things in different matters but of maintaining our collective and individual focus. Like in 1st year we aim to be neurosurgeons, just a medical student in 2nd year, and then, getting trapped in the inescapable loop of qualms like, "why am I a medical student?" in 3rd year. To minimize these fluctuations & then to come up with a plan to lead students at a medical college is not a cup of tea. It needs a triangle consisting of clarity, inclusion & strong communication.

THE TRIANGLE

The very first thing as an individual & as well as a team that we need to have is clarity. As a leader in a medical college bringing clarity in the thoughts of colleagues is often irritating as the majority are used to being concerned mostly with the syllabus only. We should zoom in on the here and now. What is happening right now? What are today's greatest challenges and choices? After sketching the challenges we face, we should examine a wide range of potential responses. What should we pay attention to? What can we do about the epidemic of fake news¹? In a world deluged by irrelevant information, clarity is power. We need to look at the major forces that shape our life at campus. Clarity comes when people are relatively free to think what they like and to express themselves as they wish. For this we need to prefer discussion over arguments. Because an argument throws heat; a discussion throws light! One comes from ego and a closed mind, whereas the other comes from an open mind. An argument is an exchange of ignorance, whereas a discussion is an exchange of knowledge. An argument is an expression of temper, whereas a discussion is an expression of logic! An argument tries to prove who is right, whereas a discussion tries to prove

what is right. Therefore if we want to lead our colleagues in a true spirit we need to develop a culture of discussion².

In the medical college, we get colleagues from different social, ethnic & religious backgrounds. To live in harmony, we need to understand diversity. It is like the different colors in a rainbow. The beauty of this universe is based only on diversity. We live in a binary world, the world of contrasts up and down, ebb and flow, high and low, hot and cold. But then contrasts have their beauty. We wouldn't be able to appreciate the warmth if we didn't experience the cold. Is this not beautiful? We all can not be the same. We need to welcome, accept & appreciate all the differences that exist in our colleagues. This deliberate action is termed an inclusion. This is a must-element if we want to lead a diverse batch or class. Each & every class is diverse how small it might be. With inclusion we get belonging³ where then our voice is heard at the table. When we make sure that every single voice is being heard then it creates a sense of importance among our colleagues. This is one of the most magical & powerful senses that everyone tries to achieve. Once this is achieved we can bring wonderful & mega changes to our campus life. It works like a magic.

Good communication is key to understanding each other and resolving any issues that may arise. In all religions, there has been the strict direction of collective worship in various forms. This is basically to avoid the lack of communication. Because the gap of communication is the root cause of the majority of our issues. The very first thing that is generated due to this gap of communication is a misunderstanding. Misunderstanding leads to grouping. When various groups are created based on prejudices & hatred his then leads towards the instability of our campus life. To avoid this we need to develop strong interactions with each other. This can only be done through a good source of communication. Luckily, we are living in the 21st century-

the century of IT. We have various sources, like Facebook, WhatsApp & Telegram, etc. Without strong communication leading a batch or class is merely an illusion.

WRAP UP

The choice is ours. We can turn our campus life into either a spring of hope under the leadership having the above triangle or a winter of despair where it is often said that the only place where medical students smile every time is in the brochure that medical colleges give you before admission.

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