Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and Transformational Leadership

Rana Raddawi Department of English American University of Sharjah

Keywords

Emotional Intelligence, transformational leadership, emotions, cognitive abilities

Abstract

Whereas emotions were traditionally ignored when making organizational decisions, recent research underscores the importance of cultivating emotions in the workplace, in concert with cognitive abilities and expertise, in the decision making process (Lewkowicz, 2007; Mayer and Salovey, 1997; Goleman, 1998; Bradberrry, T. & Greaves J., 2010; Emmerling&Cherniss, 1998). As most adults in today's world spend more of their waking hours at work than any other place, it is one of the best settings for reaching adults and fostering their social and emotional competencies.

The fundamental task of leaders is to promote good feelings in followers. **Transformational Leadership** is characterized by charisma and articulation of a vision of the future. The leader transmits a sense of mission that is effectively articulated, instilling pride, faith, and respect in followers. Emotional Intelligence (referred to as EQ or EI) has been claimed to be a fundamental element of charisma, vision, and careful attention to the personal needs and qualities of the individual follower. This presentation is an attempt to show how through education these urgently needed skills of Emotional Intelligence can be instilled in individuals to become active leaders of the world.