Motherhood taught me about leadership practices

WOMEN CAN ALSO GIVE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

By Rupa Shankar

EXTRAORDINARY leaders inspire, empower and mobilise followers. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa and Nelson Mandela do not just have a remarkable calling, but a nurturing nature which is a key to their success. 

Leaderonomics' Programmes is an extraordinary initiative to nurture leadership potential. It is a platform which enables leaders who have already stepped up to be the best, to be further equipped and motivated to achieve extraordinary growth in your business leadership, life and direction. Using methods like simulations and workshops, we aim to nurture leaders to look at themselves, discover their strengths and eventually create leaders who can transform the status quo.

Motherhood teaches us leadership lessons. In fact, it is the most important leadership lesson. An extraordinary leader must learn to lead with love and passion. An ordinary leader must learn to love leadership with passion.

WHAT MOTHERHOOD TAUGHT ME ABOUT LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

By Rupa Shankar

E choring a mother 17 years old, completely changed my world. I was neither prepared nor felt capable for what was in store for me. Having a daughter, Shriya turned out to be the hardest thing in my life I was forced to acquire and apply all life lessons and competencies that I never knew existed.

Upon closer observation, a significant number of those lessons learned, are the same value for me as a leader in the workplace as well.

Being a working mother is a demanding full of people development and management, as I am always on the lookout for ideas and insights to make my life easier.

At work, some traits are often overlooked or undervalued. As leaders, each of our team members is a potential leader and our role is to observe and harness it and align it to our business goals.

One of the things I have discovered along the way may be useful to you.

1. How to eat a humble pie

Every mother knows you can never reverse a meal unless you are a supermom, and you have a lot of time. Given humility does not necessarily mean you have less. Humility and perseverance are a mother’s greatest friends.

And as a result of being “trust the universe” mom, I have managed to make a lot of decisions about my life, sometimes enemies, but always friends at a distance. In managing others, we are all striving to meet their needs and improve their lives.

2. It’s not about you, it’s about me!

It’s not about me losing myself to motherhood is something I have been warned about for years. As a mother I have to look into my needs but being a leader means that I have to be empathetic for those around me struggling with me. That means I can’t be caught out in a white lie, I learned pretty quickly using swear words while driving home was not an option. Having my daughter, Shriya turned out to be the best parenting lesson.

3. The two matrarchs

Motherhood is not about who makes the best, our house can be a bit chaotic, but at the end of the day if you stop and savour the beautiful moments of them, your life is complete.

4. The power of sacrifice

Making sacrifices of self for another is something we all strive to do. Having a mother daughter relationship is a great way to start.

5. It’s better to laugh than cry

What is going on in the world has got to be frustrating at times, but the hardest lessons are the ones you learn when you are spent. The same goes for nurturing team members, even if that’s different from what I had originally imagined.

6. The importance of boundaries

Life is not about me. Making sacrifices of self for another is something we all strive to do.

7. Don’t feel guilty about taking and giving

I also have to spend time on my career as my son, Surya is growing up fast and if I don’t make it my priority I could lose him.

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