

# DEVELOPING STUDENT LEADERSHIP SKILLS TOWARDS TOTAL QUALITY

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## INTRODUCTION

The Quality of an educational environment is witnessed with the harnessing efforts of the staff, students and the collaborative parents at large. The leadership of all counts towards the perfection in practice for all the levels of learning and teaching. As a matter of fact, Today's youth are living with an explosion of technological advances especially in the area of the internet, mobile applications and multi-player gaming. This increases the need for proper supervision and mentoring as they may be overwhelmed by the sheer overload of activities and information.

Over the years the students' scenario has changed with the witnessing of the importance of Students' Activities as the ultimate learning methodology today. The students are empowered towards better learning, decision making and ultimately made to be disciplined through self disciplined modules and leadership skills. It is mandatory for all to have and imbibe the Leadership Skills to make them a better and Total Quality Person in future. In order to practice Group Leadership Skills the following are the essentials for practice at schools:

### ? Class room environment:

We can help our students by establishing a supportive, relaxed, and respectful learning environment. Be warm and welcoming. Do not raise your voice when they ask for clarification.

### ? Physical arrangement of the room:

At some of our class sites, it is not our prerogative to change the arrangement of the room. It is also helpful to leave some open space in the room where students can stand up for oral exercises.

### ? Encourage student participation and interaction:

Encourage students to express their opinions and to

ask questions not only to you, but to who ever they feel like getting a clarification as well.

### ? Eye contact:

Eye contact is a polite way to communicate that speaks a person's honesty. If it is difficult for a student to make direct eye contact, he/she can look at the other person's eyebrows.

### ? Pacing lessons:

Watch your students' faces, and check for comprehension. Do the students need more explanation? More time to practice? Pacing is also important in asking/answering questions.

### ? Group rules and respect:

Cultivate a spirit of cooperation and respect within the group. Help participants to understand that everyone in the group is a student and that everyone is also a teacher.

### ? Dealing with dominators:

If a particular student tends to dominate the conversation - or to answer all of the teacher's questions - the leader can give other students an opportunity to speak by using the student's name to interrupt them.

### ? Encouraging shy participants:

If a student is not participating encourage him/her in the same way, by using the student's name.

Good leaders always seem to be able to "get things done." Ever wonder how they do that? The skill they have most likely mastered is the skill of prioritizing. Here's a suggestion to help to improve in this area. Write out your "to do list" and then re- write it in the following order suggested by author Steven Covey and then tackle that list!

- ? Important and urgent
- ? Important, but not urgent
- ? Urgent, but not important
- ? Not urgent and not important

Out of moment, it counts at large that the leadership values are crucial life-skills for students because they

enable students to be able to manage their career-progression and financial independence when they mature. The accessibility of updated information is not a problem; however, there must be a leadership quotient for a student to make a decision and act on this information. This is the ultimate towards Quality In Education, Worklife and upliftment of the society in a big way.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mr. Dheeraj Mehrotra is the Head of the Total Quality Management Department at City Montessori School & Degree College, Lucknow, INDIA. He is a prolific writer/ author with over 500 write-ups to his credit on IT and Quality Education Issues apart from 24 Publications of Computer Science as a subject for school and college students. His major achievements include implementation of SIX SIGMA in Education (Source: [www.isixsigma.com](http://www.isixsigma.com)) He is the Resource Person for the Computer Applications for the Association of Schools for the ISC. His qualifications include, MS (Education Management) with Post Graduate Courses in Computer Science, Business Management, Teacher Training, Journalism and Human Resource Management. He is the recipient of the NATIONAL AWARD for innovation in Education for implementing and Mastering Classrooms through IT and QCC in Education, in the year 2003. His team was also awarded the Computer Literacy Excellence State Award. He was recently honored by the PRESIDENT of INDIA for being the NATIONAL BEST TEACHER for the year 2005 being recommended by the council, on 5th Sept. 2006.

