

TODAY A READER TOMORROW A LEADER

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FORMING RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

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Instinctive Thoughts

Carve your Path

Management, as we are all aware, is referred to as the art of making others do what you want them to do. As management professionals, each one of us is invariably trained to act as a manager. But many a time, we do not resort to managerial technique of problem solving in our daily life, be it personal or professional. We forget the basic managerial training that we have been subjected to and kneel before our emotions. There are various managerial ways of dealing with problems and crisis.

Management by silence is one apt managerial way of tackling chaos. It is also an apt way of tackling aggressive people. Where arguments fail, silence rules. Silence speaks volumes where speech goes unheeded. Management by humour is an underestimated technique of managing situations. Where anger and aggression does not work, adding a pinch of humour lightens the situation and calms everyone. Management by appreciation has tremendous power to motivate a person to move mountains. It is a universal truth that each one of us likes to be appreciated for our hard work and efforts. Management by intimidation is yet another technique that may be resorted to keep the unruly people on their toes. Familiarity breeds contempt. This technique is utilized more in professional scenarios where strict abeyance to rules is expected. Zen management is also resorted widely to calm oneself. A tour, away from the madding crowd, has tremendous powers to engulf a person with peace and soothe the mind. It helps to manage oneself and bring out the best in you. Management by rumour, though unethical in nature, may sometimes be resorted while dealing with corrupt people.

Though we are familiar with these techniques, often emotions take over when we need to manage a person or a situation. Where silence can easily solve a problem, we tend to talk a lot. Where it is necessary to communicate, we keep silent out of sorrow or depression. When it is necessary to dominate, we tend to be submissive and where submission is required, we feel inclined to dominate.

Emotional intelligence is a much talked about topic in every sphere of life in recent days. I encourage each one of you to sharpen the skill of being intelligent emotionally. Along with your natural skills and talent and knowledge, being emotionally intelligent shall help you to jell easily in any environment. I would especially encourage the final year students to imbibe this skill as they step out into the industry as a professional. The shield of protection that you enjoyed within the campus as a student shall no longer exist the minute you join as an employee in a firm. Gone will be the days of warnings and apology letters and sitting in the kiosk and parents teachers meetings when you err, once you start your life as an employee. The days of harsh scolding, memo, politics, punishment transfer and termination may step in for each wrong step that you take. Being emotionally intelligent and applying various managerial strategies shall go a long way to make the job scenario easy and comfortable.

Life, as we know, is not a bed of roses. It is not a bed of thorns either. It is in our hands to create a path that fits us best. It is very important to analyse where to give in and where not to, when to be silent and when to talk, when to be firm and when to adjust. And most important of all, what is the emotional status of the person we are dealing with.

Dr Nisha Thundiyl

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IAJU

Sowing in Thirsty Soil

A secular society generates relationships that permit the exercise of human freedom in different dimensions of life, opening spaces for human creation. All human beings experience in different ways the expansion of secular society as the space in which they live or will live. Some experience it as a threat, because processes of secularization have engendered bitter conflicts that have left deep wounds that are slow to heal and quick to reopen. Some, therefore, perceive secular society as ground that is parched and broken after a persistent drought. The mature secular society offers a new opportunity to live our identity and, from that identity, to make a significant contribution. Extending the image, we can water, sow, and cultivate in thirsty ground. The challenge for the discernment in common to which we are called at the present moment is to see clearly the signs of the opportunities that are opening to us in this new historical epoch. Therefore, we can characterize a mature secular society as “thirsty ground” as it has overcome ideological extremisms, religious and cultural sectarianisms.

Hence it is required of the Jesuit universities to encourage synthesis of knowledge and integrate the dimensions, constitutive of persons and societies, thus sowing the seed of a healthy relationship with the environment. Thereby inspire creation of knowledge through inter- and trans-disciplinary dialogue, inserted in a social context in which they are actively present with a universal vision. This process must be open and ongoing in order to create and preserve the mental and emotional cohesion that gives the educational institution its purpose. Additionally, the dissemination of information, which is a vital component of the university mandate, would aid in the development of socially conscious, devoted, and reconciliatory agents that fight for social justice.

Excerpts from IAJU

Dr A Pappurajan Dr J Michael Sammanasu

This thirsty ground is plural, with a wide range of different terrains and conditions suited to different and complementary crops. Secular society generates relationships that permit the exercise of human freedom in the different dimensions of life, opening spaces for human creation.



Very Rev Fr Arturo Sosa SJ,
General of the Society of Jesus