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SECJ 2203 - 04 Software Engineering
SEMESTER 2, SESSION 2020/2021

LEADERSHIP SELF-REFLECTION ARTICLE

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YEAR/COURSE: 2/SECJ

SECTION: 04

Throughout the whole project journey, I was glad and honoured to be able to work with my team members who are Wen Jun, Fikri, and Azam for several phases of our team project and also three problem-solving assignments. It was definitely my great pleasure for having wonderful and cooperative team members throughout this semester as we had worked as a team with an awesome team name as “Power Rangers”. All of us had rotated our roles throughout this semester for the project and I was the team leader for the third phase of the project (PR3) and the third problem-solving assignment (PS3). In this leadership self-reflection article, I would like to share my own reflection on the experiences of being the team leader by referring to “The 5 Levels of Leadership” by John Maxwell.

First, since I would refer to the 5 levels of leadership by John Maxwell, hence I would like to introduce the 5 levels of leadership pointed out by John Maxwell respectively while reflecting myself on the journey of being the leader. The first level of leadership is the level of Position in which it is the lowest and entry level of the leadership at the same time. As explained by John Maxwell, position is the only level that does not require ability and effort to achieve since anyone can be appointed to a position. Hence, I think that it was the starting point for me when I was appointed as the team leader for the third phase of the project (PR3) and the third problem-solving assignment (PS3). This is where the first level of leadership, the level of Position applying to me when I was the leader for my team. However, position is only a fine starting point for me, but every leader including me should aspire to grow beyond level 1 because I as the leader should learn to lead my team towards our shared goals to finish the project and assignment together and discover my potential on leadership to execute my responsibility and be a good team leader for everyone.

Secondly, the second level of leadership is the level of Permission in which it is the level that brings my first real step into the leadership. It is the level that people choose to follow because they want to. To grow at this level, leaders work on getting to know their people and connecting with them. The leaders cannot lead without people, which means that they need to learn to like people if they want to lead well. When they like people and treat them as individuals who have value, they would begin to develop positive influence with them. Hence, from the explanation, I think that it was the time that I first stepped into the level 2 of the leadership when I set up the meeting time and venue for our team for the PR3 and PS3. Since we had known each other well, I had developed positive relationships with all of them to be a positive influence towards them for completing the PR3 and PS3. Since PR3 was considered

as the toughest phase for the project with the largest portion of work and tasks to be done, hence I had to be more careful and considerate for the distribution and division of the tasks so that everyone would work fairly and evenly for the project. All my team members were satisfied with the portion of the distribution of the tasks where I considered myself as a leader of level 2 when I set up the first meeting and distribute the tasks for them upon their agreement during the meeting for PR3 and PS3.

Thirdly, the third level of leadership is the level of Production where the leader can lead the team and motivate the team members in order to produce the results and get the things done. When having the meeting for PR3 and PS3, I as the leader set up the due date for our project earlier than the real due date as all of us agreed that we should finish the tasks as earliest as possible so that I would have ample time to check and proofread the others' work. Hence, I encouraged them to be productive and motivated to do the work as we would like to complete our project with fine content. Also, I mentioned that the team members can always ask me when they have any question on the project and I would try my best to help and answer them. Furthermore, I use Google Docs for doing the PR3 and PS3 so that I was able to keep track of their work and make sure everyone worked on their parts progressively. Thus, all the team members were productive and responsible to finish their work within the time limit. I think that I would consider myself as the leader of level 3 when I leaded and influenced my team members to work on their parts and solve the problems for their part, therefore we as a team has raised ourself to a higher level of effectiveness and efficiency to complete the PR3 and PS3 within the due date. We did not work as individuals to complete the tasks but I as the leader helped and influenced them for completing the tasks.

Fourthly, the fourth level of leadership explained by John Maxwell is the level of People Development where the emphasis is on personal and corporate productivity. The ability to create a high-productivity team, department, or organization indicates a higher level of leadership ability than most others display. But for the upper levels of leadership that create elite organizations, leaders must transition from producers to developers because people are any organization's most appreciable asset. Good leaders on level 4 would invest their time, energy, money, and thinking into growing others as leaders. Hence, from the explanation, I would identify myself as the leader of level 4 when I asked my team members to give a presentation on their parts respectively, hence they are the leaders for their responsible parts. This could definitely transform them into the leaders on their own parts as they developed the

mindset that they were the leader as they had the main responsibility for completing their parts on their own. For instance, when we were doing the third problem-solving assignment (PS3), each of us would give our own ideas on the assigned questions so that they had the opportunity to present their ideas and have the opinions from the other team members. They were the one to be the leaders for the assigned questions as they had to be clear about how to solve the problems while respecting and accepting the others' opinions when we were having the meeting and discussion together.

Lastly, the fifth level of leadership by John Maxwell is the level of The Pinnacle. The Pinnacle is the highest level of leadership which is also the most challenging to reach. It requires longevity as well as intentionality. The leaders have to stick with it and continually focus on both growing themselves at every level, and developing leaders who are willing and able to develop other leaders at the Pinnacle. Also, people follow them because of who they are and what they represent. In other words, their leadership gains a positive reputation. For this level, I would not say that I had reached the level 5 as it must be a long journey to attain this level with the reputation from the team members. However, I had tried my best in leading the team towards the goal and was able to finish the third phase of the project (PR3) and the third problem-solving assignment (PS3) with the quality that we were all satisfied with. I was glad too as I received positive comments and feedback from the team members after finishing the tasks. All in all, I did not resort myself to the amount of work needed to be done within a short duration of time, and hence I was satisfied and glad to be the leader for these two phases and enhanced my leadership skills throughout this journey.

Appendix

E-Portfolio link:

<https://eportfolio.utm.my/view/view.php?t=4nCGcSeqvpkUtDKAEFsO>