ARE LEADERS BORN OR MADE?

by:
Ryan Jake F. Bariacto
Head Teacher III, Mariveles National High School – Cabcaben

Being part of the school administration, I always come across to the ultimate question whether leaders are born or made. Whether the skills of being a leader is innate to me or what I am now is a product of my trainings. Initially, I would always believe that leaders are made due to their experiences, environment, education, and people encountered. But having a deep reflection, my heart is torn into two.

Banking on my own experience, since I was a kid, I never volunteered to be a leader. However, my teachers as well as my classmates, friends, co-organization member and people around me would always choose me to be the leader. And now in my workplace, my superiors and colleagues always ask me to lead a committee, project or task. Perhaps they have seen something in me worthy of becoming a leader.

Then, I come to ponder, maybe I am a born leader. Maybe the personality of a leader is innately within me. And provided that I am a born leader, I believe that my experiences, environment, education, upbringing and the people I encountered nutrify and solidify my traits as a leader. My inborn skill will not bolster through myself alone. It is the product of multiple factors that shape my total being.

However, the answer to question whether leaders are born or made is invalid unless I will not excel on my given post. My name as a leader will not be cemented if I will not exude the attitude, characteristics and behavior of a genuine and altruist leader.

As an educational leader, I will try my very best to live with the virtues of reverence or respect for all life, sincerity, gentleness, and supportiveness which is manifested through
service to others. Replace self-entitlement with humility. Focus on what I can give and how I may serve instead of what I can get. And mostly, transform ambition into purpose.

At the end of the day, it does not matter whether I am made or born as a leader. It is how my leadership made a meaningful impact among my people.

References:

Di Giulio, Justin & Giulio, Di. (2014). Are leaders born or made?. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270684591_Are_leaders_born_or_made