Imagine a shelf, full of different tools used to create an object or anything in general. Such tools are nothing more than ‘things’ if not used or wielded properly with enough skill and precision on how to wield such. In the hands of the inexperience or skill-less these tools are useless, but in the guiding hands of master craftsman the tools on the shed will be brought to life and be wielded to its full functioning potential. This is the same with how leadership functions, not everybody can be a leader, because a ‘real leader’ needs to arm his/herself enough leadership skill to manage his/her people, bring out the full potential of his/her people, and to create a better work place for his/her people to work at.

Skill wise a leader can develop many skill and so is a master craftsman but, what are the essential skill to be sought after if someone wants to be an efficient leader. Let us say the craftsman wants to work with wood then therefore he/she needs to know the in-and-outs of the tools and the material itself and be specifically particular with it. In a leader’s case, he/she would need to work with his/her people on a long period of time.

According to a writer in www.inc.com Lolly Daskal an established President and CEO of a company. A leader must have these five skills; the skill self-awareness; the skill of acumen response; the skill of relationship building; the ability to create an inspired culture; the skill of agility and adaptability.

THE SKILL OF SELF-AWARENESS

From the words of Mr. James Arthur Ray, “The journey of true success and lasting leadership begins with the inward journey to the soul”, no leader can conquer longevity and success in his/her reign without knowing who he/she really is. When an individual, especially a leader, know his/herself more than anyone else leading other
people would be a cake walk, why? When someone has learned about his/herself he/she could already act on his/her strength or weakness regarding a specific problem and when the leader has already attained self-awareness he/she will learn to work with his strength and amplify it to his/her people and he/she will also learn to limit his/herself to an extent making him/her efficient in vital decisions within his/her workplace. For knowing yourself inches you closer to becoming all you can be as a leader.

**THE SKILL OF ACUMEN RESPONSE**

This skill in particular, somehow embodies the fictional character Sherlock Holmes for the detective was quick in his mind and decision-making skill but calculative to the results ensuring that his actions would bare the best results. To be an efficient leader you need to be a “Mr. Sherlock Holmes”, a leader should take all the characteristics of Mr. Holmes and live it day-in-and-day-out, why? Being a leader is not always smooth sailing there will come a time when your leadership will be challenge with problems and other matters but if you have the skill of acumen response, or what I like to call as “The Sherlock”, as a leader you would be able to move with keenness and quickness in understanding the problem in a manner that is likely to give off good outcome that will not only benefit you but also the people surrounding you.

**THE SKILL OF RELATIONSHIP BUILDING**

Being a leader comes in a package deal, you will not only manage an individual but a group may it be a small one or a big one. And as the head of these group you are of the major catalyst of gluing your members together as a cohesive group that aims toward a single goal, the goal to the betterment of each other. Making a way to create a bond between the people you manage is one of the major recipe of being a good leader. It is a cornerstone of all collective success. Bonds within the people glues
together the functioning team, partnerships within, and managing existing relationship.

**THE ABILITY TO CREATE AN INSPIRED CULTURE**

As a leader, you are the root and foundation of everything that is happening in your chosen organization. The attitude within the environment you and your people are working in are reflected upon how you create a culture for them. So, what is this culture that I have been talking about? This culture is the manifestation of your own self on your work place this is the certain attitude on how you do stuff and function as a group. But the bigger question is, what is the importance of the ability of establishing a culture to a workplace as a leader? Having the ability of establishing a culture is like creating an unshakable assembly line in which are followed by your people. For example, as a leader you established an inspiring and motivational culture in which it pushes people to push themselves to the best version of themselves while being a great support system for their co-workers, as a leader you have already created an ever-nurturing workplace that promotes growth and care within each other. Possessing this ability helps you as a leader to create a place for your co-workers that has a system of shared passion and commitment towards a singular goal, which again breeds an environment that nurtures and caters to talent, growth, development, and creativity as a group and individual.

**THE SKILL OF AGILITY AND ADAPTABILITY**

Being a leader in the era of ever changing things is quite complicated one day you knew this and the other day there’s a new way or system of doing things. And as a leader we need to be very adaptive to changes not only with our tools in our workplace but also with people we manage. As a leader in an ever-changing time, you should be very receptive and accepting of changes and diverse ideas, it means that as a leader we need to be a shape-shifter that is always ready to comply to our peoples changing needs. This skill to maneuver to the dynamic changes is the skill to be agile.
and adaptive, which will come pretty handy in handling to incoming situations in the future.

Being a leader takes time, patience, and practice to even come close to proficiency. As a leader to another the only thing we can do to provide the best service to our people is to take up arms. We need to arm ourselves the skill to continue as trailblazer for the people following our footsteps.

REFERENCES: