THE ONE THING ABOUT LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS

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What makes an effective leader?

There are hundreds of leadership models that describe what effective leadership is all about. With the many models, there is a tendency to get confused on what to follow. Experienced leaders would tell you that there is no sure formula. One thing for sure is that leadership effectiveness will depend on the suitability between the leader and the environment he works in. This will have a huge effect in choosing leaders and growing them.

A leader may be effective in one situation but not in another. This does not mean that the leader is a failure. It is imperative to predict what a leader will do in a particular situation. Thus, context will play a vital role in knowing whether a leader has been effective or not, only in that specific event.

We think that a famous and superb leader will always be effective. However, this is not true at all. Leaders we looked up to as models have had their fair share of failures, too. One good example is U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He is probably ranked as one of the most futile presidents of the era. He was unable to capture the fancy and devotion of the people. He seemed weak. But he also proved to be the only U.S. president of the time that proved effective in various causes and was an official peace emissary in American diplomacy which landed him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992.

He might not be in the context of presidency but he definitely is a phenomenal leader after all as he played his future roles so well. It was all about the context. His role that fitted into his set of knowledge and skills was maximized.
It would be difficult to know in advance what kind of leader an organization needs. There are so many contextual factors to consider. Therefore, it will bring down to the fact that fit can really impact effectiveness in leadership.

References:

