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Exploring leadership wisdom

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Abstract

The purpose of this research has been to take an introductory investigation into the concept of leadership wisdom. This has been done by interviewing ten members from diverse departments in a large organisation and asking each one to discuss their experiences working with wise leaders. The analysis of the resulting interviews has provided a picture of how leadership wisdom is realised in the leader-follower relationship. It also implies that leadership wisdom can be found in the relationship between a leader who is both capable and willing, the level of openness of the participant to engage, and an environment conducive to encouraging such relationship. Given these three factors, the wise-leader follower relationship is one characterised by trust, emotional intelligence, effective communication and personal development.

Preface and Acknowledgements

This research has been designed to take an initial look to see if the concept of leadership wisdom is evident in practice. If there is evidence of leadership wisdom then what does it look like. There is no view to create a new leadership theory but simply an exploration of a potentially significant aspect of leadership.

I would like to thank the relevant staff at ACME for their time and cooperation in participating with this research. Their willingness to provide such open and not always flattering accounts of their experiences is appreciated.

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This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk.

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