

## **A STUDY ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AMONG STUDENTS WITH REFERENCE TO TEACHERS OPINION REGARDING ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN COLLEGES**

**\*<sup>1</sup>Mrs. Shwetha Y, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Seema S Shenoy**

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, SDM College of Business Management and Research Scholar SDM  
College of Business Management PG Centre for Management Studies and Research  
Mangalore.

<sup>2</sup>Director, SDM College of Business Management PG Centre for Management Studies and  
Research Mangalore.

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**\*Corresponding Author: Mrs. Shwetha Y**

Assistant Professor, SDM College of Business Management and Research Scholar SDM College of Business  
Management PG Centre for Management Studies and Research Mangalore.

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### **ABSTRACT**

Are leaders born or made? If the answer is made, then can leadership be taught and learned in colleges? These and other similar questions are the focus of this study which reviews the research in both leadership development and activities in colleges. We live in a world that cries out for – and often doesn't receive – strong leadership. Yet so many of us see public figures, decision-makers and opinion-leaders and consider ourselves to be incapable of taking on such roles. We must ensure the same is not true for our pupils. They need to see themselves as potential leaders, with an understanding of the qualities and competencies that entails. The classroom hierarchy places the power with the teacher, but you can still create regular opportunities for pupils to show leadership in the classroom. This study aims to examine teachers' opinions regarding the activities that can be performed at colleges to ensure leadership development in students. Accordingly, an attempt to reveal what the leadership qualities of students should be, the activities that can be performed for the acquisition of leadership qualities. The study was carried out by conveniently selecting 50 teachers who could contribute a valuable input for the study. The data were collected by structured Questionnaire and semi-structured interview. Review of literature was done on the previous study on the same topic.

By using questionnaire results were analyzed based on activity should be performed for in-class and out-of-class purposes and the conceptual understanding of leadership for the acquisition of leadership qualities; and that these studies were at the applicable level. Furthermore, it was found out that to make students acquire communication skills, problem-solving skills, responsibility, honesty and ability to set goals are important. In this context, the findings obtained from the present study and some suggestions were proposed.

**KEYWORDS:** Leadership Activities in colleges, Leadership Development in Students, Leadership Development, Leadership Qualities, Student Leadership.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

We live in a world that cries out for – and often does not receive – strong leadership. Yet so many of us see public figures, decision-makers and opinion-leaders and consider ourselves to be incapable of taking on such roles. We must ensure the same is not true for our pupils. They need to see themselves as potential leaders, with an understanding of the qualities and competencies that entails. The classroom hierarchy places the power with the teacher, but you can still create regular opportunities for pupils to show leadership in the classroom.

Schools are the places where students are prepared for the life and their problem-solving capacities are developed. Therefore, to create leadership capacity for the solution of these problems has a critical importance.

When teachers encourage students to work on team projects, they learn how to confront their ideas and resolve conflicts. In essence, they learn to collaborate and communicate. The practices that move learning toward that kind of cooperative mindset fall under the term **social and emotional learning (SEL)**.

When a student enters the door of the classroom, they are not there solely for the knowledge they are supposed to gain. All of those lessons, terms, definitions, concepts, tests, quizzes and assignments have a hidden goal behind them: social-emotional development. Therefore it is possible to ensure the development of the leadership qualities of students who spend most of their time at schools and colleges by creating different opportunities. Teachers are the most important actors who can create these opportunities.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study is a descriptive study. The main objective of the study is to determine the leadership qualities in students according to teachers' opinion and to reveal the activities that can be performed by students to acquire leadership qualities. Study was conducted based on lecturers opinion 50 lecturers were selected conveniently from different colleges. For this purpose, qualitative and quantitative research methods were combined in the same study. Importance was given to the in-class activities and outside class activities which will help the students to develop leadership skills. In this study, interviews were firstly conducted with lecturers at colleges. Then, the questionnaire which was prepared according to the results obtained from these interviews was applied to a larger group of lecturers. Finally, the findings were reported.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Drobot and Roşu (2012), in their study on teachers' leadership styles in the classroom, emphasized that the quality of teacher–student relationships plays a central role in shaping students' perceptions of effective teaching. Their findings revealed that students value teachers who demonstrate strong communication skills, fairness, patience, and a friendly attitude. Additionally, students associated ideal teaching with clarity of explanation and pedagogical competence, highlighting that both relational and instructional qualities define an effective teacher.

Shertzer explored college students' perceptions of leadership and asserted that higher education institutions must recognize students themselves as critical contributors to leadership discourse. While institutions tend to emphasize theoretical models and frameworks, Shertzer argued that the most influential perspectives on leadership come directly from students, who offer contemporary, experience-based insights essential to leadership development.

Parlar, Türkoğlu, and Cansoy examined teachers' opinions on activities that support leadership development in students. Their study concluded that both teachers and school administrators must take an active role in planning and implementing initiatives that foster leadership qualities. They recommended that administrators undergo conceptual and practical training related to leadership education and suggested integrating new leadership-oriented activities into school curricula based on course requirements.

## Leadership Qualities

**These are the common leadership qualities:**

- **Communication Skills.** This includes cooperation, problem-solving and listening skills. In addition, students learn how to deal with conflict situations.
- **Social Awareness Skills.** Students learn how to consider other peoples' opinions and show empathy.
- **Emotional Management Skills.** The students learn how to manage stress and motivate themselves to work towards particular goals.
- **Self-Awareness Skills.** Throughout the process of collaborating, students learn how to identify and express their own feelings.
- **Decision-Making Skills.** When students work in a group, they have to make reasonable choices that everyone agrees with.

## Why It Is So Important To Develop Leadership Skills in College?

1) **Develop a Sense of Responsibility:** With the central component of being a leader being to understand and accept the fact that you now have responsibilities that can affect a wide range of people, leaders must see to it that they're getting the best out of everyone in their group.

2) **To Build Confidence:** You will never be able to succeed as a leader without a healthy belief in yourself and your abilities, and college is a great time to develop your confidence. Whether it is in student government, starting a new club, organizing team rallies, or putting together various social activities for students, leading a campus organization will help develop the confidence you will need for the professional world once you graduate.

3) **Learning to Network:** The ability to communicate is an essential characteristic of being a leader, and when you are in college, you will have endless opportunities to interact with everyone from other students to campus administrators to leaders of other groups to even high-level figures off-campus, which will provide excellent opportunities to practice your networking skills.

4) **Sharpen the Problem-Solving Skills:** Life is essentially one problem after the other, and as a leader in the professional world, you are often charged with guiding your group through an almost endless series of challenges

5) **A Leader Must Be Able To Inspire:** As with networking, communication here is key. And the ability to confidently address a group about its goals and purpose is something that can be greatly developed while in college. Thus, by taking on leadership roles in school and colleges, you will have the opportunity to persuasively speak in front of a variety of people

and groups that will build the poise and self-assuredness you will need as a leader in the post-graduate world.

6) **A Leader Must Be Able to Manage:** Leadership is not just about motivating. The ability to manage a group, oversee operational procedures, devise budgets and figure out what should take priority over what is crucial to being a strong leader. And while you will want to do some research to help you choose the college of your dream, once you are there, developing management skills in college is a great way to learn.

7) **Discover How Much you are Truly Capable Of:** A lot of people have set ideas of what they can do and not do until they are suddenly pressed to push their mental or physical boundaries. By taking on student leaderships roles, leaders will often be put in positions where they have to step in and take care of certain types of tasks that they have never had to deal with before.

8) **Muscle up the Resume:** With collegiate leadership experience, you will be showing your potential future employers something that can be applied more tangibly to the real world than just a grade point. After all, most companies are looking to the brink in people they think can one day advance to managerial positions, and by demonstrating what you've already developed certain leadership skills in college, you have a greater chance of catching a hiring manager's eye and impressing during an interview.

9) **You Need To Learn the Art of Negotiation:** The concept of negotiation comes in many forms, and when leading a group or organization, it is essential to be able to make those involved feel respected and important. Thus, by taking on projects in college where a good amount of individual collaboration is involved, you gain a foothold on the ability to prioritize the different issues between people that come up, and consequently know when to strike some sort of compromise.

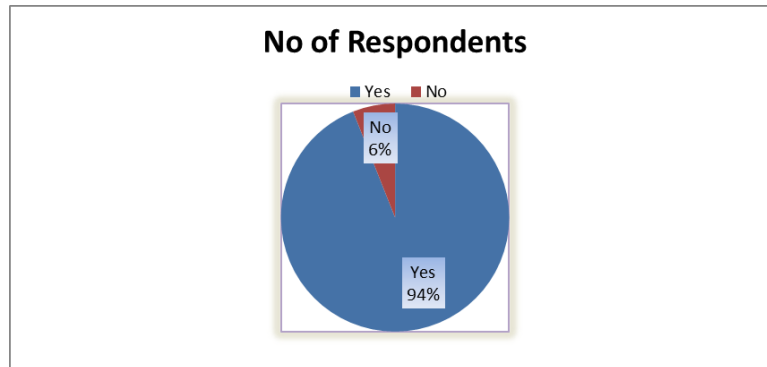
10) **Become Familiar with Being Recognized:** If you are going to be a leader in the professional world, you are going to have to know how to handle being a known face, someone who others will recognize as a leader and approach with various issues or opportunities.

**Analysis of the Data on leadership development among students with reference to teacher's opinion regarding activities performed in colleges**

**Position held:** Out of 50 respondents; 96 percentage of respondents are assistant professor, 4 percentage were Associate professor

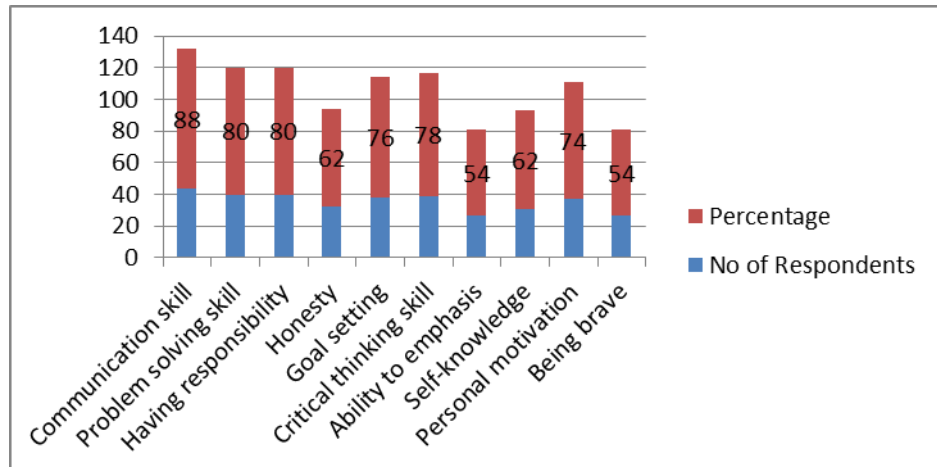
**Are leaders born or made:** as majority agree that leaders are made and not born so in the study also 74 percentage of respondents said leaders are made, 26 percentage of respondents said leaders are born.

### Teachers opinion on Leadership skills be taught in colleges



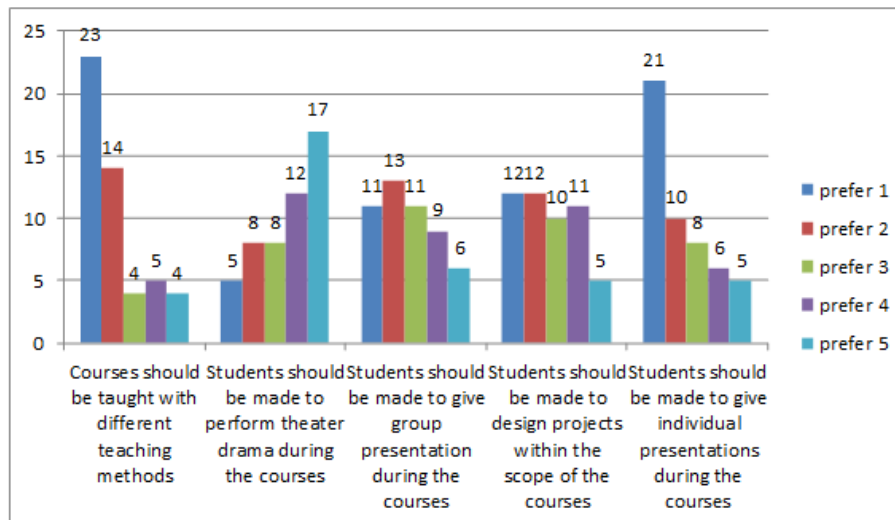
In the above chart 94 percentage of respondents said leadership skills can be taught in colleges by using in class activity and outside class activities and other leadership programmes only 6 percentage of respondents said leadership skills cannot be taught.

### Teachers opinion on Qualities Required To Become A Good Leader



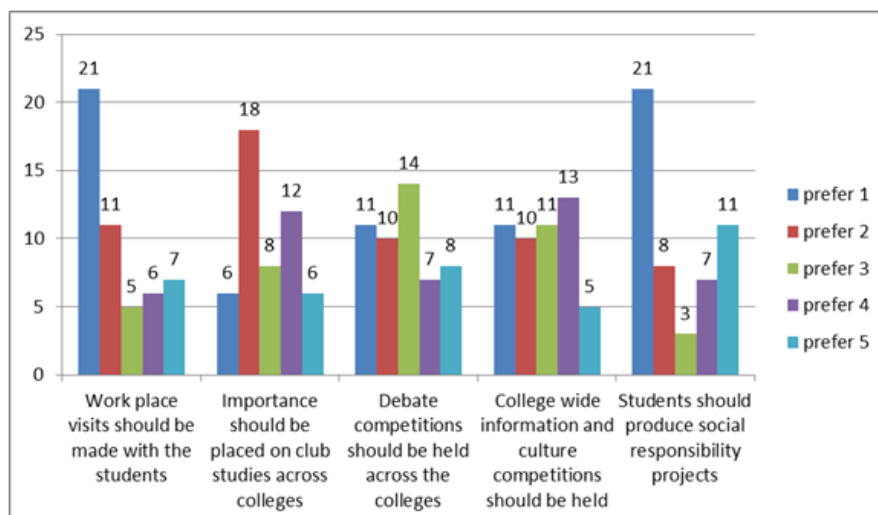
The above chart shows the qualities required to become a good leader; 88 percentage respondents stressed on communication skills, 80 percentage respondents on problem solving skills and having responsibility, 78 percentage respondents on critical thinking skill, 76 percentage respondents on goal setting, 74 percentage respondents on personal motivation, 62 percentage respondents on honesty and self-knowledge and 54 percentage respondents on ability to emphasis and being brave.

### Teachers opinion on leadership Qualities developed within the class



As per the above chart majority of the teachers agree that Courses should be taught with different teaching methods, II preference is given to Students should be made to give individual presentations during the Courses. III preference is given to Students should be made to design projects within the scope of the courses. IV preference is given to Students should be made to give group presentation during the courses. V preference is given to Students should be made to perform theater drama during the courses.

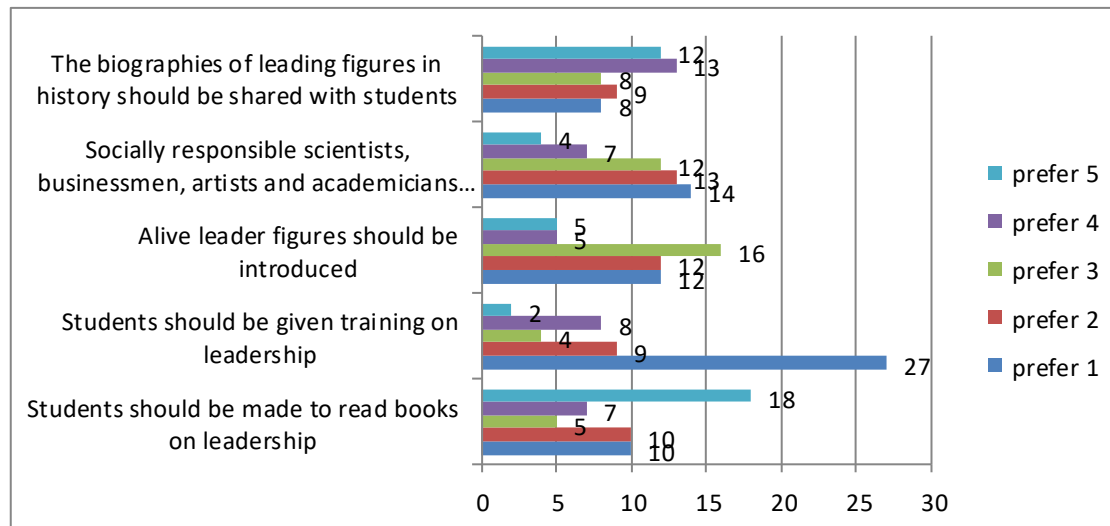
### Teacher's perception on leadership qualities developed through co-curricular and extracurricular activities



As per the above chart teachers gave I preference is given to Work place visits should be made with the students. II preference is given to and Students should produce social responsibility projects. III preference is given to College wide information and culture

competitions should be held and Debate competitions should be held across the colleges. IV preference is given to Importance should be placed on club studies across colleges.

### Teachers opinion on The activities which should be conducted to increase the leadership skills



Teachers feel that as per the above chart I preference is given to Students should be given training on leadership. II preference is given to socially responsible scientists, businessmen, artists and academicians should make presentations at colleges. III preference is given to Alive leader figures should be introduced. IV preference is given to Students should be made to read books on leadership. V preference is given to the biographies of leading figures in history should be shared with students

### Teachers opinion on the other Activities which helps to increase the leadership Qualities?

- Work for a peace keeping society
- More student teacher interactions
- Organizing programs and making the students in charge of it
- Students should be encouraged to take part in all the activities organized by the college
- Teacher must interact and identify the strengths and train accordingly. Because an ostrich cannot fly high but it is the national bird of Australia.
- Students should be assigned with different responsibilities to handle college events and programs, so that his organizational skills, man power handling skills are known by this.



- They should get connected with real business and work while studying to bring out the leader in them.
- Role plays , brain storming sessions , interactive sessions during the class help to develop leadership skills
- Positive Attitude among the students
- Being Calm and listen to their Team advice. Should be able to criticize as well listen to criticism
- Be passionate, serve as a role model
- Leadership based field work assignments
- Taking students to different organizations and interacting with managers and employees and giving them dummy task

## IN CONCLUSION

Cultivating leadership is not just about creating politicians, CEOs and managers (although it is important that our students don't rule these life options out). We cultivate leadership in our students so that they know how to think for themselves and have the confidence to grow into the demands of an uncertain future.

From the study we can conclude that, Teacher's perception on Qualities Required Becoming a Good Leader are leader should have good communication skill, he should be a problem solver and take responsibility of what task is assigned. By teaching the courses in different teaching methods leadership qualities can be developed within the class. By taking them to work place to have a practical knowledge and giving them social responsibility projects leadership can be developed through co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Students should be given training on leadership to increase the leadership skills for which teachers also need to be trained on leadership.

Although the concept of leadership is highly discussed on adults, there is a need for new studies about leadership on children and young people. Moreover, experimental investigation of the efficiency of in-class and out-of-class activities and activities for the understanding of leadership may contribute to the quality of the activities to be performed in this field

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