Five Necessary Attitudes of a Servant-Leader

This article highlights the five necessary attitudes of a servant leader (hence the name). The servant leadership concept is not a new phenomenon, it was introduced in 1970 by Robert K. Greenleaf and this style of leadership has been adopted by many successful leaders. The point of the article is to help answer whether or not servant leadership is a style suited to the reader. Do you want to serve others first, or be served? Obviously the appropriate leadership style is situational and servant leadership will not work in every context but it can be applied to most situations. Servant leaders have a wide array of skills, behaviors and attitudes that are honed through practice. The purpose of the article is to identify the most important attitudes that fit within the servant leadership approach. They are, 1. Visioning isn’t everything, but it’s the beginning of everything, 2. Listening is hard work requiring a major investment of personal time and effort—and it is worth every ounce of energy expended; 3. My job involves being a talent scout and committing to my staff’s success, 4. It is good to give away my power; and 5. I am a community builder. The article dives into these five key attitudes and shows how they are essential and gives good advice on how to implement and practice them.

I found this article intriguing because servant leadership has been around for thousands of years and yet it is fairly new in the scheme of business and management. I wanted to explore the key areas that were deemed as necessary and see how they fit into an everyday leader’s life. I appreciate the fact that the author notes that all of these attitudes can be worked on, grown and practiced. It is also important to note that a genuine desire to serve is required and servant leadership is not something that can be forced, it requires a great deal of patience, perseverance and dedication.

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