

Utilization of Conceptual Abilities by Leaders in Solving Problems Effectively

Name

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Abstract

Did you know that for someone to become a successful leader must be able to think analytically, creatively, ethically, critically and with utmost cultural sensitivity? Indeed, successful leaders possess conceptual abilities that assist them in solving problems effectively and making sound judgments prior to executing organizational concepts and plans. The purpose of this paper is to discuss how as a leader I utilize the conceptual components to solve problems effectively. The discussion covers five key conceptual components that include mental agility, interpersonal tact, innovation, expertise, and sound judgment. As with mental agility, the paper addresses how I use the flexibility of my mind to anticipate the outcomes of uncertain situations. Under the sound judgment, the paper discusses how I utilize my ability to assess situations and provide rational conclusions. Thirdly, the paper covers a conceptual component called innovation where it discusses how I utilize creativity to introduce new ideas and concepts in the problem-solving processes. Consequently, the paper touches on interpersonal tact where it narrates how I utilize interpersonal skills to relate well with subordinates and adapt to new situations. Lastly, the paper discusses how I utilize my expertise to solve problems effectively.

Introduction

Certainly, many leaders face challenges in coordinating all the conceptual abilities. In fact, lack of any of the conceptual abilities may prevent someone from solving problems effectively, creatively and analytically. As such, a good leader must be able to demonstrate all the conceptual abilities in the course of solving real-life problems. As a leader, I acknowledge that the utilization of conceptual components in solving problems is not only beneficial to the organization but also to the leader. For instance, providing a sound solution to a problem not only benefits the organization but also boosts the confidence of the subordinates in the leader

that provided the solution. As a leader, I would discuss in depth how I utilize each of the conceptual components including mental agility, interpersonal tact, innovation, expertise, and sound judgment.

A. Mental Agility

According to *ADRP 6-22 Army Leadership* (2012), mental agility describes the flexibility of a person's mind, and the ability to anticipate the outcomes of uncertain situations. Just like *ADRP 6-22 Army Leadership* (2012) urges army leaders to exercise their mental agility in solving problems in the defense domain, I also feel encouraged to exercise my mental agility to solve problems in my organization. Firstly, I utilize mental agility to adapt to uncertain or changing situations. As a leader, I encounter different situations every day, which bear uncertain outcomes. For instance, I encounter uncertain situations when making projections of sales volume for the upcoming months. However, the use of mental agility assists me in thinking about other possible solutions when the current solution do not seem to yield the desired results.

Secondly, mental agility enables me to become an inquisitive leader, and to adopt critical thinking techniques when solving a problem. By being an inquisitive leader, I utilize mental agility to become an open-minded leader who assesses a wide range of concepts and topics to look for several possibilities before reaching an optimal solution. As an experienced leader, I do not rush to making conclusions before assessing different possible solutions. Then, I select the most desirable and appropriate solution after a scrupulous assessment of all possible solutions. This practice helps me to conclude with the most sensible and rational solution.

Thirdly, I utilize mental agility to develop critical thinking skills that enable me to adopt innovative thinking while capitalizing on finding facts and justifiable conclusions. In fact, none of my conclusions is made before looking at facts. Fundamentally, the assessment of facts helps

me to determine if the solution is justifiable. Justifiable solutions are simple to explain to the subordinates because they are built on facts and are less likely to fail. The secret to developing a justifiable solution is dividing a big problem into manageable tasks and then find solutions for each task.

B. Sound Judgment

According to *ADRP 6-22 Army Leadership* (2012), sound judgment describes the ability to evaluate situations critically to make rational conclusions. Just as army leaders evaluate situations critically prior to making rational conclusions, I also exploit the same concept to solve problems effectively. As a leader, I utilize sound judgment to make rational conclusions that enable me to provide my organization with sound opinions, estimates, and sensible projections of future organizational projects. Specifically, sound judgment enables me to juggle and examine facts, then apply my intuitive feelings to reach a sensible and high-quality decision. I utilize sound judgment to determine the possible and appropriate course of action when faced by a particular problem, and also to prioritize those actions in their order of preference.

C. Innovation

According to *ADP 6-22 Army Leadership* (2012), innovation is a conceptual component that assists leaders to introduce new concepts and ideas during the problem-solving process. As a leader, I utilize innovation to introduce new ideas and concepts of solving problems in the organization. Essentially, innovation assists me to adopt creating thinking, which enables me to provide original concepts and sensible ideas. For instance, I utilized innovation to develop a formula for sorting records of employees in Microsoft Excel when the payroll system of my organization had crashed. Furthermore, I utilize innovation to think about new ideas for adapting

to new environments and situations. However, I also rely on the experiences, intuitions and knowledge of the subordinates to develop new ideas. Hence, innovation not only assists me in introducing new solutions but also in becoming a unique leader.

D. Interpersonal Tact

ADP 6-22 Army Leadership (2012) states that leaders should understand the perceptions of other people toward them. For that reason, I utilize the interpersonal tact to interact with subordinates effectively. Specifically, interpersonal tact assists me in accepting the reactions, character, and motives of the subordinates. My organization consists of different people with different character and reactions. Therefore, I utilize interpersonal tact to understand each individual's character and attitude to provide solutions that are desirable to every person within the organization. For instance, I utilize interpersonal tact to solve office relationship issues presented by the employees. Furthermore, I utilize interpersonal tact to acquire skills such as balancing emotions, recognizing diversity, self-control and gaining stability for facing any situation.

As a leader, I must be able to balance emotions in situations that are emotional, especially when an employee is rude in conversation. Balancing emotions assist me to solve problems and issues without acrimony. Secondly, interpersonal tact helps me to recognize diversity. For instance, I have to provide concepts and ideas that are not bias to any culture. In short, I have to balance all cultures and make people from those cultures feel comfortable. Self-control is another vital ability that I utilize to make sound decisions. For instance, I do not take bribes and kickbacks to enforce some policies in the organization. Lastly, I utilize interpersonal tact to remain stable in every situation. For instance, I do not change my opinions or thoughts because of intimidation and threats from other people.

E. Expertise

According to *ADRP 6-22 Army Leadership* (2012), expertise describes the special knowledge and skills obtained from education, experience and training. As a leader, I utilize expertise in four different domains including technical knowledge, cultural and geopolitical knowledge, joint knowledge and tactical knowledge. Firstly, utilize tactical knowledge in completing and accomplishing designated objectives. Secondly, I utilize technical knowledge in solving problems by using equipment and systems. For instance, my work requires the use of a computer installed with software programs that enables me to solve problems efficiently and accurately. Moreover, I use joint knowledge to understand joint organizations. For instance, I utilize joint knowledge to understand strengths and limitations, especially when solving complex problems. Finally, I use cultural and geopolitical knowledge to understand and gain awareness of geographical variations, cultural differences, and political sensitivities, which is a milestone in approaching any problem in a large organization with different types of people.

Conclusion

The paper has discussed how I utilize various conceptual components in solving problems effectively. In the paper, it is evident that conceptual components fall into five categories including mental agility, interpersonal tact, innovation, expertise, and sound judgment. Each of these conceptual components is of paramount importance in enabling leaders to develop sensible and rational solutions. As discussed in the paper, I utilize mental agility in critical thinking, sound judgment in drawing rational conclusions, innovation in creative thinking, interpersonal tact in interacting with subordinates, and expertise in processing facts, creating logical assumptions and understanding concepts for solving problems.

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