

## **Discovering your Authentic Leadership**

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We cannot be authentic by trying to imitate someone else. We can learn from the experiences of others but we cannot be successful if we try to be exactly like them. People trust us when we are genuine, not when we copy someone else.

Authentic leaders demonstrate a passion for their purpose, practice their values consistently and use their hearts as well as their heads. They have a very high degree of self-awareness.

Discovering our authentic leadership style requires commitment to developing ourselves. All of us have gone through various experiences in life. We must frame our life stories in ways that help us to develop self-awareness. We must act on that awareness by practicing our values and principles. These inner values, more than external rewards and recognition should drive our behaviour.

When we become authentic leaders, we can deliver results in good times and bad. We will be able to attract talented people, align their activities with shared goals and empower people to take on greater challenges. It may be possible to deliver outcomes in the short term without being authentic. But sustainable long-term results can come only through authentic leadership. Authentic leaders develop a sense of deep inner satisfaction by empowering others, working with them to achieve results and thereby making the world a better place.