

An Ordinary Responsibility That Prepared Me for Extraordinary Challenges

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Personally, I have gone through various difficulties that appear to be impossible to overcome, but that are what made me what I am today. Among the situations that were the most characteristic of my experience was when I received the challenge of managing a small project of a student group during my sophomore year of college. This position though minorly seemed to equip me with the bigger challenges that I would encounter in the professional world.

Initially, it had appeared to be another group work. But as the project progressed I soon understood the extent of responsibility on me. My key responsibility was to make members of the group equally contribute and to reach all deadlines in a group. This was at first a daunting task. It was not only the deadline management, but the personalities management, the conflict management, and other work ethics. This experience compelled me to sharpen my communication skills and problem-solving skills. I needed to make sure that the strength of each member was applied efficiently and also to assist those having a hard time. This proved quite difficult when one of the group members had personal problems which hampered his or her input.

This was something that compelled me to be compassionate and tolerant, which would be valuable in overcoming any future obstacles. I got to know how to work towards conflict in a diplomatic manner where one gets issues solved without turning the group members bitter. The most important secret was the willingness to respond to feedback and to make corrections along the line. To illustrate, I also devised weekly check-ins to help track progress of everybody and to support needy persons. Such meetings turned out to be a milestone in the project and were useful to gain trust in the team.

Purely by project completion, we were able to surpass the expectations not mentioning that we achieved them. In retrospect, I would say that this petty task of organizing a group project has enabled me to acquire the leadership skills that would be required on similar, but more complicated tasks in the future. According to a study on the effectiveness of leaders, it is recommended that people should handle small challenges in the workplace graciously and efficiently to be ready to handle bigger and more difficult circumstances at work (Northouse, 2018). It can be testified by my experience with group project management. What is more, the lessons that I received during this responsibility were applicable in my future work directly. At the workplace, I often had to be in a situation where I was called to cooperate and solve problems. I tend to remember that group project whenever conflict is at hand or when I have to get a team of people moving toward a common objective. Being calm enough to handle pressure and maintain a good communication are precious skills that are as a result of that childhood experience.

To conclude, my involvement in the student group project might have been insignificant at that period of my life; nevertheless, it was the first step of working with more complicated tasks in the future. It made me know that being a leader and responsible does not lie in the titles but in the actions and choices we take and create in our day-to-day activities.

References

Northouse, P. G. (2018). *Leadership: Theory and Practice* (8th ed.). SAGE Publications.