

Name

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The Leadership of Bill Gates

Introduction

Bill Gates is listed as one of the richest men in the world. He also has been the major stakeholder in his company Microsoft, which he founded. In addition, by extension, he is the developer of the Windows product lines. Simply, Bill Gates is known as the entrepreneur who revolutionized the computer world. Bill Gates is also known for his philanthropic works and his active involvement in social responsibility. In the recent past, Mr. Gates set up what is known as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and he has donated over \$28 billion toward this noble cause.

Bill Gates developed an interest in computers when he was very young. When he was only in the eighth grade, Bill Gates had already shown interest in the computer industry to the extent of missing his math class to pursue his interest in programming. He was later enrolled in Harvard University, courtesy of his impressive score of 1590 over 1600 on the SAT.

At Harvard, he spent very little time general studies and instead dedicated most of his time to computer operations study. Later, Bill Gates left Harvard and went out to start Microsoft. His new company quickly gained many computer fans. However, things were not as good as they could have been, due to widespread piracy of most of his products. The company was to later gain ground when IBM requested that Bill Gates develop the MS-DOS system, which he did and

retained its copyright. Bill Gates's success is largely attributed to his leadership style, making him a role model and mentor to many.

Leadership Attributes

What is clear concerning Bill Gates is that he had a combination of leadership qualities. Among them is his ability to conduct informed analyses and interpretation, and still remain competent. His analytic intelligence is highlighted in his biography and illustrated through his ability to score 1590 out of the 1600 on the Harvard University entrance exam. In his early years at Harvard University, he showed his motivation to make big achievements through his creative imagination and guiding quote, which was "Rule the world". Yet another important characteristic of Bill Gates' is his philanthropy, which is very important to him.¹ At one point in 2000, he and his wife Melinda, decided to start a foundation geared toward helping to reduce inequities in the United States and all over the world. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation helps philanthropic initiatives, particularly in the areas of worldwide health and learning. Their hope is that proper health and standard education will be available for every person, as the 21st century advances,

Leadership Style

Bill Gates is a transformational leader. As a transformational leader, he has succeeded in building trust in his leadership and he has been able to accomplish his major goals by creating an well-founded self-confidence.² He has also shown great strength in ethics and he leads by example; he also explicates personal sacrifice and unusual tactics. Bill Gates is perceived by many as someone with extraordinary insight and superb potential to do things that align with his vision and values. To him, communicating his vision in understandable terms is essential, and he encourages his followers to see and adopt his vision.³ As a transformational leader, Bill Gates has

¹ Bartol, Martin. *Management*. (New York: Irwin McGraw-Hill, 1998) 76.

² Birch, Dan. *Job Creation in America*. (New York: The Free Press, 2007) 194.

³ Appelbaum, Shapiro. "Career Management in Information Technology, a Case Study." *Career*

always guided his followers to achieve desired results toward achieving their own visions. Additionally, Bill Gates has also given back to society through his philanthropy. In fact, *Forbes* magazine ranked Bill Gates fifth as the most influential person in the world. It should be noted that this was because of his devotion to philanthropic work, which is his strong point as a leader as opposed to him being a billionaire.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Bill Gates is a leader worth respecting. His excellent skills and attitude have taken him places that have made him one of the most powerful transformational leaders in the business world, with the ability to inspire the masses and clearly share his vision. Bill Gates is not just a charismatic leader, as many know him; he is both a charismatic and transformational leader. Surprisingly, however, he is not the first person to discover the satisfaction in helping others, but he no doubt commands a great following, especially in emerging economies such as Brazil, Africa, and Asia.

Works Cited

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