

UGC Minor Research Project

On

Revisiting the Concept of Leadership : Chanakya's Perspective

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Summary

Chanakya, who lived in India in the 4th century BC, who was also known as Vishnugupta or Kautilya, was a kingmaker and leadership Guru par excellence. The treasure of his teachings can be found in his book, 'Arthashastra'. The proposed study aims to bring the modern relevance of the Chanakya's concept of Leadership. In Chanakya's book, the theory meets practice, concepts meet application.

The complete Study is divided into three chapters. The first chapter discusses the ancient wisdom of Chanakya's teachings. The modern relevance of the teachings of Chanakya has been discussed in the second chapter. The submission of this research is discussed in the third chapter. The researcher has used analytical and hermeneutical methods in analyzing and understanding and interpreting Arthashastra concepts. The proposed study is based on primary and secondary data collected through books and journals.

Chanakya in his book 'Arthashastra' gives seven bases of effective leadership such as- Leader, The Manager, Customers, Infrastructure, Finance, Teamwork, and Consultants or Members. Out of his fifteen books of Arthashastra, Chanakya discusses 'Effective Leadership' in his second book and in the sixth book he explains the seven pillars of the state. Chanakya describes good governance based on ideal of leadership. Arthashastra when literally translated means 'scripture of wealth' but it contains knowledge about every subject under the sun. It is the knowledge of wealth and wealth of knowledge. The present study attempts to bring out the modern relevance of the concept of leadership according to Chanakya's perspective.

The research aimed at the study and understand the contribution and relevance of Chanakya's concept of leadership to the modern age. The study proposes to understand the concept of leadership which was explored thousands of years ago in the 'Arthashastra' and would try to apply the same in the contemporary era. The study would also try to draw the parallel of concept of leadership explored by Chanakya and that of Bhagavadgita. The research has brought out the original leadership ideas of Kautilya to the modern world and try to elaborate and clarify the principles. It is also expected to give a modern outlook to the ancient wisdom.

Leaders set an example and become the role model for the society. As the leader so the follower. A good leader possesses good qualities. He is dynamic, truthful, grateful, approachable, trustworthy etc. and he leads his group towards success and progress. The attempts to bring out how Chanakya's seven parameters of leadership are applicable in every walk of our fast life and the competitive world today. Philosophy is always the base for good institutions that survive all challenges. And the leader has to set that 'philosophical vision' for organisation to survive.
