

Leadership and Management in Education by Allison Rouse, EdVillage

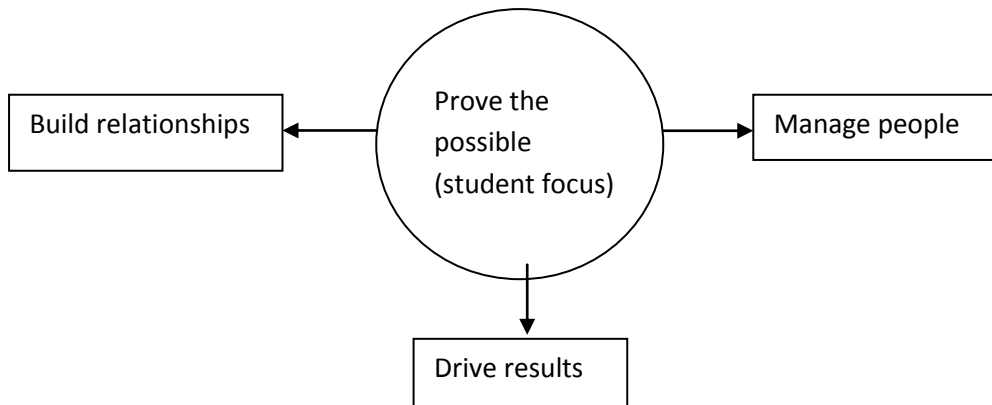
“Low income children can achieve at high levels!” is what Allison Rouse, the CEO of Edvillage – A better education for every village believes. He conducted a session based on personal reflection and observation from a lot of successful teachers across the world on transformational leadership and management skills. Mr. Rouse spoke about how important it is to work hard and follow the right path in education. Not only following but the need to show the right path to the young children and train them accordingly plays a key role.

Mr. Rouse stood by the door and spoke to each and every participant entering the hall before the session began. At the end of the session, the participants believed that they had built in a personal relationship and were clear with the instructions given by Mr. Rouse. Mr. Rouse immediately said he was just implementing the suggestions and feedbacks from the fellow participants of his previous session to make the present one better. He mentioned that it is really important for teachers across the globe to take feedbacks from children and clarify more often.

Talking about leadership, he mentioned the importance of having a vision set and that every other person should have very big audacious goals to achieve. Being a leader, the assurance that you will walk through the journey with the child and stand by him whether rain or shine defines true leadership. Geoffrey Canada, CEO of the Harlem Children's Zone in Harlem, New York, indeed guaranteed that all the children joining him would get into college and would be associated with the family until the child graduates.

When we delved into understanding leadership v/s management, Mr. Rouse said, “Leadership is doing the right things and management is doing things right.” He mentioned that good leadership is behavioural in nature and is focused on change. A good leader would lead his team through change rather than manage them through it. He would be inspiring and encouraging people throughout the process of change.

In his talk, when he mentioned about school leadership, he mentioned about the essence of engaging the community. He said, “Understanding the community is not a problem but in fact they are the partners in solution.” Mr. Rouse spoke about the importance of having a record of the S.W.O.T analysis of oneself where in one identifies his/her strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and works accordingly. While concluding, he spoke about Gandhiji – Remembering Gandhi – who stood up for democracy and how he had an impact on a large group of people around the world. He set an example of being a transformational leader.



Having around 20 minutes in hand after the session, Mr.Rouse took feedbacks and answered all the questions patiently. The participants left the room with a sense of possibility of being able to implement what Mr Rouse had eloquently and lucidly explained in his three hour long lecture.

- Sindhu Ankisetipalle