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Leadership in project management: an application in the construction industry

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LEADERSHIP IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT: AN APPLICATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

A highly structured survey was developed, broken down into three sections, with the objective of validating the concepts of leadership in project management, how they are applied in the construction field, and how the background of each participant influenced their perceptions of leadership. All the participants are professionals in the constructing industry, whether they are project managers, project engineers or superintendents.

The majority of the participants were males and project engineers with 5 to 10 years' worth of experience in the construction industry. According to the participants, the three most important skills that a leader should have are controlling team performance, communication and understand the characteristics and requirements of a project. The three most important attributes that a leader should have are problem-solver, motivator and negotiator.

The majority of the participants agreed that leadership is essential for project success, that a project manager should exhibit leadership traits to be promoted, that he should exhibit emotional intelligence including but not limited to self-awareness and self-control in order to motivate the team members, communicate clearly with them, be a role-model and an inspiration to them, be a mentor, support the team members and be mature enough to be able to delegate power and responsibilities over to the team members when the need arises.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	ii
Abstract	iii
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Chapter 2: Literature Review	3
2.1: Project Management Defined	3
2.2: Project Success & The Project Manager	3
2.3: Leaders & Leadership	5
2.4: Leadership Theories	5
2.5: Construction	7
Chapter 3: Methodology	8
3.1: Overview	8
3.2: Literature Review	8
3.3: Survey and Interviews	9
3.4: Results and Analysis	10
3.2: Conclusion and Recommendations	10
Chapter 4: Results and Analysis	11
4.1: Section A- Personal Information	11
4.2: Section B- Rankings	13
4.3: Section C- Statements	18
4.4: Interview	27
Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations	29
Appendix A: Questionnaire	31
Appendix B: Questionnaire Results	37
Appendix C: Tables	45
Appendix D: References	50