

STUDENT SELF-GOVERNMENT AS A FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

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Abstract. *An article about student self-government as a factor in the development of student leadership qualities.*

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Student government is a unique phenomenon that represents not only an organizational structure on a university campus, but also an important catalyst for the development of students' personal and professional skills. It is a dynamic and long-lived movement where students take initiative and responsibility for many aspects of their learning environment. Student government ranges from student councils and clubs to activist groups and projects, and has deep roots in the history of higher education.

Student self-government provides a unique platform for students to develop management, communication, initiative and leadership skills. It allows young people not only to learn by doing, but also to make a meaningful contribution to the educational process and the life of the university community.

In this article we will consider student self-government as a phenomenon that contributes to the development of student leadership qualities. We explore its history, role in modern education and impact on the personal and professional development of students. Together, we will uncover the unique aspects of this phenomenon and understand how students can use student government as a powerful tool to shape themselves as future leaders in various areas of society.

Definition of leadership qualities and their importance for students:

Leadership qualities are a set of specific characteristics and skills that enable a person to effectively lead, inspire, and influence others in achieving common goals. Leadership skills include, but are not limited to:

1. Vision and Determination: Leaders have a clear vision of the future and the ability to define strategic goals. They have a sense of purpose and the ability to mobilize others to achieve these goals.

2. Communication Ability: Leaders have excellent communication ability. They can express their ideas clearly and persuasively, and listen and interact effectively with others.

3. Empathy and understanding: Leaders understand the needs, interests and motivations of other people. They are able to show empathy and create a supportive environment for their team.

4. Decision Making: Leaders are capable of making complex decisions based on data analysis and thoughtful decisions. They are not afraid to take responsibility for the results of their decisions.

5. Time Management and Organization: Leaders effectively manage their time and resources to achieve their goals and objectives.

6. Adaptability and learning: Leaders are willing to change and learn. They are open to new ideas and strive for constant development.

The importance of leadership skills for students cannot be overestimated. The university experience provides a unique platform for students to develop these skills as it contributes to personal development and professional preparation. The importance of leadership skills for students includes:

Future Career: Leadership skills are often key to future career success. Employers value students who can lead teams, make decisions and inspire others.

Personal Development: Leadership development promotes the personal growth of students, helping them to become more confident, responsible and independent.

Community Engagement: Leadership skills make students more active and effective participants in university and community life, which in turn helps create more vibrant and inspiring communities.

Opportunities for Influence: Leaders can make meaningful contributions to the university environment, create change, and advance important initiatives.

As such, leadership development is a key part of the university experience and prepares students for successful future careers and life in general.

The role of student government in the formation of leadership qualities:

Student government plays a key and irreplaceable role in the development of leadership qualities in students. This unique environment provides students with the opportunity to not only theoretically study leadership, but also directly practice and develop these skills. Here are some ways student government builds leadership:

1. **Management and Leadership Experience:** Participation in student government provides students with real-world experience in managing organizations, teams, or projects. This allows them to learn how to make decisions, develop strategies, and coordinate the actions of others.

2. **Communication and interaction:** Students participating in self-government actively interact with other members of the organization, as well as with faculty, administration and external stakeholders. This experience develops effective communication skills, listening and consideration of different points of view.

3. **Taking Responsibility:** Student government often includes responsibility for financial management, event planning, and ensuring the success of the organization. This helps students realize the importance the ability to take responsibility for one's actions and decisions.

4. **Developing Empathy and Interpersonal Relationships:** Leaders in student government often encounter a variety of people and situations. This helps develop empathy and understanding of different cultures and perspectives, which is an important aspect of leadership skills.

5. **Problem and Conflict Resolution:** Managing student organizations may involve conflict resolution and problem solving. This helps students develop skills in conflict management, adaptation and decision-making in difficult situations.

6. **Participation in strategic planning:** Students participating in self-government can influence the development of their university environment through participation in strategic planning. This experience teaches students to see the big picture and develop long-term strategies.

Overall, student government provides a "laboratory" for students to develop and practice leadership skills. These experiences not only complement the curriculum, but also prepare students for future challenges and opportunities, regardless of their chosen field. It creates leaders who are able to create change and inspire others in education and beyond.

Student government has a rich history that dates back decades, if not centuries. This movement began as a response from students to unsatisfactory learning conditions and their desire to influence the learning process.

During the 19th century, students in Europe actively participated in protests and movements, expressing their social and political beliefs through student organizations. Over time, student government has become a structured part of university life, and student councils and associations have been established in many countries.

In the 20th century, student government became even more diverse and active. Over the years and in different countries, students have advocated for rights and freedoms, participated in civil rights movements, peaceful protests, and fought for social change.

With the development of information technology and international relations, student self-government has become a global phenomenon. Modern student organizations actively cooperate with other institutions and associations, hold international events and promote the exchange of experiences and ideas between students around the world.

It is important to note that the history of student government demonstrates its role in developing leadership qualities in students. It provides students with unique opportunities to participate in the management of organizations, conflict resolution, strategy development and teamwork - all integral parts of the process of becoming leaders.

A case study of successful leaders who began their journey through student government highlights the importance of this experience and its impact on career success and contribution to society. Here are some examples of outstanding leaders who began their journey in student government:

Shavkat Mirziyayev: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. After graduating from the Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Land Reclamation, he remained at his native institute, and from 1981 to 1992 he worked first as a junior researcher, then received a candidate of technical sciences, becoming one of the youngest scientists of the institute. In the last years of work at the institute, he served as the first vice-rector of the institute.

Barack Obama: President of the United States from 2009 to 2017, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Obama was active in student government at Harvard University, where he led the Harvard Law Review student organization.

Angela Merkel: Former German Chancellor and one of the most powerful women in the world. In her youth she was an active student and joined the social democratic student organization at the University of Leipzig.

David Cameron: Former British Prime Minister. Cameron was chairman of the students' association at his university, Oxford.

Benazir Bhutto: Former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the first female Prime Minister in the Muslim world. She was an active participant in political discussions and movements while studying at Harvard University.

These examples demonstrate that student government can be a starting point for future leaders, regardless of their field. These experiences develop leadership skills, teach team management and strategy, and help build the foundation for future achievements in politics, business, the arts, and other fields. Stories like these motivate students to participate in student government and strive for leadership.

Consideration of the mechanisms and methods used by students within the framework of self-government to develop leadership skills allows us to identify specific strategies and approaches that contribute to the formation of these important skills. Here are some key methods and mechanisms used by students:

Participation in Student Bodies and Clubs: Students can join student councils, associations and clubs where they can hold various positions, organize events and manage budgets. This experience develops management and coordination skills.

Event Planning and Implementation: Organizing and executing events such as conferences, festivals and charity events requires students to develop strategy, manage resources and teams, and solve problems as they arise.

Participation in Discussion and Debate: Participation in student debate and debate on a variety of topics helps develop skills in argumentation, public speaking, and persuasion.

Volunteering and Community Service: Participation in volunteer organizations and projects allows students to work with a variety of people and community issues while developing empathy and problem-solving skills.

Education and Training: Students can participate in training and education programs specifically designed to develop leadership skills. This may include leadership workshops, communication and time management training.

Self-Reflection and Feedback: Self-reflection and receiving feedback from peers and mentors helps students evaluate their professional growth and identify areas for improvement. All these methods and mechanisms complement the curriculum and allow students to actively apply theoretical knowledge in practice. They contribute to the formation of sustainable leadership skills that will be useful to students not only at university, but also in their future careers and social activities.

Participation in student government provides students with a number of significant advantages:

Development of Leadership Skills: Students gain experience in managing organizations and projects, develop decision-making, communication and coordination skills that contribute to their leadership.

Practical Experience: Participation in self-management allows students to apply theoretical knowledge into practice and develop skills needed in their future careers.

Building Professional Networks: Students can make valuable connections with peers, mentors, and professionals in their field through participation in events and projects.

Increased self-confidence: Participation in self-management promotes the development of self-confidence and confidence in one's abilities.

Social Impact: Students can influence the university environment, create change and promote important initiatives.

Development of creativity: Solving various problems in self-government develops creative thinking and the ability to find innovative solutions.

Resume Improvement: Participation in student government enhances a student's resume and makes it more attractive to employers.

Personal Growth: Students develop personal skills such as time management, adapting to change, and teamwork.

Overall, student government provides students with unique opportunities for personal and professional growth, as well as for active participation in the life of the university and society.

Summing up and identifying recommendations for students who want to actively participate in student government in order to develop leadership qualities:

Results:

Value of Experience: Participation in student government provides valuable experience that develops leadership skills and promotes professional and personal growth.

Enriching learning: Self-management complements the curriculum by allowing students to apply knowledge in practice and understand it in a broader context.

Social Connections: Participating in self-management facilitates the development of useful connections with peers and mentors, which can be valuable in a future career.

Personal Development: Students develop skills in self-confidence, time management and interpersonal relationships.

Recommendations:

Planning: Develop a plan that will help you balance your studies, self-management, and personal life. Consider time constraints and prioritize tasks.

Adapting to Challenges: Prepare for the challenges and conflicts that may arise during self-government. Develop dispute resolution and stress handling skills.

Networking: Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with peers and professionals in your field through self-management. This may be useful for your future career.

Feedback: Actively seek feedback from peers and mentors to continually improve your skills and approaches.

Set Goals: Determine what specific leadership skills you want to develop and set yourself clear goals in that direction.

Learn from mistakes: Remember that failures and mistakes are part of the process. Learn from them and use them to grow.

Support and balance: Seek professional advice or mentors if you need help developing leadership skills or managing challenges.

Participating in student government is a valuable and unique experience that can greatly impact your future. Balance, self-reflection, and continuous improvement will help you make the most of this experience to develop your leadership skills and achieve success.

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