

# Qualities of a School Head

The Headmaster, as the educational leader holds the key position in the school. As an important component of the school, he has two important responsibilities: the administration of the school and the supervision of the personnel involved in the teaching-learning process. Everything in the school, the plant, the staff, the curriculum, methods and techniques of teaching, co-curricular activities etc. is organised by him.

The efficiency of the school depends on the ability and skill personality and professional competence of the Headmaster. He may be described as the 'Sun around which the educational planets revolve'. In the words of P.C, Wren, "What the main spring is to the watch, the flywheel to the machine or the engine to the steamship, the headmaster is to the school".

The character of the school reflects and proclaims the professional character of the head master. 'He is the seal and the school is the wax'. The character of the school reflects and proclaims the professional character of the Headmaster. Some schools in England are still named after their refuted headmasters, e.g., Harrow's School, Rugby School etc. He is the "organizer, leader, governor, business director, coordinator, superintendent, example teacher, guide, philosopher and friend." Since he controls the administration and supervision duties, the headmaster must possess certain qualities.

## **Desirable qualities of the Headmaster**

The Headmaster, as the leader must have the ability to organize and assist the faculty in formulating a programme, for the improvement of instruction in the school. He must inspire the teachers, secure their cooperation in developing the supervisory programme and stimulate them for their active participation.

The Headmaster should be enthusiastic and should work for the development of the school. He should have vision, initiative, originality, self-reliance and confidence. He should have qualities like sincerity, frankness and genuineness.

To solve the problems of differences of opinion concerning methods, procedures or other aspects of the programme, he should possess such qualities as self-control, fair-mindedness, fact, adaptability, sound judgement, open-mindedness and resourcefulness. He should respect the opinions of others.

Qualities like a sense of humor, sense of vocation, integrity, scientific attitude, and friendliness are also to be developed in the headmaster. He should avoid peculiar mannerisms. He should allow freedom to the leaders, treat them sympathetically and respect their personality.

He must have superior mental abilities, intelligence, deep intuition and logical reasoning. All teachers should be loyal to him and must look to him for guidance, counsel and inspiration. He should be a man of high moral character.

In the aspects of Physical and Mental Health, a head teacher should have a sound mind in a sound body- a balanced diet, supply of vitamins, adequate intake of water, eliminations of waste products, exercise and healthy living....sound attitude towards life, unlimited faith in himself and his Creator.

He should also possess General Scholarship to be able to understand human situation to inspire the staff with words of wisdom, to enjoy high esteem and reputations, to be in a position to make valuable suggestions on all matters of life and maintain interest and leadership in academic sphere.

Professionally, School Head is expected to be a good teacher first setting good examples in teaching and delivering exemplary lessons. He must be able to impress others that he knows his job.

His Superior mental ability should be characterised by sound judgment, deep intuition and logical reasoning.

He should have faith in humanism. He should try to humanize the de-humanized individuals working in the system. The school organization should be such, as will fulfill its proper function i.e., "Education of the whole man" through its programmes.

It is only with extraordinary traits as mentioned above that headmaster can justify his position as the head by leadership as opposed to head by appointment. Qualities of a headmaster in the words of Ryburn, "It is essential, therefore, that he be not only a man of high character, but also that he be a man of faith, in his vocation, faith in his pupils, faith in human nature and faith in his staff." A man, who is not definitely superior in all these respects should forego his supervisory responsibility as he happens to be the keystone of the educational arch. If he does not possess these qualities, the structure of education will fail down like a house of cards.