<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-gvE7MGIBw>

**The Indian Tree**

**Leadership**

Leadership is everyone’s business.

This video was chosen because it really shows the essence of leadership. It contains all the aspects that are needed to be successful. This video helps you look at problems in a different way, a more positive and productive way.

At the beginning of this video, you see traffic, people arguing, and you notice the weather is somewhat humid. And what could make it any worse? A huge log blocking the road. You notice that people are angry, and a young lady even mentions, “I hate this country.” People are late for work and to school; however, they aren’t doing anything about the log. Some of them found their solution, and that is leaving their car and going into another car on the other side of the log.

Hence, the people are trying to get over the log rather than doing something about it.

Then a small kid, who seems to you to be clueless about the complications of life, wandered through the cars and arrived at the log. And that is when leadership boomed out of him. He wanted to do nothing except move the log.

Seeing him, people wanted to help him, but soon realized they were actually helping themselves. And as one, they moved the log.

An advice from a fellow prefect to another is to not look at the problem, but rather at the solution. And by doing so, you’re on the path of leadership.

In this video, we noticed 5 characteristics that the child possessed that we can learn from and implement in our daily life:

* **Taking the initiative:**  The small kid in the video represents a little spark that is needed to launch an action that results in a big difference. For example, coming up with an event in the SLO may be a challenge to most of us. Planning, managing, recruiting & committing are needed to make any event successful. However, any of these steps might be hard to accomplish, but all we need is that little spark. That small amount of strength the small child possessed made the transition from a dull, weak, and negatively thinking people to a bunch of strong, determined, and positively thinking people. All it takes is a step forward to make a difference. Let us think of it this way: wake up in the morning with a positive mood, and with a sparkle of insistence to make a change; as we can see in the video the child was in the school bus, looking from the window at the log which seemed huge to him; however, he did not consider it an unsurmountable hurdle, and he headed towards it determined that he can remove it by himself. The child did not care about the size factor between him and the log, he only had one goal that morning which was going to school, and he did not allow that huge tree to prevent him from going to school.

Always be that tiny spark and always try to perform that first step towards your goal, and you will notice that the remaining steps are easy relative to the first one.

* **Being a leader:** We realize that in this video there was one leader, and he was the little kid, who was the most disadvantaged because of his age. The kid headed towards the tree log and started pushing it with all the strength that he had; however, he couldn’t remove the log. But how was he a leader? This little kid managed to gather a large group of people without even talking. This kid did something that most of the people in the video, and society in general, were not willing to do. His determination and insistence on moving the log forced the people around him to work together and solve a problem in a world that is filled with problems that seem impossible to solve. In the SLO, some prefects might feel that they lack leadership skills and that they lack the ability to be responsible of a team of fellow students; however, each and every student in the SLO in a certain position or with a certain task to do should possess leadership skills. Being a leader is not about bossing around nor shouting out instructions, on the contrary, a leader must be part of the team, and must encourage others to take their own initiatives.

Leadership comes in different forms and at all times. There are leadership opportunities around all of us every single day. The challenge is to keep our eyes open, to find them and take action.

* **Teamwork:**  The SLO is like a human body, where each department represents different organs. These organs keep the body alive, as long as they function together. Each member of the team takes a part in ensuring the efficiency of the whole. A successful event is the result of the effective interaction between all the members of the team. These members work together dynamically; they have a shared past and a foreseeable shared future. Their main goal is to make an event successful or to complete an assigned task properly. And this is one of the main aspects of the video, as all the people gathered together and tried to move the log, and eventually after being a team they managed to get rid of the log.

One of the assigned tasks was the “On Demand Tutoring Project”, and it was a kind of a challenge to us; however, we distributed responsibilities amongst us, and came to a final result. This project was accomplished successfully, because we all worked as a team and never gave up. We got engaged to the idea that after each fall there is a rise, and this ensured our persistence in the task. We planned our steps properly and worked them out appropriately to complete the complex task.

* **Believe and think positive:** Getting rid of the log couldn’t be achieved without believing that it is possible. The small kid in the video was fixed to the idea of getting rid of the log and despite of his age and his size relative to the log, he believed that he can remove it. He decided to take action, while the bus driver was waiting for a miracle to happen, and try his best in moving the log. This is our job in the SLO; we shouldn’t waste time, and we should use every chance we get to benefit from it and obtain a successful result. Believing is accompanied with thinking positively.When we think positively about a task, we get more engaged to it and more enthusiastic towards accomplishing it. Always look at the glass as half-full and not half-empty, be happy of what you have in hand in order to use it for future benefits. When you think positive about something you get a wider view of it. Positive thinking is not about ignoring life’s less pleasant situations; however, it is approaching the unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way. Besides if you’re not making mistakes, then you are not doing anything. Always think that the best is yet to come.

“*Things don’t happen to you; they happen for you” – Byron Katie*

* **Make a difference:** Here we come to the last characteristic that the small kid possessed, and that is making a difference. What would have happened if the small kid stayed on the bus and waited for this miracle to happen, or at least for someone else to move the log? Nothing. The ones in authority were unable to do anything, and so the people could have waited in their cars all day as this log controlled their path in life. But what really happened changed the course of the day completely; the kid managed to make a difference in people’s lives. Not only did he manage to inspire others to help him move the log, but also he inspired people to take action in their life and to take a first step towards solving a problem that seems impossible. This is very essential in the SLO, and more importantly in one’s life. There are many people out there that can’t even afford one blanket; however, when you decide to genuinely give them blankets and pajamas, no matter how small the gesture, you would be making a huge difference in their life, and also you would be forever engraved in their heart. Sometimes a small action can result in a massive change. It is not enough to make a difference in other people’s life, but also this difference should start from within you. How do you expect to make a difference if you don’t take the initiative, or be a leader, or encourage teamwork, or believe in yourself? You should make a difference in you first, and that is what will make a difference in the people around you later.

As we have seen, the video represents a typical harsh day that we might face in our life, but the question is: are we going to solve it using these characteristics that the kid had in the video? Well we should because by that we will make a difference in our lives and in others’ lives. Always remember that by working hard and by being patient and by believing in yourself and in what you are doing, then the end result will be a productive and successful one.