

Soka University

Music & Human Connection: Leadership for Human Relationship

The 6th AURS Poster Session - November 2021

Problem Statement

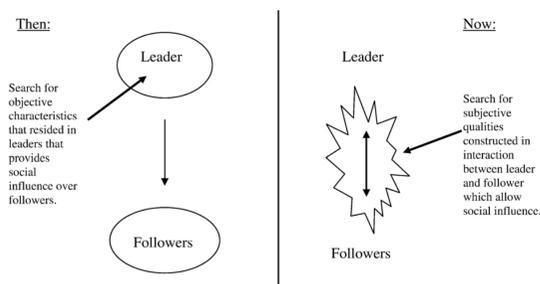
- Impact of Natural Disaster → COVID-19
 - The suicide rate increased about 20% in Japan
- Loneliness → increasing number of suicides and drug overdose
 - In the West: 76% of adult Californians
 - In the East: 21% of adult Chinese

Research Questions

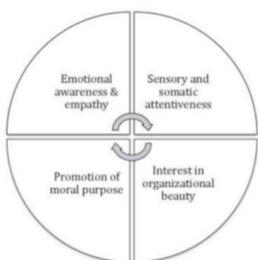
1. What is the impact of music learning experiences on the development of leadership traits?
2. What is the role of leadership in the process of utilizing music for human connection?
3. How does playing music foster aesthetic leaders?

Pedagogical Approach

Following an **Aesthetic Leadership approach that uses the 5 human senses in decision making: listening, vision, touch, taste, and feeling.**



Hansen, H., Ropo, A. & Sauer, E. (2007). Aesthetic leadership. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 18(6), 544-560. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.leaqua.2007.09.003>.



Katz-Buonincontro, J. (2011). How might aesthetic knowing relate to leadership? A review of the literature. *International Journal of Education & the Arts*, 12(SI 1.3). Retrieved from <http://www.ijea.org/v12si1/>

KEY ELEMENTS

Music Learning

Human Relationship

Leadership Traits

Case Study on Leadership, Music, and Human Connection

- **Case Study:** Exploratory/Qualitative
- **Theory:** Aesthetic Leadership Lens
- **Subjects:** Two male orchestra conductors from the United States and Malaysia.
- **Data Collection:** Online Interview
- **Key Findings**
 1. Music Cultivates Community Bonding
 2. Cultivation of humanistic Meaning
 3. Aesthetic People Skills

Results

This case study examined the contribution of the arts, particularly music to human relationship/interaction activities, and how leadership matters in that field. This study seeks to analyze how music is utilized as a means of promoting human interaction and relationships, and its connection to leadership. What leadership skills are perceived as effective to achieve a community of strong human bonding?

Findings

1. Music cultivates **Community Bonding**. Music is a platform for connection and allow individuals heart to heart connection. The human connection created by a common purpose.
2. Cultivation of **Humanistic Meaning** that pulls peoples together. The leader are the visionary and influencer, play music with purpose.
3. **Aesthetic People Skills** including trust, mutual respect, and deep listening leads to empowerment.

“We are not just playing music, we are more like friends talking about life, knowing each other’s dilemmas, and understanding each other through personal storytelling.. Then we input this kind of feeling and stories into the music.”

Malaysian Conductor

Discussion

Global crisis and results-seeking capitalist society had presented the necessity of a new leadership mindset to meet the sense of human demand.

The current society needs **sensitive leaders** that engage themselves in reconnecting the separating and isolating human community.

- ❖ **Mindfulness leader** that understand the message not through logical thinking but human senses. Concentration on the presence with a purpose and deep intellectual dialogue.;
- ❖ **Positive Change** by trust and meaning making. Turning music into storytelling, to tell the story of humanity and not ignoring those who are suffering;
- ❖ **Aesthetic leader** that are flexible and sensible. Using the aesthetic skills to earn the respect of the follower and guides them towards the common goals

“Players are the ones who were humanist... it was the heart to heart communication from conductor to the player and to the singer that eventually people enjoyed. People enjoyed it because there was something more than just the technique.”

United States Conductor

"Music brings many different moments in...the audience, moments that each person can reflect on... It brings forth the memories and pulls out the empathy of the listener with the player, reconnecting the people's heart."

Hancock, Ikeda, & Shorter, 2017

References

1. Csikszentmihalyi, M. (1991). *Flow: The psychology of optimal experience*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.
2. Hancock, H., Ikeda, D., & Shorter, W. (2017). *Reaching Beyond: improvisations on jazz, Buddhism, and a joyful life*. CA: World Tribune Press.
3. Hansen, H., Ropo, A. & Sauer, E. (2007). Aesthetic leadership. *The Leadership Quarterly*, 18(6), 544-560. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.leaqua.2007.09.003>.
4. Katz-Buonincontro, J. (2011). How might aesthetic knowing relate to leadership? A review of the literature. *International Journal of Education & the Arts*, 12(SI 1.3). Retrieved from <http://www.ijea.org/v12si1/>
5. Zolfani, S. H., Maknoon, R., & Juzefovic, A. (2017). Leadership, music and creative society: A philosophical analysis of possible future. *Filosofija Sociologija*, 1, 20-28. Retrieved from <https://www.cceol.com/search/article-detail?id=525393>.