

Differences and Similarities of Civilian and Military in Leadership and Management

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## Differences and Similarities of Civilian and Military in Leadership and Management

Leadership is the process of influencing people of a given setting to accomplish a predetermined task. For efficient management of the people, good leaders should have qualities such as an ability to understand their group members' needs, excellent communication skills, quick thinker, and ability to motivate others. Leadership is essential in the management of the general public and the military personnel. Civil leadership entails exercising influence on civilians by elected leaders, whereas military leadership entirely concerns with the management of a country's armed forces by appointed commanding officer. These leadership areas have not only similar in some areas but also have distinct practices depending on the mode of operation. The paper seeks to discuss the similarity and the differences between Civilian and Military in leadership and management.

There exists a high correlation in leadership and management between civil and military. To start with in both cases, managers use their leadership skills to inspire the people under them to accomplish required assignments. To achieve the mentioned tasks, managers often use charisma to influence their subordinates to have a shared vision that would enable them to achieve the set goals as a team (Sarikumar, 2012). In doing so, tasks are owned and, therefore, their implementation becomes easier and simpler.

Another relationship between civilian and military is that in both cases there is an overall leader charged with the responsibility of providing the direction in so far as the attainment of objectives is concerned. These leaders are accountable to the institutions that give them the mandate to instill leadership and manage affairs on behalf of the masses. For instance, the chief of the defense force of any particular country is solely responsible for actions and military engagements. The office bearer is accountable for such actions to the appointing authority

(Sasikumar, 2012). Similarly, a president presides over the management of the resources of a country and is, therefore, accountable to the citizens on the economic progress of their country.

On the other hand, there is a distinction between civilian and military leadership. In the military, orders given are not questioned by any other person other than the person issuing them. This means subordinates are expected to implement the given rules as per the letter. It is important to mention that questioning of orders would amount to insubordination. On the side of civilian leadership, decisions are subjected to questions and criticisms before implementation is done (Cairney, 2011). There is no punishment that is meted out to those who question the motivation behind the making of the said decisions.

Respect is also a characteristic feature of distinction in the two types of leadership. In the military respect is accorded to the rank from where the decision originates. Subordinates appreciate positions rather than the individual leadership character. But in the civilian leadership, there is respect for both the person and the rank (Cairney, 2011). However, for such respect to be earned, the leaders must be a person of high integrity.

From the discussion, it is clear that both civilian and military leaderships have both similarities and differences. In both cases, there is an overall leader who uses his/her leadership skills to influence people in attaining set objectives. In military leadership, there is total respect for the rank and no individual is expected to question the given orders, but with the civilian leadership there is respect both to the position and the rank. Also, in this leadership, questioning of decision is commonplace.

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