

Leadership role in COVID-19 Crisis: Narendra Modi

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ABSTRACT:

A leader is a person who influences a group of people to work for a common goal. Also, the leader has a greater vision of improvement and success while putting people first. The test of leadership doesn't happen when everything is smooth, rather leadership is tested in times of crisis. The current crisis of coronavirus pandemic has placed extraordinary pressure on business leaders and beyond. In this time of crisis leaders of various countries have played showcased their political leadership with certain leadership roles for the survival of their nation and their countries' citizen. According to Morrell & Hartley's Model of political leadership. Political leader poses various roles, responsibilities, and has certain KSAs- Knowledge, skills, and attitudes. It is in the most stressful moments that leaders are most important. In a crisis like the current COVID-19 pandemic, others look to their leaders for answers, for a calm mind and a strong perspective.

Key- Leadership, Leadership Role, COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION:

A leader is a person who influences a group of people to work for a common goal. Also, the leader has a greater vision of improvement and success while putting people first. A great leader possesses some qualities like he should be a motivator (channel others energy and uplift their potential), should be empathetic (putting himself in others place and understanding their concerns), should have a creative imagination to compete with the global market, thoroughness to listen to his people and understand their need (provide them with necessary time and resources), team building spirit (trusting his workmates), he should always be looking for opportunity and have the courage to take risks and also should have an ability for constant improvement in work with a positive attitude. The leader believes that:

“You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things.”

-Mother Teresa

Any individual with a set of skills and ability assume to have leadership quality. Leadership can vary in different styles for example: transformational (identifies needed change), transactional (promotes rewards and punishments), laissez-faire (allow others to make a decision), charismatic (motivates others to get things done), situational (change style as per need of time), democratic (have participative and supportive nature), etc. Generally, leaders follow a few steps for improvement, 1. They try to understand and interpret the environment in which they operate, 2. They develop the winning strategies, 3. Execute the strategies brilliantly, 4. Measure the impact of the strategies systemically and adjust or change the strategies according to the requirement. These potential qualities, styles, steps get flourish at the time of crisis by the leader.

LEADERSHIP ROLE IN TIME OF CRISIS

The test of leadership doesn't happen when everything is smooth, rather leadership is tested in times of crisis. The current crisis of coronavirus pandemic has placed extraordinary pressure on business leaders and beyond. The roles and responsibilities of business leaders have dramatically changed in the past few months. In support of it, Mckinsey Company stated a few ways to smooth things down. All leaders should respond to this crisis as a team by communicating effectively with their teammates and showing empathy to them should be the priority. A crisis like COVID-19 is monitored by unfamiliarity and uncertainty has gained the attention of all the global leaders. The political leaders of different countries have come together to fight against this crisis. They are playing different leadership roles and responsibilities like executive role with key decision-making responsibilities, scrutiny as role investigating broad policy responsibilities, regulatory role, and advocacy role as shown in figure 1(model by Morrell & Hartley,2003) to keep their countries safe and every sector working.

TIMELINES FOR CORONA IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

On 31st Dec 2019, Chinese authorities alerted the world health organization about the case in Wuhan city, China with an unknown cause. On 3rd Jan 2020, China reported 44 suspected patients with the mystery disease. On 7th Jan 2020, China found the cause of the mystery and identifies a new coronavirus. 9th Jan 2020 China reports 1st death linked with a new virus named 2019-nCoV.

A 61-year-old male was admitted to a hospital in Wuhan. *13th Jan 2020* Thailand reports the first case of 2019-nCoV. *15th Jan 2020* China reports second death linked to 2019-nCoV, a 69-year-old male. *16th Jan 2020* Japan reported another imported case of 2019-nCoV. *20th Jan 2020* South Korea confirms its first case, the patient did not report to visit Wuhan. *21st Jan 2020* World Health Organization (WHO) confirms human to human transmission of the virus. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called an emergency committee to decide whether this virus a public health emergency of international concern. *24th Jan 2020* Japan and U.S each confirms the second 2019-nCoV cases while Nepal confirms the first case in the country. *Jan 25th, 2020* Australia, France, Europe Canada confirms with positive cases. *30th Jan 2020*, WHO- declares the outbreak of a public health emergency of international concern. *11th Feb 2020*, WHO- assigns the novel coronavirus its official name: COVID-19. WHO- Direction calls the outbreak a threat to the world. WHO also says a vaccine could be available in an estimated 18 months. *March 2nd, 2020*, The Union Health ministry (India) reported two cases of males in Delhi who traveled back from Italy and UAE. *11th March 2020*, WHO- declares coronavirus a pandemic, WHO- Director said that they are deeply concerned by the alarming levels of spread and severity of this virus. This COVID-19 virus has spread globally at a huge speed till date *3rd July 2020* the total number of cases globally are 10,871,362 and 521,289 deaths. The mysterious disease was first referred to as 2019-nCoV and then named COVID-19. World health organization and other country leaders have taken some initiative and adapted several strategies to fight against this pandemic time.

The United States leaders have used the term SAFER for their plan of action to secure the world from COVID-19: S stands for scale-up community approaches, which works to slow down the speed and spread of COVID-19. It includes the support to families and communities to safely deal with an expected large number of deaths, set up community facilities for the isolation of mild and moderate cases of illness or establish COVID-19 and empower individual families and communities through health literacy to take responsibility for their health. A stands for address critical needs of health care facilities which include assisting hospitals, clinic, and health networks and assisting health care workers on scaled-up infection prevention and control strategies during a public health emergency. F stands for find, investigate and respond to COVID-19 cases through expanded disease surveillance and detection, its role is to increase laboratory capacity to test for SARS-CoV-2(the virus causing COVID-19), to provide supporting cases tracing them by the contact in-country digital network and identifying the risks for COVID-19 then evaluate the impact

of preventive or protective interventions. E stands for employ strategies to address second-order impacts for economic, security and stabilization it includes providing support for wash, food security, protection and security of children, orphans, displaces personal, basic health care. R stands for ready plans for the deployment of therapeutics and vaccines, diagnostics, and devices it includes the development of preposition and support research protocols for investigational therapeutics and vaccines.

The World Health Organization has also suggested a global strategy to respond to COVID-19, first mobilize all sectors and communities to ensure that every sector of government and society took ownership of participation, responding, and prevention in cases through hand hygiene and individual physical distancing. Second control cases by finding and isolating them with appropriate care, quarantining, and supporting all contacts. Third, suppress population-level physical distancing and proper restriction on non-essential domestic and international travel. Forth reduce mortality by providing proper clinical care for those who are affected by COVID-19. Fifth develop safety and provide effective vaccines and therapeutics as per need.

CORONA- THE INDIA STORY

Since the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak in China, the first case of coronavirus in India, the second most populated country in the world, was reported in the state of Kerala. New confirmed cases are being reported in multiple cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Patna, etc. Thousands of suspected cases have been tested resulting in more than 2000 confirmed coronavirus cases in India. The regions with the highest number of cases include Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.

Two cases were reported in Nagpur, Maharashtra on 13 march. An employee of Google in Bangalore tested positive on 13 march, while a Covid-19 positive case was confirmed in Noida on the same. The first death due to coronavirus in India was reported in Karnataka on 2 march. India has witnessed a surge in confirmed coronavirus cases after people who attend the Tablighi Jamaat religious congregation at Nizamuddin Markaz in Delhi started testing positive for the virus. Held in mid-march, the meeting estimated to have been attended by more than 5000 members including foreigners.

Covid-19 situation states wise, In Punjab initially, two out of three Italians who arrived in Hoshiarpur in Punjab tested positive in a preliminary test conducted at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi according to the Hindustan Times. According to covid19india current database there are confirmed 1, 47,665 cases out of which 6,843 active, 1, 36,178 have recovered and 4,653 died in Punjab. Maharashtra recorded some of the highest cases of Covid-19 in Pune and Mumbai. The first infected in Pune was a couple who returned from Dubai. They were admitted to the Naidu infectious disease hospital for treatment. Looking at the current scenario of Maharashtra there are confirmed 17, 89,800 cases, 83,221 active cases, 16, 58,879 recovered cases, 46,683 deaths, and around 1, 03, 66,579 people are tested. A Delhite with a travel history to Thailand and Malaysia was tested Covid-19 positive on 6 March. An employee of Paytm in Gurugram tested positive for coronavirus after returning from Italy. The crew of the air India flight that carried the infection in New Delhi was asked to self-isolate at their homes for 14 days. The government has set up a task force to monitor and control the Delhi coronavirus situation. The Nizamuddin west and Dilshad Garden areas in Delhi have witnessed a surge in cases. But the current situation is shocking in Delhi around 5, 40,541 are confirmed cases: 38,501 active cases: 4, 93,419 are recovered cases, 8,621 are deaths, and approximately 59, 14,659 are tested. Looking at the situation of Uttar Pradesh, Noida and Meerut have registered a large number of confirmed cases in the state. The majority of the cases in Noida were linked to Private Company, while some of the cases in Meerut were linked to the family of a man who recently returned from Maharashtra. In total 5, 31,050 cases are confirmed, 23,928 cases are active, 4, 99,507 patients recovered, 7,615 died and around 1, 82, 92,171 people are tested.

The Indian government was taken several measures to stop Coronavirus. They have announced a stimulus package to provide wheat, rice, and pulses free of cost to approximately 800 low-income families. Provide cooking gas cylinders to 83 million poor families and a \$13.21 cash transfer to 30 million senior citizens, \$6.65 per month to approximately 200 million poor women. Medical insurance worth five million rupees will be provided for healthcare workers including doctors, nurses, and paramedics. The Indian government arranged for the evacuation of 324 Indian citizens from Wuhan in special Air India and were placed under quarantine for 14 days and several other flights send to places like Maldivian where the Indian citizens were stuck. India also announced the cancellation of existing e-visas and advised Indians to avoid travel. The government has started the thermal screening at all airports, seaports, metro, railways, and land borders. But still, the cases

of Covid-19 in India are continuously increasing. According to the current data provided by the covid19india organization website, there are approximately 92,23,035 cases, 4,43,801, 86,41,405, 1,34,743 deaths and around 13,48,41,307 Indian citizens are tested.

In this time of crisis leaders of various countries have played showcased their political leadership with certain leadership roles for the survival of their nation and their countries' citizen.

Political leadership is a concept of control to understand political processes and outcomes. They can be defined as democratically elected, representatives who are vulnerable to selection and operate within as well as influence a constitutional and legal framework. Their source authority is to mandate permission to govern according to declared policies (Chamber dictionary 1993).

LEADERSHIP ROLE

According to Morrell & Hartley's Model of political leadership (2006). Political leader poses various roles, responsibilities, and has certain KSAs- Knowledge, skills, attitudes (Refer to Table-1). In this pandemic time, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi demonstrated various leadership roles in each lockdown period (Refer Table 1).

Table 1- PM Modi Leadership role in India's Lockdown

Lockdown	Role	Responsibility	KSAs	Example
1	Executive	Key decision-makers, the heart of the political body	The delegation, information processing, persuading, Influencing, 'Gets things done	• Janata Curfew for 21 days • Lakshman Rekha at the doorstep. Creativity showing it by picture koi road pe na nikle • Making Provisions to provide essential smoothly • Requesting from citizens to pray for the wellbeing of doctors, nurses, media, and the policeman. • Working according to WHO advice • Boosting the no. of corona testing facilities, personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation beds, ICU beds, ventilators, and other medical facilities.
2	Advocacy	Responsibility of all	Listening, advising, facilitating, research	• Praised citizens for patience, restraint, and sacrifice.

		politicians to their electorate	Interested in people, service ethos	• Advised to work collectively by giving an example of the Indian Constitution “We, the people of India”. • Asked to follow rules like following the instructions given by Ayush ministry to enhance immunity by consuming warm water and kadha, social distancing, arogya setu app mandatory, take care of poor families and elderly people and pay utmost respect to Corona Warriors.
3.	Scrutiny	Investigate broad policy, challenge and examine decisions, review	Meeting skills, research, influencing critical questioning	• Point by point plan was explained, what the government is planning in a time of crisis. • Economic activities and help the government is doing for the needy. • Meeting with all CMs of the country. • Indian Doctor’s research was shared.
4	Regulatory	Weighing and determining applications and appeals; direct regulation	Representation, research, judgment Analytical skills, care, attention	• Talking about Self Reliant India with help of 5 pillars- economy, infrastructure, our system, demography, and demand. • AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

It is in the most stressful moments that leaders are most important. In a crisis like the current COVID-19 pandemic, others look to their leaders for answers, for a calm mind and a strong perspective. They want to hear they’re part of something larger than themselves, that you have their back, that we’re all for one and one for all, and that we will help each other get through the crisis and potentially become stronger for it.

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