

3.3. Myths about Leadership

Myth 1. Anyone can become a leader.

Not true. Many leaders do not know themselves well and put on many unnecessary masks, while effective leadership requires quite the opposite. You need to understand yourself and behave naturally, but that is not all. You have to genuinely want to be a leader, whereas many talented employees are not interested in taking on that responsibility. Some people prefer to spend more time on their personal life rather than their career.

Myth 2: Leaders achieve amazing financial results.

Not always. If financial performance was always linked to competent leadership, recruiting people for leadership positions would not be difficult. In quasi-monopoly industries, firms often achieve significant success through the sound policies of skilled managers rather than through the abilities of outstanding leaders. Similarly, many businesses run by professional leaders do not necessarily perform spectacularly well, especially in the short term.

Myth 3. Leaders are people in high positions.

They don't have to be. This is one of the most persistent misconceptions - that people in leadership positions are leaders. A person can reach the top of the ladder through political flexibility, not necessarily because of the qualities of a true leader. Moreover, true leaders can be found at all levels of management, from top managers to laborers.

Myth 4: Leaders are excellent teachers.

Rarely. It is possible that we have both a great leader and an outstanding teacher in one person, but this is rare. Typical high-caliber leaders have the basic virtue of being able to inspire their supporters with an appealing image of the future, rather than with their pedagogical talents.