



THE DYNAMICS OF TEAMWORK

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The world we live in was designed to be social. We live, eat, breathe and work with many other people around us. We might not do things in exactly the same way, but we share the same environment and even the same ideologies with others.

Working within a team is great. One gets to participate in a group effort, expending time and energy towards the realization of a common objective. It allows every team member to contribute to a singular goal, no matter how infinitesimal the contribution may be.

There's always safety in numbers. One wouldn't have to carry all the blame should anything go wrong. It's a lot of fun, to say the least, to exchange ideas and do brainstorming. Frankly speaking, brainstorming when one is alone is just plain profound thinking. Whatever ideas you throw around are just your own. Brainstorming with a group of people brings out novel ideas that are not necessarily one's own. That's definitely more interesting.

According to <http://www.team-building-bonanza.com/history-of-teamwork.html>, the very concept of teamwork dates back 80 years ago (probably more than that, considering the time the article was filed), and began from simple experiments primarily targeted for studying the association that exists between two factors: work output and how things are in the workplace. The said experiments gave many conclusions, one of the most essential of which was, "worker productivity increased with the psychological stimulus of being shown individual attention, feeling involved, and being made to feel important."

This just goes to show that individuals have a greater proclivity to perform better when they know that they are involved in a common purpose, a goal, a key result area if you will. We feel that we can contribute to a group and are thus encouraged to participate in any way we can, no matter how small our role may be. But the key to effective teamwork is an effective leader, one who can incite interest in a project, get everyone involved and make every member feel important. Without a motivational leader to head a group, the team will crumble. Cut off the head, and the body will die--or flounder, if we take Dean Winchester's word in Supernatural Season 7 Episode 22. But getting back....a team will only be as strong as its leader.

As we go about our work within our own teams, let us remember that the strength of our team also lies within each of us. The direction and control may be delegated to a select few, but the cooperation we give counts a whole lot in our team's success. Let us shine in our own way with the team's objective firmly in our minds. Then, we can proudly declare that we have worked with the best team there is!

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Define teamwork.
2. Do you currently belong to a team, club, or organization? Was joining the group of your own choosing? If yes, what made you decide to be part of that group?
3. What do you like about your team? Be as specific as you want.
4. What are the advantages of being a member of any team? Are there any disadvantages?
5. Is there any other team/group that you'd like to be a member of? Why would you want to be part of that team?