

# ADVANCING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

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## Preface

Advancing Women in Leadership On-line Journal was launched in 1997 with the intent of publishing manuscripts that report, synthesize, review, or analyze scholarly inquiry that focuses on women's issues. The intent of this journal is to encourage and support the proliferation of women in positions of leadership in all aspects of professional and corporate America. In the encouragement of advancing women in leadership, we present the following manuscripts. They are:

Women Faculty in Higher Education: Impeded by Academe by Dr. Dana E. Christman

Working Against the Grain: Rewards and Consequences of Developing a Personal Voice in Academia by Dr. Pamela LePage and Dr. Gretchen Givens-Generett

Creating Space for Subjectivity: Wandering Discourses of Female/Teacher by Dr. Donna K. Phillips and Dr. J.Camille Cammack.

Magazines: What Adolescent Girls are Reading and the Way They Shape Body Image by Dr. Rebecca A. Robles-Piña and Heidi Sauer

A Study of the Correlation Between the Motives of Female High Self Monitors and Emergent Leadership: A Literature Review by Charles Salter

Hispanic Female Superintendents in America: A Profile by Dr. Margaret A. Manuel and Dr. John R. Slate

Our intent is that this journal is viewed as a professional publication site for scholarly inquiry and perspectives that promote gender equity and advance women in leadership. It is our hope that you find this issue of Advancing Women in Leadership thought provoking, enjoyable, and that you look forward to subsequent issues. Suggestions for improvement, encouragement, and submission for upcoming issues are welcomed and appreciated. Genevieve Brown, Ed.D. & Beverly J. Irby, Ed.D. Editors

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Full Length Research Paper

# A Study of the Correlation Between the Motives of Female High Self Monitors and Emergent Leadership: A Literature Review Charles Slater

Charles Slater: Ph.D. in Leadership Studies at Lady of the Lake University

If women do have a tendency to elicit high self-monitoring behavior because they have a need to get along with others, and if men elicit a high self-monitoring behavior because they have an acquisitive disposition, an acknowledgement of those apposed motivations would lead to a better understanding of the diverse talents that each group brings to the job.

#### Introduction

In 1972, researchers reported that only 4% of the Master of Business Administration graduates were women. This figure now exceeds 33%. Similarly, in 1972, women occupied about 20% of non-clerical, white-collar jobs. This figure has now grown to more than 46% (Sharpe, 1994). Sharpe also contended that in 1972, only 17% of all managerial positions were held by women, but by 1994 that number had increased by 43%. Although women have flooded managerial positions in recent years, concern still remains about what some refer to as a "glass ceiling" that prohibits women from reaching the topmost levels of corporate leadership. Ragins, Townsend, and Mattis (1998) stated that, of the most highly compensated corporate executives in Fortune 500 companies only 2% are currently women and only .4% of the Fortune 1000 Chief Executive Officer, (CEO), positions are held by women. Maruca (1997) promulgated that male CEOs blamed the "glass ceiling" on women's lack of experience and time in organizations. In the same study, however, female executives disagreed citing exclusionary corporate cultures as the reason for their lack of advancement to top management positions. This paper looks at one of the human behaviors known to be compatible with emergent leadership, self-monitoring behavior, and its possible relationship to the "glass ceiling" prohibiting women's advancement within corporations.

#### Literature Review

#### Leadership Emergence

Bass (1981) made a major distinction in leadership research between individuals who are formally appointed to positions of leadership and individuals who emerge as leaders of formal groups. De Souza and Klein (1995) concluded that groups with emergent leaders outperformed groups without emergent leaders. Most of the research investigating emergent leadership has been directed by the trait approach, which assumes that leaders are endowed with certain innate characteristics that predispose them to be effective leaders in a wide range of situations. Empirical support for the trait approach has been lacking and because of this some researchers have concluded that a leadership trait does not exist (Jenkins, 1947). However, Lord, De Vader, and Alliger (1986) found that some variance in leader emergence could be predicted by the dominance, intelligence, and masculinity-femininity of the leader. Hollander (1961;1964) identified task competence and identification as traits of emergent leaders. Task competence encompasses the set of characteristics that are required by a group to attain its goals and includes social competencies. Identification entails a clear involvement with the group task and loyalty toward group members. Sorrentino and Boutillier (1975) found rate of verbal participation to be a predictor of emergent leadership. Emergent leadership has also been positively related to extroversion, openness to experience, and cognitive ability (Kickul & Neuman, 2000). Kenny and Zaccaro (1983) proposed that persons who are consistently cast into leadership positions possess the ability to perceive and predict variations in group situations and pattern their own behavior accordingly. Dobbins, Long, Dedrick, and Clemons (1990) concluded that Kenny and Zaccaro's (1983) characteristics of persons regularly cast into leadership roles were consistent with Snyder's (1979) description of selfmonitoring behavior.

#### **Self-Monitoring Behavior**

Snyder (1974) related that people who engage in high selfmonitoring behavior regulate their behavior in ways that are highly sensitive to situational cues. High self-monitors have a strong concern that their behavior is appropriate for the social situations in which they find themselves. Individuals who are high self-monitors are particularly sensitive to the social cues and self-presentations of others, and use social cues as guidelines for managing their own behavior and or creating desirable impressions (Synder, 1986). In contrast, low selfmonitoring persons display less concern for the situational appropriateness of their behavior, which appears to be guided from their internal cues, rather than by situational specifications of appropriate behavior. Therefore, one might say that high self-monitors are impression managers who are to a great degree concerned with the impression their actions have on others. Their concern for the impression they make results in their adjusting their behavior so as to present themselves in the most favorable light. Low self-monitors are more inclined to act in accord with their own true feelings, attitudes, and values in social settings (Synder, 1986). It has been suggested by Turnley and Bolino (2001) that high self-monitors elicit the same five personality characteristics as those reported by Costa and McCrae (1988). The Big Five personality traits are said to help predict a person's success in organizations. In summary they are: 1) Extroversion- or the extent to which a person is outgoing, 2) Agreeableness-or the degree to which one is cooperative, 3) Openness to experience-defines a nature to be curious and creative, 4) Emotional Stability-or a persons propensity to be calm, self confident, and cool, and 5) Conscientiousness-the degree to which an individual is hard working, dependable, and persevering. Barrick and Mount (1991) reported that these personality characteristics were valid predictors of success for many occupational groups.

Some research has found a strong relationship between selfmonitoring and leader emergence in groups (Cronshaw & Ellis, 1991; Ellis, Adamson, Deszca & Cawsey, 1988). Other research has suggested that these effects are moderated by the sex of group members and the nature of the task confronting the group (Ellis, 1988; Garland & Beard, 1979). Ellis (1988) examined the effects of self-monitoring on leader emergence in natural mixed-sex groups and found that leader emergence and high self-monitoring behavior were related for males, but not for females. Dobbins et al. (1990) found that high selfmonitoring men emerged as leaders in groups of high selfmonitoring women and men disproportionately to women. Nyquist and Spence (1986) reported that 90% of high dominant men became leaders over low dominant women, and only 25% of high dominant women emerged as leaders over low dominant men. Wentworth and Anderson (1984) found that men emerged as leaders in 86% of mixed-sex groups. Carbonell (1984) showed that females with leadership ability assert leadership in interactions with other females but fail to do so in the company of males. It is plausible that high self-monitoring females in mixed-sex groups inhibit leadership behavior because they fear such behavior will be viewed as inappropriate according to sex role stereotypes. In contrast to Ellis' (1988), finding that high self-monitoring behavior correlated with leader emergence in males, Garland and Beard (1979) found that high self-monitoring females, but not males, emerged as leaders in their respective groups. These results in regard to high self-monitoring females can be explained by sex role research demonstrating that females will assert leadership in

interaction with other females (Carbonell, 1984; Megargee, 1969). Kent and Moss (1994) found in their study on emergent leaders that masculine subjects emerged as leaders more often than feminine subjects. Another study indicated that sex differences in emergent leadership are due to role-induced tendencies for men to specialize more than women in behaviors strictly oriented to their group's task and for women to specialize more than men in socially facilitative behaviors (Eagly, Karau, & Steven, 1991; Karakowsky, Leonard, & Siegel, 1999). Most if not all the traits that have been studied about emergent leadership are characteristics of those who are high self-monitors.

Other differences in female and male high self-monitors have been documented. Shaffer and Pegalis (1998) reported that high self-monitoring females failed to elicit more self-disclosure than their low self-monitoring counterparts, while male high self-monitors did elicit more self-disclosure. Men high selfmonitors clearly promoted male self-disclosure in a collaborative or work setting context, whereas female high selfmonitors actually inhibited self-disclosure in collaborative work settings. In contrast to women's reported tendency to selfdisclose to other women more in social-expressive contexts, Shaffer and Ogden (1986) and Shaffer and Pegalis (1998) found that women high self-monitors did not elicit more selfdisclosure from female acquaintances in social-expressive contexts than in collaborative contexts. Guarino, Michael, and Hocevar (1997) reported differences in the social integration of female high self-monitors and male high self-monitors in relation to student integration into community college life. Specifically, they found that male high self-monitors were socially integrated faster and to a greater degree, than female high self-monitors.

The questions that arise, are: What makes female high selfmonitors less likely to be emergent leaders than male high selfmonitors in mixed-sex groups? And what stimulates women high self-monitors to be less likely to elicit self-disclosure from other women in a collaborative work setting, and less socially integrating in college environments? Briggs and Cheeks (1988) and Lennox and Wolfe (1984) stated that people vary their selfpresentation style for different motives and that these motives should be taken into account in studying self-presentation. According to Wolfe, Lennox, and Cutler (1986), high selfmonitors vary their self-presentation for two reasons: 1) acquisition-or trying to get ahead, or 2) self-protection-trying to get along. Research also discovered that the occurrence of protective and acquisitive self-presentations is contingent on: the audience of the presenter, the context, and the person making the self-presentation. Wolfe et al. (1986) also reported that self-presenters chronically adopt either a protective or an acquisitive self-presentation style. He further reports that factors associated with self-presenters adopting a protective style include: social anxiety, shyness, conformity, reticence, low self-esteem, modesty, and neutrality. Conversely people adopting an acquisitive self-presentation style are characterized as being more self-confident and higher in self-esteem.

Understandably a high self-monitor that did not elicit traits found to be those of emergent leaders, such as self-confidence, would probably be less likely to be named as a leader by others.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion more research should be done to identify the motivation of women high self-monitors. Are those motivations concerned more with the facilitative behaviors or trying to get along with others' motivation rather than an

acquisitive desire. Also, more study should be conducted on the differences in the men and women relate to tasks and group goals and the way men and women engage in problem solving. One would prefer to believe that male bias is not the reason for the "glass ceiling" effect for women. One would further prefer to believe that if this barrier does exist it is borne of a misunderstanding of the differences in which men and women conduct conflict resolution as well as goal setting and attainment. By understanding the motivations of people, even if they are not similar to our own, we can understand the principles on which they base decisions. By understanding the logical reasoning constructs on which they base decisions we can more easily predict their behavior. Being able to predict a manager's behavior is a source of comfort to any superior and leads to a better relationship and more fluidity of communication

If women do have a tendency to elicit high self-monitoring behavior because they have a need to get along with others, and if men elicit a high self-monitoring behavior because they have an acquisitive disposition, an acknowledgement of those apposed motivations would lead to a better understanding of the diverse talents that each group brings to the job. We could then, as corporate managers, make the best and highest use of all the personnel resources available to us.

Today in corporate boardrooms throughout the United States, we see companies that are finding themselves in one type of predicament or another. Many of these problems are intensified because of a collegiate atmosphere, or a reciprocity that emanates from like thinking. This reciprocity results in board members being hesitant to question the actions of those colleagues that are the Chief Executive Officers of these corporations. For the above- mentioned reason alone, we need to foster an understanding of the motivations of men and women and welcome the difference, if one exists, into a system mired down in like-mindedness.

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