

**Group 4-044**

**Journey with Westwood**

Nah Kai Kiat 3O3 (17)

Au Rhu Hoong 3O3 (1)

Jonathan Ko 2O3 (6)

## **Abstract**

Journey with Westwood is a project that aims to develop leadership skills in prefects of Westwood primary school. The Ministry of Education (MOE) had emphasised the importance of leadership skills for many years, but a study shows that Singaporeans generally still lack leadership skills. Hence, we collaborated with Westwood Primary School to implement a resource that aims to teach them important leadership skills. As children are able to pick up new skills quickly, we hope that this resource will help them pick up new leadership skills.

## **Introduction**

Our target audience are prefects in Westwood Primary School. We made a learning package that is meant to supplement the leadership programs already in the market to help participants pick up leadership skills. Most student leadership development programs targeted at primary school students are expensive and do not cater to the needs of the student leaders for Westwood Primary School.

Forbes wrote an article about the qualities that employers look for, and having traits of a good leader was highly ranked. Thus it is this in mind when we crafted the leadership package based on Westwood Primary School mission and vision.

## **Review**

### **1. The Halogen Foundation**

Like our project, the Halogen Foundation aims to inculcate leadership skills to primary and secondary school students. Their mission is to inspire and influence a generation of young people to lead themselves and others well. According to their website, Halogen seeks to understand youth development goals to better partner educators in designing, developing and delivering content that will be beneficial for both students and educators.

## 2. Kingmaker

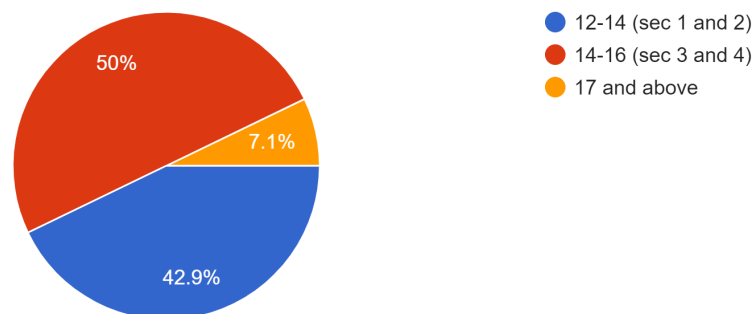
The Kingmaker Organisation aims to develop a wide range of values and skills in 21st century students, in both Primary schools and in Secondary schools. Their courses on leadership, such as the “StrengthsTransform TEAMS” program focus on building team-oriented skills by teaching students how to communicate better and have better teamwork.

Even though both are good organisations to teach leadership, they focus mainly on team-building skills and hence may lack other aspects of leadership. Our project is thus meant to supplement the existing programs.

### Methodology

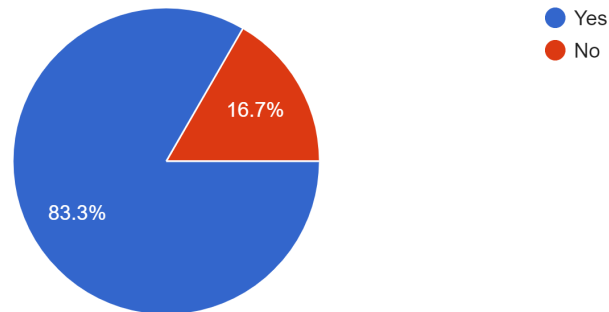
Needs Analysis: We carried out a survey with secondary school students to find out their leadership experiences and what content they would want a leadership package to cover.

What is your age?  
42 responses



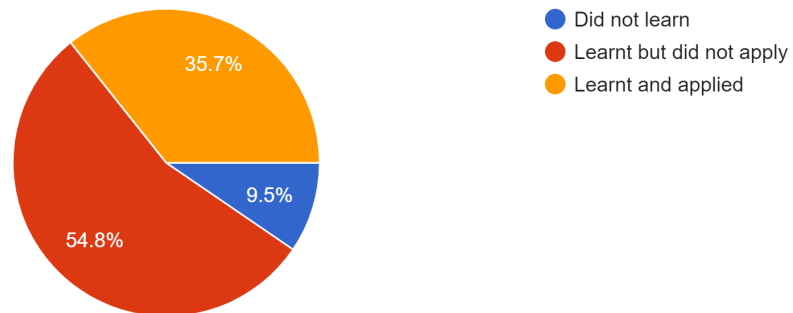
Have you held any leadership position in primary school before?

42 responses



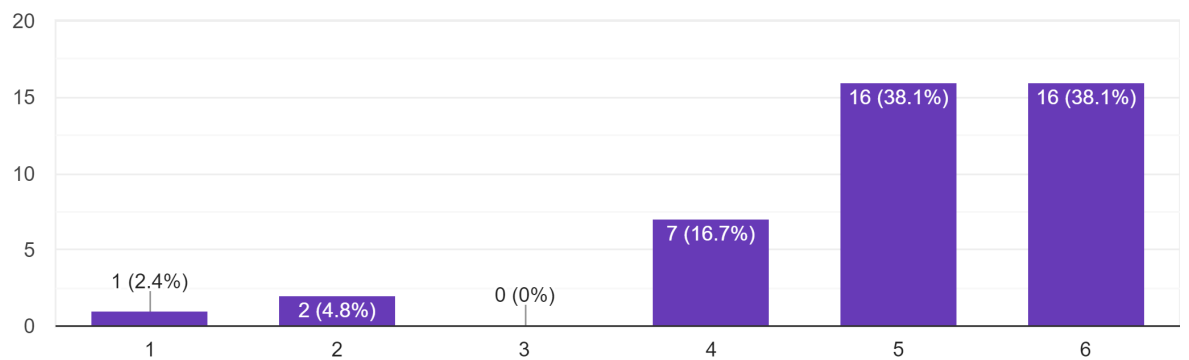
Have you learnt/applied leadership skills to solve problems in your primary school or community?

42 responses



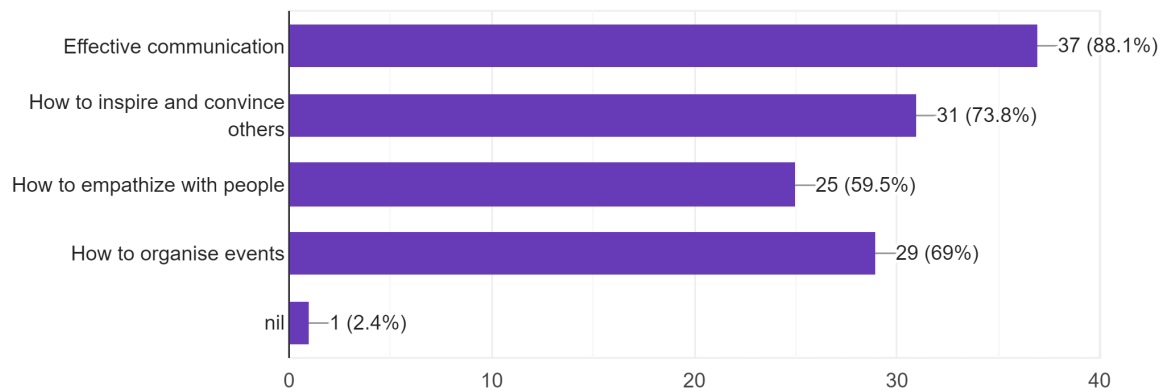
How useful do you think leadership skills are?

42 responses



### What type of leadership skills would you be interested in learning?

42 responses



According to our survey, only 35.7% of respondents managed to learn and apply leadership skills in their primary schools, with a majority of respondents having managed to learn the skills but not apply them. Most respondents also agreed that leadership skills were useful. The survey also showed that most people wanted to learn how to communicate effectively, followed by how to inspire and convince others, and lastly how to organise events.

#### Construction of Resources:

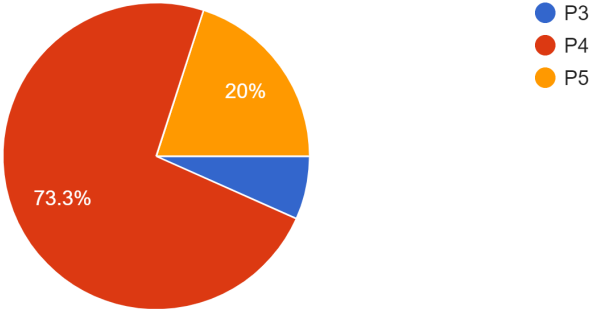
We did research on Westwood Primary School's current leadership program to customise our resources to match their needs. The resources made were a set of slides, a quiz to test their knowledge after our presentation, as well as a worksheet to fill up while discussing some issues in their school.

#### Administration of Pilot Test:

We did a presentation with them to try out our resources and managed to get some of their feedback.

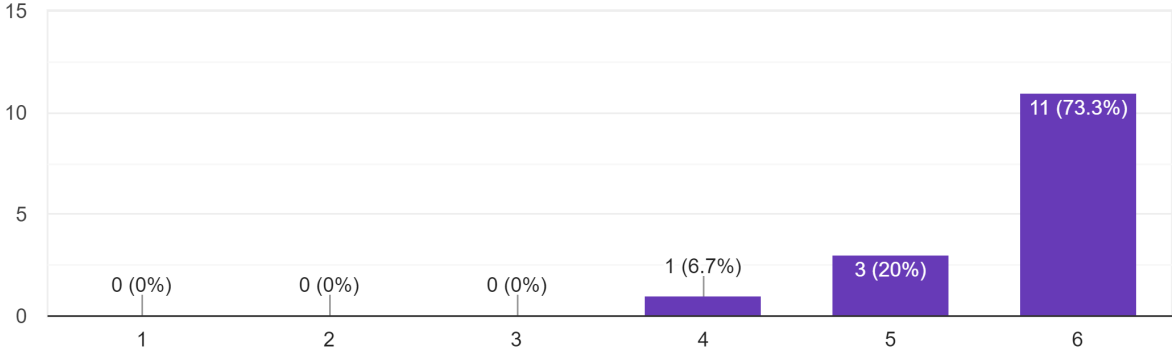
What is your level?

15 responses



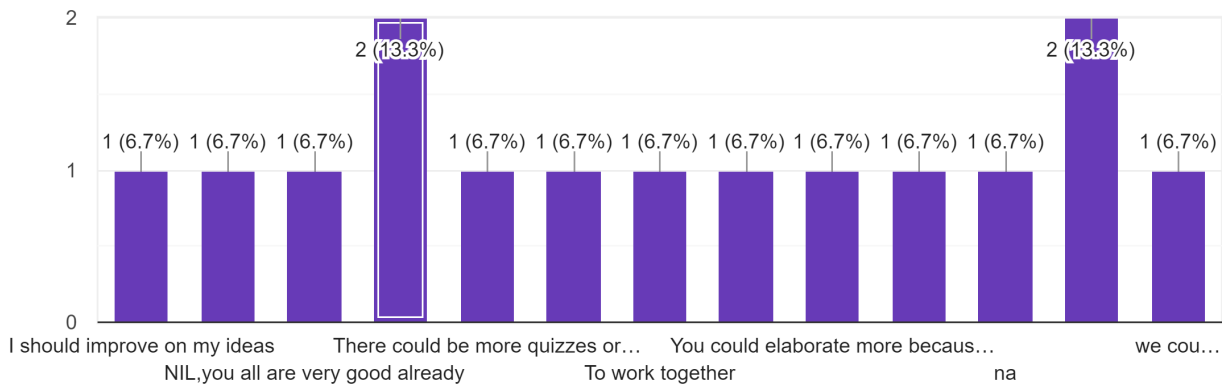
Did you find today's session useful?

15 responses



## What could be improved?

15 responses



## Outcome and Discussion

### Final outcome:

From the survey results, the resources have been effective in teaching the prefects leadership skills. All the prefects found the session useful, with almost 75% of them saying that they found it very useful. They also said that they learnt many leadership skills through our resources, showing that the resources were successful in achieving their aim.

### Limitations:

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to go to the school so the training had to be conducted via Zoom. Due to SMM, the teacher decided that we could do our pilot test with a small group of students as this is the first time both of us were conducting a leadership course online. Furthermore, the package is less effective when done online as there was less interaction with the prefects, causing them to be less engaged with the activity.

Possible further works:

Given the chance to, we would have made a follow-up package to further reinforce their learning. With only a single package, they may forget some things over time, whereas a follow-up package would help them remember what they learnt.

## **Conclusion**

Kai Kiat: From this project, I learnt how to be a better leader. Having no leadership experience, it was challenging to lead a team, even for a small project. For me, communicating with my group members was the most challenging. However, by researching ways to improve leadership skills, I was able to apply what was suggested. I also faced the problem of adapting to sudden changes in the activities, and I overcame this by asking our mentor for advice. After this project, I feel that I am a better leader than before.

Jonathan: I learnt what can be considered as leadership skills from this project. Before this, I only had a vague idea of what was considered a leadership skill. However, after this project I have learnt more about them as I had to do some research about the different skills. I think the most challenging part was figuring out how to split my time between the project work and the other things I had to do. After some time, I managed to find a way to split my time in a way that didn't affect the project as much.

Rhu Hoong: Through this project, I learnt what are the traits a good leader should possess, and picked up some leadership skills along the way. Through getting to educate upcoming student leaders from Westwood Primary school on leadership, I have also learnt the importance of patience and respect in a leader in order to manage a group of people. The most challenging part of this project was trying to adapt our plans for presenting to the Westwood Primary prefects in accordance with SMM measures. As the pandemic worsened recently, we could not go to Westwood Primary physically and had to reduce the number of sessions from 3 to 1, which meant we had to adapt our resources to fit the new plans.

(word count: 1116)



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