

## **Gifted Education and the Training of Future Leaders**

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Elitist concerns aside, the gifted and talented must be taught leadership. Gifted education is almost synonymous with intellectual advancement and tangible talent. It projects a celebration of ability and success that is highly visible and benchmarked. The influential nature of these celebrated peaks of achievement will influence mindsets and behaviours. The assumed/presumed burden/responsibility of some kind of leadership in the future for those identified as gifted is reason enough why a nation's and the world's best and brightest must be nurtured accordingly.

Leadership development entails the need for connectedness with the community with a realistic sense of societal circumstances and needs. At its core, leadership entails influence and impact and these overtones necessitate that there is focus on values and ethics within the considerations of excellence.

The time has come to further push forth a more enhanced model for leadership development – one that serves to expand the scope of nurturing our top talent to be better prepared to lead positive change in evolution. This presentation aims to discuss the challenges and issues facing gifted education and the training of future leaders.