

Consultation Creates Unity

The Purpose of Consultation

As is well-known, having the opinions of many people is better than having just the opinion of one person. Consultation is like a lamp, which acts as a guiding light that leads to wisdom and knowledge. If the process of consultation is carried out correctly, irrespective of whether the consulting is used among friends, family members, the members of a community or people at a national level, it leads inevitably to decisions and solutions, which provide the best results.

Consultation is a Most Powerful Tool

Consultation is a most powerful tool in the realization of ideas and actions, which create unity. It provides an opportunity for us to access the essence of situations and challenges with a new approach and to see new possible ways to take action. It is apparent that real consultation leads to clear understandings and that it is a source of well-being. Consultation is a way to find out the truth, and the people who get together to consult will see the truth from various perspectives.

Attitudes and Qualities Required of Participants When Consulting

The participants of the consultation must have a clear goal in mind to help each other to find the best answers or solutions for the well-being of the collective. Decisions should not be made in advance of the consultation. The ideas and opinions of all parties should be listened to openly before a decision is made together. The participants must have the necessary attitudes and qualities when consulting, such as purity of motive; no hidden agenda or bias; adherence to the principles; humility towards those who are taking part in the consultation; and strong tolerance towards each other.

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How to Consult

The participants must proceed with utmost devotion, courtesy, dignity, care and moderation to express their views. Each person must help to search out the truth in the matter under discussion and not insist on their own opinions because stubbornness and persistence in their own views will lead ultimately to discord and wrangling and the truth will remain hidden. Everyone should with all freedom express their own thoughts, and it is no wise permissible for one to belittle the thoughts of another. Expressing opinions from different viewpoints is useful because the spark of truth come only after the clash of differing opinions. It must be understood that the clash of opinion is not an indication of personal conflict.

Consultation is Not the Same as Negotiation

A family which is adorned with love and harmony will consult effectively because each member will think, "What is best for us all?" not "What will I get from this?" This attitude is not a characteristic of consultation, but rather of negotiations between business people or groups of people with self-interests who are negotiating in order to obtain the greatest benefits for themselves regardless of what is best for the collective. In a society which is growing healthily, each member will understand that the best thing is not to pursue their own interests and benefits instead of those of other people, but rather that justice and social cohesion are more important because the well-being of each member depends on the welfare of the whole society; and because no member of the society will be happy for long, if other members of the society are suffering.