

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Nurturing the 12 Qualities
of a Servant Leader

Intuition

Dr Robin Cheung

What is intuition?

- Greenleaf's "unknowable" - to know the unknowable; "intuitive insight"
- The sixth sense, a hunch (feel right), gut feeling, or strong urge; Latin root: to look at
- The ability to know or discern something without conscious reasoning, not part of the conscious analytical thinking process
- The ability to picture and to imagine; a feel for patterns
- Seems to emerge from nowhere - comes from your subconscious mind in which many past experiences and insights are stored to help identify patterns or anomalies when dealing with current affairs
- Relates to emotions, passion, deep concern for something, creativity and experience; closely connected with inspiration and creative solution - the ah-ha moments
- May be a reflection of your true self or desire
- Intuition is not instinct: the former is psychological and guides you towards the highest good while the latter is physiological and protects you from risks and ensures survival

Why is intuition important?

- Intuition is linked to vision and helps vision-building
- Helps decision-making; to be given a due place in the process
- In times of emergency or when opportunity knocks on the door
- Leader always faced with the information gap and under pressure of time, needs to intuit the gap
- Intuition is fast and may lead to impulsive behaviour while logic is slow and requires systematic steps;
- Which is used depends on the tasks and issues at hand - tested-and-tried and precise or random and novel
- Wisdom means a collection of powerful intuitions or having better intuitions about things
- Intuition helps you read people

How to nurture intuition?

- Trust and learn to listen to your inner voice or respect your gut feeling especially when it comes repeatedly or is nagging; reflect on it before taking actions
- Check the reliability of your intuition and write reflective journals
- Practice respite in the thick of action
- Solitude, meditation, time with nature and meditative prayers to clear the mind, raise awareness and mindfulness and get insights or inspiration
- To be in tune or at peace with yourself, esp. your heart or emotions
- Open your mind to creative possibilities and enhance your tolerance for risks
- Study issues hard, understand them as thoroughly as you can and sleep on them
- Jot down ideas from vivid dreams or your sleep
- Build your life and work experience and store away wise moves and tough lessons
- Ask team members to withdraw from heated argument and quiet down for a while before making a decision
- Network with others, especially the wise and experienced, and enhance your empathic accuracy by being aware of their thinking and feeling and other social cues