

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP

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ABSTRACT

Research studies have identified emotional intelligence [interchangeably known as EQ], as the one crucial aspect that is common in successful leaders. The present study attempts to validate this in the Sri Lankan context by ascertaining whether successful corporate leaders of Sri Lanka possess higher levels of EQ. The study also examined whether emotional intelligence can be considered as a predictor of charismatic leadership. The findings, based on a study of 27 corporate leaders, provide sufficient evidence to conclude that the successful corporate leaders of Sri Lanka possess higher levels of EQ. Although there was insufficient evidence to establish that emotional intelligence can be considered as a predictor of charismatic leadership, there was evidence to suggest that certain component variables of EQ play a role in facilitating certain behaviours, which are perceived by followers as charismatic.

Key words: *Emotional, Intelligence, Charismatic leadership*

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