Transformation Leader Strategies for Successful Digital Adaptation

Patience Owan Nwosu^{1*}, F.C. Adeloye²

^{1*}Department of Educational Foundations, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria. E-mail: patown@unical.edu.ng

Received: 02 August 2023; Revised: 05 September 2023; Accepted: 25 September 2023; Published: 09 October 2023

Abstract

Digital adaption is significant to ensure that the organizations continue to succeed in the evershifting technological environment. This article explores the approaches that transformational leaders can use in order to enable the right digital transformations. It also is an appeal to the leadership to create a culture that supports change and improvement. On this process lies creation of an agile culture whereby flexibility is the cornerstone when addressing changes. This is due to the notion that one of the main responsibilities of transformational leaders is to help to overcome resistance to change and show the possibilities of new technologies. Some of the interventions are to foster cross-functional teamwork and management support for application of statistical problem-solving techniques. Developing the skills and knowledge of the employee and ensuring the availability of adequate technology forms part of the major strategies to develop a strong and digitized workforce. The article also addresses the strategies of handling change management which include integration of organizational structures and processes with the digital goals and initiatives. To this end, transformational leaders can apply the above strategies to navigate their organizations through the scopes of digital transformation hence enabling sustainable organizational development and competitive advantage. Through the system discussed above, leaders are better placed to address the issues of Digital Transformation thus making their organisations relevant for the future.

Keywords: Agile Mindset; Change Management; Digital Transformation; Innovation; Organizational Culture; Visionary Leadership.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is in the light of the above development that the position of a transformation leader comes in handy for any organization today in the ever-shifting digital environment. Such people occupy a strategic position of leading corporations through a transition of technology, processes, and structures. They hear the task of achieving improvement without overset, in using the cloud, computational thinking and data analysis for improving business growth while taking into consideration the human factor.

CIO transformation leaders have different competencies on how they can operate in the digital revolution era. The following article presents overviews of major strategies suitable for leadership in the context of digitization. There are chapters that elaborate on leadership trends, how to manage stakeholder expectations and the topic on fostering digital workplace cultures. Also, it

²Department of Educational Foundations, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria.

discusses the framework such as acquiring digital savvy skills, emphasizing on long-term goal to act as a guide, and turning data into leadership insight. Thus, understanding these strategies also means that transformation leaders are capable of guiding their organizations towards more successful digital evolution and future sustainability (Müller et al., 2024).

II. THE EVOLVING ROLE OF LEADERS

But, in today's conditions of fast-growing information and communication technologies leadership has been transformed in a special way. Digitalization has presented new threats and or opportunities that have posed the need for the adaptation of new leadership competencies that can be effectively applied in order to get through the process of digitalization. The Evolving Role of Leaders shown in Figure 1.

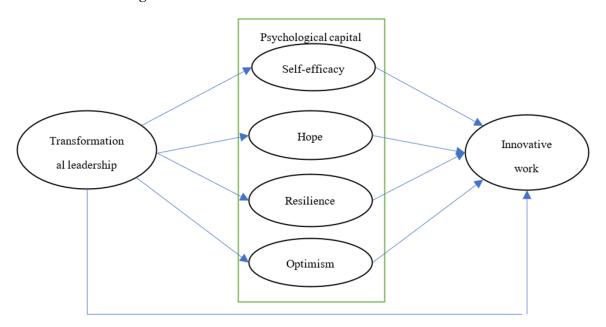


Figure 1: The Evolving Role of Leaders

2.1. Digital Transformation Challenges

This makes digital transformation vital in organizations to survive the increased competition in the current market. This is in line with a finding by Deloitte that stated 57% of CEOs are planning to integrate new technologies to their business models in the quest to look for growth.

This shift presents leaders with unique challenges:

- 1. Navigating Uncertainty: They stand in front of their organizations and need to steer them effectively through new technologies, changing customers' behaviour, and intensified competition all over the world.
- **2. Overcoming Resistance:** The major concerns of the employees may include: Managers; The employees may be hesitant to embrace new technologies for fear of job losses due to automation. These concerns should therefore be properly dealt with by leaders (Malik et al., 2024).

- **3. Fostering Collaboration:** This is because in most organisations digital transformation means working across the usual organisational boundaries and facilitating communication between different departments.
- 4. Balancing Technology and Human Elements: However, leaders must not forget that as organisations strive to incorporate technological advancement into their operation, they need to make positive changes that do not compromise on the experience of employees or customers.

To tackle these issues, one calls for culture change where leaders foster an organizational culture that accepts and supports innovation, risk taking and recognizes failure as a process to success. They must allow their employees to unlock their innovative side as Netflix policy encourages individuality and risks for customers' tailored experiences with the help of predictive analysis.

2.2. New Leadership Competencies

For this reason, digital transformation becomes crucial for organizations in order to counterer the pressure from the growing competition within the current market. This is in contrast to a report by Deloitte which pointed that 57% of chief executives are eager to incorporate new technologies to their existing business strategies in a quest for growth. This shift presents leaders with unique challenges: This shift gives leaders a new set of problems to solve:

- 1. Navigating Uncertainty: Today they are in front of their organizations and require leading their organizations successfully through the new technologies, customers behavior change and increasing competitive forces all over the globe.
- **2. Overcoming Resistance:** The major concern of the employees may be; Managers The employees may be reluctant to adopt new technologies as this would tend to eliminate the need for workers by use of automation. These are some of the concerns leaders should therefore not ignore or perform in a slipshod manner.
- **3. Fostering Collaboration:** This is because in most of the organisations digital transformation involves a cross-functional approach and acting as an interface between different departments.
- **4. Balancing Technology and Human Elements:** But leaders cannot lose sight of the fact that as organisations seek to implement the use of technology they have to bring about positive change that does not negatively affect experience of the employees and the customers.

To address these challenges, one has to need culture change where leaders establish organisational culture that embraces innovation, risk taking and failure as a step to success. They have to let their employees unleash the creativity within them as Netflix policy promotes differentiation and risk to enable its customers create a personalized experience using analysis (Cosa, 2024).

III. BALANCING STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS

In the field of digital transformation it is very challenging for leaders to take into consideration various stakeholders' interests. This subtle balance means that managers must find their way through the conflicting paradigms of shareholder as against stakeholder capitalisms as well as in balancing conflicting interests within the firm.

3.1. Shareholder vs Stakeholder Capitalism

There is a current interest in the argument between shareholder and stakeholder models of the company. The economic theory of shareholder primacy advanced by Milton Friedman state that a company's obligation is to generate profits that are legal and ethical. On the other hand, the stakeholder capitalism is the approach to corporate management which focuses on the generation of value for customers, employees, suppliers, society, and environment. Shareholder vs Stakeholder Capitalism shown in Figure 2.

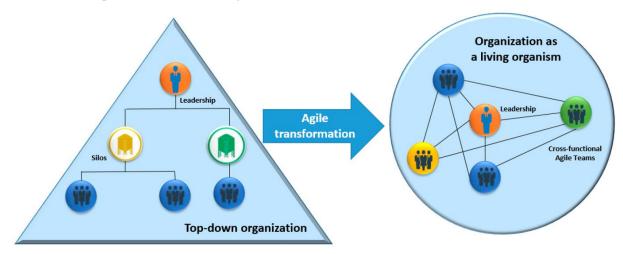


Figure 2: Shareholder vs Stakeholder Capitalism

Mainly the shareholder capital motivation is beneficial but sometimes it tends to be more risky. The possible drawbacks of using this model is that organizations following this model may fail to consider important environmental, social and governance wrongs that may create problems. On the other hand, this conception of the stakeholder model involves targeting higher more reasonable rates of returns, and a conception of profitability that is broader due to the announced organizational purpose.

Stakeholder capitalists focus on making experiences of all stakeholders as engaging as possible, inviting their active participation in the organisation's mission, vision and objectives. It usually leads to greater clarity of choice and REAK of the implications involved in decision making for investors and other stakeholders (Kopackova et al., 2024).

3.2. Managing Competing Priorities

There is always a struggle of balance of priorities in the business environment and this is an issue that transformation leaders have to deal with. Activities that involve tasks, projects or goals which require attention and resources at the same time but might not be related. Meanwhile, as reported by Gartner's survey in 2022, 78 % of CEOs pointed out that they faced high or moderate losses due to competing priorities.

To effectively manage competing priorities, leaders should focus on three key areas:

- 1. **Identifying:** Check on goals and projects often in order to identify conflicts of interest.
- **2. Strategizing:** Regularly allocate or assign tasks, and about resources and priorities towards achieving organizational goals and targets.

3. Communicating: It would be helpful to clearly communicate priorities and decisions about handling conflicting priorities with the relevant parties including the organizational teams and stakeholders.

HR leaders need to find ways on how they can assist employees in balancing the demands they have in the organization. Such support can involve training on how to work at the right time, how to prioritize work, as well as proper work strategies. Furthermore, workload distribution, project roles definition and policy on cooperation are also valuable to decrease the impact of conflicting objectives.

Thus, the transformation leaders need to find ways of ensuring that competing priorities do not overwhelm them. This entails finding out factors that determine the values, making rational sacrifices, and weighing the interests of the business against the over organizational health. It also points out what leaders can add through thought leadership while at the same time gaining insight from stakeholders about what is important.

To successfully balance stakeholder interests and manage competing priorities, leaders should:

- Overcommunicate with stakeholders about prioritization trade-offs and timeline changes.
- Evaluate new requests jointly with stakeholders before making commitments.
- Be transparent about capacity constraints that may impact delivery timelines.
- Establish regular check-ins to align on priority sequencing.
- Provide data-driven input on technical feasibility and level of effort for features.
- Escalate risks around overcommitment or misalignment on priorities.

By adopting these strategies, transformation leaders can navigate the complexities of balancing stakeholder interests while effectively managing competing priorities in the digital age (Malik et al., 2024).

IV. NAVIGATING CONTEXT COLLAPSE

In the information technology context, one of the problems that the leaders of transformations have to manage is the so-called context collapse, that is, the overlapping of the professional sphere with the private one. These changes, therefore, have massive consequences on how one oversees his or her personal and professional image on the social media platforms.

4.1. Personal vs Professional Boundaries

Women in leadership admit that today's work-life balance is challenging to define following the advancement of technology. Leadership is required to understand that perimeters have to be set for both, the organizational and individual welfare. But, it is here that the balance is most important because over-definition of boundaries may be limiting chances.

Self-fulfillment as well as career growth inhibits propels where too many barriers in the careers of individuals are set for them. They can cause a worker to lose their opportunity to gain more skills, exposure to demanding tasks or deprive them of the opportunity to build good relations with other department or higher authority. However, failure to set work boundaries leads to the interpenetration of the work and personal life hence leading to stress and general emotional exhaustion.

To navigate this delicate balance, leaders should:

- 1. Have a clear policy on carrying out work related communication once one is out of his working premises.
- 2. Limit the use of technology based devices in order to ensure that a healthier environment is established.
- 3. In suggest that it is effective to frequently assess and modify the boundaries with a view of avoiding their extremities.
- 4. Promote awareness of work to family stressor in their teams.

4.2. Digital Reputation Management

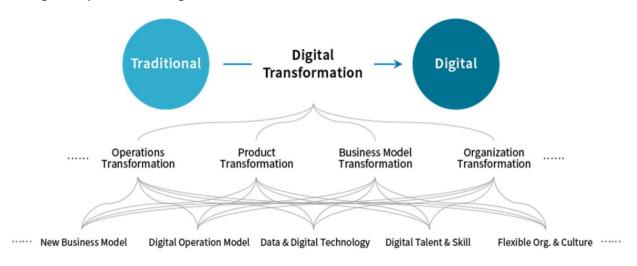


Figure 3: Digital Reputation Management

Since conducting business through the use of social media is the new order of the day, the maintaining of one's image is apparently another leadership challenge. Hence, it has been discovered that first created information especially for online business sites can positively influence the flow of traffic as well as the performance of business, while negative information can in equal measure deter customers and business growth. Digital Reputation Management shown in Figure 3.

Effective digital reputation management involves:

- 1. Supervising presence on various sites such as the rating sites and the social networks.
- 2. This is in most cases, responding to the customer's complaints as soon as possible with an intention of sorting it out within 24 hours.
- 3. Using the current imagery, messaging and values to complement the owned channels.
- 4. There is also the need to have constant checks on how brands are being used in partner or customer sites.
- 5. It is necessary to lay down legal requirements on the application, depiction, and use of the company trademark and brand elements.

The leaders should also be sensitive to cancel culture, where people can be doxed by the social media within a short timeline.

To mitigate risks, leaders should:

- 1. Encourage productive experiences on the social media platform.
- 2. Respond to negative feedback in times of need be polite and civil.
- 3. This entails creation of crisis management strategies with a view to addressing the probable reputation risks.
- 4. Utilize SEO tactics in order to disseminate positive messages only.

With helpful tips and strategies on how to overcome the effects of context collapse and how to manage the digital identity by cultivating trust with the company's followers, safeguarding their image and nurturing a constructive company image compatible with their organization's objectives and vision, the leaders of these transformation can help support their organizations with fantastic results (Ly, 2024).

V. LEADING WITH PURPOSE AND VALUES

When it comes to managing change and especially in today's world, it is significant for the leaders of transformations to understand that the issues of purposes and values are more important. While more and more companies are pressed for digitalization it is crucial to align these goals with a purpose that is meaningful to the employees and other stakeholders.

5.1. Articulating Organizational Purpose

Understanding and realising an organization's why – its organising principle beyond the business of making money – is now a fundamental element of digital transformation. This purpose acts as a flag which gives guidance and motivation to the employees and consumers. The case with Microsoft under the leadership of the current CEO Satya Nadella is a good example of takeovers. Nadella emphasized the need to "rediscover our soul" and articulated a new mission: Empower everyone and every organisation in the world and enable them to produce even better results (Mızrak, 2024).

To effectively articulate organizational purpose:

- 1. Ponder certain philosophical questions concerning the nature of the company together with the firm's mission statement.
- 2. Condense the purpose to a simple, easily repeatable slogan which reflects the mission of the company.
- 3. Make certain the purpose is real and from the organization's real essence or what it wants to achieve.

It is a proven fact that the organizations that operate with well-defined and articulated purpose enjoy immense advantages. Organizations can motivate their employees in doing their work by importing meaning to it and this helps employees to work hard. In customers' perspective the emotive connection with purpose can actually translate to great devotion with products and services of a given firm.

5.2. Aligning Strategy with Values

When the goal is set on the organizational level, it is vital to correlate the digital affairs with the values that the company has. This means that there is a proper correlation between introducing changes in technology and the main strategic direction of the organization.

To achieve this alignment:

- 1. Link your strategic objectives and measures to the organisation's purpose.
- 2. Imbed values to the Best Practices and the Corporate Governance Structures within the Firm.
- 3. Encourage organizational culture that identifies and rewards employees for being true to the organisation's mission and vision.

Employing engagement solutions that are purposeful for the employees is also very essential. When individuals collectively working in the same organization comprehend and trust in the worth of the company's mission, they are in a much better position to effectively communicate this to customers hence the circle of positive feedback. Some companies, for instance, Optus have experienced high returns in engagement results when they embraced purpose-related efforts.

Transformation leaders should also consider the following strategies:

- Remind the employees of the organization's mission and vision and the core values using digital methods.
- It is important that any new technologies or processes introduced will be compatible and complement the mission of the company.
- Ensure that digital operations are evaluated and modified to ensure that they are of cohesive with the strategic plan of an organization at the right time.

With the Conscious Leadership approach, based on the purpose and values, it is easier to design coherent and uniite workforce that would better understand the challenges of digital transformation. This approach not only increases the internal engagement but also the company stands out in the market as it creates meaningful interaction for all the stakeholders needed and in the long run offers a competitive espaço in the ever growing digital platform (Yao et al., 2024).

VI. DEVELOPING DIGITAL ACUMEN

In the current world characterized by different changes in digital sciences, technology and innovation, apart from holding a management position the transformation leaders should upgrade their knowledge frequently in the digital sciences. This includes having what one might refer to as a culture of learning, along with other strategies including the use of reversementoring. Developing Digital Acumen shown in Figure 4.

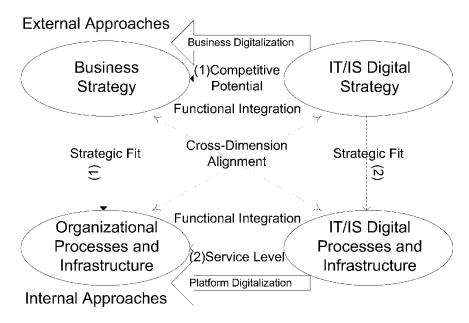


Figure 4: Developing Digital Acumen

6.1. Continuous Learning

Evidence has it that the digital generation has over the years made training an ongoing process in leadership. It means that, change is inherent because of improving technology and evolving markets, they must learn and evolve. This reality brings to light the notion of learning orientation whereby one is able to acquire new knowledge and skills that are appropriate in the course of pursuing his or her objectives as well as adapting to new developments.

This is more so because learning agility as a concept is encompassed by one's capability to unlearn the past, revise the new, as well as learning ceaselessly. Thus, the new leaders will be presented with many situations where they need to stop relying on their previous experience and switch to the new paradigms of the digital economy. Such flexibility is necessary for employees' career advancement as well as for organizations to thrive and continue their operation (Butt et al., 2024).

To foster continuous learning, leaders can:

- 1. Curiosity should be practiced and applied consistently so as to acquire new information as often as possible.
- 2. Be educated in formal ways.
- 3. Read at least two books for professional development | | Reflect on the day and make notes for self improvement.
- 4. Promote cultures that embrace learning at their places of work.

Wise companies are aware of the need for their personnel to learn and develop themselves further and expand on their knowledge and skills. Such mechanisms as training, conferences and tuition reimbursement can provide organizations with more qualified employees and at the same time increase contentment and loyalty.

6.2. Reverse Mentoring Programs

Reverse mentoring has become widely popular as a way to strengthen knowledge in the field of digital practices among the top managers. It means that main performers connect young workers with top managers in order to provide the latter with knowledge of new technologies, digital and generational trends.

It is especially important in today's digital environment where the best performing executives may find it hard to keep up with rapidly evolving technologies and trends. To remedy this, senior leaders can tap into the digital know-how of the younger generation of workers including the Millennials and the Gen Z in order to facilitate digital transformation better.

Key benefits of reverse mentoring programs include:

- 1. Developing the knowledge of the senior leaders in the newer technologies.
- 2. More on how to reduce bias and bring diversity of thinking.
- 3. Enhancing team commitment in mixed-generational teams.
- 4. Fostering a new environment: towards a healthy organization neighbourhood.

To implement effective reverse mentoring programs, organizations should:

- 1. Set out realistic goals and course of action that the two of you are to understand in the context of the mentoring process.
- 2. Promoting dialogue with each other as well as sharing of experience between the two parties, that is the mentor and the mentee.
- 3. As for the second proposed function it is also important to help both parties of a conflict to receive necessary support and materials.
- 4. Periodically the assessment and the improvement of the program that will make the program to run effectively.

If there is no formal reverse mentoring structure implemented in transformation leaders' organizations, they can benefit from reverse mentoring by mentoring campus hires as the latter reveal potential deficiencies and concerns regarding various organizational processes and tools.

Through fostering relationships of learning and knowledge of reverse mentoring, transformation leaders can effectively acquire the new age digital skills within the organization in order to effectively deal with the contemporary business environment. This increases the individual's skills and self-development and at the same time aligns the organizations for future performance in a complex technological world.

VII. AUTHENTIC AND VULNERABLE LEADERSHIP

Today's transformation leaders on digital platforms are learning that people respond best when they are real and willing to share their true feelings to ensure that an organization gains success. It is the leadership style where the mistakes are admitted, growth is valued more than 'the perfect' and people are valued (Mızrak, 2024; Yao et al., 2024; Butt et al., 2024; Adama & Okeke, 2024).

7.1. Building Trust in Virtual Environments

With the emergence of new opportunities for remote work, the first organizational problem that managers and leaders have to solve is the lack of trust in virtual teams. The study reveals that currently, managers believe that their subordinates' productivity decreases when the employees are not physical in the office, on the other hand, the workers wonder if executive's motivation to bring them back to the workplace is genuine. This highlights the importance of spending time in developing skills and practices that shall foster trust in virtual working environments shown in Figure 5.

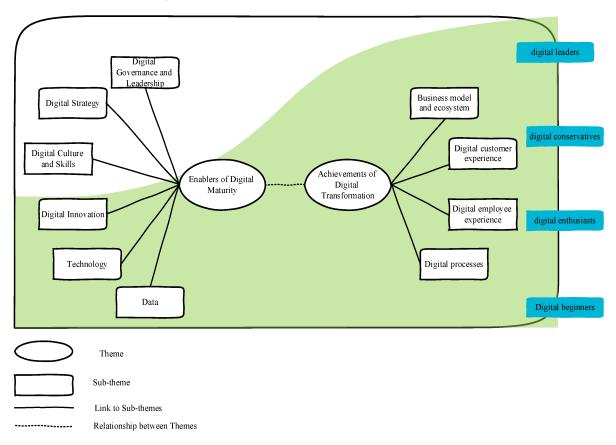


Figure 5: Building Trust in Virtual Environments

To address this issue, leaders should focus on:

- 1. **Clarity in communication:** To avoid building suspicion, anxiety and confusion at workplace employees are directed by clear goals and expectations.
- 2. **Transparency:** Unveiling the planning and other decision-making processes of an organization, its objectives and ideals.
- 3. **Vulnerability:** Showing people readiness and eagerness to provide detailed information about problems they face; the others promptly do the same.

The issue of psychological safety is a significant matter in virtual teams since it creates a safety net for the team members. When people think they can share victory, setbacks, and queries without any repercussions, then there would be a positive work environment. Leaders can encourage this by:

- Regularly recognizing and rewarding success.
- Creating high-touch, team-building experiences.
- Implementing meaningful feedback channels.
- Sharing wins and accomplishments

7.2. Embracing Imperfection

Perfectionism, as an appropriate leadership style, can be useful, yet it may also have its down side. This means that getting it right the first time is highly desirable, though it comes with a major drawback of people not embracing the opportunities of learning through success, failure risks and experimenting. The major symptoms of Perfectionism in leaders are high self-expectations and expectations on the team members, total postponement of the tasks, excessive control over the team's activities, and fear of making any mistake.

It has been found that employees who put themselves under a lot of pressure as far as adherence to high standards are concerned tend to come up with higher ratings of depression owing to inferior performance. It may therefore have the knock-on effect on the physical well-being of employees, work efficiency, employee stress and interpersonal relationships.

To overcome perfectionism and embrace imperfection, leaders should:

- 1. Prioritize progress over perfection.
- 2. Promote humility and care in the human relationships more closely related of the people surrounding others.
- Use Leaders: One should lead by example and that means admitting to mistakes whenever they are made.
- 4. Moreover, make the communication between the team members direct.

Delegation is one of the important ways of establishing a sustainable model of leadership or the welfare of the leader. Having a spirit of autonomy and accountability, the different personalities of the team members can be useful in enhancing productivity of the organizational goals.

Speaking about the company's goals and rules, as well as fears and challenges, becoming more open, the heads of transformation can build an environment of trust and psychological safety. But besides boosting team performance and morale it also helps to make an organization more resilient and prepared for emerging challenges of digital transformation journeys.

VIII. FOSTERING INCLUSIVE DIGITAL CULTURES

Today in the period of digitalization it has become rather essential for an organization to encourage civic digital cultures. Surprisingly, this approach also complements the ethical concerns while at the same time fostering creativity and organizational success. DEI should be one of the core competencies that outline the transformational leadership of the future, and the role of technology for establishing inclusion must be considered as well (Kala Kamdjoug 2024; Onesi-Ozigagun et al., 2024).

8.1. Diversity as Innovation Driver

Some of the longstanding sources of competitive advantage have become much less valuable in the digital age; in contrast, new sources of diversity have emerged as significant drivers of innovation. The incorporation of diverse views and backgrounds helps an organization to cope with issues and look for unique approaches to their solving. Boston Consulting Group reported that the companies having better than average diversity featured 19% more revenues linked to innovation. This research reaffirms the importance of diversity in driving innovation as well as realizing organisational performance. Diversity as Innovation Driver shown in Figure 6.

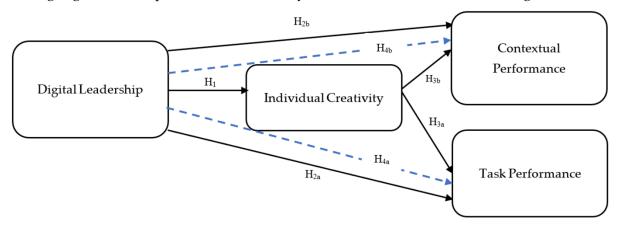


Figure 6: Diversity as Innovation Driver

The findings also bring out a lot of light on how diversity affects innovation, it is not all about the financial aspect. This is due to the fact that differentiated groups offer a wider perspective and different thinking, the problems' solving methods, and experiences. This diversity of thought helps organizations to come up with products and services that will suit majority of the people making more customers and hence widening the market.

However, with special emphasis for gender diversity which has even been proven to give a competitive advantage. A McKinsey & Company of 2020's Diversity Wins shows that companies with the highest levels of gender diversity are 48% likelier to have better performance than those companies with lower gender diversity. In the same way, firms with ethnic & cultural tropical advantage performed 36% better than those in the fourth quartile in terms of profitability.

8.2. Creating Equitable Digital Workplaces

Yet, to support new generative cultures of inclusion, those leaders need to develop digitally inclusive organisations and cultures. This means that organisations should adopt structural and empirically validated methods in the recruitment, employee turnover, work distribution, and promotions. In this way, organizations get rid of confirmation bias issue and make a better background for personnel.

One such tactics include the use of digital resources and artificial intelligence for recruitment purposes. Through the use of these tools, hasty decisions and inclinations caused by gender, colour or ethnic background and so on are done away with and the best candidates are hired. Furthermore, the practices that may be useful for increasing the fairness of the process include the so-called blind résumé review, as well as using the structured interview.

Hence, to overcome current tendencies, usage of analytics should be utilized to derive more information about the demographic compositions of the workforce, their productivity, and morale. The analytical outcomes help the HR and DEI departments to find out the gaps and design interventions that fit the particular organisation's key issues in terms of D&I. Gartner Human Resources also said that in organizations with measures that lead to consequences in diversity, equity and inclusion, gender, and race gaps are closed far more quickly than in organizations where DEI metrics are not reported.

Again, making digital workplaces more equitable is also about accessibility. The implementation of digital techniques and enhanced business models make the workplaces more reachable to the employees with disabilities through effective applications of assistive technology solutions and disability-friendly interfaces. It fosters ACCEPTANCE of people with disabilities whilst ensuring that they are productive within the workplace.

Another agenda for transformation leaders is also providing workplace flexibility like working from home. It is most beneficial to parents, who have been able to balance their responsibilities to their young children and participate in workforce, caregivers and persons with exceptional circumstance. It is thus important for organizations to incorporate the use of online tools for communication in such a way that it caters for the most dispersed employee and the one with a certain mode of communication he or she prefers.

IX. LEVERAGING DATA FOR LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

With the advent of digital technologies, strategy and change leaders are now seeking analytics for insights into their organisations and to strengthen their leadership. Data, analytics, and AI are the enablers to making the right decisions and to unlock the potential of the workforce for organisations to thrive in digital transformations.

9.1. Network Analysis

ONA stands for Organisation Network Analysis and the concept has evolved as one of the most useful concepts and tools in the hands of the leaders where organizational human interactions are concerned. This one applies network science and certain measures to consider and illustrate how communication and means of information transfer occur within the company. Employees' data collected from their surveys and their work applications render insights of the organization that are often concealed by organizational structures.

ONA provides valuable insights about how people communicate, whom people listen to, and who works in isolation. It also offers information regarding trust and influence feelings within the organisational context. Such analyses help leaders focus on human-oriented KPIs and adjust organizational approaches to improve the general experience of the workers.

There is another benefit of ONA – we are able to identify those who are informal leaders, who are different from formal leaders of an organization, as a rule. Often such people can provide insights as to how work is conducted efficiently, without adhering to organizational structures. Therefore, by applying such findings, leaders can plan and ascertain team dynamics, working interaction, and performance much better.

9.2. Measuring Affective Leadership

When digital transformation is top of the agenda of continuous improvements, executives must emphasize the role of emotional intelligence in performance. Affective leadership is a method that works to build the purposeful, engaged, and equitable cultures in parallel with analytics-driven flexibility and performance.

Thereby, it may be concluded that the effective digital leadership influences the level of employees' innovativeness and organizational outcomes. It has the power to:

- 1. Raise (uncopyable) innovation rates and enhance service innovation capability.
- 2. Reach open innovation and develop radical green innovation.
- 3. Build winning digital workplace environments designed for innovation.
- 4. Support staff's digital literacy and foster knowledge of getting things done.
- 5. Create healthy positive and despite interface environments for interaction.

To measure the effectiveness of affective leadership, organizations can use various metrics and approaches:

- 1. Affective Commitment: Previous research have also also explored the relationship between affective commitment and employees' innovative behavior. When employees have emotional attachment to their working place, the chances that they will perform innovatively and enhance the organizational fate are high.
- **2. Vision Communication:** Digital leaders always motivate and encourage people in formulating organizational vision and sharing the same feedback. This leads to an increase of human resources since it motivates employees to spend more of their productive hours at work.
- **3. Organizational Identity:** Digital leadership contributes to the construction of organizational identity communicated on aims, generation of trusting organizational climate, and increase of the level of employees' engagement.
- **4. Consensus Building:** It means that through negotiation, leaders can assist different employees to agree, come together and overcome their differences in opinions.

Therefore, through using data to capture these aspects of affective leadership, transformation leaders can get useful information on the extent of success they impacted and where they require to improve. These approaches facilitate generation of higher level of employee engagement, innovation, and productivity and as such make organizations to achieve successful digital transformation.

X. CONCLUSION

They also noted that the digital age has led to new expectations for the transformation leaders in that such leaders need to learn new skills and ways of managing their organizations. This article has sought to give an elaborate understanding of the approaches to leadership in digital transformation clarifying on issues such as stakeholder management, context collapse, purpose and values, the development of digital leadership, cultural issues and the use of data in leadership. These approaches, therefore, help the leaders to properly guide their organizations towards improved digital transformation and longevity. Thus, the process of digital transformation is a continuous one and the leaders who embarked on this journey should remain

flexible and teachable if they are to make sense of the new digital landscape. Based on the discussed concepts, the transformation leaders can foster responsible organizations that would be able to progress through the period of digital change and turbulent business environment. Finally, it all comes down to people – leadership that can encourage its employees to embrace the change, to think creatively, to focus on equality within the organisation to give every person a chance to grow in this digital age and with technology by their side.

REFERENCES

- [1] Müller, S. D., Konzag, H., Nielsen, J. A., & Sandholt, H. B. (2024). Digital transformation leadership competencies: A contingency approach. *International Journal of Information Management*, 75, 102734. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijinfomgt.2023.102734
- [2] Malik, M., Raziq, M. M., Sarwar, N., & Tariq, A. (2024). Digital leadership, business model innovation and organizational change: role of leader in steering digital transformation. *Benchmarking: An International Journal. https://doi.org/10.1108/BIJ-04-2023-0283*.
- [3] Cosa, M. (2024). Business digital transformation: strategy adaptation, communication and future agenda. *Journal of Strategy and Management*, 17(2), 244-259.
- [4] Kopackova, H., Simonova, S., & Reimannova, I. (2024). Digital transformation leaders wanted: How to prepare students for the ever-changing demands of the labor market. *The International Journal of Management Education*, 22(1), 100943. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijme.2024.100943
- [5] Malik, M., Raziq, M. M., Sarwar, N., & Gohar, M. (2024). Navigating the change: a case study of the textile industry on digital leadership, digital transformation and innovative business models. *Benchmarking: An International Journal*. https://doi.org/10.1108/BIJ-06-2023-0376
- [6] Ly, B. (2024). The interplay of digital transformational leadership, organizational agility, and digital transformation. *Journal of the Knowledge Economy*, *15*(1), 4408-4427.
- [7] Mızrak, F. (2024). Effective change management strategies: Exploring dynamic models for organizational transformation. *In Perspectives on artificial intelligence in times of turbulence: Theoretical background to applications*, 135-162.
- [8] Yao, Q., Tang, H., Liu, Y., & Boadu, F. (2024). The penetration effect of digital leadership on digital transformation: the role of digital strategy consensus and diversity types. *Journal of Enterprise Information Management*, 37(3), 903-927.
- [9] Butt, A., Imran, F., Helo, P., & Kantola, J. (2024). Strategic design of culture for digital transformation. *Long Range Planning*, 57(2), 102415. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lrp.2024.102415
- [10] Adama, H. E., & Okeke, C. D. (2024). Digital transformation as a catalyst for business model innovation: A critical review of impact and implementation strategies. *Magna Scientia Advanced Research and Reviews*, 10(02), 256-264.
- [11] Kala Kamdjoug, J. R. (2024). Change management and digital transformation project success in SMEs located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Journal of Enterprise Information Management*, 37(2), 580-605.
- [12] Onesi-Ozigagun, O., Ololade, Y. J., Eyo-Udo, N. L., & Ogundipe, D. O. (2024). Leading digital transformation in non-digital sectors: a strategic review. *International Journal of Management & Entrepreneurship Research*, 6(4), 1157-1175.