

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF REPUTABLE SCHOLARS

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Preamble

Academic profession like other essential professions has its demands. For anyone to succeed in the profession, he/ she needs to possess some personal characteristics. The focus of this presentation is to sensitize academic staff, particularly the young academics on the personal characteristics that are required to succeed in academic career. Some notable scholars who possessed the appropriate personality characteristics and that have excelled in academic endeavour include: Fransisco Ayala, Abdulhamid Bin Badis, Ali Jabar, Abdul Qader Arnaoot, Peter L. Berger, Benjamin Carson, Hassan Hathont , Francis Collins , Omar Khalidi, Robert J. Marks. Others are Marilynne Robinson, Allan Rex Sandage, Wole Soyinka, Martin Lings, Chinua Achebe, Ali Mansur and Muhammed Nasiruddin-al-Mbani.

Personal Characteristics

For the purpose of information and education, some characteristics of reputable scholars are hereby highlighted:

- a. **Integrity:** Reputable scholars have scrupulous regard for truth, display clear distinction among facts, opinions and views. They usually exhibit the principles of sincerity, commitment to serve and honesty.
- b. **Well focused:** Scholars of high repute embark on proper planning and ensure successful completion of assigned tasks or projects. They avoid distractions and concentrate on the main assignment or duties.
- c. **Authority:** Most reputable scholars are articulate in their areas of specialisation and they speak with authority and clarity about their researches.
- d. **Persistence:** Reputable scholars are persistent and resolute in providing deep explanations for events and occurrences. They insist on actions and programmes that will advance knowledge and societal growth.
- e. **Passionate:** Good scholars have passion for reading, writing and researches. They contribute to knowledge and promote learning and skill acquisition.

- f. **Productive:** Reputable scholars are productive. This is done through teaching, research and community development. They present published research findings and make appropriate recommendations to promote human development.
- g. **Resourcefulness:** Good scholars are always ready to learn and acquire new skills. They seek competitive opportunities in which they compete for the best research grants, prominent academic awards and recognition. Such scholars are familiar with and knowledgeable in areas of classical and theoretical literature.
- h. **Loyalty:** Reputable scholars support their universities or organisations. They actively engaged in the development of new ideas, ensure academic discipline, mentor junior colleagues and promote conducive environment for teaching, learning and research.
- i. **Connectivity:** Good scholars are internationally connected. They network with leading national and international scholars in their fields and bring honour and glory to their institutions/organisations.
- j. **Ethics:** Reputable academics follow strong professional ethics. They display honesty about their work, avoid exploitation, accept constructive criticisms, engage in constructive criticisms, treat others with respect and avoid gaining personal advantages out of serving positions.
- k. **Contribution:** Reputable scholars make significant contribution in their academic endeavours. Their research efforts are often reflected as sound theory that have been widely cited and recognised.
- l. **Tenacity:** Good scholars demonstrate ability to continue in the face of set-backs, delays, criticisms and rejection of efforts. They are always ready to make corrections and learn from others.
- m. **Service to mankind:** Reputable scholars put the interest of humanity as the main objective of each inquiry. They avoid researches that are directed against mankind.
- n. **Open-mindedness:** Scholars of high repute are willing and able to understand a range of views and to accommodate them as appropriate in their own thinking. They are receptive to the ideas of other researchers and they give acknowledgement whenever it is due and to whom it is due.
- o. **Visionary:** Reputable scholars have personal driving search for improving human knowledge. They think ahead of others and strive to provide solutions to human problems.

Conclusion

The highlighted personal attributes are some of the characteristics of a reputable scholar. Since most academics aspire to be reputable and contribute to the development of the society, it is essential that they imbibe these characteristics in order to promote teaching, learning, research and human development.