



Editorial:

Role of Leadership in Sustainable Development and Peace

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Abstract

The role of leadership in sustainable development is crucial to make a balance between development, society and environment, and ultimately peace. By prioritizing ethical, inclusive, and adaptive leadership, societies can create a virtuous cycle where sustainable development and peace reinforce each other, ultimately leading to a more equitable and harmonious world. This interconnectedness underscores the need for leaders at all levels—local, national, and global—to commit to the sustainable practices and policies that benefit both current and future generations.

Keywords: Leadership, sustainable development, peace

Introduction

In today's world, the sustainability of leadership (also in the sense of effectiveness) is more important than ever, particularly in the context of sustainable development. This concept is a pressing issue as it involves balancing societal, economic, and environmental aspects, which are

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essential for the long life of humans and the earth and peace. A key aspect of sustainable development is to manage the use of resources in a way that meets the needs of present and future generations. To achieve sustainable development goals, institutions, community participation, and innovations are essential. Leadership plays a crucial role in this process, as effective leadership can create an institutional culture to enhance resilience and support longevity through sustainable development practices. There is a strong relationship between strong leadership and successful sustainable development and peace.

Sustainable Development and issues

Sustainable development generally refers to growth that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. The United Nations' motto for sustainable development emphasizes peace, prosperity, and health for both people and the planet, considering the future. This approach requires to use of resources thoughtfully and in a balanced manner to avoid harm to society and the environment. At the same time, the economy needs to thrive alongside these efforts. Infrastructure projects should be carried out, particularly in developing countries in ways that minimize the utilization of natural resources and less environmental damage.

According to Jachs Jeffery (2020), the present world has been facing challenges such as inequality, environmental degradation, and shifting geopolitics, and sustainable development has to address them. About 50 % of the world has 2% of wealth, and 10 % of the world's population owns 76 % of total household wealth. Similarly, 10 % population captures 52 % of total income. Likewise, Sahara Africa (534 million) and South Asia (389 million) are home to approximately five out of every six poor people. There is a huge gap in income and equality. Therefore, employment and income are major challenges related to humans that need to be addressed sustainably. Gender, minority, and exclusive people should be considered in sustainable development. The various reasons are responsible for inequality. One is an international scenario. Many developing countries have less access to technology and skills. The commodity price also contributes to it globally.

Economic development can only thrive if there are proper investment policies, technology transfer policies, job creation environments, and infrastructure development policies and successful implementation. The inclusive and enhancement policy can not be forgotten that address gender, minorities, and other social inequality. From an economic point of view, the quality of employment is the most pressing issue in the fight against inequality. Furthermore, access to technology is increasingly important. Therefore, ensuring easy access to quality education is fundamental for supporting economic development.

At the same time, environmental degradation presents a significant challenge that negatively impacts agricultural production and public health. Therefore, mitigation plans and policies towards the environmental impacts in infrastructure development activities are more important. Additionally, geopolitical issues play an important role in achieving sustainable socio-economic development.

Leadership's role in sustainability

When discussing the problems and challenges regarding economic and human development, the realization of sustainability of leadership naturally arises. The sustainability of leadership is crucial in tackling such challenges and achieving sustainable development. Leadership has been known as a complex phenomenon evolving around behavior, situation, and trait factors. These factors are believed to make institutions, communities, and innovation more effective and resilient. At the same time, leadership is incomplete without decision-making and effective action.

The role of leadership in promoting sustainable development is vital, as it encompasses both policy and implementation. Effective decision-making is crucial for sustaining leadership practices. To make sound decisions, having a clear vision and strategy is crucial. Leadership also significantly contributes to creating business and trade-friendly environments with neighboring countries and the global community, thereby strengthening sustainable development efforts. Furthermore, geopolitical relationships influence investments and foreign direct investment (FDI), underscoring the importance of leadership in these contexts.

It is believed that adopting integrative approaches along with the existing leadership model can enhance the vitality of institutions, allowing them to collaborate more effectively with various organizations and stakeholders. Burns (2015) emphasizes the importance of an inclusive approach where leadership embraces ethical values, systems thinking, cognitive diversity, reflective practice, reflexivity, and resilience. Similarly, Atanka (2022) suggests that embracing a mindset of responsible leadership with a clear vision is essential for key actors in Africa's sustainability journey, including political leaders, business executives, innovators, influencers, and grassroots.

Buddha emphasized the importance of good institutions by establishing a 'sangha' to raise awareness among people and serve as servant leaders. He highlighted the leaders-followers approach, which focuses on genuine care for common interests and a shared vision. This approach encourages collaboration and understanding among individuals. Not only does it build trust, but it also empowers people to actively participate in their development, ultimately contributing to a more peaceful society.

Conclusion

The interplay between leadership, sustainable development, and peace is a critical framework for addressing global challenges and fostering long-term prosperity. The role of leadership in sustainable development is crucial in achieving a balance between economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection which are the three pillars of sustainable development. When these elements are harmonized, they create a foundation for lasting peace.

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