

Chapter 9

Ubuntu Philosophical Framework for Inclusive Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

Ubuntu provides an enabling framework and guidelines which facilitate the attainment of sustainable development goals without marginalisation of the poor and other vulnerable groups. Ubuntu enhances identity, dignity and self-worth which promote psychological wellbeing. As enshrined in the concept of Ubuntu, community members are supposed to exercise a high level of responsibility and accountability when embarking on community developmental programmes. The equity distribution

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of resources enhances social inclusion, protection and connectedness. The cooperative, collaborative management and sharing of resources enhances the attainment of sustainable development goals. The availability of appropriate infrastructure and functional social services culminate to the attainment of sustainable developmental goals such as food, health, education, energy and industrial infrastructure among the list. The Ubuntu driven research is collaborative and anchored on the African views which are inclusive, contextually meaningful and produce sustainable results.

INTRODUCTION

Mugumbate and Chereni (2019) and Van Breda (2019) viewed Ubuntu as an African philosophy on which a person is a person through others. Mwansa (2020) views Ubuntu as an African philosophy of interdependence irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity and social status. Ubuntu is a culturally oriented African philosophy anchored on social inclusion, protection, mutual trust and reciprocity. It is common indigenous philosophy among the Bantu speaking people found in eastern and southern Africa. There is social cohesion as community members help each other and share both good and bad moments. It takes the whole village to raise a child especially the orphans and vulnerable children (Reupert, Straussner, Wemand, & Darryl, 2022). Members of the community have got an obligation to look after the disadvantaged members of the community. The role and responsibilities of extended family members is derived from Ubuntu philosophy. The extended family members have got an obligation of looking after the welfare of the blood relatives (Moran & Taylor, 2021). Guided by Ubuntu philosophy, extended family members assume the parental role for the orphans (Ringson, & Chereni, 2019). The disadvantaged community members find solace through sharing distressful experiences, social problems and even joyful moments. Through sharing painful feelings, they are able to get a sigh of relief. In the context of Ubuntu philosophy, they are able to get shelter, clothing, food and medication among the other necessities.

Ubuntu is a common indigenous philosophy among the Bantu speaking people found in eastern and southern Africa. The concept of Ubuntu views a person not in isolation but in the context of others (Kurevakwesu & Chizasa, 2020). In a socio-centric African society, there is emphasis on sharing both good and bad moments. Social inclusion and protection are embedded in the Ubuntu philosophy where the marginalised and vulnerable community members should have their voices heard in decision making and participate in socio-economic programmes. UNICEF (2016) reported that 7.6 million children in East and Southern Africa are orphans. Nyamukapa, Gregson, Lopman, Saito, Watts and Monasch (2008) put across that orphans and vulnerable children are often isolated and find it difficult to share experienced

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