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GLOBAL TRENDS IN SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT: CRISIS IMPLICATIONS DURING PANDEMIC

The global community has made great strides in addressing poverty, but a mere continuation of current development strategies will not suffice to achieve sustainable development. Economic and social progress remains uneven, the global financial crisis has revealed the fragility of progress, and accelerating environmental degradation inflicts increasing costs on societies. There are a number of economic, social, technological, demographic and environmental megatrends underlying these challenges - a deeper globalization, persistent inequalities, demographic diversity and environmental degradation - to which a sustainable development agenda will have to respond.

These trends influence and reinforce each other in myriad ways and pose enormous challenges. Urbanization is proceeding rapidly in developing countries, globalization and financialization are perpetuating inequalities, while exposing countries to greater risks of contagion from crises, and food and nutrition as well as energy security is threatened by competing demands on land and water, as well as environmental degradation. Most important, environmental degradation has reached critical levels. Business as usual is therefore not an option, and sustainable development will require transformative change at the local, national and global levels.

The crisis caused by COVID-19 has affected research in a variety of ways. As far as research on sustainable development is concerned, the lockdown has significantly disrupted the usual communication channels and, among other things, has led to the cancellation of meetings and long-planned events. It has also led to delay in the delivery of research projects. There is a gap in the literature in regards to how a global crisis influences sustainability research. Therefore, this ground-breaking paper undertakes an analysis of the extent to which COVID-19 as a whole, and the lockdown

in particular, has influenced sustainability research, and it outlines the solutions pursued by researchers around the world to overcome the many challenges they have experienced. This paper also outlines some measures that may be implemented in the future to take more advantage of existing technologies that support research on sustainable development.

The global health crisis caused by COVID-19 impacted research activities undertaken by higher education institutions, research centres and research groups in a variety of ways. Despite significant efforts to decrease the effects of the pandemic crisis, some researchers around the world have been (or are) forced into social isolation, and they had to interrupt face to face meetings with their colleagues, which had an adverse effect on the work within research teams. Furthermore, during the peak of the pandemic, several activities in research laboratories were interrupted. This has led to delays in the scheduling of many research projects. In many cases, researchers were forced to apply for an extension of the deadlines for their activities.

References

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