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Higher Education Governance and The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)

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ABSTRACT

The governance of higher education institutions (HEIs) plays a critical role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as set out by the United Nations. This abstract examines the intersection of governance frameworks within HEIs and their contribution to the SDGs, highlighting the need for robust, transparent and inclusive governance structures. Effective governance in higher education can drive progress towards achieving the SDGs by fostering an environment conducive to research, innovation, and community engagement.

Key aspects of governance that influence the ability of higher education institutions to contribute to the SDGs include strategic leadership, stakeholder participation, accountability, and the alignment of institutional goals with global sustainability goals. Through case studies and theoretical analysis, this study highlights best practices and challenges faced by HEIs worldwide in integrating SDG principles into their governance models.

The findings suggest that institutions with strong governance frameworks are better equipped to implement policies and initiatives that promote sustainability, equity and quality education. Furthermore, the role of HEIs in educating future leaders and conducting interdisciplinary research is critical to advancing all 17 SDGs. The study concludes with recommendations for policymakers and HEI administrators to improve governance practices and ensure that higher education continues to be a central force in achieving a sustainable and equitable future.

Keywords: higher education, governance, sustainable development goals, SDGs, transparency, stakeholder participation, accountability, sustainability.