

Fostering Well-being as a UN Sustainable Development Goal

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Edited by

Gerard Magill and James Benedict

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*We dedicate this book to Duquesne University in tribute to the
Endowed Annual Conference Series on the Integrity of Creation.*

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INTRODUCTION

GERARD MAGILL

In 2015, the President of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh in the United States (Charles J. Dougherty) commissioned an endowed annual academic conference series on the *Integrity of Creation* to celebrate the organization's Spiritan mission. The University is Catholic, being founded by members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, the Spiritans.¹ The current University President, Ken Gormley, continues to provide outstanding support for the conference, inspiring excellence as the series develops.

This conference series addresses emerging concerns and pivotal problems about our planet's environment and ecology, including this study, *Fostering Well-being as a UN Sustainable Development Goal*. The UN Sustainable Development Goals are widely recognized as both driving and measuring progress to mitigate the global climate crisis.² Each conference is an interdisciplinary endeavor in the sense that presenters and participants from different disciplines are invited to engage each other in civil discourse on the selected topic. The conference has three goals: to provide a scholarly opportunity to engage with established and emerging research; to foster interdisciplinary discourse; and, to enlighten public awareness and discussion on the selected issues.

In Fall 2015, the topic of the inaugural conference was *Climate Change* as an urgent concern regarding the Integrity of Creation.³ Before the conference occurred, there was the publication in May 2015 of the environmental encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si': Praise Be To You. On Care for Our Common Home*.⁴ The Pope invited "every person living on this planet," "all people of good will," "to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home" as "a shared inheritance."⁵ In 2023, Pope Francis expanded upon this encyclical in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Laudate Deum, To All People of Good Will on the Climate Crisis*.⁶ Here the Pope emphasized that "a healthy ecology is also the result of interaction between human beings and the environment" (#27). This requires what he called "global safeguarding" (#42) that includes the following: "global mechanisms to the environmental, public health, cultural and social

challenges, especially in order to consolidate respect for the most elementary human rights, social rights and the protection of our common home" (#42). The call of Pope Francis to foster a "respect for the Integrity of Creation" is very similar to the focus of the Spiritan mission.⁷

The second annual conference and its proceedings focused on the topic of *Integral Ecology: Protecting our Common Home*,⁸ the conference title being inspired by a chapter in the encyclical of Pope Francis.⁹ The third annual conference and its proceedings focused on the topic of *The Global Water Crisis*,¹⁰ again inspired by the encyclical of Pope Francis.¹¹ The fourth annual conference and its proceedings focused on the topic, *The Global Sustainability Challenge*, reflecting the recognition of the Earth Charter by Pope Francis in his encyclical.¹² The fifth annual conference and its proceedings focused on the topic, *Toward a Healthy Planet*.¹³ The sixth annual conference and its proceedings focused on the topic, *Strands of Sustainability*.¹⁴ The seventh annual conference and its proceedings focused on the topic, *Resilience in Ecology and Health*,¹⁵ connecting sustainability with resilience, ecology, climate, health and related issues. The eighth annual conference and its proceedings in this volume focus on the topic, *Fostering Well-being as a UN Sustainable Development Goal*, considering well-being in health and the natural and social environment.¹⁶

As this conference series evolves, many other topics will be discussed to shed light on the *Integrity of Creation* from multiple perspectives. To safeguard our planet, we must be attentive to ecological and environmental concerns with air pollution, problems that arise from toxicity in the land and ocean regarding food sources and biodiversity, and many other crises, not least of which is how to anticipate the movement of vast populations from coastal regions that may become permanently flooded. These topics highlight the basic problem of global sustainability and resilience.

The presentations at the conferences result from a peer-reviewed process for inclusion at the conference and in the published proceedings. The book chapters reflect the conference presentations and have been written to appeal to a general audience with rigorous scholarship, depicting the interdisciplinary focus of the discussions. The chapters are organized into several disciplines and categories that relate together in an integral manner. Each section is designed to present a variety of perspectives. The organization of chapters addresses well-being in health and the natural and social environment.

The first section discusses ethics committee consultation to foster well-being in health, including perinatal bioethics and end-of-life issues. The next section engages general approaches to foster well-being in health via discussion of the following topics: clinical chaplaincy, psychedelic-assisted

psychotherapy, affordable healthcare, alleviating poverty, medical respite after hospital discharge, and the patient-physician experience. The following section focuses on clinical topics to foster well-being in health, including reproductive autonomy, assisted reproductive technology, preeclampsia in perinatal treatment, the autism spectrum disorder, transplant ethics, and palliative sedation. The subsequent section addresses emerging issues in biomedical engineering to foster well-being in health, including retinol absorbency/duration and stem cell derived 3D organoids. Finally, there is a section on generational challenges to foster well-being in the natural and social environment, including discussion of these issues: the influence of the papal encyclical *Laudato' Si*; promoting a thriving environment; the threat of mass extinction; sustainability in water bodies; challenges where water meets innovation; water access and infrastructure; the interaction of society, culture and behavior; the problem with male-dominated careers; and concerns with child labor in fast fashion. The book's brief conclusion considers the ethical imperative to foster well-being as a UN sustainable development goal.

A few words of acknowledgment are appropriate to recognize the contribution of many in planning the annual conference series that has led to this collection of conference proceedings. Above all, the establishment of an endowment by President Charles J. Dougherty at Duquesne University to support this annual academic conference series presents a lovely legacy. Also, there is sincere appreciation for the continuing support of Ken Gormley as our current University President and for the ongoing support of the Spiritan Congregation that sponsors the University. The editors are very grateful for the advice and oversight of a highly dedicated Conference Planning Committee, an outstanding University librarian, Ted Bergfelt, and a superb support staff, including a very gifted group of international graduate students who provide outstanding support for the annual conference that leads to our published proceedings. Finally, we extend heartfelt gratitude to Ercan Avci, Ph.D., the conference coordinator. His detailed planning assured a seamless scholarly event with its multitude of posters and presentations; and his meticulous formatting of the chapters in this work facilitated a timely submission of the manuscript to the publisher.

Notes

¹See, <http://www.duq.edu/about/mission-and-identity>; also see, <http://www.spiritans.org>.

²See the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

³See the conference proceedings, Gerard Magill, Kia Aramesh, eds., *The Urgency of Climate Change* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), Introduction, xi-xiv. Permission has been provided to reiterate in the Introduction of this book materials from the Introduction to the first book in this series, *The Urgency of Climate Change*.

⁴Pope Francis, *Laudato Si': Praise Be To You. Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015).

⁵Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 3, 28, 93.

⁶Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2023).

⁷Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 130.

⁸See the conference proceedings, Gerard Magill, Jordan Potter, eds., *Integral Ecology: Protecting Our Common Home* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018).

⁹Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 124 (in chapter three), and chapter four.

¹⁰See the conference proceedings, Gerard Magill, James Benedict, eds., *Cascading Challenges in the Global Water Crisis* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019).

¹¹Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, chapter 1, section II, "The Issue of Water," no. 27-31.

¹²See the conference proceedings, Gerard Magill, James Benedict, eds., *The Global Sustainability Challenges* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020). Also, see, Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, no. 207, refers to the *Earth Charter* for a sustainable, global society that emphasizes justice and peace (The Hague, 29 June 2000), <https://earthcharter.org/discover/what-is-the-earth-charter>.

¹³See the conference proceedings, Gerard Magill, James Benedict, eds., *Toward a Healthy Planet* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021).

¹⁴See the conference proceedings, Magill, Gerard, James Benedict, eds., *Strands of Sustainability* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2023).

¹⁵See the conference proceedings, Magill, Gerard, James Benedict, eds., *Resilience in Ecology and Health* (Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2023).

¹⁶Magill, Gerard, James Benedict, eds., *Fostering Well-being as a UN Sustainable Development Goal*, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, forthcoming, 2024.

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CHAPTER ONE

PIVOTAL PERSPECTIVES ON FOSTERING WELL-BEING AS A UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

GERARD MAGILL

Introduction

This book continues a series of works that address the urgency of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations Development Programme in 2015,¹ such as slashing carbon dioxide emissions to net-zero if we are to prevent the average global temperature from increasing beyond 1.5 celsius above preindustrial levels.²

This book presents the proceedings of the 8th annual endowed conference on the Integrity of Creation, fostering the wholeness of creation from interdisciplinary perspectives. The perspectives in the study represent a variety of disciplines that engage each other in an integrative way. The chapters have been organized to let the dialogue unfold in an overlapping manner, with points of view developing from different angles.³ As mentioned in the book's Introduction, there are several sections to bring coherence to the contributions. Discourse on well-being is critical for the UN development goals, hence the title of the book, *Fostering Well-being as a UN Sustainable Development Goal*.

This opening chapter introduces many pivotal perspectives that appear throughout the book (using the abstracts submitted by the various contributors). This overview is designed to assist readers in keeping an eye on the big picture as they explore the various topics. As the chapters develop, there is a cumulative sense of fostering well-being to advance the integrity of creation as a function of the common good, belonging to all and meant for all (adopting a phrase from the Papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'*).⁴ What follows is a brief account of the chapters in each of the main sections of the book.

Ethics Committee Consultation to Foster Well-Being in Health

This first section of the book engages ethics committee consultation to foster well-being in health. There are three contributions. The first topic explores the critical role of clinical ethics consultants in achieving the United Nations Development Program's Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG-3), which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. The chapter explains how clinical ethics consultation addresses complex ethical dilemmas in patient care, facilitates informed consent, and aids in resource allocation, thereby aligning healthcare practices with ethical principles, laws, and patient values. The discussion looks at the application of clinical ethics in various aspects of SDG-3, including maternal-fetal mortality, sustainable development, global health, and the ethical implications of AI in healthcare. The analysis concludes that clinical ethics consultants are integral in guiding healthcare systems towards practices that respect human dignity and equity, thus contributing significantly to the realization of the SDG-3 focus on well-being.

The second topic examines interconnections between institutional ethics committee policies and outcomes in perinatal ethics. The discussion stresses the importance that institutional ethics committees have gained in the medical field over the past few decades. It suggests that better policies would reduce the risks of disagreements not only among different members of the medical team but also among parents. Finally, it demonstrates that policies may influence the well-being of people of all ages and that a more effective implementation of guidelines would foster a better development of SDG-3.

The third topic explains how the principle of respect for autonomy has been traditionally extended to surrogates when patients lack decision-making capacity. This substituted judgment standard, which requires a surrogate attempt to make the decision that the incapacitated person would make in the current situation if they could do so, is not without criticism. There is concern that surrogates may not accurately reflect patients' preferences when making decisions. Moreover, individual autonomy has been challenged as failing to reflect the complex and interrelated nature of relationships. Relying on the work of Joan Tronto, this analysis proposes a CARES Model of ethics consultation to reflect better individuals' dependence and vulnerability, as well as social connectedness and interdependence. By engaging in this deliberative, collaborative process, clinicians and medical decision-makers will foster a beneficial outcome for the patient, thereby promoting the SDG-3 goal of well-being.

General Approaches to Foster Well-being in Health

This section of the book considers general approaches to foster well-being in health. There are six contributions. The first topic examines clinical chaplaincy in the context of pluralism in healthcare. Pluralism is an inescapable reality for high-quality, ethical health care. At the outset, the chapter presents a historical analysis of pluralism as it affects healthcare ethics. In the context of a pluralistic healthcare environment, the discussion of clinical chaplaincy addresses evangelism and proselytization in a typical Christian ministry setting. Here the analysis presents a contrast of the normative role of the minister in local religious communities of faith with the role of the clinical chaplain in a pluralistic healthcare environment. The conclusion offers a brief presentation of ethically appropriate spiritual care, incorporating a discussion of the “Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights” (UDBHR) and its relevant principles regarding religion and spirituality. This approach to clinical chaplaincy is crucial for fostering well-being as a UN sustainable development goal.

The second topic presents the resurgence of research into psychedelic medicines and psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy (PAP). PAP offers promising treatments for mental health disorders such as depression, PTSD, and substance use disorders. Given the often treatment-resistant nature of these mental health disorders, novel and effective treatments such as PAP are urgently needed. However, PAP raises unique ethical concerns due to the non-ordinary state of consciousness induced by psychedelics. Ensuring patient safety and ethical integrity in both research and clinical practice is of paramount importance. The chapter explores the historical context, therapeutic potential, and ethical considerations of PAP. The analysis advocates for a systematic ethical approach to maximize PAP’s benefits and to mitigate its risks as indispensable for patient well-being.

The third topic explores the complexities and challenges of the American healthcare system as contributing to the advance of well-being, highlighting the disparities and inefficiencies in both public and private sectors. The discussion considers key public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, noting their historical development and current impact on vulnerable populations. Then the chapter engages the private sector by looking at employer-sponsored and individual insurance plans, as well as the issues faced by the underinsured and uninsured. Comparisons are drawn with healthcare systems in Germany and Norway to identify potential solutions. The conclusion advocates for reforms that promote

financial security, freedom, and justice in line with American values and a vision of an Economic Bill of Rights proposed in the past by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The fourth topic considers poverty as a serious global issue insofar as its eradication is far from over. Placing poverty eradication as the first of the UN's seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is by no means a coincidence. Focusing on poverty and strategically working towards its eradication will help to address many other problems in the SDGs. Global food insecurity and hunger negatively impact public health with malnourished children, worsening poverty globally. Also, poor quality educational outcomes and inattentiveness to the ecology are attributable to poverty. Failure to take care of the environment can also result in poverty. In effect, these connected issues: poverty, hunger, health, education, and ecology, create a poverty cycle that only gets solved if drastic measures are implemented. Combating poverty should be an ethical concern for people globally to foster well-being in a sustainable environment.

The fifth topic explains how people experiencing homelessness are faced with multiple challenges when seeking medical care. Some may have had negative interactions with the healthcare system previously and actively try to avoid further encounters, leading them to endure and possibly exacerbate painful medical conditions. When they receive medical help, they reach a point at the hospital where they no longer need acute care but are not well enough to be discharged back to the street or shelter. Medical respite programs are a viable option to fill this gap in healthcare and uphold the UN's Sustainable Development goal to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages."

The sixth topic explores the ethical principles surrounding the patient-physician relationship, focusing on the healthcare system in Saudi Arabia. Patient-centered care, quality improvement, and physician satisfaction are crucial for achieving sustainable healthcare. The chapter evaluates the patient and physician experience in Saudi Arabia's healthcare system based on ethical principles. The purpose is to improve healthcare outcomes and enhance the sustainability of the patient-physician relationship in service to their reciprocal well-being.

Clinical Topics to Foster Well-being in Health

The next section of the book engages clinical topics to foster well-being in health. There are six contributions. The first topic explores the ethical imperatives to ensure culturally responsive healthcare, focusing on

reproductive autonomy among vulnerable Black women and girls in the United States. The discussion delves into historical and contemporary disparities in reproductive health, emphasizing the crucial role of board governance in healthcare organizations. The analysis advocates for the integration of a Governance Ethics Paradigm (presented in a diagram) to prioritize patient care quality and uphold reproductive rights as fundamental. By addressing systemic barriers and emphasizing equity, there is a need for ethical frameworks that promote justice and inclusivity in reproductive healthcare. As a result, vulnerable groups can achieve their reproductive goals with dignity and fairness. This is a critical aspect of fostering well-being as a UN sustainable development goal.

The second topic explains how Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) has profoundly revolutionized the landscape of reproductive medicine, restoring hope for infertile couples. However, these interventions come with myriads of complex social, ethical, and legal issues. The chapter investigates multifaceted dilemmas in the application of ART. Stakeholders need to understand nuanced interests, values, and rights of individuals to ensure ethically informed use of ART procedures as crucial for fostering well-being.

The third topic explores the close connection between clinical and organizational ethics in the delivery of healthcare today. Clinical ethics deals with patient care and organizational ethics deals with how the healthcare institution functions. These functions reflect the mission of the organization and its responsibilities to society. The analysis begins with a consideration of the institutional perspective of organizational ethics to enhance the delivery of the healthcare system in perinatal treatment. The discussion then considers preeclampsia issues in perinatal treatment, analyzing the need for organizational ethics in healthcare delivery and quality of care in prenatal care. The conclusion advocates for organizational ethics policy to ameliorate preeclampsia as being indispensable for well-being.

The fourth topic examines the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder. The persistent rise in autism is a global ethical concern. The adverse effect of the disorder includes impairments in communication and interaction as well as repetitive behaviors, restricted interests, and insistence on sameness. The discussion connects the prevalence of the disorder with environmental hazards. Care for the environment should be promoted to contribute to addressing the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder. This is a distinctive consideration for well-being as a UN sustainable development goal.

The fifth topic engages well-being in relation to transplant ethics, specifically focusing on Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (VCA), such as for face and limb transplants. This emerging topic has generated ethical controversies that to a large extent are different from organ and tissue transplants. Procurement organizations must require rigorous consent from VCA donors to safeguard them from undue harm. The scientific community and bioethicists need to work together to pave the way for transitioning the practice from experimental therapy to a standard of care that will foster well-being among this extraordinarily vulnerable patient population.

The sixth topic examines the growing acceptance of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia in various countries. This represents a profound ethical shift, one that Pope Saint John Paul II referred to in *Evangelium Vitae* as a part of the culture of death. This trend sheds light on the insufficient use of palliative sedation within Catholic healthcare institutions for those suffering from refractory existential suffering during the final stages of life. This gap in care represents an important area of ethical, theological, and compassionate tension. The analysis advocates for the compassionate application of palliative sedation for existential suffering within healthcare systems, especially Catholic healthcare, as a pivotal endeavor to foster the well-being of patients and providers.

Biomedical Engineering to Foster Well-being in Health

This section of the book considers emerging science in biomedical engineering to foster well-being in health. The first topic applies biomedical engineering to the safety of skin products. As companies promote skincare and anti-aging products at increasingly younger audiences, it is important for consumers to know what commonly used products, ingredients, and treatments are safe to use, and how to effectively use them. This becomes especially important since cosmetics are not regulated by the FDA, yet marketing can lead customers to believe in the safety of the ingredients. Research on active ingredients used in skincare should be conducted, published, and easily accessible, yet it is shockingly lacking. For example, while prescription retinoids require a visit to a dermatologist, over-the-counter options, such as Retinol, are available. Retinol is known to cause chemical reactions and damage to the skin when used incorrectly, yet peer-reviewed research on many of its properties is lacking or contradictory. This means usage guidelines are not clear for consumers and little information is provided. The research

discussed is this chapter clarifies some of the confusion. The research uses retinols' fluorescent properties to detect the depth of absorption into the skin and how long it stays present in the skin. This can help consumers utilize Retinol as an active ingredient without risking unwanted chemical reactions – a critical approach to advance their well-being.

The other topic analyses biomanufacturing stem cell derived 3D-Organoids. Bioengineered organoids, three-dimensional tissue constructs that mimic organ-level function, serve as invaluable tools actively transforming tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Organoids are cultured in vitro from stem cells through an iterative process referred to as the organoid generation pipeline. However, limitations of scalability, reproducibility, and cost persist with biomanufacturing homogenous organoid populations. To overcome these challenges, the chapter discusses using 3D-bioprinting to scale up production and establish stringent quality control measures. A novel air-jet bioprinter can provide a standardized protocol to encapsulate pluripotent stem cells within biomimetic alginate micro-droplets. By aligning with millennia-old principles, these methods hold promise for ethically mass-producing clinically translatable 3D-organoids, making progress toward personalized medicine. Integration of machine learning and artificial intelligence into biomanufacturing for automation and high-throughput screening can further transform drug testing and facilitate precise pathophysiology modeling. However, these advancements raise ethical considerations regarding potential socioeconomic and environmental impacts, including issues of inclusion, accessibility, and energy consumption. The analysis considers the background and trajectory of the organoid generation pipeline, culminating with a bioethical analysis focusing on the principles of non-maleficence, beneficence, and justice. This scientific approach is a practical example of fostering well-being as a UN sustainable development goal.

Generational Challenges to Foster Well-being in the Natural and Social Environment

This section of the book considers generational challenges to foster well-being in the natural and social environment. There are nine shorter contributions.

The first topic discusses well-being in social justice trends in light of the influence of the 2015 encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*. The discussion considers whether the encyclical caused a change in the types of social justice work done by the Spiritan Congregation that is honored by the work of these conference proceedings. The co-authors conducted a content analysis of Spiritan publications before 2015 (*Spiritan*, a

missionary magazine) and after 2015 (*Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation* Newsletter). The results showed an increased frequency of environmental justice work, with more activities acknowledging the environment as a facet of justice. This suggests that *Laudato Si'* was associated with an increase in social justice work prioritizing the environment, thereby contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The second topic discusses how to foster well-being via a thriving environment. Earth has provided humans with inhabitable land and the resources necessary for life. Humans have evolved over thousands of years, becoming more innovative with their advancements, which have been to the detriment of the planet. There are two ways to ensure a lasting and thriving environment: restoration of disturbed or damaged areas and conservation of natural, untouched areas. It is imperative to rehabilitate the damaged areas of our only inhabitable planet, therefore restoration should occur at any cost. However, conservation should be the prioritized course of action to protect the integrity of the environment by preserving its genesis and history, which make it invaluable.

The third topic considers pursuing well-being in the midst of mass extinction. Scientists have warned that human activity is sending Earth into a mass extinction event—an irreversible biological annihilation that could result in the disappearance of, at least, 75% of the species that exist today. We have overlooked the fundamental need for biodiversity as we relentlessly destroy habitats, introduce invasive species, pollute, grow in population, and overexploit resources. As the dominant species on Earth, we must accept our role in this large-scale ecological collapse and our responsibility to both conserve and restore the nature environment. Sustainability can only be achieved by acting on solutions that value biodiversity more than ever before.

The fourth topic discusses a global concern for well-being in our water bodies by focusing on eutrophication—this is a naturally occurring process characterized by an increase in nutrients in a water body, resulting in an overabundance of algae and plant growth. This process is being expedited by human activity into a global concern through the phenomenon of cultural eutrophication. Human wastewater, improper disposal of animal wastes, agricultural runoff, and air pollution are some of the catalysts in cultural eutrophication. Ultimately, the sustainability of our water bodies is threatened. Eutrophication detrimentally effects the environment, water quality, biodiversity, and human health. Sustainability practices, including decreasing transportation emissions and adjusting agricultural methods,

must be implemented. For this global environmental concern, a global effort is required to sustain our earth's environment for future generations.

The fifth topic considers fostering well-being where water and innovation meet. Water availability and accessibility is necessary for both humans and the environment. This chapter emphasizes the importance of water and how its availability and quality is affected by climate change. The analysis also examines the philosophical ideas of water as a human right based on Pope Francis' teaching as well as philosophical ideas on ecology. The discussion considers challenges of climate change and the need to adapt to extreme changes. Another key point is making water accessibility equal for people. The conclusion is that water needs to be equally accessible and available as a basic human right.

The sixth topic discusses a pervasive challenge to well-being, water access and insecurity, infrastructure failures, and environmental racism in the United States. Despite access to safe drinking water being recognized as a human right and one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, large-scale disparities exist. The chapter explains how infrastructure failures and environmental racism engender power dynamics that marginalize Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities through hydro-hegemony. The conclusion underscores the importance of achieving water justice for everyone by actively participating in achieving the UN *Sustainable Development Goals*.

The seventh topic discusses another expansive issue, considering how to foster well-being via the interaction of society, culture and behavior. Socioeconomic status contributors (social networks, education, food availability) contribute to global bioethical challenges. Social class interactions perpetuate a cycle of economic class disparity throughout generations. These interactional consequences need to be investigated to emphasize that these socioeconomic contributors are adjustable and created by society. Decreased socioeconomic status factors, such as low levels of education, function as contributors to generational poverty and poor health outcomes. Marginalized groups have currently and historically been exploited by large corporations and governmental agencies prompting the need for a system of checks and balances among nations.

The eighth topic considers the need to foster well-being by constraining male-dominated careers. Throughout history and across cultures, women have faced discrimination in the workplace and in professional settings. This has led to unsustainable work environments focused on male-dominated career paths. The chapter explores a UN *Sustainable Development Goal* to address how women can break down barriers to achieve equality in the workplace. Three companies are

exemplified as actively educating, supporting, and advocating for women. In industries historically dominated by men (companies like Bank of America, Capital One, and Technovation) have shown that women can flourish in leadership roles. These organizations have implemented different strategies to support ending gender inequality in the workplace. By doing so, they demonstrate how breaking historic gender norms can benefit both the organization and the community where they operate.

The ninth topic discusses the challenge to well-being in child labor and fast fashion. At first glance, one may not equate fast fashion with child labor. In spite of this, this industry is plagued by large-scale labor violations related to child labor practices. The chapter discusses Shein, one of the largest fast-fashion companies that has been accused of illegal labor practices in its factories. There is a comprehensive discussion of a UN *Sustainable Development Goal* to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. The conclusion explores the importance of social media and the role of influencers in helping to promote a more sustainable fashion industry.

Conclusion

In the concluding chapter, the analysis identifies a sample of issues regarding well-being as a UN sustainable development goal (different issues than discussed in the book's chapters) that have emerged with prominence in recent literature. This discussion emphasizes the ongoing ethical imperative to foster well-being as a sustainable development goal.

Notes

¹United Nations Development Programme, *Sustainable Development Goals* (2015), at, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>, and <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>.

²International Energy Agency, *Net Zero by 2050* (May 2021), <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>.

³The organization of this chapter adopts the same approach as previous books in this annual series of conference proceedings.

⁴Pope Francis, *Laudato Si': Praise Be To You. Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2015), §23.

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I. ETHICS COMMITTEE CONSULTATION TO FOSTER WELL-BEING IN HEALTH

CHAPTER TWO

THE CONTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CONSULTATION TO FOSTER WELL-BEING AS A UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

JOE BERTINO

Introduction

The United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-3) focuses on the imperative to foster well-being for all ages. This goal encompasses various health targets and indicators, including reducing maternal and child mortality, combating and preventing infectious diseases, and ensuring access for all to essential healthcare services.¹ Furthermore, this SDG to foster well-being seeks to reduce the global maternal mortality rate, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age, and end the AIDS, TB, Malaria, and tropical diseases epidemics, thus reducing premature mortality. The focus of SDG-3 on well-being exemplifies the UN's aim to improve health outcomes, reduce inequalities in access to healthcare, and ensure that people of all ages can lead healthy lives in an attainable manner.²

The UNDP recognizes that the sustainable aspect of their efforts within the focus of SDG-3 on well-being requires long-term solutions, including universal health coverage for all persons. Still, the longitudinal efforts of SDG-3 require a facilitation mechanism to ensure the UNDP accomplishes its efforts toward systemic healthcare issues in an ethically supportable manner. In this respect, the UNDP must consider the vocational skills and scope of practice of clinical ethics consultants. Individuals trained in clinical ethics consultation may serve as agents whose skills foster value-based decision-making beyond the immediate healthcare setting.³ This process systemically fosters well-being.