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Environmental, Social and Governance and Sustainable Development in Healthcare

Sustainable Development Goals Series

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Sustainable Development in Healthcare Through an Environmental, Social and Governance Approach

Abstract

This chapter briefly introduces the contents of the book. The United Nations developed 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote sustainable development in the global community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, SDG 3: good health and well-being has gained the most concern due to its direct association with public health. Sustainable development is usually reflected in the business industry as environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practice. The public and private sectors in the healthcare industry are both responsible for achieving sustainable development. This book will discuss ESG and sustainable development in healthcare from six perspectives: (i) ESG in the business industry, (ii) the realisation of SDG 3, (iii) value creation of ESG in the healthcare industry, (iv) contemporary development in the business of healthcare, (v) the promotion of ESG to stakeholder groups, and (vi) recent trends in education and research related to ESG and sustainability. This book complements sustainability-related studies and has some highlights that are discussed in the body text.

Keywords

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) • Healthcare • Sustainable development (SD) • Sustainable development goals (SDGs) • Sustainability

This book complements sustainability studies from three perspectives. First, it provides a general review of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) by introducing (i) the development and current situation of sustainability reporting in practice and theory, (ii) ESG promotion strategies to different stakeholder groups, and (iii) latest trends in academic research and education related to ESG and sustainability. Second, this book introduces how the healthcare business and related policies could contribute to sustainable development in universal health and human well-being. Third, the relationship between the healthcare industry and ESG applications with potential impacts is discussed in this book.

Our book has the following highlights. First, this book is the first to introduce the ESG application in healthcare. COVID-19 has brought significant impacts on the environmental, social, and economic sustainability of human society (Ranjbari et al. 2021), and sustainable development in different aspects are interconnected with each other in the post-pandemic time (Shulla et al. 2021). Both private and public sectors, including the healthcare industry, are at the front line to combat the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (World Economic Forum 2022). Thus, ESG application is critical to the sustainable development of the healthcare industry considering that the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing. Second, this book is an