

Intelligent Leadership for Sustainable Practices

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ABSTRACT

This research article posits a novel model for political candidacy grounded in the principles of professional practice and competence, aimed at fostering intelligent leadership capable of driving sustainable practices. It argues that in a democratic system, citizens possess the inherent right to be governed by proficient and ethical representatives, elected through informed decision-making. The proposed "Candidate as Professional Practitioner" model emphasizes rigorous selection criteria, including mandatory educational qualifications, aptitude testing, project proposal submission outlining sustainable development strategies for the constituency, and a commitment to transparency and accountability. By integrating principles of professional selection, project-based planning, and continuous evaluation, this model seeks to enhance the quality of political leadership and promote informed policy decisions crucial for environmental and societal sustainability in an era increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence.

KEYWORDS: Intelligent Leadership, Sustainable Practices, Political Candidacy, Professional Model, Democratic Governance, Accountability, Project Proposal, Artificial Intelligence.

INTRODUCTION

The adage "Knowledge is power" underscores the transformative potential of information, leading to the evolution of sophisticated knowledge-based systems. However, the effective utilization of such systems necessitates not only intelligent technologies but also intelligent leaders capable of making informed and impactful decisions. In the realm of governance, political leaders occupy a pivotal role as primary policymakers, significantly influencing the trajectory of sustainable practices. Consequently, there is an urgent need to reimagine the process of selecting these leaders, moving towards a professional model that prioritizes competence, transparency, and a demonstrable commitment to sustainable development.

For a democratic nation to thrive, it requires a leadership cadre equipped with the intellectual capacity and professional acumen to navigate complex challenges and formulate effective policies. This necessitates a shift from traditional electoral processes, often susceptible to extraneous influences, towards a system that actively seeks out and empowers intelligent and competent candidates. This article proposes a "Professional Model for Candidacy for Political Leaders" as a potential framework to achieve this objective, ultimately fostering a leadership that can champion and implement sustainable practices for the long-term well-being of the nation and its environment.

A PROFESSIONAL MODEL FOR CANDIDATESHIP FOR POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE COUNTRY

To foster transparency, eliminate corruption, ensure impartiality, promote economic efficiency, and enhance citizen-centric governance, a revised model for the selection of candidates and the election procedure for leadership is proposed. This model centers on the concept of "Candidateship as Professional Placement," treating the role of a political leader as a position requiring specific qualifications, demonstrable skills, and a clear action plan.

Candidateship as Professional Selection:

It is recommended that candidateship be approached as a professional selection process, where individuals are considered for a position based on a defined profile with basic mandatory requirements.

Mandatory Educational Qualification: A foundational requirement for candidacy should be a minimum level of educational attainment. For instance, a Post-Graduation (PG) degree in relevant disciplines such as Public Administration, Human Resource Management, Applied Politics, Economics, Statistics, Research Methodology, Psychology, or Social Work (MSW) could be stipulated. This ensures a basic level of analytical and conceptual understanding necessary for effective policymaking.

The Selection of Candidates:

The selection process should be structured around a two-pronged approach:

i) An Inclusionary Criteria: This focuses on identifying candidates who possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and aptitude for leadership.

• **National Eligibility Test for Democratic Estates:** Drawing inspiration from the UGC/JRF/NET and State Eligibility Tests, a national-level entrance examination tailored for aspiring leaders across the four estates of democracy (Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, and Media – adapted here to focus on political leadership) can be conducted. Only individuals who successfully clear this examination should be eligible for candidacy. This test could assess general knowledge, understanding of governance principles, constitutional law, and socio-economic issues.

- **Aptitude Test for Leadership Quality:** Candidates who clear the eligibility test should further undergo an aptitude assessment designed to evaluate leadership potential. This could involve interviews, group discussions, and debates on critical national and global issues. Selection should be based on demonstrated leadership qualities, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities.

- **Scrutiny for Eligibility:** Only candidates deemed eligible through this rigorous scrutiny process should be permitted to file their nomination for candidacy.

ii) **An Exclusionary Criteria:** This outlines the factors that would disqualify an individual from candidacy.

- **Lack of Mandatory Educational Qualification:** Failing to meet the prescribed minimum educational requirements.

- **Criminal Background:** A verified criminal record obtained through checks with the Criminal Records Bureau.

- **Lack of Professional Knowledge/Fieldwork Experience/Service/Volunteering:** Absence of demonstrable experience in relevant professional fields, community service, or significant volunteering activities indicating a commitment to public good.

- **Lack of Aptitude Test Scores:** Failure to appear for or achieve a minimum qualifying score in the leadership aptitude test.

- **Lack of Aptitude for Social Service:** Evident disinterest or lack of demonstrable commitment to serving the community.

- **Lack of Service Mentality:** A demonstrated focus on personal gain rather than public service.

- **Basic Communication Skills (Oral, Written, and Digital):** Inability to effectively communicate in oral, written, and digital formats, crucial for engaging with constituents and information dissemination.

- **Basic ICT Skills:** Lack of fundamental Information and Communication Technology skills necessary for navigating the digital landscape of modern governance.

- **Basic Research Skills:** Insufficient ability to understand and utilize research findings for informed decision-making.

- **Age Limit:** Stipulating a reasonable age range for candidacy, for example, between 25 and 75 years, to ensure a balance of experience and dynamism.

- **Lack of Basic Core Skills:** Deficiency in essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical reasoning.

- **Lack of Pass Marks in Aptitude Tests:** Failing to achieve the minimum required scores in the aptitude assessments.

- **Lack of patriotism**

- **Lack of humanitarian values.**

Project Submission:

A significant departure from the traditional nomination process involves the mandatory submission of a detailed project proposal by all eligible candidates.

- **Timeline for Preparation:** Selection of eligible candidates should ideally occur at least six months prior to the election. This provides each candidate with ample time to thoroughly study the geographic and demographic intricacies of their intended constituency.

- **Detailed Action Plan:** Candidates should be required to prepare and submit a comprehensive Action Plan in the form of a Project Proposal before the election procedure commences.

Project Proposal Outline:

The project proposal should include the following key components:

1. **Profile of the Candidate:** A detailed overview of the candidate's background, qualifications, and relevant experience.

2. **Need and Rationale of the Study and Related Literature:** A clear articulation of the key challenges and opportunities within the constituency, supported by relevant data and literature.

3. **Present Status of the Constituency:** A comprehensive analysis of the current socio-economic, environmental, and developmental status of the constituency.

4. **Estimate of the Human and Natural Resources Available:** An assessment of the available human capital and natural resources within the constituency that can be leveraged for sustainable development.

5. **Sources of Funding:** Identification of potential funding sources for the proposed projects, including government schemes, private sector partnerships, and community initiatives.

6. **Detailed Phase-wise Action Plan:** A clear and actionable roadmap outlining specific interventions, timelines, and responsible parties for achieving the identified goals.

7. **Estimated Time for Completion:** Realistic timelines for the implementation of different phases of the action plan.

8. **Political Affiliations of the Candidate:** Transparent disclosure of the candidate's political affiliations.

9. **Underpinning Working Philosophy:** A clearly articulated personal philosophy that will guide the candidate's approach to governance and decision-making. This philosophy should be published and actively discussed in public during the election campaign to allow voters to make informed choices based on values and principles.

Ultimately, those candidates whose project proposals and public discourse resonate most effectively with the voters will secure their mandate, maintaining the fundamental democratic principle of electoral choice.

Follow Up And Accountability:

Establishing robust mechanisms for follow-up and accountability is crucial for ensuring that elected leaders remain committed to their promises and effectively serve their constituents.

- **Detailed Progress Reports:** Elected members should be mandated to submit detailed progress reports on their proposed projects and overall performance at least once or twice annually to the relevant authorities and field experts for review.
- **Accountability to Voters:** Elected officials are directly answerable to the voters who placed their trust in them. Platforms for public feedback and scrutiny should be established.
- **Consequences of Failure:** In cases where elected members demonstrably fail to accomplish their estimated project work or neglect their duties, mechanisms for accountability should be invoked. These could include suspension, dismissal, removal from power, or even legal repercussions, such as court trials for cheating and misusing public property, depending on the severity of the dereliction of duty.

Training:

To further enhance the competence and effectiveness of potential leaders, mandatory post-graduation level training can be integrated into the candidacy process.

- **PG Programme Integration:** All eligible candidates could be required to undertake a Post-Graduation (PG Taught/PG Research) program specifically designed for political leadership.
- **Project Report Development:** As part of this PG program, candidates should be trained to develop comprehensive project reports focusing on various developmental aspects, including:
 - Country-wide developmental plans (general).
 - State-level developmental plans (general and specific).
 - Dissertation-level in-depth study on a chosen developmental area.
 - Developmental plans for short-term and long-term implementation.
 - Research methodology (covering need analysis, problem statement formulation, data collection techniques, result analysis, and action plan development).
 - Understanding the tradition and rich cultural heritage of the nation.
 - National, state, and international history.
 - The prevailing political and administrative systems.
 - Principles of eco-friendly and sustainable development.
 - Administration, management, and leadership training.

This comprehensive training will equip potential leaders with the necessary knowledge, skills, and perspectives to formulate and implement effective and sustainable policies.

Benefits of the Proposed Model:

The implementation of this "Candidate as Professional Practitioner" model offers several potential benefits:

- **Professionalism:** Elevating political candidacy to a professional endeavor with defined qualifications and performance expectations.
- **Sustainable Development:** Encouraging candidates to prioritize and articulate concrete plans for environmental and societal sustainability.
- **Transparency:** Enhancing transparency through the public scrutiny of candidate qualifications, project proposals, and performance reports.
- **Informed Decision Making:** Empowering voters with detailed information about candidates' plans and philosophies, leading to more informed electoral choices.
- **Maximum Voter Satisfaction:** Increased likelihood of electing leaders who are competent, committed, and accountable, potentially leading to greater voter satisfaction.
- **Flexible and Differentiated Action Plans:** Encouraging the development of tailored action plans that address the specific needs and contexts of individual constituencies.
- **Empowerment:** Empowering citizens through greater transparency and accountability from their elected representatives.
- **Attracts Talented Candidates:** Making political leadership a more attractive and respected profession for individuals with genuine talent and a commitment to public service.

Challenges for Implementation:

The successful implementation of this model will undoubtedly encounter several challenges:

- **Mindset of Stakeholders:** Resistance to change from various stakeholders involved in the political process.
- **Unhealthy Influences:** The persistent influence of money, muscle power, and patronage in elections.
- **Mass Psychology:** The potential for emotional appeals and identity politics to overshadow rational evaluation of candidates.
- **Influence of Political, Religious, and Communal Parties:** The strong sway of party affiliations and identity-based voting.

Intelligent Leader in an Era of Artificial Intelligence:

Intelligence, in its essence, encompasses the cognitive abilities that distinguish Homo Sapiens, enabling complex problem-solving and adaptation. In an era increasingly shaped by Artificial Intelligence (AI), the role of intelligent leadership becomes even more critical. AI, with its potential to revolutionize various sectors, presents both opportunities and challenges for sustainable development.

Countries at the forefront of AI development are poised to become dominant economic powers. The ambitious AI programs launched by nations like Japan (the Fifth Generation Project), the UK (the Alvey Project), and collaborative European initiatives (ESPRIT) in the past underscore the long-recognized strategic importance of AI. In the United States, consortia like the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC) and agencies like DARPA have also been instrumental in advancing AI research.

In the context of governance, an intelligent leader can leverage AI tools for data analysis, policy simulation, and informed decision-making. A professional practitioner, grounded in research methodologies, can statistically derive meaningful conclusions from population samples. AI facilitates the creation of virtual simulations of major projects, allowing for comprehensive impact assessments and futuristic studies before real-world implementation.

The availability of relevant "big data" and the insights derived from its analysis through AI algorithms can empower intelligent leaders to make more informed and impactful decisions for sustainable development. AI research and the development of knowledge-based systems hold immense potential for enhancing human life, increasing productivity, and improving accuracy and efficiency across various sectors.

However, it is crucial to recognize that human leaders remain the ultimate arbiters, responsible for deciding, programming, and ethically manipulating AI systems and machine automation for social and environmental sustainability. Therefore, the need for intelligent leaders with sound judgment and a long-term vision for sustainable development is paramount in this age of AI.

Implications of the proposed model:

Every free and responsible citizen in a democratic country possesses the fundamental right to be governed by professional and competent representatives, elected through a process that allows for free will and informed decision-making. The proposed "Candidate as Professional Practitioner" model offers a potential pathway to achieve this ideal. By emphasizing rigorous selection criteria, project-based planning focused on sustainable development, and robust accountability mechanisms, this model aims to cultivate a cadre of intelligent leaders capable of navigating the complexities of the modern world and driving meaningful progress towards a sustainable future. While challenges to its implementation exist, the potential benefits for democratic governance and long-term societal well-being warrant serious consideration and engagement with such innovative approaches to political leadership.

Scope and Limitations:

The study titled, "**Intelligent Leadership For Sustainable Practices**" presents a thought-provoking and ambitious model for reforming political candidacy and leadership selection. Its core value lies in:

- **Addressing a Critical Need:** It directly tackles the crucial issue of ensuring competent and ethical leadership, particularly in the context of driving sustainable practices. This is a highly relevant concern in contemporary society facing environmental and social challenges.
- **Innovative Approach:** The "Candidate as Professional Practitioner" model offers a significant departure from traditional electoral processes, proposing a structured and merit-based system.
- **Emphasis on Practical Skills:** The inclusion of mandatory educational qualifications, aptitude testing, and the requirement for a detailed project proposal emphasizes practical skills and a demonstrable understanding of governance and development.
- **Focus on Accountability:** The proposed follow-up and accountability mechanisms, including progress reports and potential consequences for non-performance, are valuable additions often lacking in current political systems.
- **Integration of Sustainability:** The explicit requirement for candidates to address sustainable development in their project proposals directly links leadership selection to environmental and social concerns.
- **Relevance to the AI Era:** The article acknowledges the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence and the need for intelligent leaders who can effectively utilize and guide these technologies for sustainable outcomes.

Overall Value: The article offers a valuable contribution to the discourse on improving political leadership and promoting sustainable practices. Its innovative model, while ambitious, provides a framework for rethinking how societies select their leaders and hold them accountable.

Short Critical Review:

"**INTELLIGENT LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES**" presents a compelling vision for a more professional and competence-driven approach to political leadership. The proposed "Candidate as Professional Practitioner" model, with its emphasis on education, aptitude, project planning, and accountability, offers a potentially significant improvement over traditional electoral systems, particularly in its focus on driving sustainable practices.

However, the article also presents several challenges and areas for critical consideration:

- **Implementation Feasibility:** The practical implementation of such a comprehensive model faces significant hurdles. The entrenched nature of existing political systems, the influence of money and power, and the complexities of changing voter behavior pose substantial obstacles. The article acknowledges these challenges but could benefit from a more detailed discussion of potential implementation strategies and mitigation measures.
- **Defining "Intelligence" and "Aptitude":** While the article emphasizes the need for "intelligent leaders," the specific metrics and processes for defining and assessing "intelligence" and "leadership aptitude" in a political context require further elaboration. Subjectivity in interviews and group discussions could still introduce bias.
- **Potential for Elitism:** The strong emphasis on educational qualifications and standardized testing could inadvertently create an elitist system, potentially excluding capable individuals with valuable practical experience but without formal academic credentials. Balancing formal education with real-world experience is crucial.
- **The Role of Political Ideology:** The model appears somewhat technocratic, potentially downplaying the importance of diverse political ideologies and values in a democratic society. While competence is essential, the fundamental differences in political philosophies and policy priorities remain crucial for voter choice. The "underpinning working philosophy" attempts to address this, but its integration with the more objective selection criteria needs careful consideration.
- **Voter Agency:** While aiming for informed decision-making, the model could be perceived as limiting voter agency by pre-selecting candidates based on specific criteria. Ensuring that the proposed system genuinely empowers voters rather than creating a pre-approved pool is vital.
- **The "National Eligibility Test":** The concept of a "National Eligibility Test for Democratic Estates" is intriguing but requires significant fleshing out. The content, format, and administration of such a test would need careful consideration to avoid bias and ensure it accurately reflects the multifaceted skills required for effective political leadership.
- **Oversimplification of Accountability:** While the proposed accountability mechanisms are a positive step, the practicalities of "suspension, dismissal, removal," and especially "court trial for cheating and misusing public property" based on project failure, could be legally and politically complex. Clearer definitions of "miserable failure" and due process would be necessary.

Conclusion

Despite these critical points, the article offers a valuable and timely contribution to the discussion on improving political leadership for a sustainable future. Its ambitious model provides a framework for rethinking candidate selection and accountability. Further research and discussion are needed to address the practical challenges and refine the proposed mechanisms to ensure a fair, effective, and democratically sound system. The article serves as a strong starting point for exploring innovative solutions to the critical need for intelligent and responsible leadership in the 21st century.

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