

Short Communication

Indispensable and sufficient features of change

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The inevitability of change is a common knowledge in the theory of creation which qualifies the word “change” as the only permanent event in nature. In addition to the permanent state of change, it is also one of the few natural ideas that can be used to evaluate the activities, inputs, processes and outputs of any system. The outcome of the evaluation provides information on the direction that the change is going and clues to the prediction of the future. If the outcome of the evaluation is not favourable to the assessor, the change is labeled “Negative” and if the outcome is favourable to the assessor, the change is termed “Positive”. In view of the prominent role of change in determining the state of nature, this paper takes critical look at features of change that could be used to determine the nature of any form of change (Positive or Negative). The paper identifies three of such features of change as; Pre-knowledge of the change, Availability of space and Irreversibility of the process of change. The paper observes that for any change to be beneficial, the subject to be changed **MUST** be informed, sensitized and prepared for the eventual change, space **Must** be made available in the new environment to accommodate the change and the process leading to change must be irreversible. It was discovered that if any of this features is ignored, the subject that is changed could be in a dilemma because going back to the old state will be seen as a sign of weakness and going forward could be highly risky. In most cases, especially changing human beings without the people’s consent could result into serious enmity between those changed and those that changed them.

Key words: Change, sensitization, relationship, accommodate, object.

INTRODUCTION

Change is to alter by substituting something else for something different; to make a difference; to cause to pass from one state to another or by giving up for something else. Many Philosophers critically worked on the significance of change to nature and concluded that “Everything changes and nothing remains still”. Amongst the Philosophers, Heraclitus (530-470 BC) was particularly called the Philosopher of change due to his detailed work on the concept of change. Heraclitus is famous for his insistence on ever-present change in the universe, as stated in the famous saying, “No man ever steps in the same river twice”. Aristotle (384 – 322 BC) is of the opinion that ‘Time does not exist except for change.’ The word “Change” like the struggles of man or woman begins at conception and it is continuous throughout one’s life time.

The influence of change on human activities is so significant that life would have been a monumental bore if

not for change. Various forms of technology came about as a result of changes in human consciousness, belief, climate, vegetation etc. Bill Clinton (2002) is of the opinion that life would have been a monumental bore if everybody does the same thing always and at the same time using the same principles and methods. The word change (change Vs. Experience; Obama vs. Hillary), (2008) played significant roles in the election of president Obama as the first black American president in United States of America. In Nigeria, the word “change” became a major instrument through which it was possible for the opposition party All Progressive Congress (APC) to convincingly win presidential election against all powerful People’s Democratic Party (PDP) in 2015. The effect of climate change is being felt all over the globe with its dire consequences on human activities. This paper examines three major conditions that have to be properly observed and analyzed before a meaningful change can

take place especially as it affects animals. These conditions are: Sensitization of the object about to be changed; Availability of vacancy in the new state and Irreversibility of the relationship between the old and new state of the object that is changed.

SENSITIZATION

Sensitization is a process of making someone or something react or adapt to something that previously had no effect. Change, just like teaching achieves its objectives if the object intended to change experienced a parading shift from its present state or condition irrespective of whether the intended target is achieved or not. The change becomes a solution to the present challenge (s) if and only if the new state is perceived by the object that have been changed as a positive improvement of the formal state/condition or else the change forms the magnitude of regret that follows the change. Sensitization becomes a necessary activity to minimize the strength of reaction to any form of regret that might be a result of change. It prepares the recipient to accommodate any size of regret experienced as a result of change. It is important that sensitization focuses on realities and should be devoid of ambiguities with hidden intentions in order to avoid misinterpretation of its intentions. If sensitization is carried out successfully it might remove negative feelings and malicious suspicions about the impending change. The negative feelings could be a stumbling block to the achievement of the objectives of change.

AVAILABILITY OF VACANCY

Change could be viewed as a transformational relationship between at least two domains or simply a shift from one position to another. Therefore, it is imperative to say that change is a function or rules connecting elements in one position (domain) to elements in another position (codomain). In a situation that elements are successfully transferred from a position to a non-existing position could lead to a riotous condition or at worst a stampede. A practical event that demonstrates the non-existence of codomain is a case when a motorist intends to quickly drive across a major road and successfully moved from position A only to find out that there is no vacancy in position B then there will be a break in flow of traffic. The driver will either block the major road or crash with other vehicles.

Cole (2013) identified Education as an effective agent of change; however acquiring education without identifying what and where it could be used could generate unemployment. In such a situation people are changed (educated) from illiteracy to a non-existing state where the knowledge gained can be utilized and this could lead to social crisis.

IRREVERSIBILITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP

If change has occurred to a body, it is necessary for the process leading to the new state to be irreversible in order to secure and protect the new state. In the event that the process is reversible, the object changed could be compelled to think of going back to the old state in the event of any slightest challenge. The Israelites experienced this condition in the wilderness when conditions became so difficult on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. In order to ensure the irreversibility of the process leading to change, the object changed should be actively engaged with interesting activities perceived to be better than the old state. Education as an agent of change must provide all what is required of an educated person or else if an educated person developed interest in illiteracy as a result of the failure of the education to achieve all its objectives, then there will be conflict.

CONCLUSION

The ubiquitous nature of change that is inherent in all conditions demands thorough planning, patience and wild considerations before any change is embarked upon. If any of the three features of change identified above is NOT satisfied, the change could be detrimental to the agent of the change. Experience has shown that human beings changed without proper sensitization turn out to be either rival or enemy to the very agent that changed them.

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