SUSTAINABLE HR PRACTICES AND GREEN HRM

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Abstract

Global concerns regarding environmental conservation encourage organizations to implement Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) as a paradigm of sustainability in their organizations. Globalization as a force has forced a transition to a capacity-based economy from the financial-based systems, organizations are incorporating practices to counter ecological issues. This has made GHRM focus on developing an organizational culture of an environmentally friendly workforce through implementing organizational strategies such as paperless organizations and conserving/recycling. This paper examines different GHRM practices that are practised across the world, offers a clear definition of GHRM, and analyses its possible future roles. It also provides strategies that Human Resource management can use to support the establishment of green organizations as an organizational sustainability goal.

Keywords: Green Human Resource Management, environmental management, green initiatives, paperless office, conservation, recycling

Introduction

Globalization has led to worries regarding environmental impact becoming a major topic of importance in the twenty-first century across politics, society, and the economy. International conventions, agreements and plans include Kyoto Protocol 1997, Bali Action Plan 2007 and Copenhagen Accord 2009 basing on need to to tackle climate change and minimize industrial emissions pollution, use and discharge of toxic chemicals and waste. As a result, governments and NGOs have come up with policies that seek to conserve natural resources and minimize adverse impacts on the environment modern organizations have been presented with a twin task of minimizing ecological impacts on the environment whilst achieving rational economic goals. As a result of stakeholder pressure, they still have to produce better reports that show corporate social and corporate environmental responsibility as well as corporate financial performance. This shift requires sustainable work strategies in organizations, which are backed up by effective leadership as well as systematic procedures. There has been the development of Green Human Resource Management that offers an effective and relevant solution to the challenges. It is aimed at developing a system of labor relations that respects environmental priorities, reducing energy consumption, recycling, implementing paperless work, etc. Although the introduction of GHRM is slowly progressing, its adoption as a component of business strategy is still in progress, with most HR managers struggling to understand it. This paper seeks to assess the importance of GHRM, review the current practices, and potential for developing workplaces as green environments that are economically and ecologically sustainable.

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Three Objectives for Green HRM and Sustainable HR Practices

1. Promote Environmental Responsibility through HR Policies

Formulate and apply human resource management policies that facilitate incorporation of sustainable practices in practices on use of natural resources and ecological conservation.

2. Enhance Organizational Sustainability

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Ensure that key functions in the HRM, which include recruitment, training, and reward strategies, are conducted in ways that champion sustainability and enhance on organizational environmental performance.

3. Foster Employee Engagement in Green Practices

To centralize incentives for ensuring that the green initiatives have maximum employye participation, the following strategies should be employed Understanding what training is requisite to empower every employee toward becoming more environmentally conscious, Which motivational techniques are suited for rewarding the green efforts of the workforce, and finally, how feedback can be provided frequently and effectively.

The Role of Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) in Sustainability

This paper discusses the importance of GHRM in enhancing environmental sustainability as an organisation incorporates environmentally conscious approaches in its human resource strategies. It links organizational objectives with environmental goals thus promoting people's care about the environment. Specifically, GHRM engages organizations to practice sustainable actions such as energy use efficiency, recycling, and the use of systems that involve minimal papers. These practices do not only helped in saving the environment but also assist in improving the employee commitment, contentment and productivity.

According to Mampra (2013), GHRM encompasses using the organizational HR policies in the enhancement of environmentalism together with promotion of the usage of resources. there is evidence that organization's environmental responsiveness has a positive relationship with its human resource outcomes specifically, commitment and satisfaction levels amongst employees. Basically, GHRM forms the basis of sustainable business where by human resources can design and put in place efficient sustainable practices. In that way, there is an opportunity to solve ecological problems, while developing the effective CSR strategy for an organization.Key GHRM activities are promoting green recruitment, training and development, and green employee performance management. They make sure that the employees know what is expected of them in as far as the green goals of the organization is concerned.

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Practice	Description	
Green Recruitment	Hiring individuals who are committed to environmental sustainability.	
Green Training &	Educating employees on eco-friendly practices and	
Development	sustainability.	
Paperless Workflows	Minimizing paper use through digital platforms and systems.	
Energy-Efficient	ergy-Efficient Implementing energy-saving measures like smar	
Operations	ations lighting and energy-efficient equipment.	
Performance Appraisal for Sustainability	Rewarding employees for contributing to the organization's green initiatives.	

Challenges and Implementation of Green HR Policies

However, like most courses of action, implementing the GHRM polices also has the following difficulties. Some of the challenges inherent in many organisations include resistance to change, lack of sufficient leadership support and the absence of effective training initiatives. The challenges of implementation blur the distinction of how organizations should pursue and adopt Green HR practices. The implementation of green polices to practice requires integration of Green HR across multiple themes, including selection, training, and performance appraisal. Also, proper integration of these polices in the framework of organizational business strategy is critical in the process of sustainability. There are some challenges that can be unique to an organization's green transformation, where leadership is an important component because managers must endorse sustainability and encourage other employees to adopt sustainable practices. In this regard, the challenges should be skillfully addressed by an organization by providing sustainability-focused training for its employees, supporting leaders' development of green initiatives, and communicating green goals throughout the entire company. Basing incentives on the potential beneficiaries' accomplishment of organizational green practices can encourage their higher buy-in for sustainability.

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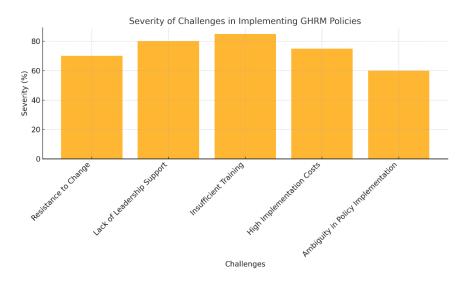


Table 2: Challenges and Strategies for Implementing GHRM

Challenge	Strategy	Severity (%)
Resistance to Change	involving employees in decision-making	
Support	Providing leadership training focused or sustainability and green practices	
C C	Offering comprehensive green training and upskilling programs for employees	
HighImplementationOptimizingresourcesandusingcost-Costseffectivegreentechnologies		75
	Establishing clear guidelines and measurable goals for green HR practices	6

Understanding Green Human Resource Management (GHRM)

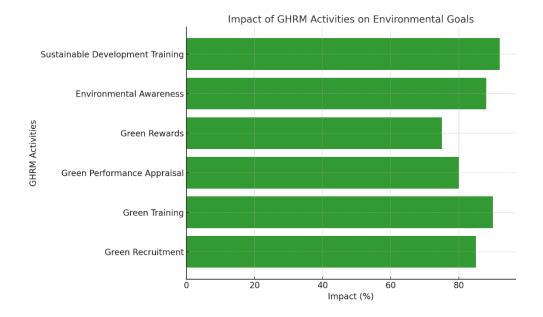
Green Human Resource Management (GHRM) is a relatively liberal concept that has attracted considerable interest in the management circles lately. Environmental Management is a function in GHRM where measures to conserve resources in executing HR functions to support ecological objectives of an organization. According to Marhatta and Adhikari (2013), GHRM is a concept that involves application of HR policies and procedures that promote sustainability and the extent to which employees and organizational members appreciate and support green initiatives during the recruitment, training, performance appraisal and compensation and other processes. Similarly, Mathapati (2013) pointed out that GHRM creates a green workforce that would ensure that organizations sustain its green goals while Opatha & Arulrajah, (2014) advocated that GHRM is economically, socially and environmentally responsible green.

Thus, the notion of GHRM continues environmental consciousness to social and economic health of the organisation and employees. The implementation of green policies to the practical functioning of the human resource management promotes environment-friendly organizational culture. The human resource management department is frontline in this transformation to make GHRM as one of the critical pillars in organizational sustainability.

The Need for GHRM and its Implementation

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There is an increasing need to develop GHRM as the past two decades marked by high industrial pollution and fastest deplete of vital resources. The United Nations environmental conference in Stockholm in 1972 underscored the need to take the world future into consideration with regard to the environment, which led to current international environmental framework. Following the current millennium trends, many organizations have started managing their environments through implementing green policies in their human resource management systems. Renwick et al scholars noted that GHRM helps to improve an organisation's environmental competitiveness especially in Asian economies given that both economics and the environment are influential.



Graph 2: Impact of GHRMIN Enviornmental Goals

GHRM Activities	Potential Benefits	Impact (%)
Green Recruitment	ent Helps attract environmentally consciou talent	
Green Training	n Training Empowers employees to implement green initiatives	
Green Performance Appraisal	Aligns employee performance with environmental goals	80
Green Rewards	Green Rewards Incentivizes contributions to environmental efforts	
Environmental Awareness Promotes awareness of environmental issues		88
Sustainable Development TrainingEnables workforce to support sustainability		92

Table 3:Impact of GHRMIN Enviornmental Goals

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According to the literature, green human resource management is useful in environmental management whereby green recruitment, green training, green performance appraisal, and green rewards hold a lot of potential for delivering environmental goals. Haden et al. (2009) view that there is a positive correlation between environmental objectives and strategic development, the latter of which strengthens organizational sustainability. Additionally, green initiatives foster human motivation, as everybody wants to work for a company with environmentally friendly activities.

A range of GHRM activities includes raising awareness among workers with regard to environmental issues as well as providing them with the knowledge and capability that enables the implementation of green initiatives. For instance, training that operates round sustainable development or environmental concerns enable employees to support organization success in greening initiatives. In addition to encouraging employee to 'go green' at the workplace, Green HRM also entails changes in outside life, as the reward system incentivises environmental contributions. When organizations integrate environmental management into the corporate culture, there develops a work force that supports environmental stewardship at the workplace and in their own lives. The overall goal of GHRM is to train the people regarding the factors that are necessary for environmental management, with the details of the actions needed, and the positive impacts on the environment which those actions can provide.

GHRM Functions and Future Directions

GHRM is the process of influencing sustainable development by incorporating the concern for environmental issues into the management of human resources and hence forms the basis of organizational strategies in environmental. Human Resource departments have a specific responsibility of putting into practice the green policies that are embraced by organizations in order to harmonize human capital management with environmental goals. When implemented

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within recruitment, training, performance management and reward, organisations can develop an environmental culture.

Environmental (green) recruitment is an element of GHRM because it concerns itself with hiring individuals with the appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes geared towards sustainable practice. This process also helps to minimize the possibility of new hires being either lackadaisical about green principles or incompetent at supporting an organization's green plan. Professor Weber stated that it is easier for environmentally friendly employers like Siemens and BASF to attract talented talents because they embrace environmentalism as well. Likewise, the Rover Group of Vehicle manufacturers in Britain also achieve environmental responsibilities at the job profile level incorporating sustainability into all jobs. Green recruitment also increases employee turnover because people want to work for organisations that share their politics and beliefs. It puts a firm xtively in place to assert dominance in competitive talent markets while cultivating a trained pool of workforce hand eager to adapt to modern principles of sustainability such as recycling and resource conservation.

This also implies that HR departments need to co-ordinate the overall HR activities and the organizations' sustainability agenda. Training, motivation, and performance appraisal are some among them which helps in instilling environmental values in the organization. Studies have also shown that each organization that implements sustainable barriers experiences better staff and general company performance. For instance, green training ensures that employees get trained in order to embrace environmental friendly processes, reward systems ensures that individuals engage actively in environmental friendly processes. Nevertheless, some problems like change resistance and lack of infrastructure create a challenge for organizations to address green HR policies implementation.

Ideological future research should be directed toward examining the impact of green recruitment and training practices on employee performance as well as organisational sustainability outcomes. An opportunity has arisen for further research with reference to green job descriptions, green interview and orientation processes. Moreover, knowledge about green reward systems and motivational strategies of organizational members gives understanding for integrating sustainability into HR activities. This means that businesses can be in a position to improve their green image, foster the use of green workforce, and sustain their competitive advantage by promoting on the following areas.

It equally has the important role of aligning the human resource management practices with the environmental objectives when used. Sustainable recruitment and training are crucial approaches in establishing a qualified workforce that can deliver organizational mandates in the right way while supporting global sustainability. Studying green HR practices in the future will add new ideas and recommendations for organizations that want to create sustainable systems and to address occurring issues to enhance the state and impact of organization's environmental policies on employees and community in general.

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Green Performance Management

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Performance management, PM is one of the paramount tasks of an organization's human resource management that comprises inspiring the workers to acquire new competence and strive towards the achievement of company objectives. Originally employed wholly for increasing employee productivity, PM has assumed the environmental goals because of the factor that more and more companies are including sustainability in their policies. Green PM, therefore, expands on traditional PM since it factors environmental issues, corporate environmental strategies, and crucial environmental roles. Epstein & Roy, (1997) notes that integrating environmental performance with PM systems provides assurance to an organisations environmental management programme against adverse events.

Key components of green performance management are the development of organizational environmental performance standards, organizational environmental audits, and the implementation of organizational information systems which support the organization in making improved environmental performance decisions (Marcus and Fremeth, 2009). They involve a clear and efficient method of evaluating organisational environmental performance to determine optimal areas of improvement. Implementation of green practices in PM makes environmental management responsibilities integrated in the business fabric achieving sustainable development and performance.

An important part of green PM is performance appraisal (PA) which provides employees an opportunity to weigh in on how they and others can contribute to the organization and its environmental ends. Some of the dimensions of green performance evaluations which are not common in traditional systems include reliability and fairness include environmentalism, innovativeness, teamwork and compliance with green standards. Regarding environmental objectives, managers have to make employees responsible for the implementation of organizational green strategies and goals as well as to meet other organizational performance objectives (Renwick et al., 2013).

For green performance appraisals to work, then HR departments should link the intended green activities and objectives to jobs description. Changing the type of the appraisal system to behavioural and technical competencies like teaming, diversity, and environment cements core values and OHS goals (Liebowitz, 2010). In addition, allowing feedback throughout the calendar year unlike regular appraisals promotes knowledge, skill, and ability development regarding issues of environmental performance among staff.

Future research in green performance management should consider the following areas Measurement of green incidents, assessments of environmental obligations and communicating green initiatives. Adding green tasks to the regular job descriptions and creating comprehensive systems to monitor the organization's environmental results will also improve organization's sustainability agenda. If implemented effectively, the accrued environmental information enables organisations to enhance the level of employees' engagement as well as deliver sustainability and environmental goals in harmony with those of business.

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Integrating Environmental Objectives into Performance Management

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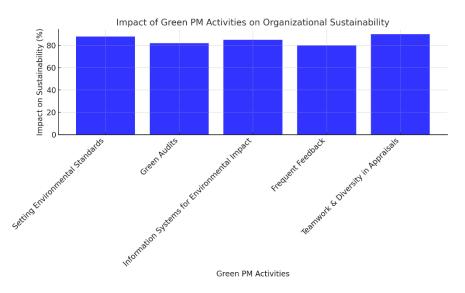
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Performance management is a main stream of HRM traditionally focused on improvement of skills and their compatibility with organizational needs. Yet, due to the collaborative nature of PM, and the growing awareness on sustainable development, environmentally sustainable objectives have been included in PM. Green performance management is the management of processes that recognise and tackle environmental issues, embody corporate environmental strategies, and underscore environmental commitments of individuals. Epstein and Roy (1997) note that adopting environmental performance into PM systems stabilizes its environmental management.

Green PM may refer to such things as setting up environmentally oriented company standards, green audits, and information systems to yield efficiency data about environmental impacts (Marcus & Fremeth, 2009). They help an organization to conduct economical and sustainable analyses of the environmental performance and, at the same time, integrate sustainable activities into the workplace.

The Role of Performance Appraisals in Green Performance Management

This book adds performance appraisal (PA) as a subcategory of green PM because it emphasizes the assessment of employees' performance of organizational and environment-related goals. Green PAs should, therefore, have other dimensions apart from reliability and fairness as revealed in the table above, these be stewardship, innovation and collaboration. Managers have to make employees responsible for their overall and specific environmental work in order to achieve congruence with corporate environmental objectives (Renwick et al., 2013).



Graph 3:Impact of Green Actitives on Organization Sustainbility

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Green PM Activities		Benefits	Impact on Sustainability (%)
Setting Standards	Environmental	organizational environmental goals	
Green Audits		Evaluates and improves environmental practices	82
Information Environmental	2	Provides efficiency data for environmental strategies	
Frequent Feed	back	Enhances long-term employee commitment to green practices	80
Teamwork & Appraisals	-	Incorporates behavioral and technical competencies	90

Table4 : Green PM Activities and Their Impact

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To boost green PAs, the job description for adoptions by HR divisions should fit into specific environmental tasks and objectives. Teams and diversity, Green policies and Procedures, Teamwork etc are some of the behavioral and technical competencies that needs to be incorporated in appraisal systems (Liebowitz, 2010). More frequent feedback besides formal appraisal practice contributes to enhanced practice of environmental management among employees, as well as their longer-term commitment to green practices. Such studies should focus on how organizations may employ practices for tracking environmental events, enhancing green roles, and enhancing delivery of environmental standards for enhancing organizational sustainability.

Integrating Environmental Objectives into Performance Management

Historically, PM has mainly been conceived as a process of enhancing employees' competence as well as their output streams to be fully consistent with company objectives. However, due to escalating concerns over sustainability, PM has stretched to cover environmental goals, and, therefore, developing into green performance management. It involves supplementing corporate environmental policies in human resource activities while focusing on environmental stewardship responsibilities of employees. In their paper Epstein and Roy (1997) pointed out that linking environmental performance to PM systems can protect the initiative and guarantee its sustainability.

Green PM encompasses the creation of the firm's environmental performance goals, green audits, and IT systems that deliver environmental results on which the organization can act (Marcus & Fremeth, 2009). Such tools assist organisations in measuring their sustainability performance, as well as recommending and encouraging employees to embrace the environment. Thus, when green practices are introduced into PM, organisations will be able to achieve organisational and environmental objectives in the long run.

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The Role of Performance Appraisals in Green Performance Management

Green PM is a measure of integrating employees in achieving organization objectives as well as incorporating environmental aspects, and performance appraisals (PA) are part of green PM. hree criteria, which might form the foundation of all green PAs are therefore supplemented with environmental stewardship, green and mythology, innovation, and collaboration besides the generally expected principles like reliability and fairness. Besides, to compel the workers to be answerable for environmental as well as broader performance targets in regard to the company's stated sustainability goals and objectives, managers need to continually emphasize organizational alignment time and time again (Renwick et al., 2013).

To ensure effectiveness of green PAs, then the HR departments should map the job descriptions to particular, environmental tasks and achievements. Skills and knowledge that need to be measured include substantive area, problem solving, and behavior that depicts organizational values such as teaming, diversity, and use of green initiatives among others proffered by Liebowitz (2010). The way performance management schemes establish environmental goals is that by integrating the environmental objectives into performance management, the organisational gives the employees reasons to be environmentally conscious within the organisational contexts. The effective implementation of the environmental objectives that are contained in the PMS should be kept on for the whole year and not merely kept to appraisals and review sessions. This on-going dialogue enables the employees to acquire skills and behavior consistent with the environmental management objectives. Further research should be carried out clarifying how organisations can supervise environmental occurrences, develop green accountabilities and enhance the dissemination of green guidelines to enhance sustainability management.

Extent of Green Performance Management provides ideas on how organisations can incorporate environmental performance goals with various human resource management practices. This means that the inclusion of environmental considerations into performance assessment and promotion of timely feedback enhances the development of a organisational culture that promotes sustainability and organisational success.

Green Initiatives in Workplace Design

The newest trend within the world is the green buildings which are replacing typical commercial spaces created by organizations. These buildings are therefore developed to reduce energy consumptions through integration of efficient systems, energy from natural resources, and effective handling of storm waters. Energy efficient green buildings not only protect the environment but also lead to saving of costs of running companies, which make green buildings appealing. Some of the leading organizations, including Ford and Pepsico have also embraced the norms of green building. These studies have also been incorporated in Fortune 1000 global business environmental policy implementations to meet the growing green workplace trends. Green buildings present an excellent case on how the design of a workplace plays a critical role in promoting sustainable use of resources while making a business case.

A Quarterly Double-Blind Peer Reviewed Refereed Open Access International e-Journal - Included in the International Serial Directories<mark>Indexed & Listed at: Ulrich's Periodicals Directory ©, U.S.A., Dent I-Gage,</mark> India as well as in Cabell's Directories of Publishing Opportunities, U.S.A. International Journal of Research in Social Sciences Another subtopic of sustainability offices is the paperless offices. We have seen IT being used to eliminate paper based processes in organisations by providing efficient automated solutions to organisational problems. It allows cutting or in some cases almost completely excluding the use of paper as a medium of record keeping thus lowering expenses on such related services as photocopying or filing. This approach also helps conservation of resources, decreases pollution of the environment and saves energy. For example, Vancouver based Idea Rebel maintains a paperless office and pays employees with digital, handwritten pay stubs, takes handwritten notes and creates handwritten documents using the digital platform. They also show how sustainable management of offices supports corporate environmental objectives.

Green Practices in Operations and Waste Management

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Another significant green agendas which are being introduced quantatively in workplaces effectively are energy savings. Companies globally are implementing strategies that are environmental friendly as they embrace renewable energy, urging employees to switch off devices that are not in use, enhancing efficient lighting alternatives among others. For instance, sky this UK has measures put in place to enhance the efforts of cutting down energy consumption such as solar lighting, and renewable energy. Also, companies are adapting working policies hoping to reduce the number of people who have to travel to work and those who have to travel, they opt for those who have to use a car to carpool, walk, cycle, or use public transport. For further development, new professional e-HR applications are employed to monitor employees' carbon footprint.

The other sustainability aspect of the business is recycling and waste management. Recycling means taking waste products, reusing them to create new products, and by doing so saving on raw materials and discouraging pollution. Nearly every business has integrated recycling activities as one of the CSR activities into their functions. HR departments have also engaged in these efforts being in charge of compliance to recycling standards. The three R's do carry a lot of weight when it comes to reducing wastage and environmental pollution in work places, and other activities that people undertake. These efforts go and show how operational practices can help lead the way in achieving wider environmental objectives.

Conclusion

This paper defines human resources as one of the most important organizational resources that are charged with the responsibility of managing people within an organization. Currently, the level of sustainability means that the contemporary HR managers are required to integrate GHRM philosophies to corporate mission and vision statements. This change has occurred in policy declarations, environmental job descriptions, corporate communication and how organizations market themselves and their products and services, as well as in second and third tier operational activities such as product development and auditing practices. There are many advantages of implementing green processes in the sub-process of HR such as availability of greater efficiency, networking cost reduction, higher tendencies of retention and productivity rates.

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Despite its and GHRM relative infancy, organisations are beginning to accept environmental practices into their fold. These include sanitation and disposal, reusing materials, minimizing GHG emissions and generating environment-friendly goods. Clients have become inclined towards sustainability emphasizing more commitment and job satisfaction if provided by an organization interested in green standpoint. The GHRM demonstrate compliance with three dimensions of sustainability that are environmental, social and economic hence central in corporate longevity. Lacking in awareness of such practices, they assist in facilitating the managers in organisations to adequately utilise the natural resources and help the organisations to conserve such resources to be passed on to the next generations.

Consequently, there is potential for future growth of GHRM to be beneficial for all stakeholders of employers, employees, GHRM professionals, and scholars. Nevertheless, there is a significant research gap in translating theoretical knowledge of GHRM into practice within academia and organizations. Closing this gap through additional research can bring attention to the jobs HR events perform throughout the environmental tactics. Research articles that consider the encompassing effects of GHRM systems, more than specific practices, could help understand ways to preserve the environment as well as enhance organizational health.

In conclusion, it is clear that HR is a crucial owner and actor of green initiatives and that it must play the part of an active enabler of the greening processes that are now beginning at many organizations and firms. When organisations adopt the principles of GHRM it is possible to achieve environmental, economic and social value for organisations and the larger society and therefore create a cleaner world.

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