Social Change, Leadership and   
Advocacy   
Topics: Leadership , Social Change Words: 600 Pages: 3   
Such concepts as social change, advocacy, and leadership are closely related as   
they all focus on innovation, shifts, and collaboration. It is important to understand   
what these concepts are to apply them in the real world and make a difference. The   
concep ts can be analyzed within certain dyads with the focus on similarities and   
differences.   
When analyzing such concepts as social change and leadership, it is possible to   
identify such similarities as the focus on change and individual effort. Shier and   
Handy (2016) note that leadership is associated with the change as leaders   
encourage their fo llowers to introduce certain shifts. Leadership involves a constant   
change as the leader tends to push the boundaries and make the followers go the   
extra mile. Social change is a shift in the order existing in the community (Homan,   
2016).   
Another similarit y between the two concepts is the distribution of power or, rather,   
initiative. Leadership implies an active role of the leader who motivates and   
empowers the followers. Social change is also associated with the change agent   
who makes the rest of people se e the need for change and encourages others to   
act. As to the differences, social change is often linked to the public good, while   
leadership can be linked to organizational or even personal gains. Furthermore,   
leadership often involves one leader, while s ocial change can be associated with   
many change agents. Advocacy is the call for assistance aimed at improving the lives of certain groups   
(Almog -Bar & Schmid, 2014). The focus on improvements can be seen as a   
similarity between such concepts as social cha nge and advocacy. Besides, social   
change and advocacy are associated with the collaboration of different groups within   
the community. As far as the differences between the two concepts are concerned, it   
is possible to note that social change can be regarde d as a result of advocacy.   
Thus, advocacy is mainly related to various activities aimed at raising awareness,   
encouraging people to change, but it can lead to no results. Social change is a more   
definite concept as the change is a shift that is taking plac e. Another difference is the   
scale at which something can happen. For instance, advocacy can be rather   
globalized as people may promote some ideas with the help of social media and can   
reach people from different parts of the world. Social change often occ urs in   
particular communities.   
The concepts of leadership and advocacy have many things in common. For   
example, both leadership and advocacy can result in adverse effects in some areas   
while bringing certain positive changes in other spheres (Shier & Handy , 2016).   
Advocacy and leadership can be related to the effort to achieve the public good or   
particular organizational aims. The differences between the two concepts are also   
obvious. Leadership implies leading people and guiding them to achieve a goal. At   
the same time, advocacy does not necessarily involve undertaking any actions as   
advocacy is mainly concerned with encouraging people to think and act. Leadership   
often involves one leader, while advocacy may be associated with a group of change   
agents.   
In conclusion, it is possible to note that this comparison helps understand the   
difference between the concepts. Leadership implies a set of particular actions crafted during the collaboration of a leader (an individual) and a group. Whereas,   
advocacy is more concerned with raising awareness, encouraging people to act,   
bringing people together. The comparison also made it clear that social change is   
often a result of efforts made by particular individuals or groups of people. It can also   
quite controversial as improvements in some aspects can lead to certain   
disadvantages in other spheres.   
References   
Almog -Bar, M., & Schmid, H. (2014). Advocacy activities of nonprofit human service   
organizations: A critical review. Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly, 43 (1), 11–  
35. Web.   
Homan, M. S. (2016). Promoting community change: Making it happen in the real   
world. Boston, MA: Cengage. Web.   
Shier, M. L., & Handy, F. (2016). Executive leadership and social innovation in direct -  
service nonprofits: Shaping the organizatio nal culture to create social   
change. Journal of Progressive Human Services, 27 (2), 111–130. Web.