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Matching leadership qualities of male and female leaders from the Qur'anic perspective: An exegetical analysis (Article)

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Abstract

The topic of female leadership has yet to be conclusively and impartially investigated, especially from the Islamic perspective. The current study bridges the gap between the original Qur'anic teachings and dominant Muslim culture by highlighting the Qur'anic conceptualisation of female leadership and investigates the myth that only men are the best leaders. It identifies female leadership qualities of Queen Asiyah, Queen Balqis and Maryam, the daughter of 'Imran and mother of Prophet 'Isa, and matches them with male leadership qualities of Prophet Muhammad, Dhu al-Qarnayn, ?alut, and Prophet Sulayman as narrated in the Qur'an. The research documents the traits of a leader's personality, leader-follower relation, task structure, and crisis management as four principal axes to the study, relying on the dominant theories of leadership. The inference reveals conformity between both male and female patterns of leadership, except for minor differences related to physical strength, and war conducts. © IIUM Press.

Author keywords

Female leadership Leader-follower relation Male leadership Queen balqis Qur'an exegesis

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