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Today's Problems Come from Yesterday's Solutions: A Puzzle of Sinking Joshimath

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Synopsis

This case study examines the complex dynamics of urban growth, environmental sustainability, and long-term planning, and offers insights and lessons relevant to management professionals at various levels.

First, the case emphasises the repercussions of making hasty decisions and the need to take into account the long-term effects of management decisions. By studying this case, the learners are expected to be aware of the dangers of putting short-term benefits ahead of sustainable growth – such as the ones that contributed to Joshimath's deterioration - haphazard building, deforestation, and poor infrastructure.

Second, the Joshimath story underlines how important is a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving. Working in complex ecosystems with diverse stakeholders, legal frameworks, and environmental fragility is common for management experts. Professionals may develop a more integrated and strategic mentality towards tackling complex problems in their respective fields by looking at how social, economic, and environmental concerns were interrelated in Joshimath.

Moreover, the instance opens up conversations on resilience, adaptive leadership, and risk management. Organisations encounter a multitude of uncertainties in today's ever-evolving world, from environmental calamities to socio-economic upheavals. Participants may learn a great deal about proactive risk avoidance, building resilience, and successfully traversing unpredictable terrain by analysing the tactics used—or not—in Joshimath's management.

Finally, the case serves as a stinging reminder of the moral obligations that come with administrative positions. The distribution of resources, community growth, and environmental stewardship are all areas in which management doyens have a significant impact. By engaging in critical analysis and thoughtful contemplation of the ethical ramifications of decision-making, professionals may foster an enhanced sense of corporate social responsibility and make a constructive contribution towards sustainable development initiatives.

Keywords: *Land Subsidence, Vulnerability, Sustainable Development, Climate Change.*

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