Contextualization for Social Change

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Assignment

### 1. Create Developmental Readings from seminal sources and scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. Review instructions for Assignment #3, the course essential elements, and course readings to identify selections of books and journals to create entries.

### a. Refer to the “[Student Guide to Developmental Readings](https://drive.google.com/file/d/161V_FaYR2BnNGCSFUlWPjUSIQzcH04Hq/view?usp=share_link)” in the General Helps folder for updated information on sample comments, the grading rubric, and key definitions related to developmental readings.

**Source One (Jnl)**  Al-Harthi, S., Bachkirov, A. A., Al-Riyami, S., & Al-Jahwari, M. (2024). Entrepreneurial orientation and competitive aggressiveness: A need for conceptual refinement and contextualization.[*Arab Gulf Journal of Scientific Research*](https://doi.org/10.1108/AGJSR-04-2023-0161)*, 42*(3), 825-835.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Our motivation to closely examine these factors stems from the view that organizational leaders need to have a thorough comprehension of how they interact. By correctly grasping the relationship between firm performance, entrepreneurial orientation and competitive aggressiveness, managers can make better-informed strategic decisions and achieve an optimal alignment between the firm’s goals and market conditions. Additionally, this knowledge can empower corporations to foster a sustainable competitive advantage by identifying and exploiting new business opportunities while simultaneously adapting to dynamic environments” (p. 826).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Approaches to Contextualization.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the approach to contextualization in leadership roles. It is important that leaders today make changes to do better by their people and for the greater good.

**Contextualization:** From the Christian perspective, Business As Mission is more than leaders leading their people. It is making a global impact for the Kingdom by reaching the unreached with the gospel; and doing so through business. Teaching BAM’ers the importance of contextualization and how to use the vocational and spiritual gifts of their people will make the company, missionary, and owner/leaders more productive.

The Kingdom has a tremendous workforce if every Christian saw their career as their mission field. At every level of government, industry, and within each company there is a Christian among them that can pray for their team, department, and those they come in contact with. If equipped to disciple they could make a significant Kingdom impact.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:**  The “concern is potentially relevant to the concepts of entrepreneurial orientation and competitive aggressiveness, which originally also appeared in western management literature. The question, thus, is this: can the notions of entrepreneurial orientation and competitive aggressiveness, as currently conceptualized in the literature, adequately capture the competitive phenomena in the business environments beyond the traditional developed markets? In our estimation, caution should be exercised when attempting to apply both of these concepts outside the business environment in which they were first theorized” (p. 829).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Culture & Contextualization. **Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the notion that culture and contextualization are relevant when comparing outcomes to previous studies. A literature review found concepts related to “western management” styles. The author concluded that this may not apply to the context of business in a different culture (e.g., middle east).

**Contextualization:** Since the world is truly “global” in this 21st century, it is important to review literature and assess the context of all studies, especially when using the literature to support or negate a hypothesis. Not considering the relevance of the context could result in a wrong conclusion or misrepresentation of facts.

Until now, I did not know about contextualization and I did not factor it into my thought process. Studying BAM was the first time I actually thought about contextualization, which Dr. Johnson spends a lot of time discussing in his book because BAM originally was done in developing nations. Contextualization was very important in other parts of the world when missionaries and BAM’ers were trying to be change makers. Today, however, the USA has immigrants that have been planted in different cities by the government. For them adapting to America is often difficult, especially because of their cultural differences. Context now applies in these areas of the USA.

**Source Two (Jnl):**  Gobbo, W. (2023). Christian Education, Quo Vadis?[*Religions*](https://doi.org/10.3390/rel14080977)*, 14*(8), 977.

**Comment 3:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**There should be a deconstruction of colonial Christian education and the reconstruction of an Africanised Christian education. The suggestions will be associated with the contextualization, decontextualization, and recontextualization of Christian education in Africa” (p1).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Contextualization for Constructive Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the use of contextualization for social change in Africa’s Christian education system. Contextualizing Christian Education in Africa will look very different than Christian education that was brought to Africa from Europe.

**Contextualization:**  As the Author analyzes Christian education in Africa through the lense of a national, it looks very colonial, which due to different contexts will not always be suitable for the national people. In contrast, Europeans that brought their version of Christian education to Africa see it as a useful tool to help Africa learn.

Contextualizing Christian education to the people of Africa will help them better understand what they are learning and will increase how quickly they learn. The importance of contextualization will allow them to identify with the Spheres of Life, making it personal and meaningful. Learning this way is more grounding and will act like God’s armor against issues like deconversion. It will also help people understand their godly vocational and spiritual gifts with deeper meaning.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Christian education should help to transform the lives of people spiritually and materially. Economic liberation, among others, should be an important aspect of Christian education and education in general” (p4).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Approaches to Contextualization.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**  This additive variant quote identifies two ways that Christian education should help others. Based on biblical principles, Christians are called to help others and they can do that with the gospel and business.

**Contextualization:** Work and finances are two topics addressed in the Bible more than people realize. This is significant because poverty is a persistent worldwide societal problem; and we work more years than we do anything else in life. It is important that the church spend more time addressing work and finances, especially to contextualize that God comes first before finances.

Contextualization of teaching should be based within one’s own society to avoid legalistic practices like colonialism. The downside as seen in the European Christian education system, which was part of the colonial system and not thought of negatively. This article suggests the importance of altering the European Christian education model to factor in contextualization inorder to improve the ability to teach Christian principles in the context of the African culture so those taught can connect and internalize content and be able to put what was learned into practice.

**Source Three (Jnl)**  Graves-Ransome, C. (2024). *Discipleship Love Appreciating the God-Given Gifts in Others and Self* (Order No. 31145843). [Available from Publicly Available Content Database. (3034235178).](https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/discipleship-love-appreciating-god-given-gifts/docview/3034235178/se-2)

**Comment 5:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**: “Jesus commissioned His followers to be the embodiment of a healthy body, a healthy church, aimed to fulfill the Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples” (Matt 28:18-20). Despite this clear mandate from Christ, it appears that some church leadership often diverges from His original blueprint, especially in fully activating members of Christ’s church to engage in their divine mission.” (p. 22).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is History of Contextualization.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports God’s context for His church and how it should function. That is to work collectively to disciple others and fulfill the Great Commission.

**Contextualization:** God’s context is often overlooked as leaders impose their own interpretation that shapes their contextualization. Unfortunately this has changed the trajectory of discipling in many churches resulting in stunted growth and even closure. To overcome this challenge, church leadership must seek God’s guidance to ensure they are on His trajectory, not their own.

The proposed DSL Project is designed to establish a career ministry within the church. The Project will train church leaders to teach the congregation the biblical principles of work, to see their career as their mission field, and equip them to disciple others. One goal is to help the congregation discover their design in order for the body of Christ to work more cohesively. The hope is for the Holy Spirit to indwell and help shape the congregants to His will (i.e., context) for discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.

**Comment 6:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The Researcher developed and implemented a detailed, replicable lesson plan for the small-group ministry leaders at Bible-Based Fellowship Church. This plan was successful in helping small-group leaders recognize the inherent value in themselves and in members of their small-groups by appreciating the God-given gifts given to each individual within the Body of Christ. As a result, this approach not only allowed for the full utilization and recognition of each group member’s distinct talents but also ensured that leaders could appreciate these unique, God given abilities, thereby equipping and empowering the entire group. Subsequently, this approach nurtured an empowered church community, enhancing their collective ability to perform ministry tasks together effectively” (p. 23).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Contextualization for Constructive Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote shares the success of the Author’s results creating contextualization for constructive social change. It is encouraging to see the positive outcome within a church when the congregants acknowledge their discovered gifts in order to work as a team, like the body of Christ as God intended.

**Contextualization:**  This study is extremely encouraging because it used people’s gifts to create a context to work together in ministry. This foundation is how I intend to establish the Career Ministry within the church. The success of this study gives me hope and some guidelines to learn from and possibly use.

Discovering each person's gifts makes it easier to work as a collective group to implement a ministry because we know who is gifted to do certain jobs. It’s quite genius as it takes us out of the decision process, thus eliminating ego which can cause issues. Discerning who does what tasks will help the ministry leaders work better as a team like the body of Christ should.

**Source Four (Jnl):** Topliss, J., Gourlay, T. V., & Chua, R. M. (2024). In Altum—“Put Out into the Deep”: A Formation Program for Missionary Discipleship for Students at the University of Notre Dame Australia.[*Religions*](https://doi.org/10.3390/rel15020147)*, 15*(2), 147.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “The researchers found that participants reported feeling equipped to act as missionary disciples, especially as a result of their own participation in a community focussed on formation, where they were given explicit catechetical instruction and opportunities to develop their personal and communal prayer and sacramental life. Participants noted the importance of learning of their own specific charisms, and how they could be exercised in the apostolate was particularly important” (p. 12).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Contextualization for Constructive Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote suggests in addition to understanding the context of the people group a missionary is evangelizing, it is also important to understand one's own gifts and how to use them.

**Contextualization:**  Knowing one’s gifts and how to use them is important to know how to adapt to better serve. Anywhere a missionary serves requires adaptation. Going overseas may require learning a new language or cultural do’s and don'ts. Adapting to the way of life is just as important as presenting the gospel in the context that the unreached understand.

When you know and understand what your own vocational and spiritual gifts are, you are better equipped to adapt to another culture or workspace. This is imperative to show respect and to be accepted by the locals. Through contextualization one will be able to help share the gospel in a way the unreached can understand.

**Comment 8:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Further opportunities for research, one of which would be the efficacy of the outreach of the various programs or peer-to-peer ministry and evangelisation devised and carried out by the participating students… Another opportunity for research would likely seek to measure the long-term impact of In Altum, following up with the participating students in the semesters following their participation in the program, measuring their ongoing commitment to faith and participation in activities which could be understood as evangelistic or missionary in purpose” (p. 12).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Approaches to Contextualization.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the need for further research, which indicates that there is a need to study programs for missionary discipleship. It is my belief that there is also a reason to study developing new/different approaches to contextualization.

**Contextualization:** which may be a stretch, but this research could help missionaries see different ways to approach contextualization in order to reach the unreached. I am so looking forward to learning more about Christian social research and to conducting studies!

Having the vision to make a difference is one thing, but to actually produce results that can then be used to impact change for the Kingdom would be amazing! The training program I plan to develop will help missionaries understand their vocational and spiritual gifts in order that they can be assigned and adapt to have greater impact for the Kingdom.

**Source Five (Book 1)** Burkett, L. (1998). *Business by the book: The complete guide of biblical principles for the workplace*. 2nd ed. Thomas Nelson, Inc.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Our business culture evolved into an elitist management style in which non-management employees were on one tier (socially) and management on another, higher tier” (p. 7).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Contextualization for Constructive Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**  This additive quote supports the need for biblical principles in the workplace. This is necessary in every Christian business, it is only one part of BAM.

**Contextualization:**  Larry Burkett points out how the American business owner mindset changed after WWI. Americahad prospered, capitalizing on the devastation in Europe. The result of having achieved greatness the world marveled at was an elitist mindset, which created a two tier workplace that led to the rise of unions, as well as other countries capitalizing on the opportunity to surpass our achievements.

Churches do not actively preach biblical work principles. This is a great time to put a ministry together to help youth preparing for their future career, as well as adults who either want a career change or have retired and are looking to make a Kingdom impact. Christian business in the USA and abroad can make a huge impact if they see their career field as their mission field. Since entrepreneurship is at an all time high it is also a great time to promote BAM to those wanting to be their own boss. The foundation must focus on discovery of vocational and spiritual gifts in order for leaders, bosses, staff and volunteers to work together the way God intended. I believe this context for social change can happen and can change the world.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “God’s principles of business are not offered “cafeteria style.” You can’t simply pick and choose those you like and ignore those you don’t. God’s Word sets up a whole structure by which a business is to operate: a foundation” (p. 16).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Contextualization for Constructive Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote speaks to the way in which Christians are to use the Bible in business (i.e., as a foundation). It also explicitly says you can’t pick and choose the principles you want to follow, you must implement all of them.

**Contextualization:** All Christians should understand the biblical principles, as well as their godly design for vocational and spiritual gifts. This “foundation” is required so we can see our career as a mission field for the Kingdom.

This foundation will enable us to avoid pitfalls and burnout also known as mission drift. It will help us be better at our job because we will know we are working for Jesus. It sets a different tone for us personally, which we can then use to add to the faith at work culture. I believe that Christians equipped in this way will be able to better serve others and be better employees and/or leaders. This is the context for social change that can shine the light on Jesus and elevate Christian business for the Kingdom.

**Source Six (Book 2)** Johnson, C.N., (2022). *Business As Mission, In A Nutshell - All the Basics: The Essential Road Map for Christian Entrepreneurs.* Roadrunner Press.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** “Both Jesus’teachings and His selection of disciples indicate the importance of business to the welfare of human society” (p7).

**Essential Element:** The Essential Element is Contextualization for Constructive Social Change.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports the need for the Bible in business. Jesus as the leader taught and chose his disciples not by flipping a coin, but based on biblical principles.

**Contextualization:** Businesses that follow His example, will create a culture and a context where faith at work can thrive. BAM initiatives in the USA and abroad can have a huge impact for the Kingdom. There is an opportunity to finally solve societal problems as we equip others to serve the Kingdom through our work lives.

1 Timothy 5:1–16 says we are to care for the widows and orphans. The government has inadequately served youth in the foster system for decades. Thousands are released from the system each year without transitional services, which increases the likelihood they will become homeless, drug users, unwed parents, or criminals. The church and BAM can help by establishing a culture and a context where Christians develop programs to help and plant seeds for Jesus.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase: “**All people require goods and services to survive. These must come from their own hands or from trade with others. Every economic system, from the most primitive to the most sophisticated, is built on this foundation” (p7).

**Essential Element:**  The Essential Element is Approaches to Contextualization.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:** This additive quote supports using Christian business principles as a way to contextualize helping people. Christians in the workplace being salt and light, knowing how to disciple others create context for the Kingdom. Christian business owners who are also BAM’ers also create a Kingdom context.

**Contextualization:** Imagine Business as Mission in every church, and every community. Imagine a career ministry in every church, Christian school and college. Imagine studying this from a Christian Sociology perspective in an effort to expand problem solving, building the Kingdom, and developing duplicatable programs that can be shared.

Changing lives and helping break cycles of poverty, divorce, mental illness, etc. That is how I see the future with BAM and the STRIVE career ministry. This approach to a Kingdom context can be contagious. Just as using vocational and spiritual gifts to build a team ensures that staff work well together, it also creates a Kingdom context for non-believers to be drawn to God.

**Works Cited**

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