Leadership Teamwork and Crisis Management in Apollo 13

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Film Analysis

The film Apollo 13 is about a space mission carried out in 1970. This mission was focused on the ambition to land on the moon. This was going to be the third time Americans were aiming to go to the moon. The film showed three astronauts, Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise. The captain of this mission was Jim Lovell, who was played by Academy Award winner Tom Hanks. In this movie, one of the engines of Apollo 13 completely stopped working, which forced the three astronauts to take immediate action. One of the astronauts aboard the spacecraft, Jack Swigert, performed a standard procedure to take control of the situation, but while performing the procedure, the oxygen tank exploded. The explosion of the oxygen tank caused a significant reduction in the supply of oxygen. The mission was aborted, and The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) started another mission to get those three astronauts back home in one piece (www.commonsensemedia.org). This film is about the struggle of NASA and the astronauts as they fight to reach home safely. The film conveyed that people need to find a home other than the planet Earth. This is a vast galaxy, and there are multiple galaxies in this universe and, furthermore, multiple universes. We need to find a planet other than ours that can be conducive to life.

The Apollo 13 mission took place during the Cold War era. The Cold War refers to the war of supremacy fought between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. America was on the brink of making yet another moon landing through its remarkable astronauts, but things got complicated, and they had to abort the mission. The historical background of this mission is that the Soviet Union and the United States of America were fighting each other and were in competition to get to space first. Multiple space missions were launched during this era, from 1970 to the late 1980s. The United States of America was hell-bent on winning this intellectual and technological war against the Soviet Union.

The film clearly shows that initially, the United States was focused on beating the Soviet Union in this space mission to the moon, and when they won the war by successfully sending the first spacecraft to the moon, they started to lose interest in space missions and programs. The film showed the grit and courage shown by these astronauts, as they did not board the spacecraft to write their names in history or volunteer because they wanted fame, but they were brave people who only went on the mission to gain insight and more information (www.rogerebert.com). Although there was blatant animosity between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, the film did not conspicuously shed light on it.

There is a dire need for humans to go out into space or send spacecraft and satellites to explore the possibilities of planets other than ours. There must be other planets like Earth that can support life. The reason for the exploration of new planets is that the Earth is constantly expanding, and there will be a time when it will no longer be suitable to live here. The other reason is that we cannot depend on just a single planet; it is possible that we might end up finding a planet that is far more suitable for human life than planet Earth.

Our planet is like a grain in this vast desert. Space is infinite, and the movie Apollo 13 gives the idea of exploring different places in this enormous space to find a place where humans can replicate their ways of life. It gives out a message that we are so insignificant compared to the vastness of this universe. There are gigantic galaxies in this universe, and our planet's size is nothing compared to this universe. Since the inception of space missions, only male scientists and astronauts have ventured out into space. It is interesting to note that women were considered equal or, for the best part, better than the male astronauts who were venturing out into space. When the astronauts who were going out on their space expedition went for medical tests, the doctor who was examining the tests and the results suggested that women would also do well in these missions. He posited that women are lighter in weight and also require less oxygen, which would be beneficial in these space missions. The tests were carried out, and 13 out of 19 women had cleared the tests. Randolph Lovelace carried out these tests and recommended that women should be allowed to go into space, but even after passing the tests, those women were not allowed to go (www.theatlantic.com). Women ended up flying into space in 1983. It was not until 1983 that the first American woman, Sally Ride, went to space and opened the gate for women in space (Camp, 1997).

Even though we ended up on the moon and carried out several missions in space, there were several problems that we encountered. There is a drag of gravity that poses a challenge (www.wired.com). The mass of spacecraft is very large, which requires a massive push or force in order for it to move. There are also broken satellites in space, and they can come out of nowhere and hit the shuttle. When a shuttle goes into space, there is no concrete map or GPS to go about it. This is another problem encountered by the astronauts. There are many problems with space missions, but they have benefits for society. The astronauts are constantly looking for a region or a planet that can sustain life. It is imperative that we find an alternative place so that if something happens to this planet, we will have a backup plan.

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