

Human Development and Economic Sustainability

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Essay

Human development and economic sustainability are the pre-requisites for the development of any country. They include citizen-oriented and human-centric policies for economic resilience. There is no doubt that without human development, economic sustainability is a distant dream. The world has witnessed the countries that invested in human-centric policies and achieved the glorious heights of economic success. Human development is the part and parcel of economic sustainability. It is worth-mentioning that education and health sector are the essence of human development and economic resilience. Access to food, water and energy are also the hallmarks. Moreover, progressive youth and

Empowered women are the game-changer for economic sustainability. While human development and economic sustainability are imperative for the development of country, there are certain challenges like malgovernance, existential threats and lack of technological advancement. For human development and economic sustainability, it is imperative to prioritise human-centric policies. Technological advancement and empowerment of women and youth are also necessary. Hence, human development ~~and~~ is the essence of economic sustainability which needs to be prioritised for a sustainable and resilient world in the foreseeable future.

For economic sustainability of any country, it is pertinent to achieve the hallmarks of human development

There is no doubt that robust education and health sectors are one of the hallmarks of human development and economic resilience. Investment in education and health sectors are the basic foundations on which the pillar of economic development stands. Educated and fit youth is necessary for economic development of any country. For example, the Scandinavian countries namely Denmark, Sweden and Norway invested huge amount in their education and health sector. As a result, these countries achieved glorious heights of economic development.

Besides education and health sector, access to water and energy are also considered the essence of human development and economic sustainability. Water

and energy are the important needs of mankind. The countries that have sustainable energy sector and improved access to water are economically more developed than ^{the} countries on the brink of energy and water crisis. According to United Nations, access to energy and water ~~are~~ ^{is} a basic human rights and without them, sustainable development cannot be achieved. Hence, for human development and economic sustainability, access to water and energy is imperative.

Another hallmark of human development and economic sustainability is food availability. Sustainable agriculture and sustainable farming play an important role in the economic sustainability of any country. This not only ensures availability of food to

population but also provides economic development. Germany is the significant example of sustainable agriculture system. This not only resulted ^{Germany} in human development but also in economic resilience. That is why, Germany is among top ten economies in the world. Hence, sustainable agriculture system is imperative for economic growth and sustainable development.

Besides the above-mentioned basic necessities of human development and hallmarks of economic sustainability, progressive youth and empowered women are the cornerstone in achieving human development and economic resilience. Youth and women are considered as asset of any country. When both are given enough opportunities in the economic

sector, they can transform the country into a well-developed state. The European countries invested in their youth and bridged the gender gap because they were aware that youth and women will transform their war-ridden economies. As a result, the European states provided opportunities to youth and ensured economic development.

Furthermore, in this ever-increasing and ever-evolving world, technological boom is the main hallmark of economic growth. Green technology and sustainable ecosystem not only preserves the environment but also ensures economic boom of country.

For instance, Japan suffered with economic catastrophes in the aftermath of World War Two, but it invested in its

technological sector. Now it exports its innovative and resilient technology all over the world. Hence, this technological boom not only made Japan a giant tech country but also boosted its economy and human development.

Similarly, urban management and town planning is one of the hallmark of human development and economic sustainability. Resilient infrastructure and sustainable cities enhance human development and attract foreign direct investment which results in economic growth of country. Singapore is the best example in this regard. The country's leadership transformed the slums and crime-prone areas into sustainable cities and provided shelter to homeless people. Moreover, it

built a resilient infrastructure for the informal economic sector.

In this way, urban management and town planning ensures human development as well as economic sustainability.

As sustainable urbanisation is important, a resilient tourism sector is also the backbone of economic sustainability.

A vibrant tourism sector not only boosts the image of country but also ensures human development and economic boom. There are vibrant examples of countries like Turkey, Maldives, Singapore and Switzerland that earn a lot through their thrilling tourism sector. ^{Former} Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan mentioned in his speech that Switzerland earns more than 25 billion dollar just from the tourism sector although it is half the size

of northern areas of Pakistan. Hence, a resilient tourism sector plays an important role in economic sustainability of any country.

Moreover, empowered local governance is another hallmark of human development and economic sustainability. As local government is considered the grassroot level of democracy, it endeavors to solve the human issues from the core. According to Economist and Researcher Dr. Ishrat Hussain (Governing the Ungovernable), strengthened local governance is the cornerstone of human development and economic growth. Additionally, China empowered its local government and curbed corruption from the country. As a result, it gained unprecedented economic boom by strengthening local governance to curb issues

at local level.

Undoubtedly, human development is the cornerstone to economic sustainability, there are certain challenges in its way particularly in the developing world. These hurdles are discussed below:

The main challenge which has never let true human development and economic sustainability takes place is the issue of malgovernance and underinvestment in human development. The developing countries are still plunged in colonial mindset and realist policies that human development is severely ignored. Take the example of Pakistan, it witnessed both military and civilian rules but malgovernance always remained its norm. Hence, the country is in deep crisis for ignoring human

development,

Another major challenge in the way of human development and economic sustainability is economic crisis and short-term policies.

Unsustainable policies and rampant corruption by the ruling elite are the menace in developing countries. Sri Lanka is the case in this respect. The country suffered from corruption and worst economic crisis which is great hurdle in ~~their~~^{its} economic sustainability.

Adding up, one of the menace that developing countries are facing is the emergence of existential threats like terrorism, extremism, climate change and pandemic. Owing to under-investment in human development, these challenges are further

escalating the crisis. According to the United Nations General Secretary, the emergence of existential threats are a great challenge for the economic sustainability of developing countries. Thus, it proves that these threats pose serious challenge to human development.

Moreover, lack of technological advancement is another challenge in achieving human development and economic resilience for developing states. Countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria to name a few are suffering from technological penury. As a result, these countries lack in human development and economic sustainability.

Besides these above-mentioned challenges, another ignored challenge is the

lack of opportunities for women. The third world countries are suffering from gender discrimination. Because almost half of their population are not participating in the economic development and human capital. Thus, the gender gap is another major challenge in achieving human development and economic sustainability.

To counter all these challenges that hinder human development and economic resilience, it is pertinent to recommend following solutions.

The first and foremost focus lies in investment in human capital and designing citizen-centric policies. There is a need to realise the importance of citizens as they are the present and future of countries. Therefore

The governments need to prioritise citizen-centred policies that provide benefits to local masses. In this way, human development and economic sustainability can be achieved.

Besides human-centric policies of government, it is also pertinent to empower the local government. There is no doubt that an empowered local government can cope with the challenges of people ^{from} at the core. When the issues of local masses are addressed, it will ensure human development. As a result, revitalising local governance will improve sustainable development and economic resilience.

Moreover, the emergence of existential threats need to be countered, as they

hinder human development and economic growth. There is a need to implement policies regarding emerging threats of climate change and pandemic. Moreover, there should be zero tolerance for terrorism and extremism in order to ensure sustainable development. Thus, it is high time to combat these emerging, yet dangerous threats.

To add up, technological advancement is the game-changer in human development and economic sustainability. The developing countries need to strengthen their technology and innovation to run in the race of technological world. Investment in technology will not only uplift the local masses but will also ensure economic boom. Hence, there is need to invest.

in technological sector and advance the innovation for better economic sustainability.

There is no doubt that women and youth are asset of any country. Empowering them is necessary for a nation to thrive. Providing economic opportunities will increase employment and reduce poverty. When women and youth will be able to participate in economy, then it will be easier to achieve human development and economic sustainability. Therefore, empowerment of women and youth can be game-changer for the developing nations.

In a nutshell, human development is the key to ensure economic sustainability. Without the presence of former, the latter cannot be achieved. As both are

interlinked for the development of country, it is imperative to invest on human development. When the local citizens are empowered, the country will be automatically empowered. There are various examples of countries which rose from ashes by investing in human development. As far as the Third world countries are concerned, they also need to invest in empowerment of local masses and human development for economic sustainability. In essence, human development is necessary for a sustainable and resilient future of the world.