

Essay:

Date 20  
M T W T F S S

# classrooms decide the future of a nation

## OUTLINE

### I- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Classrooms, as centres of education, do shape the future of a nation. However, they can influence the nation's future in both constructive and detrimental ways, depending on how they are managed and regulated. Therefore, measures must be taken by nations to ensure that classrooms contribute positively to a prosperous future.

### II- Unpacking the relationship between classrooms and future of a nation:

#### A- Classroom: a multidimensional concept

#### B- Importance of a classroom for the future of a nation

### III- Importance of classrooms in Nation-Building

#### A- Breeding democracies, Not dictatorships

##### 1. Classrooms promoting political literary and democratic values

###### a. Denmark and Sweden's classrooms as cradle of democracy

##### B- Skilled students, strong Economics

###### 1. Economic development through

## Education in diverse fields.

- a. Finland and Germany's modern curriculum: a model for imparting education related to different fields.

## C- Tolerance Taught, Unity Achieved

- 1. classrooms as centres of social cohesion and respect for diversity
  - a. classrooms in Canada and Norway as Foundations of Social Harmony

## D- Tech Labs Today, Innovation Hubs

### Tomorrow

- 1. Increase in technological growth through classroom innovation
  - a. classrooms in China and Taiwan are technological hubs.

## E- From classrooms to scientific

### Breakthroughs

- 1. Research and scientific culture prevalent in classrooms.
  - a. South Korea's readiness during covid-19: a case study

## F- Raising a Nation that respects law

- 1. Inculcating legal awareness and civic responsibility.

- a. law starts in classrooms: Shaping Responsible citizens in the U.S. and Australia.

## IV- Negative Outcomes of Neglected classrooms on Nations

## A- From Ignorance to Authoritarianism

1. Classrooms working as propaganda centres for authoritarian Rulers
  - a. Nazi Germany and North Korea's classroom as propaganda machines

## B- Outdated Education system, Fragile economy

1. Classrooms promoting obsolete curriculum in limited fields affecting economic stability.
  - a. Stuck in the past: Outdated curricula cripple Pakistan and Bangladesh

## C- Absence of Tolerance, Disunity prevalent

1. Classrooms fail to develop social tolerance, leading to extremism and xenophobia.
  - a. When classrooms divide: a case study of Afghanistan and Rwanda

## D- Technology underdevelopment, leading to lack of innovation.

1. Classrooms unable to provide students with technological infrastructure, leading to backwardness and dependency.
  - a. Struggling with technology Sub-Saharan Africa

## E- Neglect of Research and Braindrain

1. Classrooms unable to promote research culture, leading to Brain drain.
  - a. Bangladesh during COVID-19: a case study

## F- Disregard For Rule of law is a norm

1. Classrooms unable to inculcate respect for rule of law.

- a. Rule of Powerful and classrooms of

Myanmar and Venezuela.

## V- Rebuilding through Reforms

- A- Reforming curriculum to Foster Democratic Participation
- B. Diversifying Academic streams for Economic competitiveness
- C- Enhancing Technological and Research Infrastructure in schools
- D- Inculcating social tolerance in young minds through classrooms
- E- Allocating budget to promote research opportunities
- F- Fostering a culture for the rule of law through classrooms.

## VI- Conclusion

Your outline is good

Good essay but in order to further improve work on your articulation of your arguments

Erin Gruwell, an American educator states, "I realized if you can change a classroom, you can change a community, and if you change enough communities you can change the world." This quote by American educator Erin Gruwell beautifully captures the capability of classrooms to steer and decide the future of the world, particularly nations. Nations that were able to manage classrooms effectively emerged as developed nations on the world map. Classrooms in such nations make sure to inculcate respect for rule of law and democratic values, and social tolerance. Moreover, they offer diverse academic fields, promote technological advancement and scientific research to develop strong economies. However, nations that were unable to manage classrooms efficiently became the developing world. In such nations, classrooms promote authoritarian values, disregard for rule of law, and extremism. In addition, they offer limited academic field to the young generation. They are unable to provide their students with technological and research infrastructure and facilities leading their nations to develop dependency on developed nations. This lack of technological

cal and research also results in brain-drain. All these factors cripple the economy of such states as well. Therefore, reforming curriculum, fostering democratic participation, diversifying academic streams, enhancing research and technological facilities, inculcating respect for rule of law and social cohesion are necessary measures to manage classrooms effectively. In a nutshell, classrooms do shape the future of a nation. However, they can influence it in both constructive and detrimental ways depending on how they are managed. Therefore, nations must take measures to ensure classrooms contribute to their prosperous future.

According to UNESCO, a classroom is a designated space or place where teaching and learning activities take place, encompassing both the physical environment and the interactions within it. This definition highlights that classrooms are not confined to learning places in school but the designated spaces for learning and where teaching takes place in colleges and universities are also classrooms. Furthermore, UNESCO highlights that Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and

attitudes that enable individuals to contribute to their societies and lead fulfilling lives. This definition clearly illustrates that classrooms in addition to imparting knowledge inculcate these values in the young generation that are critical for nation building.

Classrooms that follow global standards and integrate updated curricula focusing on liberal and democratic values have a strong effect on a nation's political future. When students are taught about civil liberties, freedom, equality, political participation and decision-making from an early age, they grow up with a deep respect for democracy. This democratic environment in classrooms shape the youth into responsible citizens, that are politically shrewd. In Sweden and Denmark, democratic values are a key part of classroom teaching. In Sweden law requires the education system to promote respect for human rights and democratic values. Students are encouraged to express their opinions, question basic ideas, and take part in open discussions. Students are also required to take leadership roles while doing various classroom projects to shape their leadership.

skills. Similarly, In Denmark classrooms provide open and anti-authoritarian learning environment to allow students to appreciate the democratic values. The political rankings of both Sweden and Denmark demonstrates the positive impact of classrooms working as cradles of democracy.

The 2024 Democracy Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit, Sweden is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and Denmark 7<sup>th</sup> among the world's strongest democracies. This shows that when democratic values are taught in classrooms, they help build responsible citizens and peaceful democratic nations.

Moreover, classrooms that provide students with diverse range of modern and in-demand fields play an important role in boosting a country's economy. When classrooms offer updated curricula and provide state-of-the-art facilities, students can prepare for careers that meet the current global demands. As a result, that nation produces highly skilled professionals, such as doctors, engineers, AI experts, IT graduates, scientists, data analysts, businessmen, and public servants. This diversity in education supports a strong division

of labour, leading to diversification of economy and its growth. Germany is a prominent example of this approach. Its dual education system allows students to choose between academic and vocational fields, such as technology, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, mechanics, finance, and business, based on their interests. With support from both the government and private companies, students get hands-on training in addition to classroom instruction. This system has allowed Germany to maintain one of the lowest youth unemployment rates in Europe at 6.3% (Eurostat) and build a diverse, skilled, and professional workforce. This allowed Germany to emerge as a world's third largest economy with a GDP of \$4.745 trillion. (Eurostat, 2023) Similarly, Finland's vocational learning programme known as Finland's vocational Education and Economic Growth provides students to link academia with industry, producing a skilled workforce and professionals. This increase in productive workforce results in economic growth and stability. This has allowed Finland to secure 15<sup>th</sup> ranking globally in terms of GDP per capita.

(Atlas of Economic complexity 2023) Thus, when classrooms support the interests and strengths of students through diverse fields, they increase productivity

and economic prosperity.

On the other hand, classrooms that teach social values and democratic spirits help build socially tolerant societies. When students are encouraged to respect different opinions, cultures, beliefs, and world views, they develop empathy and understanding towards others. As a result, nations emerge as models for peaceful existence and social cohesion. In Norwegian classrooms, social and democratic values are highly emphasised. From early education, students are taught basic social sciences to inculcate in them values such as equality, ethics, morality and civil responsibility. Moreover, social sciences allow them to develop a deeper understanding of different cultures, groups, and races, increasing their social empathy and awareness. In 2024, according to Social Progress Index, Norway was ranked 2nd globally, with a score of 90.32. Canada's classroom also promotes social cohesion through multicultural education and inclusive policies. Canadian initiatives like "Equity and Inclusive Education" and "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" related to

indigenous histories and cultures" allow students develop social empathy and understanding towards different groups, especially the indigenous population. Canada ranked 15th out of 170 countries on the social index for progress 2024. This shows that classrooms that inculcate social empathy and tolerance in the young generation lead to socially progressive and cohesive nations.

Availability of modern infrastructure and technological facilities in classrooms allows students to become tech-savvy and develop technological skills. When classrooms make sure that such learning environment is provided to students and they have enough tools and equipments to enhance technical expertise, nations emerge as hubs of innovations and technological creativity. For example, Chinese initiative known as "Invigorating China through Science and Education" has allowed the country to incorporate STEM courses into its main curriculum and school entrance examination. Similarly, 15000 schools in China have introduced in-school robotics classes, providing students with hands-on experience and enhancing students' practical skills in technology. Taiwan, on the other hand, known for its semi-conductor industry

has expanded its pilot program for semiconductor education to include 35 senior high schools in the 2024-2025 academic year. This program aims to develop a tech-literate youth to support national innovation. National Taiwan University (NTU) initiated the "Semiconductor Talent incubation Program Taiwan," to train students with international collaboration in semi-conductor technologies. All these initiatives have allowed China as well as Taiwan to emerge as technological giants in the world. Therefore classrooms that ensure culture of technological innovation and creativity, allow nations to emerge as tech-hubs on the world's map.

Similarly, classrooms equipped with the research facilities allow students to explore scientific ideas through experiments and create solutions to national and global crises. During the covid-19 pandemic, nations that have strong research and scientific culture in classrooms, were able to develop vaccines quickly. These nations include the U.S, the UK, China, Russia, and South Korea etc. In 2022, South Korea approved its first domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine called, SKYCOVIONE. In 2023, SKYCOVIONE received Emergency Use listing from the

world Health organization. case study of South Korea clearly illustrates that long-term investment in scientific research and innovation allows nations to become self-reliant and global helpers during times of critical crisis.

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Moreover, classrooms that focus on enhancing legal awareness among youth and instilling respect for the rule of law help nations build just and stable societies. When students are taught about laws, rights, civil freedom and liberties from an early age, they become pioneers of fair systems. An entire generation of educated American youth known as "Baby Boom generation" clearly highlights the importance of upholding legal awareness in classrooms. This generation was pioneer of the civil Right Movement and second-wave Feminism. Their exposure to democratic values and legal ideals in classrooms allowed them to bring substantial change. Similarly Baby Boomer generation in Australia also pushed for major reforms including medicare, Indigenous land rights, and anti-discrimination laws. Their participation in such movement was due to their enhanced legal and democratic awareness in classrooms. Therefore, legal awareness in classrooms transform the nation substantially.

So far, this essay has discussed the positive impacts of well-managed classrooms on different nation's future. In the following paragraphs, the negative impacts of un-managed classrooms will be demonstrated.

Firstly, nations that fail to make classrooms centres of political education and awareness experience authoritarian systems. When school curricula do not promote democratic values and become machines for transferring authoritarian propaganda nations suffer exponentially. A clear example of this is Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler (1933-1945). This regime used the education system to indoctrinate children with extreme nationalist and racist ideologies against Jews. Class rooms were stripped of democratic content. Textbooks glorified Hitler, promoted antisemitism, and blind obedience to authority. As a result, German nation became complacent in Holocaust, as the youth were strong supporters of Facism. Similarly, North Korean class rooms also represent the same case of lack of democratic values, promoting obedience to authoritarian leadership. In North Korean classrooms, students are taught to idealise Kim family. Independent thought is discouraged and there is no teaching of democratic

values and political systems. This shows how classroom devoid of democratic values preserve and promote authoritarian system and make nations suffer politically.

Secondly, when classrooms uphold outdated curricula and fail to (suffice) offer diverse subject choices, nations experience economic instability. In the absence of modern fields such as STEM, data science, AI, or biotechnology, students are forced to pursue subjects that may no longer align with global market demands. This leads to lack of skilled workforce and professionals, making countries dependent on.

a single sector for economic growth. This makes nation suffer economically due to stunt economic growth. Pakistan and Bangladesh are the prominent examples of nations that are struggling due to economic crisis, all thanks to their classrooms offering outdated curriculum and limited subject choices. In Pakistan agriculture contributes approximately 23% to the GDP and employs about 37.4% of the labour force. Due to lack of skilled professionals related to other fields Pakistan heavy reliance on agriculture is one of major reasons behind its crippling economy. Likewise, Bangladesh heavy reliance on agriculture that employs 37% of workforce and contribute only 11.2% to the GDP, works as an important reasons for its struggling economy. Therefore, class-

rooms reliance on outdated curricula and limited exposure of subjects make nations economically vulnerable.

Thirdly, classrooms that fail to instill social values, empathy, tolerance and respect for diversity, it leads to the rise of extremism, terrorism, and radicalism in respective nations. When students are not taught how to take different world views and engage with them it makes them highly polarised and radical human beings. Classrooms in Afghanistan under Taliban rule reflects the consequences of an exclusionist and socially intolerant learning environment.

This learning environment in Afghanistan excludes young girls and women from classrooms, exacerbating discrimination and sexist views against women gender. As a result, women experience strict marginalization both in public as well as in domestic places. In January 2024, girls as young as 16 were arrested and beaten in Kabul for violating Taliban dress code while attending private English classes. Similarly, Rwandan classrooms during 1994 genocide shows another case where lack of social values and empathy in classrooms leads to severe consequences. In this period, Rwandan classrooms reinforced ethnic divisions

between Hutus and Tutsis - through the use of biased curricula and segregated learning environment. This education system led to a 100-day genocide in which over 800,000 people were killed. The cases of Rwanda and Afghanistan shows that intolerant and exclusionist classrooms lead to radical and genocidal activities by nations.

• Fourthly, the absence of state-of-the-art infrastructure and technological facilities significantly impacts students' technological understanding. Without access to essential tools such as computer, internet connectivity, and digital learning resources, students are unable to meet global standards and demands. This hinders their ability to participate in the modern digital economy. In sub-Saharan Africa only 1/3 of primary schools in the region have access to electricity, and less than half are connected to the internet for pedagogical purposes. Moreover, only 9% of youth aged between 15-24 across 15 African countries possess basic computer skills. Due to such critical issues in the technological sector at the classroom level hinders the ability of youth to advance technologically, lacking technological expertise. As a result, African countries are unable to play their part in digital economy. This highlights that nations cannot compete

in the technological sector if their classroom are devoid of technological facilities and infrastructure.

Fifthly, classrooms that do not promote scientific culture and research their nations experience serious crises like brain drain. When students are not given adequate facilities and infrastructure to carry out scientific research and experimentation, leads to nations who are dependent on developed nations for their survival. Moreover, the students who have expertise in such fields due to lack of opportunities move to countries that offer such facilities, leading to brain drain. Due to lack of such culture in classrooms, countries in South Asia and Africa are unable to treat various diseases such as Malaria, dengue, AIDS, cholera, Polio, and Rabies etc. Similarly, During covid-19 countries like Bangladesh were not able to produce their own vaccine and were dependent on countries that developed vaccines owing to culture of strong research there. Moreover, African union estimates that about 70,000 skilled professionals emigrate from Africa annually due to lack of research opportunities. This demonstrates that countries/nations where classrooms do not promote research culture suffer significantly.

during global crises and also experience brain drain.

Lastly, classrooms that are unable to instil legal values and respect for the rule of law in the future generation give rise to corrupt and immoral nations that uphold unjust values. From early education to higher levels, students are not taught the importance of legal rights, civil duties, and justice system. This make nations descend into authoritarianism and lawlessness, where the interests of the powerful are unchallenged. Myanmar's military regime <sup>has</sup> repeatedly ignored legal norms, leading to mass atrocities against the Rohingya Muslim minority. Their actions remained unchallenged because of lack of regard for rule of law at national level. Similarly, the current situation of Venezuela illustrate the consequences of absence of rule of law. Under Venezuela's current government, courts are politicised, dissent is criminalised, and the Justice system has collapsed. Both Myanmar and Venezuela have classrooms that promote disregard for the rule of law, by upholding the state narrative. This shows that classrooms that do not have legal rights and values ingrained in their curricula convert nation into

lawless societies.

Therefore, to make sure that classrooms contribute positively to a nation's future it is important to take mentioned measures which include reforming national curriculum to foster democratic participation and values, diversifying academic fields to ensure economic growth, Enhancing technological and research infrastructure by allocating adequate budget, inculcating social tolerance and respect for rule of law through classrooms.

To sum up, classrooms play an important role in shaping the future of a nation. They can steer a nation towards destruction or progress, owing to their management. If they are managed efficiently they become centres of democratic values, legal rights, social cohesion, technological innovation, scientific research, and skilled workforce. However, if managed poorly they become centres of extremist ideologies, propaganda machines, social disunity, lawlessness, scientific and technological backwardness, and inefficient workforce leading to economic instability. However, if robust measures are taken by nations it can make sure constructive role of classrooms in a nation's future.

ESSAY:

Date 20  
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# Human development and Economic sustainability

## OUTLINE

### I - Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Human development and economic sustainability are deeply interconnected. Countries that invest in human development achieve long-term economic sustainability, whereas those that neglect it suffer from economic instability and stagnation. Therefore, precise measures must be taken by countries struggling with deteriorating human development and economic crisis.

### II - Unpacking Human Development and economic sustainability

- A - Understanding Human development
- B - Defining Economic sustainability
- C - Relating Human development with Economic sustainability

### III - Factors that promote Human development and economic sustainability

- A - Stable political systems and policy coherence

1. From Ballots to Blueprint : Germany and China's models of political stability, policy continuity for Human development and economic sustainability.

- B - Modern Education Systems

1. Educating for Human development and economic sustainability: South Korea and Finland's Rise through classrooms.

### C. Rule of Law and legal Protection

1. Iceland: A Global leader in gender equality
2. ~~Singapore's~~ <sup>singapore's</sup> legal reform and post-conflict recovery

### D. Health Care Investment

1. Healing the Nation: How Cuba made health a development and economic strategy
2. A universal Healthcare: Case of Japan's healthcare system.

### E. Technology and Innovation

1. Code Growth: ~~Singapore~~ <sup>Estonia</sup> leap into the digital future
2. India's IT revolution through innovation investment for human development and economic sustainability

## IV- Factors that undermine human development and economic sustainability

### A. Political Instability and policy incoherence

1. When power shifts, Progress Slips: Lebanon and Venezuela as lessons in poor human development and economic instability

### B. Outdated Education and Brain



## Drain:

1. Minds on the Move: Case study of Pakistan and Ethiopia impacting Human development and economic sustainability.

C- Absence of Rule of Law and legal protections

1. NO Justice, NO Growth: Sudan and Haiti's collapse under lawlessness

D- Inadequate Healthcare system

1. A sick Nation can't grow: Zimbabwe and Afghanistan's Healthcare collapse

E - Technological Backwardness and Infrastructure Gaps

1. Left behind in a digital world

would: The sub-Saharan Tech Gap

V- Measures to improve Human development and Economic sustainability

A- Ensuring Political stability and economic policies coherence.

B- Reforming and modernising education system

C- Strengthening legal systems

D- Investing in Healthcare systems

E- Promoting Technological advancement and infrastructure

F- Collaborating with international institutions to devise solutions for local issues.

VI- Conclusion

According to a nobel Peace Prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi, "Economic growth and human development need to go hand in hand. Human values need to be advocated vigorously." This quote by Satyarthi highlights that human development and economic growth must be pursued simultaneously, as they are interdependent and mutually reinforcing phenomena. Countries that promote human development through political stability, policy continuity, modern education systems, rule of law, robust health care systems, and technological innovation achieve economic sustainability. However, countries that abandon human development due to political instability, policy incoherence, outdated education systems, absence of rule of law, poor health care systems, and technological backwardness suffer from chronic economic instability. However, countries suffering from chronic economic instability by promoting human development in different domains which include political, legal, educational, technological, <sup>and</sup> health care. In a nutshell, human development and economic sustainability are deeply interconnected. countries that invest in human development achieve long-term economic sustainability, while those that neglect it suffer from economic instability and stagnation.



therefore, precise measures must be taken by countries struggling with deteriorating human development and crippling economic to become prosperous.

According to UNDP, "Human development is about giving people more freedom and opportunities to live lives they value." This definition illustrates that the core of Human development is empowering humans by providing them opportunities and freedoms to realise their full potential and live accordingly. International Institute for Management Development states that economic sustainability is about creating long-term growth and development without compromising the ability of current as well as future generations to meet their own needs. This means economic sustainability ensures that economy is managed in a highly efficient way that emphasise economic prosperity for future generations as well. Therefore, this definition has clearly illustrated that economic sustainability is directly related to human development and vice versa. Different researches have highlighted that investment in human development leads to economic sustainability. The Human development Index (HDI) developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to measure a country's aver-

ge achievement in three basic dimensions of human development including Health, Education, and standard of living. However, it is important to note that human development is not related to these three dimensions only, it also includes political, legal, economic, technological and other dimensions too. Moreover, countries with highest value for HDI have economic sustainability as well.

Now, the following paragraphs will outline the factors that promote human development which in return ensures economic sustainability.

countries that have stable political systems in place be it parliamentary, presidential democracies, or one-party system of China play a critical role in promoting human development and economic sustainability.

what matters most is not the type of political system but its ability to pursue long-term economic policies due to their stable nature.

stable political systems ensure that the policy coherence and lead to economic sustainability as they make sure that the economic needs of both current and future generations are fulfilled and protected, respectively.

Germany is a liberal democracy with strong institutions and policy continuity. Stability in

leadership has allowed it for long-; to pursue long-term economic policies aiming to improve human development. This led Germany to acquire fifth rank in the world with a score of 0.959 for Human Development Index (HDI). Moreover, Germany acquires the third rank in the world's largest economies with a GDP of \$ 4.92 millions in 2025. On the other hand, political stability in China made the communist party pursue long-term economic policies that lifted over 800 million people out of poverty in 40 years. These centralised and long-term economic policies have promoted human development in China. This has made China to emerge as the second largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$ 19.53 trillion dollars. Therefore, countries with stable political systems pursue long-term economic policies aimed to improve human development and achieve economic sustainability.

On the other hand, countries that invest in education systems and ensure that their young generation receive modern education according to the contemporary global standards ensure human development and economic sustainability. This investment

in the education sector aligned with the contemporary standards produce highly skilled professionals as well as work in diverse fields. This enhanced division of labour leads to diversification of economy, reducing its reliance on a single sector. Continuous investment in the education sector, thus, ensures that such policies should be pursued that enhance both human development and economic sustainability. South Korea's post-war investment in STEM and vocational education helped transform it into a tech giant, improving both human development and economic sustainability in the country. Before the Korean War (1950-1953), South Korean economy was largely agrarian, with majority of population engaged in subsistence farming. It was experiencing high poverty, illiteracy, and unemployment. However, investments in education sector allowed South Korea to diversify economy, ensuring economic sustainability. According to the Human Development Report 2025, South Korea secured the 20<sup>th</sup> ranking with a HDI value of 0.937. Moreover, South Korea is the twelfth largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$ 1.95 trillion (IMF, 2025). Finland is another example that shows how continuous investment in education sector leads to both human development and economic sustainability. Finland's education system is highly regarded for its focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation. The country's commitment to education is reflected in its high HDI value of 0.912 and its 10<sup>th</sup> ranking in the Human Development Report 2025.

ent and economic sustainability. Finland's education system based on equality, teacher quality, and innovation has allowed it to emerge as one of the world's best education systems. This strong emphasis on education has allowed Finland to achieve knowledge-based economy not dependent on a single sector. Finland has a GDP of \$303.95 billion USD and enjoys 47<sup>th</sup> ranking in terms of nominal GDP in 2025. Similarly, it acquired 12<sup>th</sup> position globally in terms of human development with a value of 0.948 for Human Development Index in 2025. Thus, it highlights that countries that uphold and maintain strong and modern education ensure economic sustainability and human development.

A strong legal framework is another factor that guarantees human development and economic sustainability. Countries with robust legal systems curb different social evils, such as radicalism, extremism, and terrorism etc. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) highlights that violent extremism thrives in environments characterized by poor governance, corruption, and lack of rule of law. This means that rule of law ensures that people's life, security, and property are protected. When citizens perceive

legal systems as just and efficient, they do not feel scared to pursue different legal economic endeavors. The legal stability ensures security in the country as well, attracting continuous investment in the country. Therefore, legal security and rule of law guarantee both Human development and economic sustainability. Singapore is a prominent example of how rule of law and legal certainty lead to conditions for both human development and long-term economic stability. The government under Lee Kuan Yew, prioritised the creation of an efficient corruption free legal system. strict enforcement of contracts, strong protection of property rights, and zero tolerance for corruption attracted foreign investment and allowed businesses to thrive with confidence. These reforms allowed Singapore to consistently rank among the top countries in Human Development Index and the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business. Iceland consistently ranks at the top of the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index, having closed over 90% of its gender gap. Its female labour participation rate stands at 70%, significantly higher than global average. Iceland was able to secure this through vigorous legal policies in place ensuring gender equality, women's rights, and

strong representation of women in public sector. This has allowed Iceland to acquire the 8<sup>th</sup> rank in the prosperity index ranking (2023). Therefore, Iceland and Singapore demonstrate that strong legal system and rule of law safeguards human development and economic sustainability.

A robust healthcare system is a cornerstone of human development and a key driver of economic sustainability. Countries that invest in accessible and efficient healthcare services experience lower mortality rates, longer life expectancy, and healthier, more productive populations. When people have timely access to healthcare facilities, disease prevention, and healthcare awareness overall productivity rises and economy becomes stable. The continuous investment, thus ensure that human development and economic stability is achieved. For example, Cuba despite limited resources has built a highly effective health care system focused on prevention, resulting in low infant mortality and high life expectancy compared to many developed nations. Cuba also has a high value for HDI. Cuba's investment in the healthcare system allowed the country to generate \$11 billion dollar

annually by sending healthcare professionals abroad. Japan's Healthcare system known as universal healthcare has allowed it to - maintain productive workforce and economic sustainability. As a result, Japan has a very high value of 0.925 for Human development index and is a 4th largest economy in the world.

An efficient technological culture also safeguards human development and economic sustainability. When states prioritise education and skills in fields like artificial intelligence, data science, and IT, they equip their workforce as well as professionals with the demands of evolving global economy. Countries that allocate substantial budgets toward technological and research infrastructure and development emerge as tech hubs. This investment in technology allowed them to emerge as economic giants and human development. In the early 1990s, Estonia transformed itself into a pioneering digital society through its 'e-Estonia' initiative. This initiative improved key indicators of Human development which include education, health, and entrepreneurship. It also improved transparency and innovation in the country, all leading to economic sustainability. Estonia ranks 36<sup>th</sup> globally for human development and its GDP



per capita reached \$30,133 in 2023, making it a wealthy nation. Similarly, India's investment in the IT technology, through 'make in India' and 'digital India' initiatives has made it a tech hub. Its cities have emerged as tech centres, particularly in Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Pune. It also created million of jobs for skilled jobs and significantly contributed to the GDP growth. India has a medium level of HDI (Human development Report, 2025).

India has emerged as fifth largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$ 4.27 trillions (IMF, 2025). This highlights that countries that invest in technological sectors achieve economic sustainability and human development.

So far, this essay has demonstrated the factors that lead to human development and economic sustainability. The following paragraphs will outline the factors that lead to deterioration of both human development and economic sustainability.

Firstly, in unstable political systems there is no continuity in political leadership. Therefore, countries with unstable political systems lack policy coherence and the policy agenda upholds political elite's interests rather than <sup>public</sup> service.

These short-term policies aimed to enhance the political power of the ruling elite significantly impact the human development and economic sustainability. As the ruling elite does not have any interest in addressing the needs of the population countries suffer (with) <sup>from</sup> poor humanitarian conditions and economic crisis. Lebanon and Venezuela have experienced <sup>economic instability due to</sup> humanitarian as well as political instability.

Governance and political breakdowns have led to economic stagnation, currency collapse, and mass unemployment. Lebanon ranked 165<sup>th</sup> in terms of economic freedom out of 175 countries in the <sup>2023</sup> Cato Institute's *Liberty in the World* Report. Similarly in terms of Human Development Index though Lebanon has high value but due to its limited scope it does not depict the on-ground situation in the country.

There is widespread poverty in Lebanon.

According to World Bank, poverty in Lebanon has more than tripled over the past decade reaching 44% of the population.

2024). This demonstrates that the political instability has indeed affected both economic sustainability and human development in Lebanon. Venezuela though has a high HDI value but political instability has deteriorated both economic sustainability and human development. According to a 2023 survey, around 82.4 percent of

households live in poverty conditions and around 50.5 percent live in extreme poverty. Similarly, it ranks 145<sup>th</sup> on the prosperity index. Therefore, this shows that countries that have political instability suffer economically and face humanitarian crisis.

Secondly, when countries uphold outdated curriculum and do not invest in education sector they do not achieve economic sustainability and have poor (econ.) human development. Such countries produce workforce that lacks both modern skills, according to global demands, and expertise. As a result, countries are unable to diversify their economies and depend on a single sector for economic growth. This makes countries vulnerable to economic instability. Pakistan and Ethiopia are the countries that have severe economic crisis and low human development due to the governments' neglect and lack of investment in the education sector. There are more than 26 million children from the age bracket of 5-16 years out of school in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan has a debt of PKR 62,881 billion<sup>(2023)</sup>, comprising 43.1% of its GDP. (Dawn 2024) Human Development Index of Pakistan has a low value and it ranked 161 out 192 countries in 2025. literacy rate

in Ethiopia is 51.8%, which is among the lowest globally. In 2024, Ethiopia's debt-to-GDP ratio was around 32 percent (IMF). This illustrates that countries that neglect education do not have economic sustainability and good human development. As Ethiopia has also low value of human development according to Human Development Report (2025).

Thirdly,

The absence of a robust rule of law in countries leads to a cascade of economic and social issues. When legal systems fail to ensure property rights, ensure personal <sup>security</sup>, uphold civil liberties and gender rights countries experience rampant corruption, crime, terrorism, and discrimination. This environment give rise to a culture, where business fraud is common, labour rights ignored, and marginalized group especially women suffer from both economic and social injustices. This impacts a country's overall human development and economic sustainability. American Bar Association highlights that the rule of law is a cornerstone of economic prosperity, providing a stable environment for growth and investment. Countries like Sudan and Haiti are the prominent examples that illustrate the dire consequences of absence of rule of law on both economic sustainability and human development. In Sudan, years of military

Conflicts have weakened all institutions, especially the judiciary. Citizens lack access to justice with extremism, tribal violence, and displacement prevalent in the country. Sudan has a low value of HDI (0.511) (HDI Report 2025) and ranked 176 globally. According to Africa Development Bank, Sudan's economy GDP contracted by 37.5% in 2023 due to destruction and disruption of economic activities. Similarly in Haiti, gang violence, corruption and non-functional judicial system severely impacted the country with low HDI and stunted economy.

Fourthly, inadequate healthcare systems significantly hinder human development and economic instability. Countries lacking vigorous healthcare infrastructure, sufficient medical, and an inadequate number of health care providers face high mortality rates from preventable diseases such as AIDS, Dengue, cholera, measles, and dengue. In low- and middle-income countries, between 5.7 million and 8.4 million deaths occur annually due to poor-quality healthcare, accounting for over 15% of overall deaths in these regions (National Academies). Therefore, this decline of healthcare leads to high mortality rates affecting productive labour and economic sustainability. Due to ineffective healthcare systems, HDI is negatively affected as it considers life expectancy.

as a primary factor for human development. In Zimbabwe, public hospitals face severe medicine shortages and staff strikes. Life expectancy dropped drastically in past decades due to healthcare collapse. There is both high maternal as well as infant mortality rates. The mortality rate in Zimbabwe was 8.94 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants, with 24 per 1,000 live birth for neonatal mortality and 35 per 1,000 live births for infant mortality rate. Therefore, Zimbabwe has remained a lower-middle-income country (World Bank) and experience macroeconomic instability. Similarly, the situation of healthcare system in Afghanistan is grim. In 2021, the Taliban took over, has led to cut off of foreign aid, affecting millions, especially women and children. Therefore, Afghanistan has low HDI and 2/3 of population lives in poverty (KabuNow).

Lastly, countries that fail to invest in technological advancement often find themselves lagging behind in innovation. This makes them technologically dependent on tech-advanced nations. This reliance makes them dependent on foreign nations for the solutions of local problems due to lack of technological capability to resolve such issues. The absence of research and technological infrastructure as well as culture because of inadequate budget allocation hinders human development and economic sustainability.



According to the United Nations, developing countries with limited internet use are at a risk of being left behind in achieving Sustainable development Goals (SDGs).

For example many sub-Saharan African countries suffer from poor internet penetration, lack of <sup>be</sup> research and development, and digital literacy, limiting both human development and economic sustainability. As of 2025, many sub-Saharan countries have low values of HDI.

In 2023, the GDP per capita for sub-Saharan Africa was approximately \$1637 which marks a 3.8% decline from the previous year, reflecting the economic instability in the region.

In order to ensure human development and economic sustainability. There is an urgent <sup>need</sup> for countries to adopt the following measures which include ensuring political stability and long-term policy coherence, reforming and modernising education system according to the contemporary global demand using adequate budget, investing in healthcare sector to make it robust and effective, promoting technological and research culture by providing facilities and opportunities to the youth, and finally collaborating with international <sup>organizations and countries</sup> not to put one's responsibility on them but to devise robust solutions with their input to deal with the local issues in best manner.



To sum up, human development and economic sustainability are deeply intertwined concepts. In other words, human development ensures economic sustainability and vice-versa. There are some factors that promote human development in a country, leading to economic sustainability. These factors include political stability, policy continuity, modern education, rule of law, effective healthcare sector, and technological and research advancement. Human development achieved through these factors lead to economic sustainability. However, there are factors which negatively impact human development, leading to economic instability. Such factors are political instability, policy incoherence, lack of rule of law, outdated education system, ineffective healthcare sector, and technological backwardness. Countries that are suffering from poor human development and economic instability due to these factors include Lebanon, Syria, Venezuela, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Haiti, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan and Sub-Saharan African countries etc. On the contrary, these countries can improve human development and economic sustainability by taking robust measures, which include ensuring political stability and policy coherence, establishing rule of law, introducing modern education system, building robust healthcare sector, and pro-

motivating research and technological advancements.

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