



Development, Sustainability and the Political Economy of the Global South: Challenges, Opportunities and Policy Pathways for Inclusive Development

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ABSTRACT

The Global South has emerged as a central actor in shaping contemporary debates on development, sustainability, and global political economy. While many developing economies have experienced rapid economic growth over the past three decades, persistent inequalities, environmental degradation, climate change, debt burdens, and institutional challenges continue to constrain inclusive development. This paper critically examines the relationship between development, sustainability, and the political economy of the Global South by analysing structural constraints and emerging opportunities within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Using qualitative and descriptive research methods based on secondary data, the study reviews policy documents, scholarly literature, and reports from international organizations. The paper argues that sustainable development in the Global South requires a balanced approach integrating economic growth, social justice, environmental protection, and institutional resilience. It further highlights the importance of South–South cooperation, digital transformation, green finance, and participatory governance as catalysts for sustainable and inclusive development. Through selected case examples from India, Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia, the study identifies best practices and policy lessons that can strengthen developmental outcomes. The paper concludes that achieving sustainability requires structural reforms in domestic governance alongside greater equity in global economic institutions.

This paper examines the interconnected relationship between development, sustainability, and the political economy of the Global South. It evaluates major challenges, identifies emerging opportunities, and proposes policy recommendations for achieving equitable, resilient, and sustainable development.

KEYWORDS: Global South, Sustainable Development, Political Economy, Inclusive Growth, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Development Policy.
