



An Overarching Summary of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the framework of global initiatives, specifically focusing on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), encompassing objectives such as poverty eradication and environmental protection, are designed to address worldwide issues. Institutional frameworks encompass several elements such as international engagement, data surveillance, partnerships, policy coherence, and capacity enhancement, which contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Building Goals. These frameworks are essential for achieving SDG success. This study analyzes Malaysia's adherence to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the extent to which its development plan aligns with them. The paper highlights Malaysia's accomplishments, challenges, and prospects. The 2017 Voluntary National Review and 2019 Malaysia Sustainable Development Goal Summit emphasized the importance of clear communication, strong government dedication, collaboration among stakeholders, enhancements in institutional frameworks, promotion of economic growth, preservation of environmental sustainability, fostering inclusivity, and active engagement of young. This research analyzes Malaysia's advancements in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific emphasis on poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, and environmental conservation. In order to address the persistent obstacles, it is necessary to fully understand the complex relationship between economic growth and environmental preservation. The New Economic Model and Eleventh Malaysia Plan prioritize global sustainability in Malaysia's growth policies. Both selected in the year 2011. These acts demonstrate Malaysia's dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The results provide an extensive analysis of worldwide sustainable development initiatives. Creating sustainable futures requires the collaboration of different stakeholders, the integration of policies, and the enhancement of capabilities. This demonstrates the complexity of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although the new abstract has improved readability and organization, it still contains all the essential elements found in the original form.

Keywords: Environmental sustainability, framework, Malaysia, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Introduction

This study investigates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through global programs implemented by the United Nations (UN). In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development included three out of its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): poverty alleviation, gender parity, and environmental conservation (Esquivel and Sweetman, 2016). This comprehensive strategy considers economic, social, and environmental factors for the betterment of the entire world. Horan (2019) asserts that the achievement of the SDGs necessitates worldwide collaboration, systematic data tracking, collaborative alliances, and the integration of policies. This article analyzes Malaysia's development strategy, achievements, and shortcomings, as well as its pursuit of sustainable growth in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2017 Voluntary National Review and 2019 Malaysia SDG Summit deliberated on the government's dedication, involvement of stakeholders, modifications in institutions, progress in the economy, sustainability of the environment, inclusivity, and active involvement of the youth. Analyzing international and domestic sustainable development initiatives elucidates the obstacles, achievements, and enduring dedication to a sustainable future.

Types of SDG

Misore (2018) states that the primary objective of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to address worldwide economic, social, and environmental challenges. These objectives will yield long-term benefits for both individuals and the environment. In 2015, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as shown in Fig. 1 were supported by delegates from a collective of 193 states. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the historic agenda have the potential to mitigate environmental deterioration, conflict, and poverty by the year 2030. The plan encompasses the issues of poverty, sanitation, the local economy, and social concerns.



Fig. 1 - Sustainable Development Goals (Martin, 2018).

The 17 Sustainable Development targets (SDGs) encompass distinct objectives and metrics (Halişçelik and Soytaş, 2019). Below is a concise overview of the many categories of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on their respective areas of focus:

- No Poverty (Goal 1): End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- Zero Hunger (Goal 2): End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Good Health and Well-being (Goal 3): Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Quality Education (Goal 4): Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Gender Equality (Goal 5): Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6): Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Affordable and Clean Energy (Goal 7): Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8): Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (Goal 9): Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
- Reduced Inequality (Goal 10): Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (Goal 11): Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- Responsible Consumption and Production (Goal 12): Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Climate Action (Goal 13): Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Life Below Water (Goal 14): Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Life on Land (Goal 15): Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (Goal 16): Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17): Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

These goals encompass a diverse array of interrelated concerns, including poverty, hunger, education, health, gender equality, environmental sustainability, and peace. Please note that there may have been recent developments since my previous update. It is recommended to consult official sources for the most up-to-date information regarding any adjustments or modifications pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Systematic Approaches to Achieving the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals were officially endorsed by the United Nations on September 17, 2015. The objectives outlined by Von Weizsäcker and Wijkman (2018) pertain to worldwide environmental, social, and economic concerns. To accomplish these objectives, it is necessary to establish a strong institutional structure that oversees, evaluates, and synchronizes advancements. Creating and upholding domestic and global procedures and organizations can aid in accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Aftab et al., 2020). Crucial organizational establishments for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encompass:

International Cooperation and Support

Addressing global challenges necessitates international collaboration. Countries can enhance the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by collaborating with other governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and development organizations, sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise (Messerli et al., 2019).

Data Monitoring and Reporting Systems

Precise and pertinent data is necessary for the continuous monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Establishing or improving national statistics organizations and data gathering is of utmost importance. It is necessary to create country indicators, establish data-collecting strategies, and implement reporting procedures in order to monitor and report on the progress of SDG development (Quan, Kumar and Mboup, 2021).

Partnerships and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

Successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) necessitates collaboration and cooperation among all sectors and stakeholders. Organizations, governments, corporations, civil society, and academia can interact in order to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the exchange of resources and knowledge (Florini and Pauli, 2018).

Policy Integration and Alignment

Assess and align governmental policies and regulations with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Evaluating the extent to which national rules and regulations facilitate or hinder progress towards goals, and implementing necessary changes to ensure consistency and alignment (Meuleman, 2021).

National Coordination Committees

SDG implementation in various countries is overseen by national coordination committees or councils. Typically, these committees consist of government departments, civil society groups, the commercial sector, and other stakeholders (World Health Organization, 2019). Their role entails coordinating, communicating, and monitoring progress across several sectors.

Integrated Planning and Budgeting

In order to integrate sustainable development, it is imperative to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into both national development plans and budgets. Authorities have the ability to control the distribution of funds in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and efficiently utilize financial assets (Hege and Brimont, 2018).

Capacity Building

The successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals necessitates the development and strengthening of institutional capacity. This entails educating government officials, civil society groups, and other stakeholders on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their obligations in achieving them (Franco and Tracey, 2019).

Malaysia's National Development Plan and SDG Alignment

Malaysia experiences the predicament of balancing economic growth and safeguarding the environment, similar to other emerging countries. According to Michael and Salleh (2021), this country has successfully incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its National Plan, although facing significant challenges. Malaysia's New Economic Model (NEM) demonstrates its dedication to achieving sustainable development. The three main principles of the SDGs, namely high income, inclusion, and sustainability, encompass the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the goals. According to Saadatian et al. (2011), Malaysia's involvement in the 13th Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in 2005 indicates its participation in global sustainability efforts. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) initiated the global development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in late 2014, as reported by DOSM. The 11th and 12th National Plans of Malaysia demonstrate the incorporation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Michael & Salleh, 2021).

The document encompassed action plans, activities, and outcomes related to the national development plan, specifically aligned with the objectives, targets, and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In their previous study, Hezri and Nordin Hasan (2006) postulated that diplomatic pressures and global censure of desertification prompted Malaysia to adopt sustainable development. As per the findings of Fernando et al. (2022b), businesses that placed a strong emphasis on social factors in their supply chain were successful in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to reducing inequality, improving health, and promoting responsible consumption and production. By the time we reach the year 2030, the goals

and plans for national development will be coordinated and incorporated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Malaysia mandates the SDG Roadmap Phase 2 (2021–2025) to pinpoint crucial sectors, facilitators, and key 'accelerator points' to enhance the SDG agenda by addressing lagging SDGs. The initiative put forth concepts and strategies, advocated for coherence in policies across different levels of government, and facilitated the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) initiatives at the local level.

Malaysia's SDG index is now ranked 72nd out of 163 nations, with spillover scores of 70.4% and 79.2%. The percentage is derived from the cumulative achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG index score in Malaysia increased from 64.02% in 2000 to 70.33% in 2021. The final objective is attained by obtaining a perfect score of 100%. Malaysia still has a significant distance to cover in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Malaysia's Voluntary National Review

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Malaysia's sustainable development trajectory was initiated by the New Economic Policy (NEP) of 1970, which aimed to eradicate poverty and enact societal reforms. Every succeeding 5-year Malaysia development plan has prioritized sustainable economic growth, ensuring fair distribution among all populations, providing access to essential infrastructure and utilities, promoting education and healthcare, and integrating environmental conservation as a core component. The New Economic Model (NEM) implemented by Malaysia in 2009 reaffirmed its dedication to sustainable development, focusing on three core principles: achieving high income levels, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring sustainability. These principles align with the economic, social, and environmental objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (Goi, 2022). The 5-year Malaysia growth plan until 2020 is founded upon the New Economic Model (NEM). The 11th Malaysia Plan (2016–2020) is supported on three NEM pillars. The 11th Malaysia Plan focuses on "Anchoring Growth on People" to ensure that all segments of society are included in the nation's progress. Malaysia is now making significant progress towards achieving sustainable growth. These are a few achievements:

- According to SDG 1 and 2, the percentage of people living in absolute poverty reduced from 49.3% in 1970 to 0.6% in 2014, thereby eliminating hunger.
- SDG 3: Child and maternal mortality rates in mostly industrialized countries have been significantly reduced; the presence of smallpox and polio has been eradicated; the spread of HIV/AIDS has been reversed (Greenwood, 2014). Notable reductions in water-borne diseases, malaria, and curable pediatric illnesses.
- SDG 4&5: Achieve a primary and secondary school attendance rate of over 90% for both boys and girls, and a higher education enrollment rate of 33% with a little gender bias favoring girls.
- SDG 6 aims to achieve a nationwide coverage of over 95% for water, sanitation, and electricity.
- SDG 7, 12, and 16 focus on enacting laws, regulations, policies, and strategies aimed at preserving and safeguarding natural resources.
- SDG 8: Achieved full employment since 1992.
- SDG 10 aims to reduce the Gini Coefficient from 0.513 in 1970 to 0.401 in 2014.
- SDG 13, 14, 15, and 17: In 2015, the goal was to preserve over 50% of forest cover, 10.76% of terrestrial protected areas, and 1.06% of marine protected areas. They have achieved a 33% reduction in carbon intensity since 2009 and have also expanded our renewable energy capability. Malaysia participates in conservation efforts in the Coral Triangle and Heart of Borneo regions, both within and outside of its borders (Ardiansyah and Putri, 2011).
- The Agenda 2030 reinforces the dedication to achieving sustainable development. This is consistent with the 11th Malaysia Plan, which will incorporate Sustainable growth Goals (SDGs) into every element of Malaysia's growth. During the 2015 UN General Assembly, the Malaysia made a commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development (Yusof and Ariffin, 2020).
- Malaysia has implemented a governance structure that involves multiple stakeholders and encourages their active participation. They have organized two national symposiums on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to promote stakeholder involvement. Additionally, they have conducted studies to assess their readiness for data collection and identified any gaps. Malaysia has also coordinated a mapping exercise that involves non-governmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector to align SDGs with the initiatives outlined in the 11th Malaysia Plan (Glass, Newig, & Ruf, 2023).

Malaysia SDG Summit 2019

During the Malaysian Sustainable Development Goal Summit 2019, various stakeholders, including government officials, United Nations representatives, ministries, and civil society members, expressed their viewpoints (Khoo and Tan, 2019). The critical evaluation will focus on crucial aspects such as the coherence of communication, the effectiveness of conveying essential concepts, and the viability of the proposed suggestions. The primary focal points of the Malaysia SDG Summit 2019 were:

- Precision and Consistency

The Summit showcases Malaysia's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals and the Shared Prosperity vision (Dauda and Hasan, 2018). The language is comprehensible, and the structure is uniform, facilitating readers' comprehension of discussions across diverse topics.

- Government Commitment

The Summit underscores the Prime Minister's dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the significance of inclusivity, sustainability, and the Shared Prosperity vision (Nhamo, Dube and Chikodzi, 2020). The comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges is demonstrated by the emphasis on climate change, changes in governance, and accountability.

- Coordination of stakeholders

The Prime Minister's call for cooperation among stakeholders, specifically highlighting engagement with the corporate sector, is a commendable aspect (McDonald and Young, 2012). However, in order to create a more workable plan, it would be advantageous to delve deeper into the viability of this coordination and specific methodologies.

- Implementation of structural changes within an organization

It is commendable that there is a discussion underway on institutional reforms in the court system, parliament, and the public sector, with the aim of addressing corruption (Hope, 2013). The specific details on the nature of these changes and their implementation, however, have not been explicitly provided.

- The Relationship Between Economic Growth and Environmental Sustainability

The suggestions for legislation, regulations, and collaborations mentioned in the passage, which address the balance between economic progress and ecological preservation, are pragmatic (Portney, 2013). Nevertheless, there is potential for future development of the specific regulations and procedures designed to incentivize companies to participate in ecologically sustainable practices.

- Promotion of inclusivity and empowerment of women

The commitment to inclusivity, gender equality, and youth inclusion is very evident (Hayday and Collison, 2020). While it is positive that the plan incorporates suggestions for legal frameworks that advance women's rights, its credibility would be enhanced by including more concrete measures to actually execute these reforms.

- Comprehensive National Strategy

An imperative exists for the development of a comprehensive strategy that encompasses the entirety of the nation, as it underscores the need of local engagement, data acquisition, and policy coherence (Smith and Frankenberger, 2018). Nevertheless, it is feasible to conduct further study on specific strategies to improve data collection methods and offer incentives for local initiatives.

- Participation of Youth and Children

The involvement of young individuals and children in the Sustainable Development Goals agenda is commendable (Ratotti, Bianchi and Carriera, 2023). Conversely, the language lacks any details regarding the implementation and incorporation of their proposals into action and policy.

- Media Highlights and Audience Profile

The transparency of the Summit's impact is enhanced by incorporating media highlights and presenting the audience profile (McCorkindale and DiStaso, 2014). However, the study might be enhanced by incorporating additional details regarding how the diverse range of participants and media coverage contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusion

Essentially, the examination of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) commences with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) necessitates global collaboration, establishment of effective organizational structures, and integration of policies, with a focus on their multifaceted nature. The examination focused on Malaysia's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Voluntary National Review and the Malaysia SDG Summit. International cooperation, surveillance of data, alliances, synchronization of policies, and enhancement of capabilities are key strategies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

An analysis is conducted on Malaysia's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) development to emphasize achievements, challenges, and prospects for enhancement. Malaysia's dedication to both economic expansion and safeguarding the environment is evident when considering the compatibility of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with its national development strategy. The 2017 Voluntary National Review of Malaysia emphasizes its endeavors in poverty alleviation, healthcare provision, education, and environmental preservation. The 2019 Malaysia SDG Summit prioritizes the following factors as crucial components of the nation's sustainable development agenda: clarity, government commitment, stakeholder coordination, institutional reforms, economic growth, environmental sustainability, inclusivity, and youth involvement. The research demonstrates the intricacy, achievements, and persistent challenges in achieving sustainable development goals on both global and national scales.

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