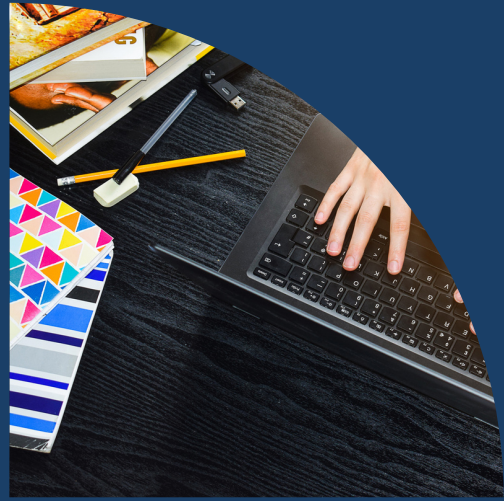


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14.	THE ECONOMICS OF TOURISM	39
	<i>Muhammad Hanif Othman & Zouhair Mohd Rosli</i>	
15.	THE IMPACT OF SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICE TOWARDS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION	43
	<i>Ramli Saad, Wan Shahrul Aziah Wan Mahamad & Yong Azrina Ali Akbar</i>	
16.	NAVIGATING CHALLENGES: THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON JOB SATISFACTION	46
	<i>Rosliza Md Zani, Syukriah Ali & Shakirah Mohd Saad</i>	
17.	SOCIAL MEDIA DYNAMICS IN HIGHER EDUCATION: FROM MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVES	49
	<i>Shakirah Mohd Saad & Rosliza Md Zani</i>	
18.	CAN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) BE ACHIEVED BY 2030?	52
	<i>Muhammad Zarunnaim Haji Wahab & Mohamad Hanif Abu Hassan</i>	
19.	UNDERSTANDING 5Cs OF CREDIT ANALYSIS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES	56
	<i>Anita Abu Hassan & Mohd Syazrul Hafizi Husin</i>	
20.	GREEN OFFICE PRACTICES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE WORK ENVIRONMENTS	58
	<i>Norafiza Mohd Hardi, Nurliyana Abas & Azlyantiny Mohammad</i>	
21.	SCARCITY PROMOTION TRIGGERS IMPULSE BUYING BEHAVIOUR	60
	<i>Syahida Abd Aziz & Roziyana Jafri</i>	
22.	ENHANCING STUDENT ASSESSMENT IN ONLINE LEARNING: A CONTEMPORARY APPRAISAL	63
	<i>Abd Rasyid bin Ramli, Burhanuddin bin Haji Wahab & Ahmad Fauzi bin Yahaya</i>	
23.	PERFORMANCE REVIEWS: WHY DOES IT MATTER?	66
	<i>Roziyana Jafri, Syahida Abd Aziz & Kardina Kamaruddin</i>	

CAN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) BE ACHIEVED BY 2030?

Muhammad Zarunnaim Haji Wahab
Faculty of Business and Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kedah
zarunnaim@uum.edu.my

Mohamad Hanif Abu Hassan
School of Business Management, College of Business, Universiti Utara Malaysia
hanifab@uum.edu.my

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a visionary concept with the ambitious objective of being achieved by the year 2030. As the global community stands with less than six years remaining to realize these goals, scholars are increasingly engaging in debates surrounding the feasibility of reaching these targets within the stipulated timeframe (Shulla & Leal Filho, 2023; Moyer and Hedden, 2020; Leal Filho et al., 2020; Hoy, 2015). Consequently, this article endeavors to provide a comprehensive overview by capturing insights from various studies and reports, drawing upon existing literature reviews to shed light on the current discourse surrounding the achievement of the SDGs.

Upon conducting a comprehensive analysis of the literature, it becomes evident that a predominant focus among scholars is on various impediments that could hinder the realization of the SDGs. The primary concerns highlighted include the global pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, economic uncertainty, resource constraints, and political instability. These factors collectively underscore the intricate challenges that must be addressed to navigate the path toward achieving sustainable development on a global scale.

GLOBAL PANDEMIC

Events such as pandemics and other health crises can divert attention and resources away from achieving SDGs, particularly those related to health and well-being (Martín-Blanco et al., 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic, for example, highlighted the vulnerability of global health systems. These crises not only pose immediate threats to public health but also trigger a cascade of challenges, including disruptions to economies, setbacks in education, and strain on healthcare systems (Zhao et al., 2022; Shulla et al., 2021). Effectively addressing and mitigating the impact of these health emergencies is pivotal for sustaining progress towards the SDGs on a global scale.

GEOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS

Geopolitical conflicts, marked by intricate political tensions and disputes between nations, stand as a formidable impediment to realizing the SDG by 2030. These conflicts not only engender instability on the global stage but also disrupt the essential conditions required for sustainable development across various spheres. The resultant challenges include hindered economic growth, compromised access to education and healthcare, displacement of populations, and an overall erosion of the socio-economic fabric vital for achieving the SDGs (Nguyen et al., 2023; Kumar & Roy, 2018). The conflict between Israel and Palestine, for instance, has had a profound global impact, as substantial resources that could have been directed toward achieving the SDG have had to be redirected to address the resolution of these conflicts. Navigating these geopolitical complexities is imperative for fostering international cooperation and creating an environment conducive to meeting the ambitious targets set forth by the SDGs (Ranjan, 2021).

ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY

Economic uncertainty emerges as a substantial barrier to achieving the SDG by 2030. The volatility and unpredictability within global economies introduce challenges that can impede progress across various SDG sectors. Economic uncertainties, characterized by fluctuations in markets, trade tensions, and financial instability, can undermine the necessary conditions for sustainable development initiatives (Govindan et al., 2020). Addressing and navigating these uncertainties becomes imperative for fostering resilient economies and ensuring the successful realization of the ambitious SDGs within the stipulated timeframe (Basheer et al., 2022).

RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS

Limited financial resources, both at the national and international levels, can impede the implementation of sustainable development initiatives. Adequate funding is crucial for the success of projects addressing poverty, health, education, and environmental sustainability (Jaiyesimi, 2016). The limitation of essential resources, including financial, technological, and human capital, can curtail the effective implementation of sustainable development initiatives. Inadequate resources may hinder progress in critical areas such as poverty alleviation, education, and environmental conservation (Filho et al., 2020). Addressing these constraints and mobilizing sufficient resources becomes paramount for overcoming these challenges and advancing the global agenda outlined in the SDGs.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Regions facing political instability and conflict may struggle to focus on long-term development goals. Ongoing conflicts can disrupt infrastructure, displace populations, and divert resources away from sustainable development efforts. The volatility and uncertainty in political landscapes can disrupt the consistent implementation of sustainable development initiatives (Khan & Farooq, 2019). Instability may lead to policy shifts, hinder effective governance, and create an environment where long-term development objectives face obstacles (Berliani & Violita, 2021). Addressing political instability becomes crucial for creating a conducive environment that fosters sustainable development efforts and enables nations to make substantial progress toward the SDGs within the specified timeframe.

CONCLUSION

The journey towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 is fraught with complex challenges that demand immediate attention and concerted global efforts. In essence, successfully navigating these challenges requires a coordinated and global response. It necessitates innovative solutions, enhanced international cooperation, and a collective commitment to addressing the root causes of these impediments. By doing so, we can hope to overcome these obstacles and make significant strides toward realizing the ambitious vision set forth by the SDGs. The urgency of the task at hand calls for sustained dedication, resource mobilization, and a shared responsibility to build a more sustainable and equitable world for current and future generations.

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