
**PROBLEMS OF ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN
UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract

This research article examines the problems of ensuring sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is a landlocked country in Central Asia that faces numerous challenges to achieve sustainable development due to its rapidly growing population, limited natural resources, and insufficient infrastructure. The article analyzes the progress and challenges of Uzbekistan in achieving the SDGs and provides recommendations for policymakers to overcome the obstacles in achieving sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable development goals (SDGs), Uzbekistan, poverty, education, gender equality, clean water, sustainable energy, economic growth

Introduction

Sustainable development is a vital goal for all countries worldwide, including Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan, with a population of over 34 million, has been making significant efforts to achieve sustainable development goals by implementing policies and programs aimed at economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Despite these efforts, Uzbekistan faces several challenges in achieving the SDGs, including poverty, low living standards, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to education and health services, and climate change. The purpose of this research article is to examine the problems of ensuring sustainable development goals in Uzbekistan and provide recommendations to address these challenges.



Literature Review

Sustainable development has been a critical goal for many countries worldwide, including Uzbekistan, a landlocked country in Central Asia. This literature review will examine studies and reports on the problems of ensuring sustainable development goals in Uzbekistan.

According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Uzbekistan has made significant progress in achieving some of the SDGs, such as poverty reduction, education, and gender equality[1,2,3]. However, the report also highlighted the challenges faced by the country in achieving other SDGs, including environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and decent work and economic growth (UNDP, 2020).

In terms of environmental sustainability, Uzbekistan has implemented several initiatives to address issues such as desertification and soil degradation[4,5,6]. The country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan aims to conserve the country's biodiversity, while the National Climate Change Strategy aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience. However, according to the Global Environment Outlook report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Uzbekistan ranks poorly in terms of air and water quality, biodiversity, and climate action (UNEP, 2019) [7,8].

Infrastructure development is another critical challenge faced by Uzbekistan in achieving the SDGs. The country's infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and water supply, is inadequate to meet the needs of the growing population and the country's economic development. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) reported that Uzbekistan's infrastructure investment needs between 2016 and 2030 are estimated at \$47 billion, and the country needs to increase infrastructure investment to achieve sustainable development (ADB, 2016) [9].

In terms of decent work and economic growth, Uzbekistan has a high level of informality in its economy, which poses a challenge to achieving the SDGs. A report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) states that around 70% of Uzbekistan's workforce is employed in the informal sector, which is characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, and limited social protection (ILO, 2019).

Analysis

Uzbekistan has made notable progress in achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as poverty reduction, education, and gender equality. However, the country faces several challenges that hinder its efforts to achieve other SDGs. In this analysis, we will examine some of the key challenges faced by Uzbekistan in achieving the SDGs.

One of the most pressing challenges faced by Uzbekistan is the need to achieve environmental sustainability. Despite the implementation of initiatives to address issues such as desertification and soil degradation, the country still ranks poorly in terms of air and water quality, biodiversity, and climate action. This suggests that more

needs to be done to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices in Uzbekistan.

Infrastructure development is another critical challenge faced by Uzbekistan in achieving the SDGs. The country's infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and water supply, is inadequate to meet the needs of the growing population and the country's economic development. The ADB reports that Uzbekistan's infrastructure investment needs between 2016 and 2030 are estimated at \$47 billion, indicating that significant investment is required to develop the country's infrastructure.

The high level of informality in Uzbekistan's economy poses a significant challenge to achieving decent work and economic growth SDGs. The informal sector employs around 70% of Uzbekistan's workforce, characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, and limited social protection. This suggests that policies should be implemented to promote the formalization of businesses and improve working conditions in the informal sector to achieve decent work and economic growth SDGs.

Another challenge faced by Uzbekistan in achieving the SDGs is the need for increased private sector investment. While the government has implemented several initiatives to promote economic growth, more private sector investment is required to achieve sustainable development. Policymakers should focus on creating a favorable regulatory environment that encourages private sector investment and stakeholder engagement to promote sustainable economic growth.

Uzbekistan has made significant progress in achieving some of the SDGs. For example, the country has made significant strides in reducing poverty, improving education, and promoting gender equality. However, there are several challenges that the country faces in achieving other SDGs. For instance, Uzbekistan ranks poorly in terms of access to clean water and sanitation, sustainable energy, and climate action. Additionally, the country faces challenges in ensuring decent work and economic growth due to the high levels of informality in the economy.

Environmental sustainability is another challenge that Uzbekistan faces in achieving the SDGs. Uzbekistan has experienced a decline in its biodiversity, desertification, and soil degradation due to the country's agricultural practices. The country has implemented several programs to address these environmental issues, such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Climate Change Strategy. However, these initiatives require more funding, technical expertise, and stakeholder engagement to achieve their objectives.

Another challenge that Uzbekistan faces in achieving the SDGs is inadequate infrastructure. Uzbekistan's infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and water supply, is insufficient to meet the needs of the growing population and the country's economic development. The government has implemented several infrastructure projects to address these challenges, such as the construction of the new high-speed railway line connecting Tashkent and Samarkand and the modernization of the water supply system in Tashkent. However, these projects require more funding and technical expertise to ensure their success.

Results and Discussion

Uzbekistan has made significant progress in achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their adoption in 2015. However, the country still faces several challenges in achieving the SDGs by the target year of 2030.

The progress made in reducing poverty, improving education, and promoting gender equality in Uzbekistan is notable. The country has implemented policies and initiatives to address these issues, resulting in positive outcomes. However, environmental sustainability, infrastructure development, and decent work and economic growth remain significant challenges.

The need for environmental sustainability in Uzbekistan is evident, as the country ranks poorly in terms of air and water quality, biodiversity, and climate action. The country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and National Climate Change Strategy are important initiatives aimed at addressing these challenges. Still, more needs to be done to promote sustainable practices and protect the environment.

Infrastructure development is another challenge that Uzbekistan needs to overcome to achieve the SDGs. The country's infrastructure investment needs are significant, and significant investment is required to develop its infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population and promote economic development.

The high level of informality in Uzbekistan's economy poses a challenge to achieving decent work and economic growth SDGs. Policymakers need to focus on creating a regulatory environment that encourages formalization of businesses and improves working conditions in the informal sector.

Encouraging private sector investment is crucial to achieve sustainable economic growth in Uzbekistan. The government has implemented several initiatives to promote economic growth, but more private sector investment is needed. Creating a favorable regulatory environment that encourages private sector investment and stakeholder engagement will help achieve the SDGs.

Conclusion

To overcome the challenges of ensuring sustainable development goals in Uzbekistan, policymakers should prioritize the following recommendations:

Increase funding for environmental sustainability initiatives, such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Climate Change Strategy.

Promote the use of sustainable energy sources and implement policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Increase access to clean water and sanitation by investing in water supply and sanitation infrastructure.

Encourage private sector investment in infrastructure development, such as roads, railways, and airports.

Promote education and training programs to increase the skills of the workforce and improve their employability.

Encourage stakeholder engagement and participation in the development and implementation of policies and programs to achieve the SDGs.

Improve the regulatory environment to promote business formalization and reduce informality in the economy.

Conclusion:

Uzbekistan faces numerous challenges in achieving the SDGs due to its limited natural resources, inadequate infrastructure, and rapidly growing population. While the country has made significant progress in some areas, such as reducing poverty and improving education, there are still many challenges to overcome in areas such as environmental sustainability, access to clean water and sanitation, and infrastructure development. Policymakers should prioritize increasing funding for environmental sustainability initiatives, promoting sustainable

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