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Investigating and analyzing social development indicators of the driving force in sustainable development (Case study: Islamic countries)

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Abstract

Today, achieving sustainable development is one of the major issues for countries and developing countries, to compensate for the lack of progress and to achieve a balanced and comprehensive development that can lead to improving the living conditions of all people, need to have the correct knowledge and appropriate and optimal planning at the national and regional levels. Sustainable development includes three areas: environmental, social, and economic interaction. Its social dimension is the focus of this article. The main goal of this research is to investigate and analyze the indicators of social development, the driving force in the sustainable development of the countries of the Islamic world. In this study, 57 member countries of Islamic partners were examined. The type of research is applied and its method is descriptive-analytical.

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The data and information studied are provided from the World Bank website. For data analysis, COPRAS' multi-criteria decision-making method and Moran's correlation index were used. Findings from the data analysis show that four countries Qatar, Emirates, Iran, and Saudi Arabia ranked first to fourth. Qatar is in the best position in terms of social development indicators among Islamic countries. The results of the Moran index also show that the geographical distribution of countries with similar status can be caused by the strategic position, spatial advantage, or geographical location of these countries.

Extended Abstract

Since 1987, when the World Commission on Environment and Development published "Our Common Future", the concept of sustainable development has gradually gained popularity and become the main issue of the development of human society. The United Nations Millennium Summit formulated and announced the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 for the effective implementation of the concept of sustainable development (Liu et al, 2023: 390). In 2015, the countries of the world presented the sustainable development agenda for 2030 (Morton et al, 2019: 65). Today, sustainable development is discussed in various sciences, and in development planning, this topic is mostly discussed in the direction of equality and justice.

Today, achieving sustainable development is one of the major issues for countries and developing countries, to compensate for the lack of progress and to achieve a balanced and comprehensive development that can lead to improving the living conditions of all people, need to have the correct knowledge and appropriate and optimal planning at the national and regional levels. Sustainable development includes three areas: environmental, social, and economic interaction. Its social dimension is the focus of this article. The main goal of this research is to investigate and analyze the indicators of social development, the driving force in the sustainable development of the countries of the Islamic world.

In this study, 57 member countries of Islamic partners were examined. The type of research is applied and its method is descriptive-analytical. The studied data and information have been collected from documents and libraries. In this regard, a total of 49 indicators were extracted from the World Bank website. For data analysis, COPRAS' multi-criteria decision-making method and Moran's correlation index were used.

Islamic countries and Muslims constitute a large part of the world's population and rule over a large part of the world's natural capital. Some of the most important strategic points in the world are located in Islamic countries. More than 90% of the important oil and gas resources of the Middle East belong to those countries, and they also have the highest ranks in terms of gross domestic growth among different countries in the world. However, some Islamic countries suffer from a lack of development and poverty. The results of data and information analysis showed that among the countries studied, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran have the best status in terms of sustainable development indicators. Also, the findings showed that the situation of most of these countries depends on the geographical and strategic location. The findings of Moran's index also proved this. Most of the countries with better status in social development were Arab countries. In the meantime, we can mention the country of Qatar; This country is one of the most important oil and gas exporters in the world, it also has a small population with a high income.

Also, these results can be considered consistent with the results of Shirzadi's research (2018), His findings show that Qatar continues to move towards strengthening human and social development, and this growth has been very evident since 2009. Also, this country is speeding up the continuation of this process by paying special attention to gender inequality and the continuation of political reforms. The second country with the best position is the United Arab Emirates. This country, like Qatar, has abundant oil resources; which has caused the growth and progress of this country in various fields of development. The findings for the Western United Emirates can be proven with the findings of Shirzadi's research (2015). In another study for the United Arab Emirates, he showed that this country, after passing through a deprived and desert region in 1971, has now become a rich country with a very high level of human development. It has become and it seems that human development in this country has been promoted with the help of economic growth and development and the guiding role of the government. In the meantime, Iran had a better position than other countries with the third place. Mousavi et al findings (2016) also show that Iran has a better position among the countries of the Indian subcontinent. To prove this, the human capital index and the life expectancy index were examined in these countries.

Findings from the data analysis show that four countries Qatar, Emirates,

Iran, and Saudi Arabia ranked first to fourth. Qatar is in the best position in terms of social development indicators among Islamic countries. The results of the Moran index also show that the geographical distribution of countries with similar status can be caused by the strategic position, spatial advantage, or geographical location of these countries.

Keywords: Social Development, Sustainable Development, Islamic Countries, CO-PRAS.