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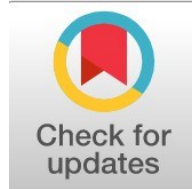
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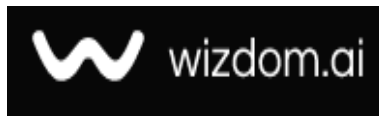
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# Social Justice and Sustainability: towards a more Inclusive Development Model (Review Article)

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## Abstract

**General Background:** Sustainable development has become a global framework since 1987, yet often neglects social justice's critical role in achieving comprehensive development. **Specific Background:** Contemporary development faces challenges including economic inequality, disproportionate climate impacts on vulnerable groups, inadequate social policies, and complex crises affecting marginalized populations. **Knowledge Gap:** The integration of social justice dimensions—distributive, procedural, and recognizable—into development frameworks remains insufficiently addressed in policy discourse. **Aims:** This article examines social justice and sustainable development interconnections, evaluates current challenges, and reviews global experiences to propose an inclusive development model. **Results:** Analysis reveals social justice as fundamental to sustainable development, with Sweden, Kenya, Egypt, and UAE demonstrating effective integration strategies. **Novelty:** The article proposes a comprehensive framework balancing economic, social, and environmental dimensions through six strategic components: strengthened social policies, legislative reforms, equitable resource distribution, diversity recognition, monitoring mechanisms, and international cooperation. **Implications:** Achieving 2030 Sustainable Development Goals requires systematic justice integration into policies to ensure societal cohesion, reduce inequality, and guarantee sustainable futures for current and future generations.

**Keywords :** Social Justice, Sustainable Development, Inclusive Development Model, Economic Inequality, Environmental Justice.

### Highlight :

- ♦ Three justice dimensions enable equitable resource distribution and inclusive decision-making processes.
- ♦ Climate crises disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, requiring environmental justice in development strategies.
- ♦ Strong social policies and legislative reforms reduce inequality and enhance societal stability.

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## Introduction

Since the (Brundtland) report in 1987, the concept of sustainable development has become a framework and reference for global policies, and refers to meeting present needs without any harm to the ability of future generations to meet their needs. However, this concept, despite its comprehensiveness, is not considered a complete concept because it does not shed light on the role of social justice, which revolves around equality of opportunity and representation, as well as justice in the distribution of resources and wealth [1], Sustainability without taking into account the aspect of social justice results in a development gap and a rise in economic and social disparities, and this means a threat to general stability. Therefore, justice can be integrated into the foundation and core of sustainability and is a basic condition for the success of any modern development model .

We see the importance of this integration and its increasing importance in light of the climate and environmental crises that the world is witnessing, the impact of which is on vulnerable groups more than others [2], [3]. In addition, international experiences have shown that the economies of countries that have neglected the social aspect within their development plan have become vulnerable to long-term structural crises. This means that justice is not only a moral value, but also a strategic tool for enhancing resilience in order to achieve balanced economic growth. Hence, we try to understand the relationship between social justice and sustainable development and propose a future model [4].

## Methodology

### Axis I : The theoretical framework of the relationship between social justice and sustainable development

Social justice cannot be understood only economically, but it has three basic dimensions, as follows:-

- 1- Distributive justice means distributing resources, opportunities and income fairly among different social groups, because the balanced distribution of wealth and services translates into economic and social stability. The importance of this dimension lies in the fact that it is a fundamental basis for confronting inequality and poverty, because unfair development is weakness and distortion of policies that lead to widening the gap between members of society.
- 2- Procedural justice means ensuring the fair participation of all individuals in the process of making general development decisions in the country, and among its most important pillars are transparency, accountability, and the fair availability and availability of information, because the absence of procedural justice makes the citizen distrustful of institutions, as justice enhances the effectiveness of development decisions because it works to convey marginalized voices.
- 3- Recognizable justice means recognizing the rights of marginalized groups and development such as cultural and ethnic minorities, women, and rural residents. The importance of this dimension lies in the fact that it has gone beyond economic considerations to focus on human identity. Ignoring these important groups in society makes sustainable development incomplete, incomplete, and concentrated in one dimension, while development must be comprehensive.

## Results and Discussion

### Axis II: Current Challenges

- 1- Economic and social inequality The income gap and job opportunities still exist in most countries, especially developing countries. This gap leads to reduced opportunities for development participation, exclusion and social exclusion. This inequality between rural and urban groups creates irregular migration and increases pressures on cities [5]. In addition to this economic inequality, it weakens the government's ability to implement sustainable development policies correctly and effectively, which threatens the stability of societies [6]
- 2- The impact of climate change: Environmental crises may not affect all groups equally, as vulnerable groups bear the brunt of drought, degradation of agricultural lands, floods, this increases poverty, food scarcity, and famines in some areas, and on the other hand, climate change exacerbates and increases health deterioration, health crises, and difficulty in accessing basic services [7]. Here, environmental justice becomes a fundamental pillar of any sustainable development strategy [8].
- 3- Weak social policies: Limiting social security networks to formal groups and not to other groups leads to the deprivation of the extremely poor and vulnerable group. In addition, weak funding allocated to social programs reduces their effectiveness and limits the programs' ability to address the social gap. In addition, inflexible policies or complex bureaucracy lead to a lack of equitable access to opportunities and services Therefore, achieving social justice in itself is a major challenge that requires drawing up a policy that includes all groups [9], [10].
- 4- Complex crises include economic and political crises (armed conflicts), the Covid-19 pandemic, which has entrenched economic and social inequality. These crises affect the ability of governments to meet and provide basic services, disrupt the drawn-up development program, and also increase poverty and unregulated migration, which increases the density and pressure on infrastructure in cities. Hence, it has become necessary to confront complex crises if we want a sustainable and successful development model [11].

### Axis III: international and regional development experiences

#### A. International experiences

1. Sweden Sweden has a unique policy that integrates social justice into sustainable development, through a comprehensive system of social security networks, free education, and health care. This has reduced economic and social gaps and strengthened the balance between economic, social, and environmental growth.
2. Kenya: Kenya has implemented innovative projects to integrate environmental justice with sustainable agricultural development, especially in the poorest and most disadvantaged rural communities [12]. These projects focused on protecting natural resources and providing equal economic opportunities according to the principle of parity, ensuring an improvement in [ISSN 2598 9928 \(online\), https://ijler.umsida.ac.id](https://doi.org/10.21070/ijler.v21i1.1444), published by [Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo](https://doi.org/10.21070/ijler.v21i1.1444)

the standard of living of groups suffering from poverty and reducing inequality among members of society, especially marginalized people [13].

## B. Regional experiences of Arab countries

- 1- Egypt, as part of its sustainable development plans, has implemented social inclusion programmes such as the (Solidarity and Dignity) programme and the (Empowering Women in Rural Areas) programme. Its focus in these initiatives is on working to reduce poverty and empower marginalised groups, taking into account the environmental dimension through clean drinking water and renewable energy projects
- 2- United Arab Emirates The UAE model was innovative, as it adopted policies to integrate social justice with sustainable development, for example, the Youth Empowerment and Social Innovation Program, in addition to giant projects in smart cities and renewable energy [14]. The UAE's focus was on the equitable distribution of resources and on motivating and encouraging the local community to participate in drawing up and implementing plans (Government of UAE, 2018).

## Axis IV: Towards a more comprehensive development model

- 1- Strengthening social policies, as the government must establish strong social security networks that support and assist marginalized groups and guarantee them access to basic services such as health and education. This includes several programs, including the direct cash support program, in addition to local development projects and others [15]. These policies will reduce the gap between society and enhance its cohesion.
- 2- Legislative and institutional reforms: This model requires the state to develop laws and policies of a collective, participatory nature that work to guarantee the right of all groups to the decision-making process, enhance transparency and accountability, and focus on combating administrative and material corruption.
- 3- Fair distribution of resources: The method of spending and investment must be restructured so that it directs resources to groups that are actually in need, such as development projects, infrastructure projects, and public services. Equitable distribution promotes balanced growth and reduces social and economic inequality.
- 4- Recognizing Diversity There are groups in society that are ethnic minorities who suffer from marginalization. This dimension aims to guarantee the cultural and social rights of minorities. This means recognizing diversity and enhancing their participation in public life, work and education. This helps build a society in which every person feels valued and represented in social and political life.
- 5- Monitoring and evaluation require the development of indicators to measure the achievement of justice through development policies, as continuous evaluation leads to amending development policies, increases their effectiveness, ensures transparency, and works to motivate the concerned parties to achieve the set goals
- 6- International cooperation is one of the important matters, as international cooperation and partnerships are among the basic tools to support sustainable development, especially in developing countries. This cooperation includes knowledge exchange, sustainable financing, partnership or joint projects, and all of these matters help in social justice and resource sustainability.

## Conclusion

Social justice is not yet a complement to sustainable development, but rather a basis for achieving it. In the absence of justice, any economic or environmental work or achievement will be lost, ended and undermined. It threatens societal stability in the long term, and therefore it has become necessary to adopt a more comprehensive development model. Rather, it has become one of the basic conditions that must be available in any development model. This helps build a cohesive and stable society based primarily on the fair distribution of opportunities and wealth and works to ensure a just and sustainable future for us and for future generations.

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