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Addressing the issue of Poverty, Economic Growth, Health Matters, and Environmental Challenges

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ABSTRACT

In many of the regions of Southeast Asia and Africa, where economic growth has become a hot topic, challenges such as poverty and environmental issues become key obstacles. Although economic growth has benefited millions of people by lifting them out of poverty, the cost of this has often meant environmental degradation, fuelling climate change as well as deforestation and pollution (Yaqub, 2019). The quick industrialization and urbanization have led to stress on natural resources, with the underserved economically, which depend on agriculture and natural ecosystems for their livelihoods, bearing the brunt. Countries such as China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia and Ghana face the dual challenge of driving sustainable economic development while reducing damage to the environment. The role of Government policies, foreign assistance and prudent administration of resources through extensive and sustainable development programs will help balance development with conservation. This paper examines the often-complicated relationship between economic growth, poverty, health and environmental sustainability, in particular looking at the need for green policies, investment in renewable energy and inclusive development to ensure that these countries can have a long-term future of prosperity (Elias and Al-Juboury, 2023).

Keywords: poverty and environmental issues, economic growth

1. Introduction

Economic growth has been one of the major goals of societies ever since they pursued better lives for their citizens. In numerous areas of Southeast Asia and Africa, swift economic growth has also led to poverty alleviation, infrastructure development, and greater employment opportunities (Yaqub, 2024). Nevertheless, this development is frequently achieved at a high price to the environment, resulting in

deforestation, air and water pollution and climate change (Neima et al., 2021). The rapid industrialization and urbanization stoking economic growth exerted huge stress on natural resources, taking a heavy toll on marginalized communities dependent on agriculture, forests, and fisheries for their livelihood (Mohammed et al., 2020).

Countries like China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia and Ghana are at a crossroads, trying to maintain their momentum of economic development while tackling all base issues of global warming/ environmental and social problems (Abdallah, 2021). The consequences of deforestation, aquifer depletion, and industrial pollution are not only ecological but also epidemiological, agricultural, and demographic (Yaqub, 2024). Terry Hunt, the president of Pierce College, wrote in one of the books that long-term development needs time and patient work, while short-term economic stimulus is more attractive but can have long-term adverse effects. And without a free market, unchecked industrial expansion and urban sprawl have turned the air of cities in India (Delhi), Nigeria (Lagos) and other 3rd world countries a toxic brown, while deforesting areas (the Amazon and African rainforests) devastate biodiversity, and accelerate climate change.

This complex relationship between economic progress and environmental conservation must be gradually adopted with the support of governments, international organizations and local communities (Al-Dolaimy et al., 2021). Sustainable development policies including investments in renewable energy, responsible land-use planning, and environmental regulations are critical to ensuring that economic growth does not come at the expense of the environment (Yaqub, 2024). In addition, using foreign aid and international collaboration to help these countries adopt green technologies and climate-resilient approaches can also promote fiscal sustainability.

The objective of this relationship between economic growth, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability: a relative analysis of Southeast Asian and African countries. Through an examination of case studies, policy interventions, and sustainable development models, this study aims to identify pathways for driving prosperity that lasts without compromising environmental integrity. It also highlights the need for comprehensive and integrated approaches to development that balance economic, social, and environmental objectives to ensure a sustainable future (Yaqub, 2024).

2. Economic Growth and Pro-poor Growth

There is now ample research showing that economic growth is the most powerful force for reducing poverty. According to Yaqub (2019), there is a high probability that high economic growth translates to poverty reduction in the short-term by as much as 70% of poverty reduction while the odds still remain high of it increasing to 97% in the medium and long-term (Palani et al., 2025). The effect of 1% economic growth on poverty reduction is not uniform across countries and even in the same country at different times (Ferreira et al., 2007). Dollar and Kraay (2002) contended that there is a one to one relationship between poverty reduction and economic growth; specifically, an increase of 1% in economic growth will increase the income of the poor, proportionally 1%. According to Richard et al; (2003) the growth elasticity of poverty is 0.8%, that is, a 1% increase in economic growth result in an increase of 0.8% in income per capita

of the poor. Using data from 50 developing countries Richard and Adams (2004) found that an increase of 10% in economic growth will reduce the number of people with income below \$1 per day to 25.9 because the elasticity of poverty with respect to economic growth is -2.59.

It is a proportion of incomes that poor are able to gain from the economic growth. Pro-poor growth means a substantial increase in the income of the poor as a result of strong economic growth (Spratt, 2009). Stiglitz (2017) proposed that there are two main category of pro-poor growth, one category (relative terms), according to them growth is pro-poor when average growth in the income of poor is greater than average growth of income in overall economy, and also inequality between poor and non-poor should fall, for example, if pro-poor growth is 4%, and average growth in economy is 3% this is relative terms pro-poor growth, the main argument to this is for more sharply poverty reduction in society and also for income inequality reduction (Fatah et al., 2025). The second group (absolute terms), speak of growth in incomes for the poor totalling at least the average of the poor population, i.e. if the poor are 70% of the population, poor people should get at least 70% of incomes growth. Klasen, (2005) however, contended that pro-poor growth can be defined even if the percentage of growth in the income of the poor is much lower than the percentage of income growth in the entire economy, as long as income does increase for the poor. According to Yaqub (2025), the elasticity of the poverty with respect to economic growth is generally more than two; hence, in general, 1% increase of economic growth results in reduction of the number poor of more than 2%.

The economic performance of the five African countries based on the GDP growth rate is also displayed in Table (1). Emerging from the recessions of the 1980s and 1990s, Ethiopia (5.9%) and Kenya (5.5%) have the highest rates of growth, at above 5%, implying that the agricultural and industrial bases of these economies are expanding faster. On the opposite end, South Africa is among the countries with the lowest GDP growth rate, at 1.2% growth rates similar to high-official unemployment, low-fixed investments ring a bell of the story of a stagnated economy with structural issues, policy uncertainty, and outside factors. High-growth economies: Nigeria and Ghana with 2.6% and 3.2% growth.

Table (1) Economic Growth and Pro-Poor Growth in Africa

Country	GDP Growth Rate	Poverty Reduction (%)	
	(%)		
Nigeria	2.6	1.2	
South Africa	1.2	0.8	
Kenya	5.5	1.9	
Ethiopia	5.9	3.5	
Ghana	3.2	2.4	

Source: World Bank,

Trends in poverty reduction are partly correlated with GDP growth, with Ethiopia again leading the way in reducing poverty, by 3.5%, confirming the belief that growth of almost all shapes is likely to reduce poverty (Palani et al., 2025). Kenya and Ghana also see relatively robust poverty reduction of 1.9% and 2.4%, respectively. While Nigeria and South Africa have larger economies, their poverty rates at 1.2% and 0.8%

respectively are lower and they struggle to translate growth into poverty reduction, it may lie in the unequal distribution of economic gains and structural factors affecting the equitable redistribution of wealth (Acemoglu et al., 2012).

Table (2) shows that five Asian economies (China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Vietnam) show distinctive patterns of performance in terms of the economic growth, poverty reduction, income inequality and labour market. Growth rates in GDP show an overall trend of rapid economic growth in almost all countries, with India leading, followed closely by Vietnam and Bangladesh (Aivas et al., 2025). These numbers do indicate a healthy economy driven by industrialization, foreign direct investment, and growing domestic markets. China and Indonesia, although having comparatively low GDP growth, are relatively stable growing, indicating the maturity of their economy and structural shift toward consumption-driven growth.

Table (2) Economic Growth and Pro-Poor Growth in Asia (2024)

Country	GDP Growth Rate (%)	Poverty Reduction (%)	
China	5.0	3.0	
India	7.1	4.0	
Indonesia	5.3	2.5	
Bangladesh	6.4	4.5	
Vietnam	6.7	5.2	

Source: World Bank,

The high economic grow with the highest poverty reduction achieved by Vietnam, Bangladesh and India respectively. However, these trends as well suggest that economies experiencing sustained high-growth periods, particularly those still in the early stages of industrialization, are buttressed by population-sustaining improvements to lifestyle (Fatah et al., 2025). China and Indonesia also report dramatic reductions in poverty, lending credence to the narrative that economic growth fuels better living standards. Nevertheless, differences in poverty reduction rates might be explained by policy effectiveness, social safety net programs, and the inclusiveness of economic growth.

This connectivity of economic growth, poverty, income inequality and unemployment suggests that balanced policy measures are necessary (Yaqub, 2025). High GDP growth is associated with significant poverty reduction, but widening of income distribution and issues in labour market continue. It is important to note that the extent to which equitable growth, wealth distribution, and employment generation enable long-term sustainable regional growth in these Asian economies is highly dependent on policy frameworks.

3. Environmental challenges and economic development

Ever since the scholarly debate over the environmental challenges to economic development, there has been contentious discussion around whether the economic growth is more expensive for the environment. As one prominent example, Grossman and Krueger (1995) developed the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis where environmental degradation can initially rise with economic growth, but at higher levels of income countries start to invest in cleaner technologies and/or stricter regulations,

hence resulting in a decrease of pollution (Yaqub et al; 2024). This point of view has, however, been objected by Dasgupta et al. (2002), who argue that the EKC is not applicable everywhere, given that many developing economies suffer from long-standing environmental degradation even as their incomes rise. Based on a similar premise, Stiglitz (2017) criticizes the notion of sustainable development based on growth; for these authors, industrialization without regulation is always associated with an increase in negative externalities, such as pollution, deforestation, and climate change, especially in countries with weak environmental governance. The latest data and analysis on 2024's environmental challenges and economic development in Africa and Asia, as well as the ways that these challenges shape their economies. This information was sourced from World Bank, IMF, and various environmental reports (Salih et al; 2019). Tables (3) the environmental challenges and sustainability indicators for Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Ghana paint a complex picture of the unique environmental challenges faced by each country

Table (3), Environmental Challenges and Economic Development in Africa (2024)

economic development, resource allocation, and social cohesion.

and their respective efforts to combat those challenges. Such challenges have immediate ramifications on

Country	GDP	Environmental	Carbon	Emissions	Water	Renewable Energy
	Growth	Challenge	(Metric	Tons per	Scarcity	Share (%)
	Rate	Impact	Capita)		(Risk	
	(%)				Level)	
Nigeria	2.6	Deforestation,	0.67		High	28.0
		desertification				
South	1.3	Water stress,	7.45		High	8.0
Africa		coal				
		dependency				
Kenya	5.6	Droughts, land	0.47		Medium	43.0
		degradation				
Ethiopia	6.1	Deforestation,	0.11		Medium	52.0
		soil erosion				
Ghana	3.2	Flooding,	1.10		High	15.0
		deforestation				

Source: World Bank,

For instance, Nigeria is faced with serious environmental issues ranging from massive deforestation to desertification a phenomenon that is worst in the northern part of the country. These problems lead to land degradation and endanger agricultural productivity and biodiversity. By contrast, South Africa's water stress and reliance on coal for energy production raises issues of water resource management and air quality. Environmental stress especially droughts and land degradation with the surrounding agricultural sectors and food security hurts Kenya. Ethiopia is facing deforestation and soil erosion that compounds the loss of land fertility and speeds up the displacement of rural populations. Hence, Ghana, like many

countries, has with the expensive challenges of flooding and deforestation cycling through their water resource management and forest conservation efforts.

When it comes to carbon emissions, South Africa leads the way as the most polluting per capita, at 7.45 metric tons. This is because the country relies on coal for its energy, and it has one of the most carbon-intensive economies in the region. With 1.10 metric tons per capita, Ghana mirrors its expanding industrial base yet results in a compact emissions footprint alongside South Africa. Nigeria, where emissions are 0.67 metric tons per capita, has low emissions in terms of carbon, but still faces energy as challenging, predominantly due to an oil-based economy. Ethiopia has the lowest emissions, with per capita output of 0.11 metric tons, in line with its much lower levels of industrialization and overall energy consumption. Kenya has a per capita metric emission of 0.47 tons, indicating moderate emissions as it continues to industrialize (Salih et al., 2021).

Water scarcity is a major problem for many African WIME countries, and these are no different. Incorporating information on water: South Africa is high risk for water scarcity due to increased demand from a growing population, climate variability and pollution which depletes available freshwater. Nigeria is listed for some water shortage risk primarily desertification and population growth in vulnerable areas. Flooding and seasonal rainfall variability pose similar challenges to water management in Ghana. Kenya and Ethiopia have moderate levels of water scarcity, as Kenya experiences recurrent drought while Ethiopia faces water-related issues associated with land degradation and variable rainfall patterns. While their water scarcity risks are lower than those of South Africa and Nigeria, they still face major water management challenges.

These nations are performing very differently when it comes to renewable energy adoption. The country boasts that 52% of its total energy consumption comes from renewable sources, mostly from hydropower, 1 of 4 in the group. Kenya is next with 43% renewable energy share, owing to investments in geothermal, wind and solar energy. Nigeria has a share of renewables of 28%, making headway in this area yet highly reliant on fossil fuels for energy. Ghana has the lowest share of renewable energy at 15%, suggesting low uptake of renewable technologies, perhaps, because a large part of its energy consumption is still based on traditional biomass for energy consumption that makes it difficult to expand its renewable technologies (Salih et al., 2025).

Table (4): Environmental challenges and sustainability indicators for China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam Based on similar principles, an explanation of the economic and environmental challenges and sustainability indicators for China, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Vietnam reveals specific period issues that combine economic development with environmental sustainability. The data underscores the major environmental challenges that countries face, as well as the carbon emissions they produce, their water scarcity risks, and the share of renewables in their energy mix.

Tables (4) Environmental Challenges and Economic Development in Asia (2024)

Country	GDP Growth	Environmental	Carbon	Water	Renewable
	Rate (%)	Challenge	Emissions	Scarcity	Energy Share
		Impact	(Metric Tons	(Risk Level)	(%)
			per Capita)		
China	5.0	Air pollution;	8.85	High	31.0
		water			
		pollution			
India	6.5	Air pollution;	1.91	High	46.3
		deforestation			
Indonesia	5.2	Deforestation;	2.3	Medium	12.6
		air pollution			
Bangladesh	6.0	Flooding; air	0.56	High	3.1
		pollution			
Vietnam	6.8	Air pollution;	2.8	Medium	10.0
		water			
		pollution			

Source: World Bank,

China's challenges centre on a triad of air pollution, water pollution and their combined effects, which become significant owing to the level of industrialization and urbanization that China has achieved and because of the scale of the population in China. It also has the highest carbon emissions of the countries on this list, with 8.85 metric tons per capita, largely a consequence of its heavy dependence on coal to produce energy. Despite measures to improve pollution, the country's 'low' level of pollution is still at extremely high levels, aiding water scarcity levels at a "high" risk level. China has been attempting to shift towards renewable energy, but the share of renewable power is still comparatively small at 31%, suggesting the challenge of decarbonizing a very heavily industrialized and energy intensive economy (Hameed and Sirwan., 2019).

India suffers from its own challenges, air pollution and deforestation, but has a GDP growth rate of 6.5% Rapid urbanization and industrialization, poor air quality, and environmental degradation caused by deforestation from agricultural and developmental activities are the country's challenges. India's carbon emissions are a fraction of China's, at 1.91 metric tons per capita, but they are rising as the economy expands. India has high water scarcity risks, compounded by its large and increasingly growing population, erratic rainfall patterns, and over-extraction of groundwater. Partially because of climate efforts in solar power development, India's share of renewable energy is greater than China's, at 46.3%, but the country still struggles when it comes to weaning off fossil fuels (Ismaeel et al., 2019).

Deforestation and air pollution, two major environmental problems in Indonesia, have wide-ranging implications for biodiversity, land quality, and air quality. Indonesia, at 2.3 metric tons of carbon per capita,

reflects its rapidly growing industrial and agricultural economy, including big-time palm oil production that results in deforestation. It faces a medium risk of water scarcity, and water management is increasingly becoming an issue as urbanisation spreads and the impact of climate change is felt. A low figure compared to its renewable endowment; 12.69% Indonesia's renewable energy contribution, suggests an integrated process toward reducing reliance on fossil fuels (Davidson et al., 2019).

Bangladesh is particularly susceptible to flooding and air pollution, problems that are exacerbated by its low-lying geography and the effects of climate change. At 0.56 metric tons per capita, the country's carbon emissions are among the lowest in the group, an indication of its limited industrialization. However, risk here is high and driven by a dense population and the risk of floods and droughts. Bangladesh's share of renewables is also low at 3.1%, indicating that the country has targeted difficulties to expand energy sources and reduce the use of traditional biomass and fossil-based energy.

With a GDP growth rate of 6.8%, Vietnam including air pollution and water pollution in a major environmental issue (Sirwan and Harun., 2024). It has per capita carbon emissions of 2.8 metric tons suggesting moderate levels of emissions from industrial activities and increasing energy needs. Similar to Indonesia, Vietnam is also categorized by medium water scarcity risk which is affected by seasonal fluctuations of rainfall alongside the over-utilization of water resources. Reflecting some shift towards clean energy sources, the country's renewable energy is at 10 percent, although less than India (Abdulrahman et al., 2025).

According to World Bank report in 2021, safe drinking water is a global problem, which is the main source of drinking water for 2 billion people worldwide (Table (5)). Access to clean water is a basic human right and crucial for life, and this has implications not just for the health of the populations but also mind, economic stability, and general well-being (Brooke, 2003). By increasing disease burden, limiting educational and employment opportunities, and forcing communities to spend a substantial fraction of their income on water, the lack of clean water is a driver of poverty, especially in low-income regions, rural, and conflict-affected areas.

Table (5) Global Poverty and Environmental Challenges

Poverty Indicator	Data		
People Lacking Clean Water	2 billion people globally lack access to safely managed		
	drinking water (World Bank, 2021)		
Deforestation and Poverty	In Brazil, 13,235 km ² of forest lost in 2020 due to cattle		
	ranching and farming (Global Forest Watch, 2022)		
Vulnerable Populations	60% of the world's poorest live in areas highly vulnerable to		
	climate change (IPCC, 2022)		
Poverty and Access to Water	40% of the population lacks access to clean water (UNICEF,		
in Sub-Saharan Africa	2020)		

Source: World Bank,

In Brazil, deforestation drives both environmental destruction and poverty. In 2020 alone, 13,235 km² of forest was lost, primarily due to cattle ranching and farming. This deforestation not only has a role in climate change but also disrupts the livelihoods of local economies that rely on forest resources, including the indigenous, farmers with cash crops and those that rely on eco-tourism (Harun et al., 2018). Overexploitation of forests directly affects soil health, agricultural productivity, and biodiversity and indirectly affects food security and livelihoods, particularly among rural and indigenous peoples.

A key issue is the vulnerability of the world's poorest populations to climate change. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2022) 60% of the world's poorest people inhabit High climate risk areas that are prone to droughts, floods, extreme weather events climate change worsens poverty because it hits hardest on those who are less able to adapt (Hamasalih et al;. 2025). Such communities, which lack the infrastructure, financial means and access to technology to help them cope, experience mounting environmental displacement, loss of income and worsening poverty and inequalities (Abdlaziz et al., 2025). According to (Zia et al., 2015), clean water access is one of the stated challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa, where «40% of the population does not have access to clean water». Due to high poverty rates, lack of infrastructure and threats such as droughts, many people living in the area have poor access to reliable water supply. Lack of access to water compounds poverty; families spend hours a day — sometimes miles away from home — gathering water from the least safe source available (Hameed et al., 2024). The toll on health is high, and a cycle of poverty is hard to break.

Why this report is interesting and important these indicators highlight the lack of effective integration between economic and environmental policies and call for an integrated and transformative approach towards addressing both poverty and sustainability. Ensuring good water hygiene, preventing deforestation in ecosystems, boosting climate resilience among vulnerable populations, and combating environmental degradation are crucial to mitigate global poverty (Muhammad et al., 2025).

That is India and Sub-Saharan African, the two regions that are the largest victims of the two fires of poverty and environment degradation (Mastrorillo et al., 2016).

Table (6) Poverty and Environmental Impact

Country	Poverty	Environmental Challenges	Key Environmental Issues		
	Rate				
India	30% of	Deforestation: 4.7 million	Air pollution, water scarcity,		
	rural	hectares lost annually	deforestation, soil erosion (FAO,		
	population		2021)		
		Water Scarcity: 54% of rural	Rural poverty exacerbated by		
		households lack clean water	environmental issues		
		Air Pollution: 1.2 million	Health impacts on poor		
		deaths annually from	communities (WHO, 2021)		
		pollution			

Sub-	40% live	Deforestation: 6.5 million	Droughts, floods, water scarcity,
Saharan	below	hectares lost annually	soil degradation (FAO, 2021)
Africa	poverty line		
		Climate Change: 10-15%	High vulnerability to climate
		drop in agricultural yields	hazards (UNDP, 2021)
		Water Scarcity: 55% lack	Health impacts of poor sanitation
		access to clean water	(UNICEF, 2022)

Source: World Bank,

India accounts for 30 % or so of the total rural poor, However, they are facing immense challenges regarding Environment problems (see table (6)). Deforestation is a major issue, with 4.7 million hectares of forest being lost every year, due to agriculture and industrialization (Rahman et al; 2021). This leads to soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and reduced agricultural productivity, which drive rural poverty. Water scarcity is one other major challenge 54% of rural households do not have access to clean water. That limited access translates to poor health outcomes, particularly in underdeveloped rural areas, where there is no better option than unsafe water. In addition, India's air pollution is one of the biggest killers in India, killing an estimated 1.2 million people a year from pollution-related disease (Salih, 2018). Poor communities suffer especially devastating health effects from air pollution, because they tend to be located in the most polluted places and to have less access to health services. Consequently, environmental deprivation such as deforestation, water scarcity, and air pollution make individuals in rural India economically poorer, thus mechanises the vicious cycle of poverty, poor health, and environmental deformity (Kankwenda et al., 2000).

Roughly 40% of Sub-Saharan Africa's population lives below the poverty line and is confronted with various environmental challenges that cuts across both livelihoods and development. Deforestation, which occurs at a rate of 6.5 million hectares of woodland being lost annually—primarily due to harvesting timber, the expansion of agriculture and the collection of fuelwood—is another pressing problem in this domain (Salih et al; 2019). Such deforestation is contributing to soil degradation, rendering it harder for farmers to maintain the productivity of the land. We also have climate change causing serious impacts like agriculture yields dropping by 10-15%, food security, and the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people being under threat (Hussein et al; 2025). Moreover, 55% of the Indian population ironically has no access to clean water-clearly a leading contributor to poor health in terms of sanitation. Water scarcity exacts a heavy toll in terms of waterborne diseases, the impact of which particularly hits the poorest of the poor, who cannot afford sanitary conditions or safe drinking water. And the region is already grappling with multiple climate hazards, including droughts and flooding, that can have a negative impact on agricultural productivity and also cause displacement, loss of livelihoods and deepen poverty (Salih et al., 2020). The environmental problems that Sub-Saharan Africa currently furnishes are closely integrated with the vulnerability in the populations of the region, particularly in rural communities reliant on agriculture and natural resources for subsistence.

Beyond agriculture, the link between poverty and environmental degradation is true in India and Sub-Saharan Africa. Environmental issues (deforestation, water scarcity, climate change etc) affect more the poorer populations, and people in the poorer populations are the most affected by the effects of environmental problems. These are compounded by climate pressures that exacerbate all health problems, lower agricultural yields and restrict access to essential commodities, therefore perpetuating energy poverty. Answers to these problems need to be both integrated and directed at poverty reduction and environmental sustainability increasing access to clean water, preserving natural resources and investing in climate resilience.

4. Conclusion

In Southeast Asia and Africa, poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and job creation are still crucial due to economic expansion. In contrast, the rapid pace of industrialization and urbanization underpinning this growth has given rise to a host of environmental crises, ranging from habitat destruction and pollution to climate change. These challenges disproportionately impact marginalized populations who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, resulting in a paradox whereby economic development can undermine long-term sustainability.

China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia and Ghana are at a no less critical juncture: the need to develop further against the pressing need to protect the environment. Environmental degradation goes beyond ecology and directly hampering public health, food security, and social stability. This lack of intervention will allow the rampant expansion of industry and the collection of natural resources to devastate ecosystems and potentially remove relevant options for future wealth (Ali et al.: 2024).

This may involve a multi-pronged approach with key players that include national governments, international organizations, and local communities. It is important also to have policies that encourage sustainable development like investments in renewable energy, responsible land management, and tighter environmental regulations to ensure that economic growth does not come at the expense of ecological health. Moreover, investing in green and climate-resilient approaches can be complemented by foreign aid international cooperation to support these countries to adopt a sustainable economic growth path.

The study has delved into the intricate dynamics of the nexus between economic growth, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability. These results highlight the importance of considering the long-term implications of economic policy decisions, taking into account the need for sustainability and environmental stewardship.

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