

# Chapter 11

# Globalization, Digitalization, and Sustainable Development Goals: A Roadmap for Equitable Progress

Elsir Ali Saad Mohamed

 <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2899-1905>

*Umm Al Quwain University, UAE*

## ABSTRACT

*This chapter explores how globalization and digitalization can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It uses data from trade statistics, technology access reports, and regional policy implementation to analyze key indicators. Key indicators include trade and technology access, student participation, and economic development. The research also highlights the importance of digital inclusion, bridging the digital divide, and addressing cybersecurity risks. Key recommendations include digital skills development, digital inclusion, transparency, and responsible data management. The chapter concludes that globalization and digitalization offer opportunities for sustainable development, but also presents challenges such as resource distribution, unemployment, and the digital divide.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Our world is increasingly interconnected and shaped by three powerful forces: globalization, digitalization, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Globalization refers to tightening links among economies, societies, and cultures worldwide. It encompasses the flow of trade, investment, communication, and the movement of people for work and opportunities. Digitalization signifies the growing importance of digital technologies, such as the internet, mobile phones, social media, and artificial intelligence, in all aspects of our lives. The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, represent a global roadmap for a more sustainable future, addressing critical challenges like poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.

This chapter examines the intricate relationship between these three forces, focusing on how globalization and digitalization can be harnessed to achieve equitable progress on SDGs. Equitable progress ensures that everyone, regardless of background or location, benefits from advancements in these areas. We will explore how these forces can be leveraged to create a more inclusive world in which everyone contributes and benefits by building a sustainable future for all.

Several key aspects emerge when examining the relationship between globalization, digitalization, and SDGs.

**Globalization** significantly contributes to advancing SDGs by facilitating trade and technology access. The role of trade in achieving sustainable development goals is particularly critical in the provision of health and trade services (Nazar et al., 2020). The SDGs address significant challenges that require global cooperation to promote economic welfare, environmental quality, and social cohesion (Avrampou et al., 2019).

**Digitalization** impacts communication and technology access, both crucial for SDG implementation. Communication tools like mobile and distance learning are essential for SDG achievement (Samašonok & Išoraitė, 2023). Additionally, corporate communication regarding SDG progress can enhance customer relations and social impact (Eng et al., 2023).

**The local and national integration of SDGs** is imperative for their realization. Participatory planning for local sustainability, guided by SDGs, underscores the significance of local action toward achievement of global goals (Sztey et al., 2021). Comprehending the interlinkages among SDG targets is vital for effective policy design and implementation across different levels (Song & Jang, 2023).

The interaction between globalization, digitalization, and SDGs is complex and multifaceted. Trade, technology access, communication, and local engagement are essential for advancing SDGs. By capitalizing on the opportunities presented by

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