

Chapter 13

Evaluating the Role of Public–Private Partnerships in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: A Comparative Study of Government–Led Initiatives in Developed and Developing Nations

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the strategic government use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The study will compare PPP frameworks in developed and developing nations to examine how governments and private sectors work together to implement sustainable practices in clean energy, infrastructure, healthcare, and education. This article will also investigate legislative frameworks, regulatory environments, and incentive structures that affect PPP

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success. Developed economies (e.g., the European Union, Japan) and developing nations (e.g., India, Kenya) face different challenges and opportunities in aligning public and private interests to achieve long-term sustainability goals. The research is expected to inform government policy on optimising PPPs for sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background: Overview of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Their Global Significance

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, represent a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. These 17 goals are comprehensive, addressing various interconnected global challenges such as climate change, inequality, economic growth, environmental degradation, and education (United Nations, 2015). The SDGs are designed to balance the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, reflecting a global consensus on the urgency of transforming societies to be more inclusive, equitable, and resilient.

The SDGs are universally applicable but require tailored strategies to address the unique challenges faced by different nations, particularly in terms of governance, infrastructure, and financial capacity (Griggs et al., 2014). Developed countries, with more established governance systems and stronger economies, are often more equipped to address sustainability challenges. In contrast, developing nations face greater structural limitations, such as weak institutional capacities and lower levels of private sector involvement, which can hinder their progress towards achieving the SDGs (Sachs et al., 2016). This dichotomy emphasizes the need for innovative strategies, such as Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), to bridge the gap between these varying capacities.

1.2 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and Their Role in SDGs

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have emerged as a critical tool for achieving the SDGs, especially in areas where governments face budgetary constraints and infrastructural deficits. A PPP is defined as a long-term contractual arrangement between a public-sector entity and a private-sector organization, where both parties share risks, resources, and benefits in delivering public goods or services (World Bank, 2021). PPPs are particularly relevant for addressing sustainability issues that require significant investments in infrastructure, energy, healthcare, and education,

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