

Chapter 11

The Relationship Between the Green Economy and the Labor Market: Green Jobs

Fergül Özgün

Istanbul Yeni Yüzyıl University, Turkey

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to explain the concept of green jobs in detail. Achieving a structure based on a green economy and fulfilling the requirements of a green economy has become one of the priority goals for countries globally. One essential element of the green economy process is green jobs. Developments such as the transition to environmentally friendly production systems, the reduction in the use of non-renewable energy, and the increase in the use of renewable energy have also affected the labor market and brought about the concept of green jobs. Green jobs do not have an absolute definition, as they are defined in different ways according to different sources. Because it is a broad concept, it is very difficult to make a single definition that brings all its features together. Although it does not have a generally accepted definition, green jobs are, in short, a type of employment that includes activities that prioritize improving the quality of the environment and using existing resources in the most efficient way without harming nature.

INTRODUCTION

The green economy is a concept that has been frequently discussed recently. Although it is difficult to give an absolute definition, a green economy is one in which environmental issues are prioritized in the conduct of economic activities. For many years, countries' primary goals have been to increase industrial production and produce more goods and services. While achieving these objectives, issues such as whether natural resources are used efficiently or whether environmental pollution increases or not have been ignored. However, there is a limit to natural resources, and increasing environmental pollution negatively affects human life and causes health problems. The fact that environmental pollution has reached a large level and that a gradual decrease in natural resources has revealed the need for change

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-7893-9.ch011

and transformation in the economic structure. New concepts such as sustainable development, inclusive growth, and a green economy emerged. Countries have reorganized their economic and social policies and have renewed their basic goals. Today, countries are moving toward a green economy. Within the scope of the green economy, production processes should be carried out in a way that does not cause environmental pollution, and natural resources should be used efficiently. The use of renewable energy sources should be expanded, while the use of non-renewable energy sources should be minimized. To achieve these goals, new investments, new production models, new financial tools, and new technologies are needed. In other words, economic structure must be transformed. The transformation to be carried out will have effects in different sectors, such as the industrial, financial, and public sectors. It is impossible for the labor market not to be affected by these impacts. Changes and transformations in the economy closely concern the labor market. Changes and transformations in the economy will also alter the labor market. In this process, a new concept of the labor market has emerged. This concept is referred to as “green jobs”.

The primary aims of this chapter are to inform readers about the concept of green jobs, to explain in detail the connection between the green economy and jobs, to analyze the effects of the green economy concept on the labor market within the framework of the concept of green jobs. Because of the new understanding of the green economy, regulations and new policies are needed in the labor market. To create the right policies, it is necessary to first understand the concept of green jobs. Although green jobs are a concept we hear frequently in our daily lives, most people do not have enough information about their meaning, scope, and importance. However, the main point to emphasize here is that the concept of green jobs is very comprehensive. Green jobs interact with different fields such as economics, sociology, and environment. Different studies are necessary to explain the connection between different fields and green jobs. It is very difficult to bring together all the elements and details of green jobs in a single study. For this reason, the aim of this study is to draw attention to the issue of green jobs, to arouse the interest of readers, and to make them want to get more detailed information by providing general information about the concept to the readers. This study focuses on the conceptual characteristics of green jobs and is of a general information nature. The readership of this study is anyone interested in green jobs and wants to increase their knowledge about this subject.

In the first section of the paper, the concept of the green economy is explained. The relationship between the green economy and jobs cannot be understood if we do not know what the green economy is. For this reason, first, information about the basic features and importance of the green economy concept is given. Then, the connection between the green economy and jobs is established. It was emphasized how green jobs are defined by different sources, and the characteristics and importance of the concept were explained. Green jobs have created a need for employees with green skills. The study has examined what green skills are and what knowledge and skills employees in green jobs should possess. To clarify green jobs in the reader’s mind, examples of professions that are considered green jobs is given. Some green jobs and the skills needed for these jobs have been stated. In the last part of the study, the policies that should be implemented to increase the number of green jobs are discussed. Recently, some countries have become aware of these needs and have implemented green job policies. However, the countries that implement this are few, and they are generally developed countries. It is necessary to spread green job policies throughout the world, especially in developing countries. Because violations of employees’ rights and environmental awareness are more common in developing countries. Developing countries should restructure their labor market policies in consideration of the green economy and green jobs. It

26 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage:
www.igi-global.com/chapter/the-relationship-between-the-green-economy-and-the-labor-market/369777

Related Content

The Online Platform Economy as an Entrepreneurship-Based Strategy for Value Creation: Some Considerations

José Manuel Saiz-Alvarez (2020). *Analyzing the Relationship Between Innovation, Value Creation, and Entrepreneurship* (pp. 182-200).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-online-platform-economy-as-an-entrepreneurship-based-strategy-for-value-creation/240368

Circular Economy in Action: Implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Sustainable Irrigation Projects

Ahmed Elshaikh, Jamal Mabrouki, Maher Abdalla, Ahmed Osman and Elsiddig Elsheikh (2025). *Circular Economy Applications in Energy Policy* (pp. 1-14).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/circular-economy-in-action/370292

Specifics of the Assessment of the Market Value of Various Categories of Pigs on Farms in Serbia

Jonel Subic, Marko Jelocnik and Zoran Njegovan (2012). *International Journal of Sustainable Economies Management* (pp. 28-37).

www.irma-international.org/article/specifics-assessment-market-value-various/75191

To Analyze the Relationship Between Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats of Indian Coal Mining Industries Towards Sustainable Development

Gyanendra Prasad Bagri, Dixit Garg and Ashish Agarwal (2022). *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development* (pp. 1-15).

www.irma-international.org/article/to-analyze-the-relationship-between-strength-weakness-opportunities-and-threats-of-indian-coal-mining-industries-towards-sustainable-development/290393

Green Supply Chain Performance Analysis Under Industry 4.0 Using Fuzzy Intellectual Approach

Srinivasa Krishna, Mohammed Mujahed Ali, Shailesh Singh Thakur and K. T. Vigneswara Rao (2022). *International Journal of Social Ecology and Sustainable Development* (pp. 1-18).

www.irma-international.org/article/green-supply-chain-performance-analysis-under-industry-40-using-fuzzy-intellectual-approach/289639