

# Sustainable Development Goal -8 Report



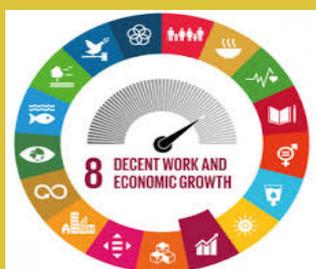
## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8**

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



## Decent work and Economic Development

**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Prof. Dr. Rashmi Gujrati  
Dr. Hayri Uygun

**TRADEPRENEUR GLOBAL ACADEMIC PLATFORM, UK  
UNIVERSITY OF MOLISE, ITALY**

**ORGANIZED**

**UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL-8  
DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**EDITORS**

Prof. Dr. Rashmi Gujrati  
Professor - Management  
Dean (International Affairs)  
CT University  
Ludhiana, India

Dr. Hayri Uygun  
Recep Tayyip Erdogan University  
Rize, Turkey

@ Authors

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+916239067505

+447432863006

email : [director@tradepreneur.org](mailto:director@tradepreneur.org)

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## *MESSAGE OF CEO*



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blue print for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries -developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs represent an ambitious plan to enhance peace and prosperity, eradicate poverty and protect the planet. They are recognized globally as essential to the future sustainability of our world.

This plan of action calls on the contribution from all elements of society, including local and national governments, business, industry and individuals. To be successful, the process requires consensus, collaboration and innovation.

From Goal -8, we have identified the standards that make the most significant contribution. We've presented a list of the speakers who has highlighted on each targets.

### **Er. Yousef Khiarak**

Ceo & Founder

Tradepreneur

UK

## ***MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DESK***



This report presents a detailed analysis of sustainable development goal 8 (sdg 8), one of the 17 goals of the unitednations 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Sdg 8 exhorts the international community to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. The report seeks to improve understanding of sdg 8 at the empirical, conceptual and policy levels by: (a) charting empirical progress towards the 12 targets under sdg 8 and comparing performance across country income groups; (b) developing aconceptual mapping of dynamic interlink ages between sdg 8 targets and specific targets under other sdgs, and exploring on that basis major patterns in the various world regions; and (c) describing a positive spiral of policy interventions and institutional support that can enable countries to achieve sdg 8 by 2030. The sdg 8 targets are closely intertwined with the goals of the international labour organization (ilo). Thus, the reference in sdg 8 to “full and productive employment and decent work for all” borrows terminology from the ilo’s decent work agenda (1999), while the ilo centenary declaration for the future of work (adopted by the international labour conference in june2019) borrows the sdg 8 phrasing of “promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth” in its strategy for a human-centred approach to the future of work. By emphasizing the needs of society and the environment, this strategy opens up a transformative path towards economic growth and development. What progress has been madetowards sdg 8? Despite isolated pockets of achievement, progress towards sdg 8 is slowing down in many areas of the world. An urgent acceleration of efforts is required to bring about transformative change in support of sdg 8 in its three dimensions of sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth. The performance of countries in terms of achieving sustained economic growth is highly uneven. Since 2000, growth in both gross domestic product (GDP) and labour productivity has been higher in lower- and upper-middle-income countries than in low-and high-income countries. Moreover, least developed countries are falling short of the specific sdg 8 target of sustaining annual GDP growth of atleast 7 per cent. Progress in reducing informality is poor, and informal employment continues to be the reality for around 61 per cent of workers worldwide. While x time to act for sdg 8: integrating decent work, sustained growth and environmental integrity informality rates vary greatly with income levels, there are particularly large differences among countries in the lower- and upper-middle-income groups. Access to financial services is also highly un even among countries, but again there is a positive correlation with their income level. In general, the patterns observed confirm that achieving higher income levels contributes to improved performance on other sdg 8 indicators. Nevertheless, the variation in sdg 8 performance

within country income groups suggests that the character of growth also plays an important role. Inclusive growth and decent work for all women and men constitute the social dimension of sdg 8. Progress in that dimension is measured in terms of equality, fairness and justice within societies. The evidence suggests that most countries still have a long way to go. Unemployment is too high in many countries, and there are persistent gender wage gaps and decent work deficits across the world. In addition to women, young people and persons with disabilities are also at a great disadvantage. Even in countries with a low risk of unemployment, these population groups face severe challenges when it comes to finding employment and enjoying equal access to decent work and equal pay for work of equal value. Indeed, young people face major decent work deficits in all countries. Among both low- and middle-income countries, the share of young people not in employment, education or training is similar.

**Prof. Dr. Rashmi Gujrati**

President (TGAP-UK)

Dean International Affairs

CT University

Ludhiana, INDIA

## ***MESSAGE OF EDITOR***



This section is an opportunity to demonstrate how top management of Tradepreneur is taking the lead and giving direction to the department's sustainability efforts. Roughly half the world's population still lives on the equivalent of about US\$2 a day. And in too many places, having a job doesn't guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies: that all must share in progress.

Putting job creation at the heart of economic policy-making and development plans, will not only generate decent work opportunities but also more robust, inclusive and poverty-reducing growth. It is a virtuous circle that is as good for the economy as it is for people and one that drives sustainable development.

This slow and uneven progress requires us to rethink and retool our economic and social policies aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and ensuring decent work. The creation of quality jobs will remain a major challenge for almost all the region's economies.

Tradepreneur Global Academic Platform is playing important role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An authentic, sincere and mission-driven statement from the chair signals commitment and sets the tone for the rest of the report. It can include an overview of the vision, direction and strategy the organization is committed to take, to help move the needle on the SDGs to meet the global 2030 deadline.

This message demonstrates the the TGAP 's understanding of its impact and responsibility to people and the planet. Importantly, it also builds the audience's trust and confidence in the organization.

**Dr. Hayri Uygun**

VICE President & Editor (TGAP-UK)

Recep Tayyip Erdogan University

Rize, TURKEY

## ***TRADEPRENEUR VOLUNTARY TEAM***

Our following team is continuously working on UN agenda UN sustainable development Goals -17. Voluntary our team is working on each goals and focusing on their all target.

### **Our Entire Team**

*Dr. Rashmi Gujrati, India*

*Dr. Yogesh Chhabra, India*

*Dr. Durgesh Tripathi, India*

*Dr. R.K. Tailor, India*

*Dr. Leena Jeneffa, India*

*Dr. Dabartta Chowdhary, UK*

*Dr. Burhan Ozkan, Turkey*

*Dr. Hayri Uygun, Turkey*

*Dr. Asena Bontaz, Turkey*

*Dr. Maria Jose, France*

*Dr. Habil Henrietta Nagy, Hungary*

*Dr. Ahmad Albattat, Malaysia*

*Dr. Jeong Chun Phuoc ,PhD, Malaysia*

*Dr. Hjh Raja Suzana Raja Kasim, Malaysia*

*Dr. Francesca Di Virgilio, PhD, Italy*

*Dr. Yeliena Prokhorova, Ukriane*

*Dr. Dimitrios A. Karras, Greece*

*Dr. Rania Lampou, Greece*

*Dr. Orazala Nemat, Afganistan*

*Dr. Marinică Şchiopu, Romania*

*Dr. Sangeeta Tripathi, Oman*

*Dr. Neyara Radwan, Saudi Arabia*

*Dr. AL RUBAYE, Ahmed Hussein Radhi, Iraq*

*Ms. Fathmath Muna, Maldives*

*Mr. Anak Agung Gde Satia Utama, Indonesia*

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## **TARGET 8.1: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH**

*Rania Lampou*

**Global Educator, STEM Instructor**

**Greek Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs**

This presentation focused on Goal 8.1. Sustainable Economic Growth. Economic growth is closely related to increasing production, consumption and resource use, which has negative impact on nature, climate and human health. Various concepts and theories have been presented to rethink economic growth and societal progress. Green growth, doughnut economics, post-growth and degrowth, all have similar goals but differ in their means to achieve sustainability goals. Furthermore, political initiatives for a sustainable future require not only technological change, but also changes in consumption and social practices. The challenge is to innovate practices and habits that consume less but are attractive to individuals without an environmental or ideological interest. Moreover, as the global economy is going through a turbulent period, the role of entrepreneurship in green, inclusive and sustainable development, as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, has become even stronger.

Governments and non-governmental organizations worldwide try to invent concepts, policies, blueprints and narratives. High-level policies (e.g. the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal) propose decoupling of economic growth and resource use as a solution. "Narratives for change" published by the "European Environment Agency" presents alternative perspectives on economic growth and human progress and explores the different ideas needed to transform societies in Europe towards sustainability goals and fulfil the ambitions of the "European Green Deal", a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the aim of making the European Union (EU) climate neutral in 2050. This comes at a crucial time for the EU, which faces urgent challenges and opportunities associated with change.

In April 2021, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released "Going for Growth 2021" which describes how OECD and key non-member countries can build resilience and sustainability, raise productivity and help people and businesses adapt to the changes. Resilience is built through stronger growth, inclusiveness and the ability to reallocate resources quickly, reducing harmful tensions that hinder the response to change.

Structural policies for stronger, more sustainable, resilient and equitable growth can support

economies ability to bounce back strongly and swiftly. Structural reforms, public infrastructure investment, reforms to improve people's prospects, policies to address economic inclusion of poor households can stimulate the recovery and enhance long-term prospects. Significant and long-lasting policies that prevent social damage should be implemented with priority. Education reforms, preventive health care, strengthening of job-search conditions in unemployment benefit schemes, increasing the flexibility of labour markets, enhancing resource reallocation are among these policies.

As far as developing countries are concerned, the essential elements needed to achieve high rates of sustainable economic growth are accountable countries, open and effective market, infrastructure, capable human capital, equality of opportunity, sound environmental management.

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## **TARGET 8.2: DIVERSITY, INNOVATE AND UPGRADE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY**

*Dr. AL- RUBAYE Ahmed Hussein Radhi*

**University of Baghdad  
Post-Graduate For Accounting and Financial Studies**

**Email: [alradhi63@gmail.com](mailto:alradhi63@gmail.com)**

Decades of research have highlighted the impact of innovation, especially technological innovation, on economic growth, as research and development efforts and innovations contribute effectively to the production of new technology (new products or new technological processes) that give countries competitive advantages. In light of new and endless changes and developments and in a period witnessing rapid technological change and intense competition between economic institutions and countries, if these institutions and countries want to impose themselves and maintain their durability, they must achieve a new competitive advantage every time whether by producing a new product or improving it or changing production methods and this does not come except through interest in the function of research, development and innovation.

Therefore, innovation has become inevitable in the knowledge economy because the level of the economy of any country necessarily depends at the present time on the ability of its public and private institutions to add innovative value to all activities in order to achieve sustainable economic growth. And that laying the foundation for sustainable development based on innovation is more important than ever. Therefore, attention must be paid to this pillar because it constitutes a driving force for creating economic growth that supports the process of sustainable development, which revolves around achieving survival and sustainability.

Many countries of the world realized in order to catch up with the progress and development taking place in the world; The necessity of relying on technology. Professor “Jack Decor” explained in his report to UNESCO for the year 1995 AD; On the extent of technology’s impact on economic life, describing global economic life will shift from the industrial ideal that dominated in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to an economy of knowledge, technology and practical life.

## **TARGET 8.3: PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES**

*Dr. Kavita Mathad*

**Professor and Dean, School of Business  
Galgotias University, Greater Noida, India**

SDG Target 8.3 aims of to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030. With world unemployment rate being 6.5 % of total labor force, the ILO has stated that 600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030, just to keep pace with the growth of the working age population. How feasible is this goal to be achieved, can be only seen through a case to case basis. While the developed countries enjoy the richness of capital, technology and innovations, the carbon dioxide emissions of these countries stand on the higher side and are vulnerable due to increased focus on the manufacturing and heavy industries while ignoring the impact of the productions on environment. It is high time that countries across the World focus on *The triple bottom line*. Countries need to engage in economic activity that is inclusive of all the three P of *Triple bottom line* forming an enterprise that is social in nature. Yes, the presentation done at this summit was more in line with social enterprise and focused on the current set of policies and the possible changes that theses set of policies need to incorporate in order to create decent and sustainable jobs. For an in-depth analysis of descent and sustainable job creation an attempt in this presentation is made to bring in the importance of presence, existence and sustainable social enterprises through a case of e-waste recycling industry in India.

Global E-Waste Management Market stands at \$49.4 billion in 2020, registering a CAGR of 23.5% during the period 2014 - 2020. It is one of the fastest growing waste streams in emerging as well as developed regions According to ASSOCHAM, India is among the top five e-waste generating countries in the world besides China, the US, Japan and Germany. Among top ten cities, generating e-waste in India Mumbai, the financial nerve centre of India, ranks first. ASSOCHAM notes that Delhi alone gets around 86 percent of the electronic waste generated in the developed worldwide. India is a favourable destination for the developed countries to export and/or dump the e-waste, as it is more lucrative for the exporting country to export than recycling at their home country. It is interesting to note that according to the Hazardous Waste Rules, 2008, import of hazardous wastes for disposal is not permitted. However, the EXIM policy permits import of second hand computers that are not older than ten years besides allowing

imports of computers in the form of donation. Thus making it possible for the exporting country to export the old/discarded. This substantial amount of e-waste imported gets added to the locally generated waste.

Although e-waste represents less than 2% of landfill mass, it contains 70% of the hazardous waste in heavy metals. Reports suggest that currently 95 per cent of e-waste generated and/or received gets into initial level of dismantled and segregated in the informal sector, wherein most of the processes are rudimentary crude waste processing techniques practiced would have adverse effect on both people and planet, leading to various health and environmental hazards. The recycling process at e-Parisaraa, a star performer is indigenous and low cost and consists of methods like non-incineration technology, consisting of dismantling, segregation, shredding (mechanical process to separate hazardous waste), crushing, and pulverizing (reduce or crumble to powder) and density separation.

Recovering the precious metals like gold and platinum through recycling requires specialised and advanced equipment that are relatively expensive, for which the social enterprises often find it difficult to access and afford the machinery. Social enterprises remain marginal in terms of recovering costs and generating sufficient returns for reinvestments on R&D. A systematic frame of waste collection (Household and the Industry) for recycling seem to be an issue and thus scaling-up is a challenge. A responsible end-of-life management of e-waste is imperative in order to recover valuable components and properly manage hazardous and toxic components.

The E-waste (Management and handling) Rules enacted in the year 2011 under the Environment Protection Act of 1986, brought in rules into force to enable recovery and /or reuse of useful material out of e-waste, thereby reducing the hazardous waste to ensure safety and eco-friendly ways of handling, transportation, storing and recycling of e-waste. For the first time Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was introduced which made manufacturers liable for safer disposal of electronic goods. However, this did not move things in the expected manner and to further push the safety objective in e-waste management a new set of E-waste Rules came up in the year 2016.

As per the E-waste Rules, 2016 manufactures were facilitated with an option of setting up Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO). PROs were authorised or financed collectively or individually by producers that would take the responsibility of collection and channelization of e-waste generated from their products to ensure an environment sound management. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the year 2018, further amended the E-waste Rules of 2016 with the objective of channelizing the waste generated at a more micro level by authorising the dismantlers and recyclers to formalise the e-waste recycling sector. This seem to be boon for the social enterprises, as it seems to be connecting all the stakeholders in the value chain. The channelization of the e-waste generated by the households seems to be a

concern. This calls in a best fit policy basket that could be incorporated in the new normal. With the latest trend of start-ups in India and Make-in- India is the right time to attract investments from the private players for a truly digital India.

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**TARGET 8.4: IMPROVE RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IN  
CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

*Dr. Leena Jenefa*

**Associate Professor**

**Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology,  
Chennai-India**

In order to achieve Sustainable development economic growth requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy. The globalization plays an important change in production patterns and secures efficiency and productivity gains by ensuring that human activities remain within the carrying capacity of the planet, while respecting the rights of future generations.

The advanced technology helps in manufacturing mass production. Hence Sustainable goals helps in decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles. Sustainable consumption and production can also contribute substantially to poverty alleviation and the transition towards low-carbon and green economies. We the consumers should be alert while using the services and related basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product.

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## **TARGET 8.5: FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY IN MALDIVES**

*Ms. Fathmath Muna*

**munafathmath@gmail.com**

According to the International Labour Organization, “productive work for women and men in situations of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity” is defined as “productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity.” In general, the salary is fair, and the employee has job stability, which is referred to as “decent work employment.” The main goal of this research is to gain a better understanding of full employment and decent work with equal pay in Maldives context. Therefore, when it comes to full employment and good work with equitable pay in the Maldives, salaries and wages account for 22 percent of the government’s current spending. The major geographical fact in Maldives tourism is that it is the country’s largest employer, employing one-fifth of the country’s 205570 population. Well, the fishery and agriculture industries are prioritized as a major source of export items and a significant source of employment. Apart from these two sectors, the Maldives’ public sector (civil service) employs a large number of people. Currently, there are 25562 government servants, with 63 percent of them being female. However, 44 percent of women work in informal jobs, compared to only 36 percent of men. CEOs, Managing Directors, Doctors, Lawyers, Pilots, Commission Members, Parliament Members, and Ministers are the best paid Maldivians. Thus, COVID 19 has had a significant impact on economic growth, with the unemployment rate in the Maldives expected to rise to 7.2 percent by 2020. This has had a significant influence on the economy and major impact on the income of households and families. The study reviewed official publication reports and available data that has been provided to government and other official websites. However, women work more in the Maldives than males, and there is a large disparity in full employment and respectable job with equal pay around the world. As a result, it is critical to conduct research in the Maldives on a broad scale. According to the findings of this study, the government provided job opportunities to disabled individuals all throughout the country and determined the minimum pay rate in 2021. On the otherhand, long-term sustainable agriculture in the Maldives include a shortage of technical skilled staff and capital investment appropriate for the scale of operation. However, while implementing employment laws and other recruitment regulations, both the government and non-government organizations must improve their recruitment and selection procedures. It’s also critical to have more transparency and accountability in the recruitment and selection of academics.

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**TARGET 8.6: PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT,  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE SULTANATE OF  
OMAN- CHALLENGES AND SCOPE TO ACHIEVE OMAN  
VISION 2040**

*Dr. Sangeeta Tripathi*

**University of Technology and Applied Sciences**

**Salalah, Oman**

In the era of globalization and the fourth industrial revolution, Oman is focusing on complete development. Oman vision 2040 sets higher aspiration of sustainable growth. Through a strategic diversified economic plan, the Sultanate is aiming to reduce reliance on oil and gas. The five promising sectors like industry, transport, logistics, tourism, fish abundance, and mining have been identified to focus more. Along with this, less dependence on foreign workers, Omanization, implementation of a successful privatization program, industrialization, and technological innovation to compete for the global market has been also included. The beautiful geographical locations, rich cultural heritage of Oman, cheap energy resources, and abundance of raw materials encourage sustainable growth. The Covid-19 pandemic has brought numerous challenges for the country, but the Omani government's response to overbearing these challenges was commendable.

Oman Vision 2040 clearly outlined the national priorities very well that interpret aspiration into action with a clear goal. The strategic directions of Oman vision 2040 require collaborative efforts from the government, its citizens, private sectors, and civil societies. In the digital era, innovations and development has offered unparalleled opportunities to different communities. In response to the digital revolution, Oman is well-positioned to create its own waves of innovation. Oman is a young country. According to the National Centre for Statistical Information, the current population of Oman is more than 5.2 million. 16 to 29-year group Omani represent almost 65% of Omani population. At present, the unemployment rate of Oman is 4.97%. To mitigate the unemployment challenge, the Oman government has been emphasizing two layers - creating job opportunities in public and private sectors under Omanization policy and promoting SMEs in the country by funding and facilitating different facilities. The Ministry of Labour issued a performance indicator report on the absorption of the Omani workforce in the labor market between January till September 2021. The Ministry of Labor indicated in its third report on performance indicators that 35,344 young Omanis have been employed in the public and private

sectors from January to September 2021. The public sector has given 19535 jobs while the private sector has provided 15809 jobs to Omani youth this year. Through training and rehabilitation, 12, 626 jobs have been created. After training, 6446 Omani youth have been accommodated in the public sector while 6180 have joined the private sector. Since the beginning of 2021, the ministry's executive plan brought some positive responses to the Omani youth.

The country is continuously stressing the significance of education, and training to replace the expatriate workforce with the Omani workforce. Since 1970, Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has emphasized empowering the local human resources. To achieve sustainable development, the Oman government has identified and authorized some public institutions. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry, High Committee for Vocational Training, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labor and Vocational Training, Omanization Follow-up Committee to supervise the Omanization procedure. The education and training system have been enhanced. Its sole aim is to gradually replace the non-Omani workforce with the Omani workforce in the country. The whole process of Omanization has been supported by numerous incentives and schemes. By improving education and training with IT, it has been ensured that qualified and skilled Omani workforce can actively participate in the country's economic development and prosperity. The year 2021 has been marked as renewed renaissance under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, who ascended to the throne on 11th January 2020. To mitigate the unemployment issue, the Oman government has accelerated the Omanization process. A special emphasis has been given on different levels of basics and higher education systems. To fulfil new jobs requirements and compete at global level, the national workforce needs AI and AR equipped education and training. The Research Council of Oman, Ministry of Higher Education, has funded 446 scientific proposals for the 2020 year. The total value of the projects is 2.30 million OMR. Its sole aim is to lead a knowledge-based society and boost up confidence among Omani youth. To promote self-employment, the Oman government has started many funding schemes. Fund for Development of Youth Projects under Royal decree 76/98 (8th Nov.1998) and Al – Raffd program under Royal decree 6/2013 aims to enhance SMEs and family business in the Sultanate.

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National Centre for Statistical Information, the current population of Oman is more than 5.2 million can be retrieved from <https://www.ncsi.gov.om/Pages/AllIndicators.aspx>

The unemployment rate of Oman is 4.97: data can be retrieved from <<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/OMN/oman/unemployment-rate>>

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## **TARGET 8.6: PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

*Dr. Yelina Prokhorava*

**Kyiv National Economic University, Ukraine**

Why this goal is actual? About 2.2 billion people all over the world live below the poverty line getting less than \$ 2 per day. Eradicating poverty is possible only if there are stable and good paid jobs. The higher education level of employees, the better jobs they may find.

Globally in the period from 2016 to 2030 for new labor market participants will be needed to create 470 million working places just to cover population of working age growth in the whole world, that is, it will require about 30 million new jobs annually. At the same time, working conditions have to be improved for approximately 780 million women and men with work, but earning insufficient funds, so that they and their families could break out of the grip of poverty. The decent work means the possibility for every person to find a productive work bringing sufficient income, for which is provided work safety location and guaranteed social protection of families, and also provided better prospects for personal development and social integration.

The share of 15-24 year-olds in a labour force at September, 2021 is average 12.1 percent for the OECD countries, but in many countries this share is higher, for example, in Italy and Spain – nearly 30 percent. That's why the task to involve youth in education and employment is so actual. Education level is very important for the decent work. Unemployment rate for employees by educational level, which is below upper secondary, for 25-64 years-olds in the year 2020 was 10.7 percent for the OECD countries, but in South Africa – more than 30 percent. It illustrates the necessity to invest in youth education.

Share of youth not in education, employment or training as percent of youth population in 2020 in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Laos was more than 42, India – 29.5, Ukraine – 16.4, Netherlands – 4.3. It shows the importance of youth employment, education and training.

How to improve the situation? Countries and governments have to invest in education and professional training of the highest possible quality, which will help youth to acquire skills appropriate to labor market requirements, and get access to social protection and basic services; to create equal opportunities for young people to find productive work regardless of gender, income level or socioeconomic status.

What educators/universities can do? We may develop open educational and professional training courses, which will help youth to acquire necessary knowledge and skills for the future employment; create consulting centers for youth on employment and entrepreneurship. ERASMUS+ KA 2 Capacity Building in Higher Education Joint Projects give funding for curricula development on entrepreneurship education, managing online and offline entrepreneurship education platform for youth and creating consulting centers for youth entrepreneurship. It is an opportunity to make an input in youth employment, education and training.

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## **TARGET 8.7: END SLAVERY AND CHILD LABOUR AND TRAFFICKING**

*Dr. Vijaya Kumari.K*

**All Saints' College,  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala , India**

[vijayahistory10@gmail.com](mailto:vijayahistory10@gmail.com)

Child labour is a form of exploitation that is a violation of a human right and it is recognized and defined. Child labour is damaging to a child's physical, social, mental, psychological and spiritual development because it is work performed at too early an age. Child labour deprives children of their childhood and their dignity. They are deprived of an education and may be separated from their families. Children who do not complete their primary education are likely to remain illiterate and never acquire the skills needed to get a job and contribute to the development of a modern economy. Consequently, child labour results in under-skilled, unqualified workers and jeopardizes future improvements of skills in the workforce.

It is the declared policy of the international community and of almost all Governments to abolish child labor. Child labor trafficking victims have diverse sociodemographic backgrounds, and there is no standard typology; however, certain populations are more vulnerable to becoming victims. Some research suggests that women and children are more likely to be victims of labor trafficking because of their "relative lack of power, social marginalization, and their overall status as compared to men" (Office on Trafficking in Persons 2015b, 2). Other populations that are likely to experience labor trafficking are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) youth runaways; homeless youths; and child welfare populations (ACYF 2013; Buckley 2008; Clawson et al. 2009). This aligns with research that trafficking perpetrators look for "youth with low self-esteem and minimal social support," (ACYF 2013, 4) characteristics that are often found among foster care youths, youths experiencing homelessness, and runaway youths (Clawson et al. 2009). According to the Office for Victims of Crime (2015), juveniles with emotional vulnerabilities, those who come from impoverished backgrounds, and those who have been abused are vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking.

The most common industries in which child labor trafficking occurs are agriculture, domestic work, health and beauty, restaurants/small businesses, gang-involved drug sales and gun carrying, traveling sales crews (e.g., magazine sales), and peddling/begging rings (Gibbs et al. 2014; NHTRC 2015a). This can make identifying victims of labor trafficking difficult, especially if a child does not appear to be experiencing any type of physical force, psychological pressure, or

other form of coercion. About 70 percent were trafficked for sexual exploitation or for both sex and labor; roughly 24 percent were labor trafficked (Goździak 2012). Girls made up 80 percent of the sample and were more likely to experience sexual exploitation than boys. The youths in the sample ranged in age from 2 to 17, with 83 percent between 14 and 17. The sample varied greatly in socioeconomic background, ethnic/linguistic group.

To combat trafficking by encouraging use of the “three Ps” paradigm: prosecution, protection, and prevention (U.S. Department of State 2016). The prosecution component ensures that trafficking offenders are held accountable and punished for their criminal actions. Next, the protection aspect involves taking a victim-centered orientation to identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking. Finally, prevention relates to raising awareness about human trafficking and offering social and economic solutions that discourage trafficking

In many countries around the world, acts of violence against women and girls happen every day, such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual assault, and forced prostitution.

Protecting girls and young women from sexual exploitation and abuse is a key priority for UNICEF and the European Union (EU). Together, we focus on protecting children from gender-based violence in emergencies (GBVie), continue to raise awareness, devise new ways to effectively tackle this critical issue and provide safe spaces for women, adolescents and children to be protected from any form of violence.

In 2018 alone, thanks to the EU’s partnership, UNICEF reached 2.3 million children who had experienced violence with health, social work, justice and law enforcement programmes in 112 countries.

### **Causes of Child Labor**

Due to poverty, poor parents send their children to work in the house, and shops. The shop and small traders also make children work as much as older people, but pay half the price or very low wages to them because they are children. Maximum children are not very clever, so there is no opportunity for more theft and thugs.

Some traders ruin the lives of children, even in the greed of minimizing the cost of production in trade. On this they got more profit in their business. Children work hard without any greed. This cause is becoming more catalysis for the child labor.

### **Solution of Child Labor**

First of all government makes strong and stringent laws to be enacted against child labor, so that no one is afraid of getting child labor done.

Affordable, quality and employable education system is the responsibility of the welfare state.

They should provide such quality employment – oriented education for every child. Poor parents should also pay full attention to their children’s education because today the government is also providing facilities like free education (class 1st to 12th class), food (midday meal) and medicines (district hospital) in some school. On the moral values of people in factories and shops will be preventing the child labor.

The Legal service department should formulate action plans in collaboration with local police, keep an eye on industries like Bidi, Match, Cracker, Hotel and Restaurant save children those involved in begging and drug addiction will take legal against them are freed.

Child labor is dangerous for developing India, government takes so many action but their are loop holes in the system. Some children do labour by inforcing by someone and someone does that their family condition is not well. There should be a strong law like unbailable warrant issue against that man who make children to do so.

Poverty and unemployment another dangerous problem. Government should think on employment of the lower living people. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment (CLPRA) Bill, which proposes complete prohibition of employment of children up to the age of 14 years while banning employment of children between 15-18 years in hazardous works.

The number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years – with millions more at risk due to the impacts of COVID-19, according to a new report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF.

Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward – released ahead of World Day Against Child Labour on 12th June – warns that progress to end child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years, reversing the previous downward trend that saw child labour fall by 94 million between 2000 and 2016.

The report points to a significant rise in the number of children aged 5 to 11 years in child labour, who now account for just over half of the total global figure. The number of children aged 5 to 17 years in hazardous work – defined as work that is likely to harm their health, safety or morals – has risen by 6.5 million to 79 million since 2016.

In sub-Saharan Africa, population growth, recurrent crises, extreme poverty, and inadequate social protection measures have led to an additional 16.6 million children in child labour over the past four years.

Even in regions where there has been some headway since 2016, such as Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, COVID-19 is endangering that progress. The report warns that globally, 9 million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the

end of 2022 as a result of the pandemic. A simulation model shows this number could rise to 46 million if they don't have access to critical social protection coverage.

Additional economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 mean that children already in child labour may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions, while many more may be forced into the worst forms of child labour due to job and income losses among vulnerable families.

The agriculture sector accounts for 70 per cent of children in child labour (112 million) followed by 20 per cent in services (31.4 million) and 10 per cent in industry (16.5 million). Nearly 28 per cent of children aged 5 to 11 years and 35 per cent of children aged 12 to 14 years in child labour are out of school. Child labour is more prevalent among boys than girls at every age. When household chores performed for at least 21 hours per week are taken into account, the gender gap in child labour narrows.

The prevalence of child labour in rural areas (14 per cent) is close to three times higher than in urban areas (5 per cent). Children in child labour are at risk of physical and mental harm. Child labour compromises children's education, restricting their rights and limiting their future opportunities, and leads to vicious inter-generational cycles of poverty and child labour.

### **Indian Situation**

Child labor is biggest problem of Independent India. Child labour refers to the exploitation of children for doing manual work, which deprives them from their childhood and fundamental rights to education and health. It ruins the life of a child blocking all the venues of education and progress. Under the right to education act, there are right of child for free and compulsory education. This act was passed by parliament of India and in action on 4th August 2009, which describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between 6 to 14 years in India. The child education act comes under the Article 21(a) of the Indian Constitution. The work on child labor by the Indian government, India become one of 135 countries to make education as a fundamental right of every child when the act came into force on 1st April 2010.

As per Census 2011, the total child population in India in the age group 5-14 years is 259.6 million with over 10 million (4% of total child population) being working, either as 'main worker' or 'marginal worker'. The Census data indicates decreased incidence of child labour in India by 2.6 million between 2001 and 2011. The data shows greater decline in rural than in urban areas. The increase in rural-to-urban migration is driving demand for child workers in urban areas.

However, (little evidence or data available as yet), it is expected that COVID-19 and subsequent

economic distress will have increased the risk of child labour. The closure of 1.5 million schools due to the pandemic and lockdowns in India has impacted 247 million children enrolled in elementary and secondary schools and added to the risk of them slipping into child labour and unsafe migration.

In 2021, the United Nations International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, we must urgently put progress back on track.

**Make social protection universal** Most children who work do so because their families depend on their wages, production or domestic work (including unpaid, often by girls) to make ends meet. Household economic shocks and the loss of a parent or caregiver can increase the chance that a child will go to work.<sup>41</sup> Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly one in three children in low- and middle-income countries lived in families below national poverty lines. The pandemic exacerbated child poverty, with the number of children in income-poor households increasing by over 142 million in 2020.<sup>42</sup> Adequate social protection mitigates the socioeconomic vulnerability underpinning child labour<sup>43</sup> and offsets poverty, gender inequality and deprivation in childhood.<sup>44</sup>

COVID-19 has dealt an enormous setback to education. At their peak, pandemic-related school closures affected over 90 per cent of the world's students.<sup>55</sup> Substitute remote learning failed to reach 463 million learners.<sup>56</sup> This education emergency could spiral into a child labour emergency. Since schools provide crucial services, such as school meals,<sup>57</sup> interruptions can intensify household food insecurity and financial stress, which increase the risk of child labour. Once children are out of school and enter paid employment, it can be very difficult to get them back.<sup>58</sup> As schools reopen, back-to-school campaigns and outreach will be vital in making sure children are able to return.

Even before COVID-19, more than 258 million children and youth were out of school worldwide.<sup>62</sup> Many were in child labour or at risk of it. This group must not be forgotten. There are some well-known solutions for getting and keeping children in school.<sup>63</sup> These include aligning the minimum working age and the end of compulsory schooling, and establishing early childhood development, childcare and pre-primary education, which increase the chance that students not only stay in school but also succeed. Abolishing school fees and eliminating costs for books, uniforms and transport keeps education affordable. Universal child benefits can help offset such costs.

Broader progress in ending child labour thus largely centres on improving rural livelihoods and building more diversified economies, including in rural areas.

Systemic approaches to promote rural development and enhance rural livelihoods and resilience

can diminish reliance on child labour. These should include specific attention to eliminating child labour in food systems,<sup>73</sup> which encompass production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products, and creating opportunities for sustainable adult livelihoods. A well-designed social protection strategy combining contributory social insurance and tax-based social assistance can sustain the adequate protection of rural populations throughout their lives, including in confronting risks and contingencies specific to rural areas.<sup>74</sup> Employment-intensive investment in rural infrastructure and basic services, such as water and power systems, can offer jobs off the farm while improving farm productivity and reducing the need for tasks often done by children.

## **Conclusion**

Worldwide, one in every four children lives in a country struck by conflict, fragility and/or disaster. The resulting displacement and disruptions to livelihoods, schooling, social protection, family support networks and the rule of law all heighten the risk of child labour. The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt another blow to families already in acute distress. Child labour concerns must inform all phases of humanitarian action: crisis preparation and contingency plans, humanitarian responses and post-crisis reconstruction and recovery. Before a crisis hits, preparedness planning should draw on existing data on prevalent forms of child labour, the strength of economic markets, the reach of social protection and essential services, and community based supports. This evidence – combined with similar data on the economic impact of a crisis at the national, local, family and individual levels – can help formulate appropriate responses during and after the most acute phases. In all fragile and crisis situations, particular attention should be paid to sexual exploitation, trafficking and forced labour, including through abduction.

To reverse the upward trend in child labour, the ILO and UNICEF are calling for:

Adequate social protection for all, including universal child benefits.

Increased spending on quality education and getting all children back into school - including children who were out of school before COVID-19.

Promotion of decent work for adults, so families don't have to resort to children helping to generate family income.

An end to harmful gender norms and discrimination that influence child labour.

Investment in child protection systems, agricultural development, rural public services, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Supporting meaningful economic and livelihood opportunities for adult members of families in crisis situations is essential. The ILO Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205) calls for inclusive measures to promote decent work and income generation.

Ending modern slavery will require a multi-faceted response that addresses the array of forces – economic, social, cultural, and legal – that contribute to vulnerability and enable abuses. There can be no one-size-fits-all solution; responses need to be adapted to the diverse environments in which modern slavery still occurs.

Stronger social protection floors are necessary to offset the vulnerabilities that can push people into modern slavery. Extending labour rights in the informal economy – where modern slavery is most likely to occur – is needed to protect workers from exploitation. Given that a large share of modern slavery can be traced to migration, improved migration governance is vitally important to preventing forced labour and protecting victims.

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## TARGET 8.8: DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

*Neyara Radwan*

Mechanical Department, Faculty of Engineering, Suez Canal University, Egypt

King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

### THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 (SDG8)



Fig. 1. Targets of Sustainable Development Goal 8

SDG 8 specifically calls on the international community to “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. It thus captures two main economic themes that are strongly interlinked economic growth and employment/decent work. There are twelve targets underlying SDG8, as shown in the Fig.1. Targets 8.6 and 8.B are to be achieved by 2020, all the others targets by 2030.

#### Target 8.8

States that: Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers women migrants, and those in precarious employment. This

target contains two indicators:

***Indicator 8.8.1:*** Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status.

***Indicator 8.8.2:*** Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status.

**According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report for the year 2021, Covid 19 Pandemic affect SDG8 such as following:**

1. COVID-19 has led to massive job losses, particularly among youth and women.
  2. The lack of a social safety net has left informal workers on their own to cope with the COVID-19 fallout.
  3. The worst year on record for international tourism disproportionately affected small island developing States
  4. The pandemic has led to an increase in youth who are not employed, in school or in training.
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## **TARGET 8.9: PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

*Dr. Ahmad Albattat*

**Management and Science University, Malaysia**

**Postgraduate Centre**

**dr.battat@msu.edu.my**

Tourism, which has its origins in the ancient history of civilizations, has evolved into one of the world's most significant industrial sectors, rising twice as fast as the global gross domestic product (GDP) during the previous 30 years. Tourism grew faster than even our most optimistic estimates at the turn of the century, and is expected to quadruple in the next 20 years. The enormous importance of tourism-related income for the global economy, particularly for poor nations and tiny islands, necessitates the formulation of policies that promote their growth across the world. Rapid growth of tourist resorts, on the other hand, has a number of drawbacks in terms of the potential for harming nature, communities, cultures, and society. To minimise the risk, all tourist strategies, development plans, and activities, at all levels of government and organisation, must urgently include preventative methods in all tourism strategies, development plans, and actions.

The most usually held liable for tourist-related problems is providing and promoting positive and sustainable tourism in mass tourism. Previously thought to be incompatible with the notion of sustainability, delivering and promoting beneficial and sustainable tourism has lately been acknowledged in the tourist literature as having the capacity to engage in more responsible activities and include sustainability concepts. To summarise, by virtue of its general approach and contributions in complementing and enhancing the effectiveness of other tools, such as management systems, eco-labelling, and Local Agenda 21, providing and promoting beneficial and sustainable tourism is shown to be a necessary element for the development of recognition schemes to promote sustainable tourism at the destination level. The importance of providing and promoting beneficial and sustainable tourism in developing sustainable tourism destinations demonstrates that, when used in conjunction with other tools and concepts, sustainability tourism not only promotes pollution prevention but also contributes to efforts in sustainable development. Indirectly, it suggests that the achievement of sustainable tourism goals is reliant on other methods, tools, and instruments, necessitating the identification of practical solutions for delivering and promoting positive and sustainable tourism in the mass tourism industry.

## **TARGET 8.10: A UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO BANKING, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

*YM Prof.Dr.Hjh. Raja Suzana Raja Kasim*

**AI Author, Professor of Entrepreneurship  
Faculty of Entrepreneurship and Business  
Universiti Malaysia, Kelantan, Malaysia**

[\\*rajasuzana@umk.edu.my](mailto:*rajasuzana@umk.edu.my)

In the existing state, Islamic social finance products such as green sukuk, waqf, Islamic crowdfunding, green financing, Islamic fintech, still lack of inclusion model. The identification of Islamic social financial inclusion offerings requires a clear vision. There appears to be lack of tailor-made methods and systems for predicting Islamic sustainable value based intermediation (VBI) and sustainability materials issues. Islamic finance is based on Islamic law (Sharia), a form of code of life in respect to economic, political and social elements. Islamic social finance tools hold tremendous power in democratizing financial services and supporting the most vulnerable of communities in line with United Nation Sustainability Development Goals.

In Malaysia, bodies such as Zakat institutions, Waqf, Lembaga Tabung Haji, microfinanciers and the cooperatives are major actors in this space. Institutions such as these are who the Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the Bottom 40s turn to for financing and aid when they are excluded from the traditional banking narrative. Industry feedback indicates strong bureaucratic inertia against digitalization of processes and operations, hindering optimization and efficiency. The majority of Malaysian fintech activity has been concentrated in the wallets and payments space, where mobile and e-commerce have led to real demand from underserved consumers and merchants. This trend has also been supported by Bank Negara Malaysia's agenda to accelerate the country's transition to electronic payments (e-payments), and thus, quicken the pace for the country to realize the consequent cost savings and other various benefits. Further innovations that are entering the mainstream include alternative financing platforms, insurtech, blockchain and remittances.

A burgeoning subsector has since emerged from the fintech industry, namely the Islamic fintech niche, which focuses on the use of technology to deliver Shariah-compliant financial solutions, products, services and investments. Money must be used in a productive way, promote social justice and be ethically traded. Sharia does not allow investment in unethical (Haram) industries including but not limited to arms, entertainment, gambling, and non-halal food. Key principles of Islamic finance are asset-based investments and risk-sharing (profit and loss sharing). Research

on access to financial inclusion by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)'s Financial Capability and Inclusion Demand Side Survey 2018 reveals that the current state of the financial inclusivity of SMEs in Malaysia has room for improvement. Interview participants (Muhd. Fazlan & Raja Suzana, 2021) shared that beyond understanding how to use, monitor and manage one's financial health, it is imperative for SMEs and bankers to also understand Shariah-compliant finance with newer digital-enabled financing instruments and financial well-being tools.

Social finance are broadly in demand from 907,065 micro-SME organisations, 14,625 cooperatives, 18 Islamic banks and 69,760 NGOs, imagine how huge would the data for social finance are needed to be processed. In this project, statistics and historical data from financial statements among organizations that pursue social cause in the Malaysian setting are captured, documented, and analyzed using artificial intelligence (AI) data analytics. The AI with machine learning (ML) algorithms is employed to minimize the existing paperwork, the reading, and processing of financial data, and take the financial decisions. Modeling AIMs with AI innovation, is a patented and copyrighted ML that applies AI ontologies to assess, rate, classify, benchmark, monitor, triage and report on extra-financial data sets.

The algorithms look for the typical environmental, social and governance (ESG) indicators, in the context of "trends", "risks", "behaviours", "sentiment" and/or "consistency" criteria, and to Fintech and AI, to identify these issues and potential controversies, in real time. Sustainable Islamic social finance inclusion is for SMEs, NGOs, banking institutions, Government agencies and social enterprises who aim to offer solutions to sustainable development challenges, and enhancing the resilience of the materiality (financial and non-financial) disclosure and reporting of the SDG 8.10 on the universal access to banking, insurance and financial services. The project is also addressing agenda for economic growth.

The novelty of the project is its innovation measures the anomalies in financial data and forecasting immediately the non-financial data to give value for predicting performance in the aspect of Islamic social finance, socio economic impact of social causes and meeting SDG 8.10 addressing how industry innovation and infrastructure contribute to economic growth by tackling access to finance. The innovation offers on the IOT, ML, Data mining and big data analytics with primary uses: predicting performance for the socio economic output of the social causes related with their financial data. The AI system automates the data, processing, and decisions made for the welfare of enterprises on the projects where government agencies and the NGOs wish to assess the output of their investment and aligns with SDG 8.10 for economic development. The innovation fits the micro-SMEs, banks, cooperatives, NGOs, social enterprises in promoting SDG 8, and in particular SDG 8.10 and economic growth and green promotion agenda in Malaysia.

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## **TARGET 8.A: INCREASE AID FOR TRADE SUPPORT**

*Anak Agung Gde Satia Utama*

**Universitas Airlangga  
Indonesia**

SDG 8.a is one of the Sustainability agendas with the main theme, namely Trade Support. The author sees that there are several points of view that need to be found to solve the problem, including promoting more inclusive access to good quality jobs, including for women, migrants, and marginalized groups, increasing labor productivity and improving access to financial services and benefits are essential components of sustained and inclusive economic growth. Digitalization, globalization, demographics, and climate change are bringing about significant changes in the rate and composition of productivity growth, business dynamism, and employment gains. Innovation is key to driving long-term productivity and income growth. Digitalization in particular offers great scope for improving production methods, but firms' uptake of new technologies is uneven. Poor access to finance and skilled labor undermine businesses' potential for growth, bringing more workers in formal jobs will offer better prospects to improve skills and productivity while providing them with better social protection, and reducing gender pay gaps, in turn, could make it more financially attractive for women to work, thus making labor markets more inclusive.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the global economy, with over a billion people working in the sector. Yet we must face the challenge that young people are abandoning agriculture to migrate to often informal and insecure work in urban centers or on larger farms. Agricultural workers often lack formal contracts, freedom of association, basic health and safety assurances, let alone adequate wages. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth can only be achieved if farmers have robust livelihoods and if all workers have their rights to secure and safe employment fulfilled and receive a living wage that enables them to survive and thrive. Farmers need to be empowered with a sense of ownership in fair trade and this could be accomplished with fair trade re-engaging the farmer at a grassroots level. Another method to combat this issue is to be more selective when certifying organizations; in particular, it should only certify organizations that empower farmers right up the supply chain, giving them a sense of value-add from their work and a voice in decision-making.

In conclusion, aid for trade can play a major role and should strive to allocate an increasing

proportion going to least developed countries. Both the SDGs and aid for trade objectives are dependent on integrated policy approaches and trade-offs. Aid for trade should contribute to the economic objectives of developing countries by helping them to connect their firms to international markets, and expand and diversify trade. Aid for trade should help achieve social objectives by reducing poverty and inequalities, and aid for trade should pursue environmental objectives by helping developing countries adapt to climate change while exploiting comparative advantages in low-carbon production.

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**TARGET 8.B: DEVELOP A GLOBAL YOUTH  
EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY**

*Dr. Asena BOZTAŞ*

**Assoc. Prof. Dr., Sakarya University of Applied Sciences**

**Sakarya/Turkey**

By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization. Indicator 8.b.1 is the “Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment”. The youth employment rate is the percentage of the youth labor force that is employed. Young people are defined as persons aged between 15 and 24. The labor force comprises all persons within the above age group currently available for work and actively seeking work, and the sum of those that are employed and unemployed. To the extent possible, the youth employment rate should be reported separately for formal and informal employment. We recommend that the indicator be disaggregated by sex and urban/rural to understand the differential composition of men and women in the formal and informal sectors.

A broad-based employment metric for formal and informal youth employment is preferable to standard unemployment measures that focus only on the formal sector. However, informal employment is not systematically measured in all countries, though many are beginning the process of defining and measuring informal employment. As a result, data quality and availability may be poor. Unlike most SDG targets with a target for 2030, the goal date for this indicator is 2020. Also, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, the employment situation facing young people<sup>13</sup> around the world had still not fully recovered from the fallout of the 2008 financial crisis. The general decline in labour market engagement among young people has continued in the past two years. This is partly because young people are spending more time in education, which is helping ensure that the future labour force will be better skilled and able to cope with the transformations in the world of work brought about by new technologies. However, it also reflects a significant degree of labour underutilization as approximately one-fifth of young people worldwide are not in employment, education or training. Other challenges requiring a strong policy response include persisting gender gaps in the labour market, the prevalence of informal employment, which affects more than three-quarters of young workers, and of working poverty, which affects almost one-third. The fact that millions of young people around the world would emigrate permanently if they had the chance highlights the urgent need for policy-makers to

tackle the labour market barriers and precarious conditions at work faced by young people in many countries. The global youth unemployment rate is increasing day by day. If we do not give them opportunity while they are students youth (15-24 years old) could be lost. So we need them to learning work and earning money and studying.

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## **TARGET 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH MALAYSIA PERSPECTIVE**

**Jeong Chun Phuoc, PhD**

**Management and Science University (MSU)**

**Malaysia**

UN Sustainable Development Goal 8 seeks to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. Malaysia's Engagement with UN SDG began in 1992. Since then, Malaysia has implemented numerous policies and strategies to attain this Goal 8. There has been sustained achievement of per capita economic growth following national circumstances and at a minimum of 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries. Malaysia has achieved higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation focusing on high-value-added and labor-intensive sectors. Malaysian development-oriented policies support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation. This includes the promotion and growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and access to fair financial services, banking, insurance, and financial services.

Malaysia seeks to achieve by 2030 full and productive employment and decent work for all citizens with equal pay for work of equal value and to advance sustainable tourism that creates jobs and showcases cultural heritage and products. Malaysia has implemented measures to address forced labor, and end modern slavery, human trafficking. Together with Malaysia Ministries and agencies, have protected labor rights and upheld safe working conditions for all workers, migrant workers, and prohibition of child labor. Malaysia has operationalized a global strategy for youth employment because of the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization. On 25 September 2015, global leaders gathered at the United Nations Conference to affirm the herculean 2030 Agenda for sustainable development known holistically as Sustainable Development Goals 17 (SDG 17). SDG 17 replaced the outdated Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which expired in 2015. MDGs consisting of 8 Goals and 21 Targets were seen to be inadequate given 21st-century reality. Malaysia's contribution at the global level for Goal 8 has seen positive and concrete development since 2015. Malaysia was engaged in the development of SDG at the international platform since 2014. Malaysian Economic

Planning Unit (EPU) was involved in the negotiation process between United Nations country members (Inter-Governmental Meetings) from January until July 2015 to conclude the Post 2015 Development Agenda (P2015DA). DOSM has been appointed as a member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG SDG) from July 2019 until July 2021 leading to the review of the '2020 Comprehensive Review Proposal', review methodological developments and issues on indicators and metadata. Now, there are 247 SDG indicators agreed for monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. Malaysia is a dynamic member of Working Group Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (WGSDGI) at the ASEAN level and designed the ASEAN SDG Baseline Report 2020 publication released in October 2020. Malaysia has continued to contribute to the ASEAN SDG Indicator development works.

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## **TARGET 8: PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**

*Prof. Dr. Burhan Ozkan*

**Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On the 25th of September 2015, the UN's 193 member states voted to formally adopt the SDGs, a set of seventeen goals and 169 sub-targets envisaged as a template to guide and inform global policy-making up until 2030. The SDGs were formulated to address the deficiencies noticed in the MDGs as it was reported that the MDGs did not achieve many of its targets for development in many developing countries (Adegbami and Adesanmi, 2018).

Goal 8 which targets decent work and economic growth for all otherwise known as Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG8) is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 10 targets. One of the major problems confronting the world particularly developing nations is unemployment. This has triggered restiveness among youths and led to crises in some situations. According to Venkatesan and Luongo (2019), Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own need. The SDGs came with the idea of achieving uniform development in the world within a considerable period of time and ensure that no one and no country is left behind in terms of development (Osborn et al 2015). SDG 8, which concerns primarily the creation of a sustainable economic system, puts the stress on the importance of employment as emphasized in targets 3 and 5 highlighted earlier. Agenda of SDG 8 in the context of the debates among various state and non-state actors that most recently took the shape of the International Labour Organisation's Convention 189 (ILO, 2011).

### **2.0 SDGS GOAL 8**

This goal is linked to goals 1 and 2 which aim to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2030. Goal 8 if properly pursued could trigger achievement of goal 2 considering the roles played by economic growth through gainful employment on achievement of food security. SDG 8 specifically calls on the international community to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (ILO, 2019). This captured two main economic themes that are strongly interlinked – economic growth and employment/decent work.

As stated earlier, employment opportunities play key role in economic growth of every country as more people in decent jobs and healthier workforce can lead to stronger and more inclusive economic growth, and vice versa.

With the 2030 Agenda, the world has a once-in-a-generation chance to make a real change in this respect and improve the lives of billions. Putting job creation at the heart of economic policy-making and development plans, will not only generate decent work opportunities but also more robust, inclusive and poverty-reducing growth. It is a virtuous circle that is as good for the economy as it is for people and potentially for the planet as well. Decent work is both a means and an end of the 2030 Agenda. In considering the SDGs, the United Nations chose to dramatically widen the scope of their action (Clark, 2017), not only introducing a longer list of goals but also erasing the distinction between ‘developing’ and ‘developed’ countries that characterized MDGs (mainly, but not exclusively, in MDG 8, to develop a global partnership for development).

## **2.1 Targets of Goal 8 of SDGs**

1. Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.
2. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors.
3. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.
4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.
5. By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
6. By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.
7. Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all

its forms.

8. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.
9. By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
10. Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

## **2.2 Implementing Mechanisms of Goal 8**

The Goal 8 target of the SDGs is to be achieved through two main mechanisms:

1. Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
2. By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization.

## **3.0 DISCUSSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

There is need to engage in more concerted efforts at achieving SDG 8 because of its antecedent impacts on the world. The achievement of this goal is now more threatened than ever with the outbreak of COVID 19 which has affected economies of countries in the world. Both micro and macroeconomics of the world have been impacted by this novel virus. Developing countries have been more impacted by this challenge due to their dependent on developed countries for sustainability occasioned by low technology development in these countries. ILO (2013) has described rising unemployment as not only frightening but threat to global development through achievement of goal 8. Fatukasi (2011) regarded unemployment as one of the greatest economic problems facing policy makers in developing countries and Africa in particular because it is so endangering. Africa is understandably grappling with various developmental challenges including unemployment and inequality triggered by lack or limited access to economic opportunities. So many factors have contributed to competition for economic opportunities by people around the world. These factors include population pressure which has made accessibility to economic factors of production become extremely difficult if not impossible.

Currently, the world faces a new wave of challenges that jeopardize achieving decent job for all target in the world by 2030 not only to the current generation but also to future generations which is the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated

the worse problems of economic disruption and job losses which triggered rising unemployment in the world. The unprecedented consequences of this pandemic in health, economic and social well-being threatened the livelihood of many people in the world, making the progress toward the achievement of SDG8 more challenging.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The quest for achievement of SDG 8 (sustainable economic growth decent work for all) is on course and should be supported by relevant stakeholders to ensure the targets are met. This could be achieved by mitigating the threats posed by the pandemic to vulnerable population and teaming youths. All countries particularly the developing ones need to take immediate actions to strengthen efforts aimed at providing employment opportunities to the populace. The academic community should ensure they come up with research and programmes that itemize way forward to economic challenges bedeviling the world currently particularly in developing countries that are vulnerable to these shocks due to their low technology advancement as compared with developed countries.

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## TARGET 8: DECENT WORK

*Dr. Ravi Kant Sharma*

**School of Business, Galgotias University**

Decent work means opportunities for everyone to get work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration. It is also important that all women and men are given equal opportunities in the workplace. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments and under-consumption lead to an erosion of the basic social contract underlying democratic societies.

Leaving no one behind and bold political leadership Reinvigorate the multilateral system, policy coherence and partnerships Implement national action plans for achieving SDG 8 Improve education and training systems to align with tomorrow's needs Explore new economic growth models for sustainable development and decent work.

Expand productive capacities for sustainable development, embrace new business models and new technologies and develop countries' innovative and learning potential Promote spatially concentrated industrialization efforts Adopt a human-centred approach to embracing new technologies Increase productivity in all sectors, with a focus on agriculture and informal sectors Create incentives for entrepreneurship and support MSMEs Reassert adequate policy space Develop overall strategic policy frameworks for growth and job creation (including identification of opportunities for labour-intensive manufacturing). Protect workers' basic rights, including ILO's fundamental principles and rights at work, working time, minimum wages, and safety and health Improve policies for health and safety at work and strengthen workplace cooperation Enforce labour standards through smart regulations and multi-stakeholder coalitions for a safe and secure workplace for all Ratify and implement ILO conventions and recommendations Promote youth employment and participation of young people in decision-making Integrate persons with disabilities and women into the labour market Promote lifelong learning, skills matching labour market needs, and the transition from school to work and between jobs.

And Lastly, Governments can work to build dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment and women's economic empowerment, in particular,

and decent work for all. Local authorities and communities can renew and plan their cities and human settlements so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment. Adopting an Integrated and Holistic Approach towards sustainable development.

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**TRADEPRENEUR GLOBAL  
ACADEMIC PLATFORM**



Prof. Dr. Rashmi Gujrati is a Professor & Dean International Affairs in India. She is Researcher, Teacher Educator, Administrator . She has managerial skills in direction of achieving goal of success to stature the academic community and demonstrates ample credibility for educational leadership, strategic thinking, team building, and resources development for research and consultancy activities with emphasis on entrepreneurship skills contributing towards the development of the society. She has a 30 years' experience in teaching. Her teaching area International Trade, Finance, Export & Import management , Business environment , Indian economy, Entrepreneurship, Organization Behaviours. Consumer behaviour, Service marketing, Marketing Management. She has significantly contributed to enhancing Management understanding by participating in over 100 above management conferences, Symposia and Seminars, Workshop, FDP,s EDP by chairing technical sessions and deliver in plenary and invited talks National and International . She has about 150 papers publish in International Journal and 40 papers in National Journal and various chapters in Book. She is a Life member of Indian Commerce Association Indian Accounting Association, Indian College Principals Association. She is Regulatory board Member, Scientific & Review Committee, Advisory Board, Editorial research project/trainer/consultant/researcher, AASE Member Chung Yaun Christiana University Taiwan, Regulatory board, Reviewer & Scientific Board Committee member of InTraders Academic Platform, Sakarya University Turkey, Laescuela Education Scientific & Research Synergy Foundation (RSF) Indonesia , (IJEFMS) Science Publish Group, USA,FSSER Malaysia, GI-SSF Malaysia, Reviewer IBIMA Association Spain, Common Groun Research Networks University of Illinois USA.Executive Director and editor of Tradepreneur Academic Platform Southampton UK.



Dr.Hayri Uygun is a present working in Recep Tayyip Erdogan University Rize Turkey. He has 27 years of teaching and industry experience at various level. He has attended many National and International conferences and seminars. He has published a couple of papers in National and International Journals and various Books He has attended various workshop and FDP's. He is a Managing Director & Editorial Board member of Tradepreneur Global Academic Platform Southampton UK. Also Editorial Board member of JSBT Journal Group. Tecnia Journal of Management Sciences Advisory Board member ISERD, & Digital Publication of His Research interest is in Marketing, Tourism Marketing, Communication, Consumer Behavior, International Market Research and his Teaching Areas are Marketing, Tourism Marketing, Public Relation, Communication. His Has Published his Books are in Digital Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Development Goals-17, Covid-19 Impact of Foreign Direct Investment, Proceedings Emerging New World, Woman Empowerment ,Etc



## SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Presented by Mohit Kr. Pandey & Soumyadeep Arinda