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Research Report

Topic 3: The Question of Laying Foundations for Sustainable Industrialisation in LEDC's



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Introduction

Sustainable development is a topic that has recently received a lot of attention. Sustainable development is the need to meet human development goals without harming future generations ability to achieve their goals. Right now, the UN has 17 sustainable development goals which can be summarised as seen below:

1. End poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Wellbeing
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnership for the Goals

This issue focuses on how to create a basis to implement these goals (to be seen in full on the UN website) in LEDC's, especially focusing on industrialisation. When talking about industrialization we often think about factories and large businesses. However, industrialisation can also be regarded as high tech innovation, small scale businesses and infrastructure. ¹

Key Terms

Sustainable development: The principle that human needs need to be met without harming the possibilities of future generations.

LEDC: Lesser Economically Developed Country

MEDC: More Economically Developed County

¹ [UN][2015][09.01.2018][sustainabledevelopment.un.org]

Main Body

Lesser Economically Developed Countries or LEDC's often face challenges when trying to implement the sustainable development goals. In this research report we will focus on sustainable development goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

Many LEDC's have the fastest growing economies worldwide, many due to industrialisation in these countries. For example, Ethiopia (fastest growing economy worldwide), India and Tanzania. Often, however, these countries focus too much on the economic gain and too little on the environmental damage.²

Consequences

The way it is right now, almost all nations use more fossil fuels than the earth can regenerate or take in. This can be seen in the rapid rise of the global temperature and the environmental changes of late. While in many MEDC's the population and urbanization is already on the decline, this is not the case in Lesser Economically Developed Countries (LEDC's). Many people are attracted to the cities, looking for a steady source of income. With this process, the amount of industries also increases. Due to the loose or non-existent laws on disposing waste these industries have a massive impact on the environment.

It is not just local people that take advantage of these laws. Foreign investors looking for cheap labourers and easy waste-laws also find LED's more economically attractive than MEDC's.

The solution: clean energy, less pollution, laws

Of course, there are many ways to overcome the previously mentioned issues. One of the most basic is investing in clean energy resources: wind, solar or water power. These ways of obtaining energy however are both more expensive and non-traditional. Therefore, they are not very popular.

The same goes for reducing pollution. It is not enough to tell these governments that they need to make their industries greener, the UN also has to help them achieve it. There are many technologies out there that aim to reduce pollution, but not all are accessible in these areas, therefore, we need to make sure that local communities get all the information regarding the consequences to their families and the environment.³



² [Gray, Alex][09.06.2017][22.12.2017][<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/these-are-the-world-s-fastest-growing-economies-in-2017-2/>]

³ [Scribd][2003][22.12.2017][pt.scribd.com/document/355836757/Global-Issues-in-the-ESL-Class.]

It is also necessary that local governments make clear laws on the use of green energy and pollution. One for example, is that dumping chemical waste should be made illegal.

Here however, we reach a problem, because the governmental institutions are often not very powerful. Development goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions overlaps development goal 9 in this area. Therefore, it is most important to encourage good governance.

Digital Divide

In order to have successful sustainable industrialisation the Digital Divide also needs to be closed. Even though 95% of the world's population had access to mobile cellular services not everybody has the same access to information. In order to raise many LEDC's industry to a new level this needs to be solved. Of course, more internet access leads to people being more knowledgeable on matters such as pollution and clean energy. ⁴

Relevant Countries

Ethiopia: With an expected growth of 8.3% in it's GDP, Ethiopia has the fastest growing economy in the world while also being one of the least developed.⁵ In Ethiopia the extreme growth of population has led to more national wealth. Recently Ethiopia opened Hawassa Industrial park, the largest of its kind in Africa. Here brands such as Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger have also settled. The downside of this economic growth can be seen in the environment. The woodlands that in the beginning covered 40-50% of Ethiopia's surface area have been cleared to a mere 4%. In addition, desertification, soil erosion and soil depletion are also starting to form a larger and larger problem in Ethiopia. The cause of these issues? Development projects, human resettlement, export-driven agriculture, illegal logging for construction materials and lack of land use planning. ⁶⁷

China: In the recent years China has identified Africa as a source of strategic and economic influence. Due to the China's extreme growth rate, Beijing is looking for new natural resources, especially oil. Because most of the Middle East's oil is allotted to the US and European Nations, the Chinese hope to receive a steady flow of oil from Africa. In exchange for crude oil, natural gas and petroleum China has promised further investment, economic assistance and help with improving infrastructure and help with infectious diseases (HIV, Malaria). Over the years, however, China has supported many questionable African leaders and regimes (Zimbabwe, Sudan), also

⁴ [Scribd][2003][22.12.2017][pt.scribd.com/document/355836757/Global-Issues-in-the-ESL-Class.]

⁵ [UN][2017][22.12.2017][<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html>]

⁶ [UN][2017][11.01.2017][<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/ethiopia>]

⁷ [IDP][unknown][22.12.2017][<http://www.idpuk.org/OurProjects/Environment/EnvironmentProject.htm>]

providing arms and military equipment. In addition, many times the sustainable development goals have also been overlooked.⁸⁹

Tanzania: With a new president in place, industrialisation has become a top priority of the Tanzanian government and aims to become a semi-industrialised country by 2025. It will achieve this by transforming from a natural resource exploitation industry to a manufacturing industry. While this is a positive change, the president wants to increase energy investment to support this change. In 1996 the Sustainable Industrial Development Program for Tanzania was installed. This 25 year plan is still in place. Despite this, however, there are still many issues with pollution, unemployment, deforestation and chemical waste that remain unsolved.¹⁰

Relevant UN Resolutions

Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)

In 2000 the General Assembly adopted these 8 goals to be achieved at the end of 2015. The Sustainable Development goals are based on these 8 original goals and are part of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Simplified version to be found at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

IDDAIII

Resolution adopted by the general assembly on the 25th of July 2016 declaring the third development decade for Africa.

The resolution encourages “urgent action to advance sustainable industrialization as a key element of furthering economic diversification and value addition, creating jobs and thus reducing poverty and contributing to the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#),”¹¹

Can be found at: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/08/un-assembly-adopts-resolution-proclaiming-third-industrial-development-decade-for-africa/>

⁸ [Brookes, P.][22.02.2006.][22.12.2017][<http://www.heritage.org/asia/report/chinas-influence-africa-implications-the-united-states>]

⁹ [BBC][24.08.2017][09.01.2018][<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41035141>]

¹⁰ [UN][2018][11.01.2017][<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/tanzania>]

¹¹ [UN][25.07.2017][11.01.2017][<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/08/un-assembly-adopts-resolution-proclaiming-third-industrial-development-decade-for-africa/>]

The Paris Climate Agreement

The Paris climate agreement builds upon the Convention and focuses on combatting global warming. Currently 193 of the 197 nations have ratified, the first time in history such international agreements regarding the environment have been made.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Over the years there have been many attempts to solve the issue of sustainable industrialisation, the most well known being the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to these international agreements, many countries also have a national sustainable development plan. As the UN have seen, most of these plans succeed in improving the unemployment and poverty rates but lack in environmental improvement. Usually because these areas are so controversial. On the sustainable development knowledge platform the delegates can look up exactly what treaties your country has ratified (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates>).

Possible Solutions

As mentioned before, a lot of agreements and treaties are already in place. What has yet to happen is attaching severe consequences to the violation of these treaties. More attention should also be brought to the consequences of dumping chemical waste, deforestation and soil depletion.

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