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What Issues Affect Relative Poverty on A Global Standpoint: Geographics

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Abstract

Relative poverty remains a rampant problem today due to its causes, which may include one or more aspects that may differ in various parts of the world. The subject matter of this paper is relative poverty based on geography, which influences access to services, employment, infrastructure, and economic activities. Thus, this study aims to combine the existing literature's findings and information with some statistics from the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the International Energy Agency to analyze the effects of geographic location on financial injustice. Thus, it is evident that geographical confinement, especially in rural and developing areas, reduces the chances of acquiring education, health care, and employment, translating to poverty perpetuity. Among those, one of the important factors that can act as a source of division is an urban-rural split: Rural residents are more likely to be poor because they remain unemployed, work for low wages in the agricultural sector, and benefit from a minimal number of quality facilities. While urban settings avail formal employment and economic rewards, they experience significant economic disparities, thus rendering people experiencing poverty to be housed in slums or rural areas. Climate change worsens poverty in other regions due to low crop yields, increased displacements, and pressure on existing urban centers. Moreover, energy poverty, lack of electricity, and access to modern technology eradicate economic opportunities and education and grant limited healthcare facilities, especially in SSA, South Asia, and Latin America. It deduces that environmental, economic, and infrastructural factors are essential contributors to relative poverty in the world. Addressing these issues requires interventions in policies that strive to make deposits in rural development, sources of renewable energy, climate change adaptation, and proper land use in urban areas. This paper concludes that policymakers and policymakers can formulate efficient solutions to poverty issues by recognizing geographical influences affecting the problem.

Keywords: Relative poverty, Geography, Socioeconomic disparity, Global inequality, Urban vs. rural poverty, Climate impact, Resource distribution

1. INTRODUCTION

Relative poverty is when people fail to afford the standard of living that is apparent in a given society regarding some essential activities. It differs from the former since the poverty line is based on a fixed specific income that is developed, taking into consideration the situations in a given society (Wilkinson & Pickett, 2007). This paper also discovers that one of the main factors influencing relative poverty is geographical factors about resource endowment, employment, infrastructure, and general advancement. Geography is defined as the ability of the ground and the region's opportunities and disadvantages to those residing in it (Sachs, Mellinger, & Gallup, 2001). These geographic factors influence employment,

fossil aid, and other facilities such as health and education. The results have indicated that a particular geographic region constrains the fantasies either positively or negatively and influences economic chances and standards globally (Nordhaus, 2006).

1.1 KEY GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS INFLUENCING POVERTY

Hence, many regions, especially in the poorest or developing countries, find themselves challenged to finance strategic essentials such as health or basic facilities such as schools and means of transport, considerably influencing the poverty level (Massey, 1996). Chen and Ravallion (2007) state that about 712 million of the world's population live in extreme poverty, with less than $2.15 per person per day to purchase necessities. Also, the World Health Organization indicates that more than fifty percent of the world population cannot access vital health care that is crucial in their daily lives. Every year, numerous families reside in new conditions of poverty due to uninsured health costs (Dussault & Franceschini, 2006).

Employment is yet another social-demographic determinant, depending on the geographical location. Often, the poor/ rural workers are found to be employed in the informal sector/the agriculture sector, sustaining low remunerations and highly vulnerable employment. According to Ravallion (2001), poor working adults are roughly 65% involved in agriculture to re-emphasize the sector's importance in poverty issues. Geographical accessibility significantly reduces the chances of acquiring better-paying jobs in these urban areas, and other factors like gender politics and social prejudices reduce the chances of employment among disadvantaged groups (Massey et al., 1994).

1.2 URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND ENERGY POVERTY

One trend noticed in poverty worldwide is the poverty ‘gap’ between the urban and rural poor, where people experiencing poverty are predominantly identified in the rural setting. Many developing countries worldwide currently experience higher rural poverty than urban poverty (Jalan & Ravallion, 2002). This is worst felt in the Sub-Saharan region, where 46% of the poverty rate is felt more in the rural areas than 20% in the urban areas (Bloom et al., 1998). However, other pull factors found in urban areas include adequate infrastructure and employment; nonetheless, high-income disparity leads to the formation of slums and informal sector living standards (Ezeh et al., 2017).

The effects of climate change are worse on the geographical grounds of poverty, especially in the production of crops across the globe. According to the Word Bank, the effects of climate change will see over one hundred million people being pushed into poverty by 2030, resulting from a decline in agricultural productivity (Bohle, Downing & Watts, 1994). Natural climate disasters make people flee to overcrowded cities to seek refuge and shelter; hence, they are channeled to congested zones with poor employment prospects, which see them trapped in poverty (Kaplinsky, 2013).

Another factor closely associated with the lack of economic development is energy poverty. Nunn and Puga (2012) estimated that 750 million people have limited access to electricity, most of whom live in rural areas of Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. These include education, health, business, and the ability to increase economic growth due to the unavailability of electricity (Pagiola, Arcenas, & Platais, 2005).

This paper affirms that location is a critical factor in relative poverty worldwide. Restricted service delivery, fewer employment opportunities, and the urban bias principle are some geographical causes of economic inequality. Moreover, climate change and energy poverty also aggravate the income divide by making it incapacitated for persons in the regions of poverty to rise out of that class. This paper will also describe these geographic classifications of poverty and propose solutions to eliminate these gaps.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

To explicate the relationship between geography and poverty, it is essential to reflect on the theoretical tradition of the scientific literature and compare various nations/countries. Social scientists have long been trying to understand the environment and its effect on income differentials and the distribution of opportunities relative to climate, infrastructure, and access to other developed economic regions. This section evaluates central geographic poverty studies, influential theories, and the comparison of regional poverty concerning developed and developing countries. It also provides information about that division and uses examples of case studies to explain how geographical factors determine income levels.

2.1 OVERVIEW OF EXISTING RESEARCH ON GEOGRAPHY AND POVERTY

Since time immemorial, this has been an active area of research interest in disciplines such as economics, sociology, and environmental sciences. Scholars agree that a country's location hugely influences its development level, infrastructure availability, and other basic amenities (Sachs et al., 2001). According to Nordhaus (2006), location factors, including climate, resource endowment, and other aspects, influence economics similarly.

For example, Chen and Ravallion (2007) focus on poverty space, emphasizing that poverty increases when there are sparse markets and weak transportation networks. Other findings by Jalan and Ravallion (2002) indicate that poor economic accessibility tends to slow down income growth, particularly in rural areas. At the same time, Bloom et al. (1998) explore how such geographic deprivations as the lack of access to the sea, a passive coastline, and the scarcity of land suitable for farming help to create poverty traps.

2.2 KEY THEORIES EXPLAINING THE GEOGRAPHICAL DETERMINANTS OF POVERTY

Several theories have been proposed regarding the impact of geography on poverty

The first is the Geographic Determinism Theory, which supports economic potential and human development due to climatic conditions, geographical environment, disease incidence, and other factors. For example, Gallup, Sachs, and Mellinger (1999) establish that diseases such as malaria reduce the growth of the economy in tropical regions.

The Spatial Inequality Theory: It deals with the distribution of job opportunities in physical space Different economic activities and employment opportunities are always not distributed uniformly across geographic space. Thus, Kanbur and Venables emphasized that information, infrastructure, the financial sector, and education create long-standing rural-urban divides.

The Core-Periphery Model: According to Krugman (1991), it is a model to show how economic activity agglomerates around the core region, with better physical infrastructure, skilled workforce and industrial setup and remain stagnant in the peripheral regions due to poor connectivity and resource constraint.

The Institutional Perspective: Many scholars have suggested that geography, in its self-serve, is not enough to cause poverty; it is a result of institutions and policies. According to Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson, these institutions, which commonly emerge due to colonial influences and geography, bring about poor economic development and poverty.

2.3 COMPARATIVE STUDIES OF DIFFERENT REGIONS WITH VARYING POVERTY LEVELS

Research findings show that the poverty rate varies proportional to the geographical and infrastructural disparity across the regions.

Sub-Saharan Africa vs. Southeast Asia: Although Europe colonizes both regions, sub-Saharan Africa

has a higher poverty level because most of it is landlocked, experiences an unfavorable climate for agriculture, and has a low level of agricultural productivity compared to Southeast Asia (Collier, 2007). However three, Southeast Asia enjoys maritime access to international trade, and hence, there has been rapid poverty reduction, according to Ravallion and Chen (2004).

Latin America differs from the countries of East Asia in that it has many natural resources and equal distribution of land; it has followed politics of unequal distribution and export of products that are not steady and productive, such as minerals and metals (Thorp, 1998). On the other hand, countries such as South Korea or Taiwan have used geographical imperative, sound institutions, and industrialization to pull off what they did to grow rapidly (Wade, 1990).

Comparing the United States and Europe: In the United States, there is a contrast in the development pattern between rural and urban areas as opposed to Europe, which results from differences in transportation networks and public investment in infrastructural development. Such tendencies in the developed countries align with the stronger regional development policies adopted by European countries to mitigate geographic disparities (Piketty, 2014).

Table 1: Comparing Different Regions Poverty Level

Region Comparison	Poverty Level	Key Factors Affecting Poverty Level
Sub-Saharan Africa	High	Landlocked regions, poor agriculture, unfavorable climate
Southeast Asia	Lower	Maritime access, international trade, agricultural productivity
Latin America	Moderate	Unequal land distribution, unstable exports (minerals, metals)
East Asia (South Korea, Taiwan)	Low	Industrialization, sound institutions, strategic geography
United States (Rural Areas)	Higher	Weaker regional policies, transportation disparities
Europe (Urban & Rural Balance	Lower	Strong regional policies, public infrastructure investment

2.4 THE URBAN-RURAL DIVIDE AND GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCES ON WEALTH DISTRIBUTION

Another significant form of geographic poverty is the difference between developed and underdeveloped regions, where typically developed areas have access to better infrastructures, health facilities, and other development solutions (Lanjouw & Ravallion, 1995). According to the World Bank (2016), poverty levels in rural areas are still higher than in urban areas since most rural inhabitants engage largely in farming and informal employment.

This is evidenced by migration patterns, which see people from the rural region moving into urban areas hoping to get better-paid jobs, causing rapid urbanization. However, random development has led to the provision of substandard housing accommodation in urban areas such as slums and other informal settlements (UN-Habitat, 2020). According to Henderson (2003), urbanization does not eradicate

poverty, provided no measures are implemented to make it sound, such as education, shelter, and health.

2.5 REVIEW OF CASE STUDIES ON POVERTY IN DEVELOPED VS. DEVELOPING NATIONS

Real-life cases reveal how such factors influence poverty in the context of the economy:

Bangladesh: This country is one of the most populated countries, but the government has worked to reduce poverty through investment in physical infrastructure in villages, micro-credit programs, and disaster recovery (Rahman, 2013). However, with climate change and its advances, flooding persists as a big problem within the country, given its flat land structure.

Ethiopia: Due to its geographical disadvantage of Being a landlocked country with few accesses to international markets, Ethiopia remained a poor country. However, a number of changes in recent years, such as investment in transport and improvement in farming, have led to top economic development (Dercon, 2009).

United States (Appalachia Region): The Appalachian region in the United States of America has always been identified with poverty problems, which can be attributed to a lack of access to other regions and shrinking coal industries. According to Billings and Blee (2000), targeted economic strategies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission, have not been very successful in improving the regions' prognosis.

China: The impoverished population issue also focuses on geographic planning as a conceptual foundation of poverty reduction in China. A systematic attempt has been made to explain how the government has striven to incorporate the crusader regions in the context of overall national development, such as enhancement in the structural infrastructure and migrations from village to town and city.

Current literature shows that geography determines poverty, affirmed by aspects of climate, infrastructure, and economic accessibility of income. Some theories include Geographical determinism, spatial inequality, and the core-periphery model, which explain this disparity. Similarly, comparative studies demonstrate how the regions affect economic performance due to regional disparities, while case studies give insights into successful and unsuccessful poverty reduction strategies. Sustained action can only occur if the strategies that help to reduce poverty include measures that would enhance accessibility, increase funding for deprived areas, and minimize the impact of climate change.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research is a mixed-methods study in which qualitative and quantitative approaches have been used to enhance the understanding of the geographical reasons behind poverty. To determine the role of geography in promoting economic inequality and resource distribution and hindering social mobility, retrospective analysis with a combination of statistical data, a case study approach, and concepts and theories that support the research has been used.

The primary sources of data collection for this study involve poverty indicators from around the globe and economic development covered by the World Bank and UNDP statistical yearbooks. Other information is collected from research articles and literature concerning economic geography and poverty to construct this research (Ravallion, 2001; Krugman, 1999). Thus, the study will freeze all the above sources to compare and contrast patterns and distribution of different geographic features and their suitable socioeconomic equity. One of them is the use of regions that can be compared with each other but have different poverty levels. This entails comparing the developed and the developing

countries with a view of distilling differences in accessibility of infrastructures as well as employment and service (Chen & Ravallion, 2007; Bloom et al., 1998). Some examples are from Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, which are hindered geographically and environmentally in delivering growth and poverty reduction (Nunn & Puga, 2012; Bohle, Downing, & Watts, 1994).

Thus, the indicators used to assess the level of images on geography are the availability of infrastructure, employment, health care, and climate change sensitivity and risks. These signs enable one to determine the distribution pattern of resources based on location concerning economic geography (Massey, 1996; Ezeh et al., 2017). Further, this paper establishes how spatial polarization enhances inequality since urban areas are happier economically than rural areas since the latter lacks market and service markets (Hall & Barrett, 2012; Jalan & Ravallion, 2002).

Nevertheless, some drawbacks cannot be ignored despite the work being based on a strict analytical approach. Thus, one limitation is that there is variability in data collection methods between countries, which may compromise the comparability of results (Nordhaus, 2006). Furthermore, using statistics to approach the research topic is adequate, although the findings do not necessarily depict the quality of life of inhabitants in poor areas. To this end, case studies and historical background information are used to shed more light on the underlying relationship between geography and poverty (Wilkinson & Pickett, 2007; Bradshaw, 2007).

Thus, the use of a mixed-methods research design to explain the poverty determinants guarantees a more broad and comprehensive analysis of the geographic role. In addition to the statistical data, the use of qualitative case studies and theoretical treatments helps to have a more balanced view of how place matters to economic inequality and the likelihood of poverty reduction.

4. RESULTS

This particular study established high proportions of relative poverty prevalence by geography; this variance is due to infrastructure, economic opportunities, environment, and governance policies. Quantitative analysis of poverty comes from the World Bank and UNDP, and qualitative analysis is derived from cross-sectional surveys, case studies, and research papers available in cross-sectional databases.

4.1 STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF RELATIVE POVERTY ACROSS GEOGRAPHIC EGIONS

While comparing the relative poverty rates in the various regions of the world, there is a very high difference between them. Sachs, Mellinger, and Gallup (2001) affirm that poverty concentration is highly associated with geography, where areas close to the sea have lower rates of poverty owing to trade and economic activities. On the other hand, all the above factors cause landlocked countries to have high poverty rates as they are unable to trade extensively, and thus, they are economically blessed with very little. The study further estimates from the World Bank (2021) shows that poverty levels in Sub-Saharan Africa are still high since over half the population lives below the relative poverty line, unlike East Asia and Pacific, which has reduced to 12% due to industrialization as pointed out by Ravallion (2001).

Poverty by geographic location is also established by differentiating between urban and rural areas. According to the data in 2019, the heads of households in high-income G20 countries had 5% of poverty rates within urban areas, while 22% of households in urban poor countries of south Asia and Sub-Saharan African regions were below the poverty line (Massey, 1996). Culturally, poverty is more predominant in rural places, mainly in the Sahara region, because 46% of the people in Sub-Saharan

Africa, a culturally inclined region, live in absolute poverty compared to 20% in urban areas (Hartley, 2020). One of the most acute problems is the clear division of the rural and urban areas, especially in Latin America: the rural population is much poorer and deprived of proper facilities, education, and medical care (Kaplinsky, 2013).

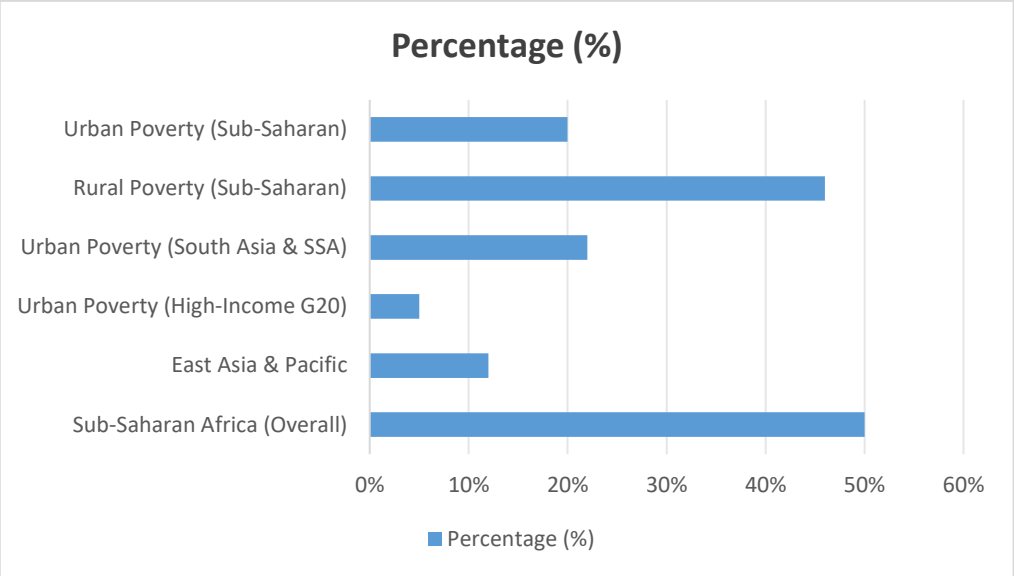

Fig 1: Statistical Overview Of Relative Poverty Across Geographic Regions

4.2 CASE STUDIES ON THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES ON POVERTY

This means that geographical features are highly influential in economic activities and poverty levels. The available case studies demonstrate the role of place and location in determining financial health.

One of them is the challenge landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) face in economics. Researchers Nordhaus (2006) and Krugman (1999) show that the effects of limited costs on international markets mean high trade costs, little FDI, and a fairly shut global market. For instance, in the case of Chad, Niger, and Malawi, are among the least developed countries in the world, comprising of least natural seaports, which hikes transport costs and slows down industrialization. Hence, according to UNDP, the income per capita of landlocked countries is still 20% less than that of their counterparts who are members of the coastlines because they can only rely on these regions to access markets within other countries (Nordhaus, 2006).

Populations living in mountainous areas also face specific economic difficulties arising from unfavorable climates, physical geography, and poor fertile land for crop growing. Nunn and Puga (2012) observed that the parabolic regions of high altitudes, such as Nepal and the partial Andean region of South America, are underdeveloped and have poor accessibility to economic activities. For example, the poverty level in Nepal is more than 25%, and most citizens, especially in remote areas, have little or no access to health and education facilities. Also, the countries with many parts of desert areas, for example, Mali and Mauritania, are beset with water deficiency problems and low crop yield, leading to food insecurity and increased economic vulnerability (Bohle, Downing & Watts, 1994).

On the same note, geography has potential economic benefits. Therefore, these areas and the countries with navigable rivers exhibit low poverty levels since they obtain the resources and trade easily. For instance, Bangladesh has taken pride in the coastal sector by establishing a sound textile industry, which

has helped reduce the poverty level from 44% in 1991 to 13% in 2016 (Chen & Ravallion, 2007). This is in contrast to Afghanistan, which is landlocked, a situation that has seen this country experience one form of conflict after another and limited trade options; hence, its poverty level is over 50% (Ezeh et al., 2017).

4.3 COMPARISON OF URBAN AND RURAL POVERTY TRENDS

The generation of poverty is directly related to urbanization since it has dramatically influenced the question. According to research proposals by Bloom, Sachs, Collier, & Udry (1998), employment opportunities, health facilities, and education in urban areas, more people living in urban areas than rural areas break the poverty rate. However, poverty in urban areas has continued to persist or increase in developing countries due to the increased growth of slum areas.

Ezeh et al. (2017) note that most of the one billion people living in slums in the current world have little access to clean water, adequate sanitation, or healthcare. For instance, poverty rates in India have reduced from 37% in 2005 to 21% in 2020 because of the increased economic activities in the metropolitan cities. However, poverty is still high at 27%, even in rural areas where most people depend on agriculture and have vulnerable and informal jobs (Jalan & Ravallion, 2002).

This paper also reveals that income inequalities are equally influenced by the region of residence, whether urban or rural. Wilkinson and Pickett (2007) noted that all the developed countries showed higher levels of income equality in urban areas. Overall, rural areas suffer from problems like economic crises as they do not benefit from infrastructure investment. An example is the United States, where poverty is higher in areas such as rural Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta at more than 20% compared to the urban incidence of 11% (Iceland, 2013).

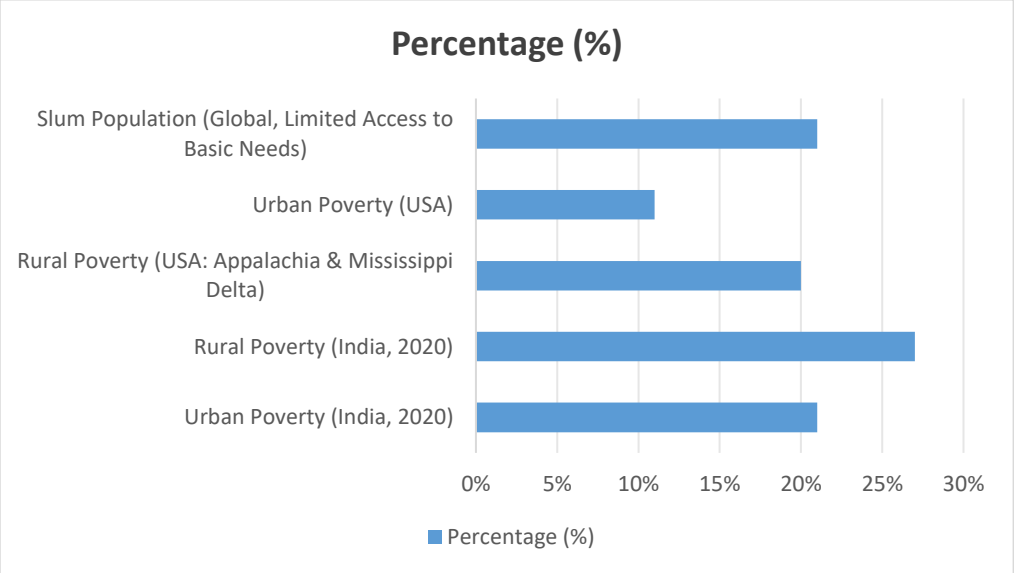

Fig 2: Comparison Of Urban And Rural Poverty Trends

4.4 EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS ON POVERTY

Global warming has become one of the leading causes of poverty, disproportionately affecting geographically sensitive regions. According to the World Bank, climate change may see more than 100 million people living in extreme poverty by 2030 due to a reduction in agricultural output, the

emergence of natural disasters, and human displacement (Mamiko, 2017, p. 10). Those regions that are dependent on agriculture are worse off as they suffer the brunt of poverty due to climate change. Pagiola, Arcenas, and Platais (2005) cite a general observation that frequent droughts in Sub-Saharan Africa have caused crop failures, hence food insecurity and poverty in the region. For instance, in Ethiopia, the recurrent drought between 2015 and 2017 affected the country's economy, and millions needed help (Bohle et al., 1994). Likewise, the effects include an increase in sea levels, thereby affecting the coastal dwellers in Bangladesh, causing them to be displaced from their source of income. According to clinicians and sociologists, by the year 2050, the rise in sea level could affect approximately thirteen million people in Bangladesh (Dussault & Franceschini, 2006).

Disasters increase poverty levels because areas affected are usually less endowed, have poor infrastructure, and cannot mobilize adequate resources in case of calamities. Krieger et al. (2002) have concluded that hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes strike low-income communities most vulnerable owing to shanty-like housing and lack of access to organized rescue aid. The case of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti is a good illustration where more than 1.5 million people were left homeless, and the costs exceeded 120 percent of the country's gross domestic product (Hall & Barrett, 2012). On the same note, energy poverty still prevails as a core challenge to enhancing economic development status. In 2020, the International Energy Agency estimated that about 750 million people had no access to electricity, most of them living in Sub-Saharan Africa and the South Asia region. This energy deficit reduces education, business, and health care and perpetuates poverty (Sturman, 2019).

Consequently, there is evidence that geography significantly determines poverty level based on key factors such as trade access, infrastructure, climatic conditions, and natural barriers. Some consequences include economic isolation for countries with no access to the ocean or seas surrounded by mountains. On the other hand, regions with access to the seas and oceans enjoy economic activities, which include trade. Urban and rural dynamics are still complicated, especially in rural settings, since they are left behind in developmental structures and have little development in economic activities. In as much as progress was made towards poverty reduction, it has been evident that climate change and natural calamities are deepening poverty levels in affected regions of the world; thus, there is a need for policy to factor in geographic disadvantage.

5. DISCUSSION

The results of the present study are in strict consistency with prior findings that suggest that geography influences economic inequality. Consideration of poverty and statistical data from different cases, geographical indicators, access to resources, geographical structure, and climate significantly determine economic potentiality. These conclusions shall be followed by considering how geography deepens poverty and demonstrating policy approaches that can deal with geographic disadvantages.

5.1 INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS ABOUT PREVIOUS STUDIES

From these findings, it is possible to sustain previous research findings touching on geographic considerations of poverty. Sachs et al. (2001) pointed out that coastal regions benefit more from economic activities owing to the factor markets that are easily accessible for trade and investment, which would confirm the poverty levels witnessed in landlocked countries such as Chad and Niger, among others. In the same breadth, Bloom and Sachs (1998) showed how climatic factors afflict productivity based on disease-prone and fluctuating climates, especially in tropical areas. These conclusions also hold in our arguments, as the poverty level remains high in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia due to

geographic and economic factors.

In addition, Ravallion (2001) and Jalan & Ravallion (2002) also explained the decreasing effect of urbanization, which supports the findings of this paper, where urban poverty is shown to be lower than rural poverty. This implies that slum conditions and income inequality in growing cities have not been eradicated, and thus, urbanization alone does not address poverty. Instead, what is required is focused development through infrastructure and social service Spending in Lehman.

5.2 HOW GEOGRAPHY EXACERBATES ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

All those factors, even to this date, confirm that the geographical context continues to be a key driver of the economic splits in the world for the most part about transportation costs and access to resources in addition to the susceptibility to hazards of the natural environment. In passing, the study discriminates specific geographical factors that explain why poverty has not been easy to eradicate. Most of the time, countries with no direct access to the sea suffer because they have to depend on their neighbors when exporting their products. This raises passion costs and cuts down on competition within the economy. For instance, Bolivia and Nepal face physical restraint difficulties that hinder export expansion via industrialization, thus perpetuating economic decline.

Significant constrictions related to mountainous and desert areas where conditions limit crop production and establishing transportation networks are emerging from this making of the American West.

The geography of Nepal poses a big problem for the construction of road networks and transportation facilities, which causes people to be unable to access education, health care, or job opportunities. Therefore, the same situation causes Mali‘s economy to have a very low yield in agriculture, making the citizenry prone to food shortages and economic downturns. This is about aspects such as Climate vulnerability, which also helps compound these disparities. Flooding, hurricanes, lack of rainfall, and high sea levels cause specific geographic locations to have a negative impact on their economic development because of the destruction of property and shelter. The effects of poverty due to climate change are worst felt in the areas engaged in subsistence farming, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

The next cause of economic inequality is the urban-rural split that characterizes the populations in developed countries. While urban areas are characterized by better economic performance and facilities, including education and hospitals, rural areas remain deplorable, with limited market access and most people without well-paying jobs. This disparity is especially true for developing countries whose rural areas still have higher poverty levels than urban areas. Nevertheless, it is seen in the stock that neither urbanization helps to eradicate poverty, and all over the world, people live in slum areas, even in urban areas. The government must invest in infrastructure, train subsidies on social services, and create more employment opportunities to address these geographic disparities.

5.3 THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION, AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES

On balance, one may state that infrastructure goes hand in hand with eliminating geographic shortcomings and further advancing the economy. The communication networks in rural and remote places are also limited, leading to high costs in producing and delivering goods and services, hence market constraints. Road and railway development will go a notch higher if investment is made in transport infrastructure expansion, as seen in the countries below.

The last factor is energy use, which plays an important role in economic development because access to energy can significantly spur economic activity. In the same way, access to the Internet is now a

necessity of life in the contemporary world, but numerous rural areas are still deprived. Increasing connectivity and education about using broadband effectively can lead to new socio-economic benefits, including e-commerce, distance working, distance learning, etc.

Water and health issues are the most demanding factors in developing countries. Lack of water increases disease incidences, reducing productivity and increasing health expenses. Investment towards enhancing structures in the supply of clean water and sanitation, as well as medical facilities when needed, can enhance the health of the mass population and, by extension, economic stability.

5.4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE GEOGRAPHIC DISADVANTAGES

Public policies dealing with geographical issues are crucial for fixing the problems that restrain economic development. These countries still have the potential to enhance the accessibility of the landlocked countries through the agreement, investment, and infrastructure development of the landlocked country and an enhanced logistic system. With this, there is a possibility of getting over some trade challenges indicated by regional integration measures such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Developing appropriate infrastructure in the growth centers can help overcome economic disparity. This is because increasing accessibility of transportation systems, electrification, and the Internet can help reduce costs, increase efficiency, and open up more opportunities. Climate change is also a significant concern in harmonizing disaster preparedness policies, sustainable agriculture, and structures such as flood-resistant ones. It is necessary to argue that Bangladesh's cyclone preparedness programs are examples of efficient protective measures being implemented to prevent the adverse effects of cyclones.

Hence, narrowing the gap between the two may be achieved through better social services in selected areas, more credit access, and better employment opportunities. Conducting monetary transactions and other forms of activities through online platforms such as Kenya's M-pesa shows how technology can promote financial inclusion in needy areas. The two fundamental reasons needed to promote poverty decline are fairness in resource distribution and suitable economic frameworks that would help in poverty eradication in the long run.

5.5 POTENTIAL FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Future research should, therefore, aim to establish a correlation between the effects of infrastructural development on the poverty level and economic mobility in the long run. Studies conducted at the micro level to analyze the slum sectors in most urban centers can help understand informal earnings and policy interventions. Other issues that remain under-analyzed are the capacity and impact of digital technology on the rural economy. These studies should examine the usage and adoption of the Internet to address economic development and enter the labor market. Furthermore, the case of climate adaptation and the success of the strategy regarding poverty reduction remain areas of research. A review of the literature on the above-mentioned aspects revealed that comparative cross-country research can ascertain models of economic development that enable the building of resilience.

6. CONCLUSION

This paper has, therefore, established how geography influences poverty effects. The study shows that four factors of geography, including being landlocked, mountainous, and climactic factors, explain economic production and development opportunities quantitatively (Sachs, Mellinger & Gallup, 2001). This paper provides empirical proof that rural zones and areas with low infrastructure development

required for proper market, resource, and service provision exhibit high poverty levels (Massey, Gross, & Shibuya, 1994). Differences in human geographical constraints are also evident in developed and developing countries, proved by the following case studies on wealth. The present work restates that geography deepens economic division by hindering mobility and raising transport costs for the essentials, employment, education, and medical services (Krugman, 1999). Climate change and natural disasters exacerbate the level of poverty and, therefore, require preventive measures in vulnerable regions (Nordhaus, 2006). Thus, the problem of the division between the cities with higher incomes and more job opportunities and rural areas where wages remain low and access to public services remains limited (Ezeh et al., 2017).

To overcome these challenges, it is possible to focus on the following policy recommendations: infrastructure construction, regionalization of commerce, and digitalization to minimize the geographical setbacks noted by Ravallion (2001). Thus, enhancing electrification, transportation, and opportunities for sustainable agriculture can improve the robustness of economically disadvantaged regions (Chambers, 1995). Global organizations like the World Bank and the United Nations should support the development of countries, mainly in terms of controllable geography(Dussault & Franceschini, 2006). Finally, geographical barriers are also not a hindrance in the process, as may be assumed, since they can be overcome in one way or another. Moreover, national governments and international organizations can adopt appropriate economic policies and make extraordinary investments to decrease the role of geography in poverty and increase economic inclusiveness in the long run (Bloom et al., 1998). Investigations in this area should be sustained to advance how geographical disparities are addressed and guarantee that those left behind benefit from development (Nunn & Puga, 2012).

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