
Introduction

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1 Introduction

With disruptions of environmental, social, and governance changes, sustainable growth and development of the economy have been negatively influenced globally. This special issue aims to discuss the achievement of innovations and sustainable development by addressing the current environmental, societal and economic concerns. We support innovative research in business, economics, management, financial and industrial organisation of markets: both theoretical and empirical work will be encouraged. The empirical results and applied theoretical and analytical contributions may foster current policy debates and provide evidence and guidance to policymakers for economic sustainability and innovations. Many submissions were received in response to this call for papers on innovations and sustainable development addressing the current economy, especially focusing on the COVID-19 impact. As a result, five articles originally presented at the 51st Annual Meeting of Southeast Decision Sciences Institute (SEDSI) and two other experts' articles are included in this special issue, consisting of writing from countries worldwide, ranging from individual businesses to national economies.

2 Summary of the articles

Ruchika Sharma and Deepika Chhikara, Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies in India, examine the dimensions of sustainable consumption (SC) in the Indian context and which dimensions contribute to forming a positive attitude and subsequently resulting intention to follow SC among young professionals. Using structural equation modelling, the study finds a significant relationship between dimensions of SC and positive attitude and intentions toward SC.

Mohammad Nourmohammadi Shalkeh and Zahra Fotourehchi, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, in Iran, investigate the effect of environmental degradation as a moderating variable in the relationship between natural disasters and economic growth in countries at risk of natural disasters during the period 1990 to 2019, using panel data and the GMM estimation method. The results show that natural disasters damage economic growth without the moderating variable, still, with the presence of the environmental

degradation variable, the increase in economic growth is more significant than natural disasters.

The paper, 'Foreign debt-economic growth nexus in Ethiopia: ARDL approach', is by Mengistu Negussie Amare, Debre Tabor University, Debre Tabor, Ethiopia and Malefiya Ebabu Tekea, Haramaya University, Haramaya, Ethiopia. The authors analyse the contribution of foreign public debt to Ethiopian economic growth, using the ARDL co-integration model with the real gross domestic product (RGDP). They find that debt service payment and debt service to export earnings ratio have an adverse effect, which is not significant to Ethiopia's economic growth.

'Ethical motivations for firms to prioritise stakeholder well-being during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic', is by Kevin Pan, Reginald J. Harris and Alan I. Blankley from Samford University and David Hurtt, Baylor University, in the USA. The paper investigate whether firms' prior self-declared commitment to CSR and the status of having published ESG scores would predict their prioritisation of stakeholder well-being, evidenced by voluntary disclosures related to COVID-19 and well-being. Their findings contribute to the discussion in the literature on firms' ethical behaviours, suggesting that firms' own beliefs may play a more important role than lawsuit avoidance in a global crisis.

The paper by Xiaohui You, Metropolitan State University of Denver, USA, accesses the association between health and socio-economic impacts and job satisfaction during the COVID-19 pandemic by surveying questions related to health, socio-economic status, beliefs, and employment status toward job safety, security, and sustainability, with the ordinal logistic model, generalised linear model and multinomial logistic regressions. The results highlight the significant impact on job satisfaction for young and student groups, and the mentally depressed population.

This special issue does not cover all topics related to a sustainable economy; however, it does allow a better understanding of sustainability and policy issues in the current economy. Sustainable economics is a novel economic research field; theoretical models that identify economic sustainability and corporate growth will be needed to enhance research in this area. This special issue offers a grounded analysis of the complexities of creative and political interventions. It also includes theorisations of economic relationships, highlighting the crucial insights from the past and the sustainable futures concerning economies worldwide.