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# **THE IMPACT OF INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
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**THE IMPACT OF INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ON HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

**BY  
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**Thesis Submitted to School of Economics, Finance and Banking  
Universiti Utara Malaysia  
In Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy**

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## ABSTRACT

Despite the abundant research on institutional quality and development, little has been done to examine the impact of institutional quality on human development in Sub-Sahara African (SSA) countries. Many institutions in the SSA are problematic because of weak rules of law, high level of corruption, poor bureaucratic quality and low property rights which have resulted in low level of human development, standard of living, educational attainment and life expectancy. Institutions and economic transformations through human development have become the central focus of the development agenda in developing countries. The objective of this study evaluates the relationship between institutional quality and human development in SSA countries from 2005 to 2013. The study used secondary data which were sourced from World Bank governance indicators and Transparency International. The empirical analysis used both static and dynamic panel data. The study aggregated and disaggregated human development indicator into three components namely; standard of living, educational attainment and life expectancy. The SSA countries are divided into low income and lower middle-income countries. The empirical results of fixed effects model, random effects model and the General Method of Moments (GMM) produced similar outcomes. The results suggest that institutional quality contributes to the low level of human development of SSA countries. In addition, most of the investigated countries exhibits mixed performance in terms of the institutional quality and human development. Nevertheless, the results signify that institutional quality plays vital role in human development in the SSA countries. Consequently, the study recommends policies such as economic and political reforms to strengthen the institutional quality, to fight corruption, to enforce strong law for effective regulations and implementation in the region. Finally, human development capabilities need urgent attention to improve the standard of living of the people and to attain their yearnings and aspirations in life.

**Keywords:** human development, institutional quality, panel data methods, Sub-Saharan Africa countries

## ABSTRAK

Walaupun banyak penyelidikan telah dijalankan keatas kualiti institusi dan pembangunan, namun kurang kajian mengenai kesan kualiti institusi ke atas pembangunan insan terutamanya di negara-negara Sub-Sahara Afrika (SSA). Kebanyakan institusi di negara-negara SSA bermasalah disebabkan oleh undang-undang yang lemah, tingkat amalan rasuah yang tinggi, kualiti birokrasi yang lemah, dan sistem hak harta benda yang lemahsehingga menyebabkan tahap pembangunan insan, kualiti hidup, tahap pencapaian pendidikan danjangka hayat yang rendah. Institusi dan transformasi ekonomi melalui pembangunan insan telah menjadi tumpuan utama dalam agenda pembangunan di negara-negara membangun. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menilai hubungan antara kualiti institusi dan pembangunan insan di negara-negara SSA dari tahun 2005 hingga 2013. Kajian ini menggunakan data sekunder yang diperoleh daripada petunjuk tadbir urus Bank Dunia dan*Transparency International*. Analisis ini menggunakan data panel statik dan dinamik.Kajian ini mengagregat dan memisahkan pembangunan insan kepada tiga komponen iaitu taraf hidup, pencapaian pendidikan dan jangka hayat. Negara-negara SSA terbahagi kepada dua iaitu negara berpendapatan rendah dan negara berpendapatan sederhana rendah. Keputusan analisis empirik yang menggunakan model kesan tetap, model kesan rawak dan Kaedah Umum Momen (GMM) menunjukkan keputusan yang sama. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa institusi kualiti menyumbang kepada tahap pembangunan insan yang rendah di negara-negara SSA. Di samping itu, kebanyakan negara-negara yang dikaji mempamerkan prestasi bercampur-campur dari segi kualiti institusi dan pembangunan insan. Bagaimanapun, keputusan mengesahkan bahawa kualiti institusi memainkan peranan penting dalam pembangunan manusia di negara-negara SSA. Oleh itu, kajian ini mencadangkan dasar-dasar seperti reformasi ekonomi dan politik bagi mengukuhkan kualiti institusi, memerangi rasuah, menguatkuasakan undang-undang yang ketat bagi regulasi dan perlaksanaan yang efektif. Akhir sekali, keupayaan pembangunan manusia memerlukan perhatian segera jika inginkan kesan yang berganda terhadap kualiti hidup rakyat bagi memenuhi keinginan dan aspirasi dalam kehidupanmereka.

**Kata kunci:** pembangunan insan, kualiti institusi, kaedah data panel, negara Sub-Sahara Afrika

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ADB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
SSA	Sub Saharan Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African State
HDI	Human Development Index
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
SADC	Southern African Development Community
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
EAC	East African Community
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
RLI	Rule of Law Index
CI	Corruption Index
BQI	Bureaucratic Quality Index
PRI	Property Right Index
MDGs	Millennium Development Goal Strategy
GMM	Generalise Method of Moments
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
HCDT	Human Capital Development Theory
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ICRG	International Country Risk Guide
IFI	International Financial Institutions
PCSE	Panel Corrected Standard Error
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WDI	World Development Indicators
WGI	World Wide Governance Indicator

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Chapter One introduces the entire thesis. Here specifically, Section 1.2 provides background to the study, with emphasis on institutional quality and human development. Section 1.3 explains the problems that this study addresses, thereby pointing out the gaps in the literature. Section 1.4 addresses the research questions of the study. Section 1.5 provides the objectives of the study, stated in general and specific form. Section 1.6 explains the significance of the study. Section 1.7 discusses the scope of the study while Section 1.8 addresses the organization of the study.

### **1.2 Background of the Study**

Africa as a continent consists of five regions (north, west, east, central, and south). With the exception of North African region, the remaining four regions made up the sub-Saharan Africa. The Sub-Saharan Africa comprised of 48 countries with total population of about 910.4million people (World Bank, 2013). Sub-Saharan African countries are infested with high level of poverty, corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency due to poor and weak institutional quality for sustainable human development which is caused by state failure, weak and fragile institutions (Ajayi, 2008).



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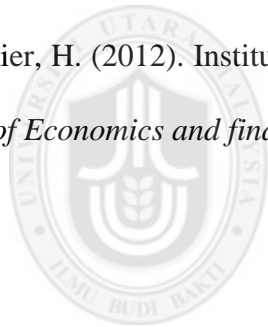
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