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Social Protection as a Strategy for Global Economic Growth: An Empirical Analysis

Ratna Septiyanti
Universitas Lampung, Lampung
ratna.septiyanti@feb.unila.ac.id

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Abstract
Purpose: This study aims to empirically test the role of social protection on economic growth internationally.
Methodology: The sample used was 71 countries worldwide. Data were gathered from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) database and analysed with Ordinary Least Square (OLS) analysis.
Results: A significant positive effect of social protection aspects on economic growth was found.
Limitations: This study is limited to 71 countries because of the data limitation. Future researches are expected to expand the sample and observation period.
Contribution: This study provides a comprehensive understanding of social protection's role in fostering an environment conducive to economic growth, while ensuring equitable resource distribution and sustainable accounting practices. The results of this study are expected to be used as a basis for formulating regulations and compiling policies for harmonization of accounting regulations at the international level.
Keywords: *Social Protection, Economic Growth, Harmonization of Social Protection Regulations, Accounting Theory, Sustainability Accounting.*
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1. Introduction

Social protection is a set of policies and programs that aim to reduce poverty, inequality, and social vulnerability faced by a large part of the world's population. Economic growth is the process of increasing the production capacity and income of a country or region in the long term. These two things are interrelated and affect the welfare of society as a whole. Social protection is an important pillar of sustainable global economic development, while human capital is a source of productivity and economic growth (Chika, Oshiogwemoh, & Promise, 2022). Social protection programs are designed to reduce economic uncertainty and improve well-being, especially for those in vulnerable situations. In the context of global economic growth, social protection acts as a safety net that helps individuals and families cope with economic risks, such as unemployment, illness, or loss of income. Effective social protection allows workers to be more willing to take risks in seeking better jobs or investing in their education and skills, which in turn can increase productivity and economic growth. In addition, social protection also contributes to reducing poverty and inequality, which are often obstacles to achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Studies have shown that there is a relationship between state spending and economic growth (Alhassan, Adedoyin, Bekun, & Agabo, 2021; Dinçer & Yuksel, 2019; Khan, Zhang, Kumar, Zavadskas, & Streimikiene, 2020; Raghupathi & Raghupathi, 2020; Wang, Asghar, Zaidi, & Wang, 2019; Yang, 2020) and countries with strong social protection systems tend to have more stable and rapid economic growth rates . China has been actively using social welfare to boost economic growth and maintain social stability (Li, 2012). Social protection policy and programmes are essential for Ethiopia's poverty reduction (Berhane Weldegebriel). This suggests that investment in social protection benefits not only individuals but also the economy as a whole. Research on social protection and economic growth is an important and relevant topic in the current era of globalization.

The differences in empirical results in various countries indicate that there is a need for international regulations that can encourage international economic growth through social protection in each country. International social protection instruments are a set of rules, standards, and mechanisms created by international organizations, states, and non-state actors to promote, protect, and fulfill basic human social rights. These instruments include conventions, declarations, recommendations, principles, guidelines, and indicators related to issues such as employment, health, education, social security, child protection, and migration. Ethiopia has a comprehensive social protection that involves four broad areas: safety nets, social security and health insurance, livelihood and employment and equality to basic services. Mexico applies Prospera, the assistance of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) programmes, providing education and healthcare to children. Brazil has been applying an assistance named Bolsa Familia. Some public work programmes have also been used to reduce poverty, such as MG-NREGS in India and Ethiopia's PSNP (Gerard, Imbert, & Orkin, 2020). The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), launched in 2005, primarily focusing on improving food security on rural and agricultural communities (Berhane Weldegebriel). The purpose of international social protection instruments is to create a normative and operational framework that can encourage global cooperation, state accountability, civil society participation, and social dialogue in addressing the social challenges faced by vulnerable individuals and groups around the world. This motivates researcher to conduct comprehensive research covering the social protection sector in various parts of the world. Therefore, research in this area is very important to understand how social protection policies can be designed and implemented to support more equitable and equitable global economic growth. Social protection is one of the important instruments to protect human rights, reduce poverty, and promote social inclusion. Social protection includes various policies and programs aimed at providing income security, access to health services, and support for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Unified Growth Theory

Human capital is the main element in economic growth (Galor & Weil, 2000). Technological progress was matched by population growth, and living standards approached subsistence across time and space. A reinforcing interaction between the rate of technological progress and the size and composition of the population gradually increased the rate of technological progress, increasing the importance of education in the ability of individuals to adapt to a changing technological environment (Komlos, 2003). This theory was developed to capture the main empirical regularities in the growth process and its contribution to significant increases in inequality across countries (Galor, 2011) Evolutionary forces have played a significant role in the evolution of the world economy from stagnation to growth (Galor & Moav, 2002). Things that complement the technological environment produce higher levels of income, and the success of higher human capital development, and gradual proliferation in this case can contribute to a sustainable growth process.

2.2 Public Interest Theory

Public interest theory starts from the premise that regulation should be designed to serve the public interest, not the interests of individuals or certain groups. It emphasizes the creation of a fair and efficient system, while ensuring that the government has sufficient resources to provide public goods and services. In the context of global economic growth, this theory is becoming increasingly relevant because it highlights the importance of transparency, accountability, and public participation in the policy-making process. Public Interest Theory has been widely used in various countries. In the context of the British economy, welfare in an economy must be regulated in regulations that prioritize public interests (Pigou, 2017). The social protection aspect of global economic growth encompasses a range of programs and regulations designed to reduce the economic vulnerability of individuals and families and to promote social and economic inclusion. These include, but are not limited to, unemployment insurance, pensions, health benefits, and subsidies for education and housing. Social protection aims to create a safety net for those most affected by economic changes, such as globalization and automation, and to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are felt by all levels of society. In integrating public interest theory with social protection, it is important to consider how the policy can support social protection programs.

Public interest theory posits that government intervention in the economy is necessary to address market failures and align outcomes with the overall welfare of society. Without regulation, markets can produce results that are detrimental to the public good. For instance, monopolies can form and exploit consumers, or businesses can neglect the environmental costs of their actions. Social protection programs, such as unemployment benefits, healthcare, and pensions, are considered essential under this theory. They provide a safety net that helps to maintain social stability and cohesion by reducing the risks associated with life's uncertainties. Moreover, these programs can contribute to economic growth by stabilizing consumption patterns during economic downturns, supporting human capital development, and fostering a more productive workforce. The relationship between social protection and economic growth is complex and multifaceted. On one hand, well-designed social protection measures can enhance economic performance by preventing poverty, promoting human capital development, and smoothing consumption. On the other hand, poorly designed or overly generous programs can lead to fiscal burdens and disincentives to work.

2.3 Doughnut Economics and Sustainability Accounting

Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics presents a compelling framework for understanding the balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. The theory's central premise is the existence of two concentric rings: an inner social foundation, which ensures that no one is left behind, and an outer ecological ceiling, which ensures that humanity's use of natural resources does not exceed the planet's capacity to regenerate them. This model challenges traditional economic growth paradigms by emphasizing that true prosperity occurs when all social foundations are met without overshooting ecological ceilings (Raworth, 2017).

Social protection programs are designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability, providing a safety net that can enhance the social foundation of the Doughnut. By doing so, they contribute to a more equitable distribution of wealth and resources, which can stimulate economic activity and growth. Sustainability accounting, on the other hand, offers a method to measure and report on an organization's social and environmental impacts. It extends beyond traditional financial accounting to include non-financial information, which is crucial for understanding performance in relation to the triple bottom line: people, planet, and profit. This form of accounting is essential for operationalizing the Doughnut Economics Theory, as it provides the data needed to assess whether an economy is operating within the safe and just space defined by Raworth's model. The Doughnut Theory serves as a transformative tool that can help societies navigate the complex interplay between social equity, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

2.4 Harmonization of Social Protection Regulations

Harmonization of social protection regulations is an important step taken by various countries to ensure that their citizens have equal access to the social safety net to provide funds, assistance and create a fair and sustainable system that can adapt to economic and demographic changes. Regulation controls business and democratic deficit as social protection in a form of public services affected by private influence (Tombs, 2021). Standards and frameworks could become a norm to achieve harmonization (Afolabi, Ram, & Rimmel, 2022). Harmonization of regulations in the field of social protection is an important step in ensuring fairness and efficiency in the system that supports social programs. Synergy can be created between fiscal policy and social objectives, thereby reducing inequality and improving public welfare through harmonization. Harmonization aims to align various existing regulations to avoid public confusion and inefficiency. One important aspect of this harmonization is the integration of data and information systems which allows an effective exchange of information that can improve the accuracy and effectiveness of the distribution of social assistance. Regulatory harmonization also requires high transparency and accountability for a better understanding of the processes and the distribution of social assistance.

The importance of regulatory harmonization is also seen in the global response to The Covid-19 pandemic, where countries are trying to align their policies to provide assistance to those most affected. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on health, economy, and society around the world. This pandemic caused many challenges through the various measures taken due to the spread of the virus (Candy et al., 2022). Further research and discussion are needed to identify the best ways to achieve regulatory harmonization that can support inclusive and sustainable social protection worldwide. International harmonization of accounting regulations is fundamental to increase the role of global economic growth, especially in terms of social protection at the international level. Differences between social protection systems can be seen in a) risk coverage and authority to pay contributions, b) the structure of contributions provided, c) financing, and d) organization (Spicker, 2014).

The European Union has made a major step in regulatory harmonisation by adopting common basic principles for social protection and social inclusion, enabling member states to develop more coherent and efficient social protection systems. Social protection systems can be financed according to the European Commission in two main ways: "through social contributions or general government contributions. Social contributions are payments made by employers on behalf of their employees or by protected persons themselves (employees, self-employed, pensioners, etc.) in order to gain entitlement to social benefits. General government contributions consist of a) the general government costs of running government-controlled non-contributory schemes; and b) the financial support provided by the general government to other social protection schemes of the population, and are divided into earmarked taxes (revenues from taxes and levies that by law can only be used to finance social protection) and general revenues (general government contributions from sources other than earmarked taxes)" (*European Commission*, n.d.). According to their financing sources, European countries can be divided into countries with a strong tax structure, countries with strong contributions (payments), or countries with mixed financing (Halaskova, 2018). On the other hand, countries such as Canada and Australia have developed more decentralized social protection systems, allowing provinces or regions to adapt their programs to local needs. However, this also poses challenges in terms of coordination and consistency of services across countries. In developing countries, regulatory harmonization is often hampered by resource and infrastructure constraints, but some countries such as Brazil have made significant progress with programs such as Bolsa Família, which have helped reduce poverty and improve access to education and health.

Previous studies about social protection and economic growth have shown mixed results. Social protection and economic growth in 21 OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries from 1980 to 2010 has been studied. The results found that social protection regulations can have an impact on economic growth (Bilal et al., 2017). The relationship between social protection costs, poverty, income inequality and economic growth in Pakistan from 1983 to 2015 has been studied. The study showed that state spending on social protection can reduce poverty and inequality in Pakistan. Increasing state spending on social protection programs increases Pakistan's economic growth (Waqas, Awan, & Sánchez-Juárez, 2022). State spending on social protection, similarities and differences in European Union countries in 2007-2016 has been studied. It was found that the majority of countries in the European Union prioritize social protection spending for the elderly, people with illnesses and people with disabilities (Halaskova, 2018). Economic growth and state social protection to reduce poverty in 27 European Union countries in 2012-2021 has been studied. It was found that state spending on social protection had an effect on economic growth in 14 countries with the highest countries being Greece and Spain (Zhuchenko, Kubaščikova, Samoilikova, Vasylieva, & D'yakonova, 2023). Therefore, the hypothesis to be tested in this study is that social protection has a positive effect on international economic growth.

3. Methodology

The population of this study is 202 countries registered in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) database. The samples used are countries that have complete data on economic growth and state spending on social protection in the database. There are 131 countries that do not have data on state spending on social protection in the database so that only 71 countries are used as samples in this study.

This study use the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) analysis tool. The Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method is a cornerstone of linear regression analysis, used for estimating the parameters in a linear model. The process involves several steps. The economic model was defined, social protection was specified as the dependent variable and economic growth as the independent variable. Data was collected and prepared to ensure that it is suitable for analysis. Parameters were estimated using OLS, which will minimize the sum of squared differences between the observed values and the model's predictions. The model's goodness-of-fit was estimated through the R-squared value, which indicates the proportion of variance in the dependent variable that's predictable from the independent variables. Estimated coefficients are analyzed to understand the relationship between social protection and economic growth.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Hypothesis Testing

The hypothesis testing is based on Model 1. The results of regressions are shown in Table 1. Model 1 shows that the value β is 0.443 with p-value 0,000. This means that social protection aspects has a positive influence on economic growth which is statistically significant.

Table 1. The Result

Model 1: $Y = \alpha + \beta X + \varepsilon$					
α (Sig.)	**β (Sig.)**	**R^2**	**Adjusted R^2**	**F (Sig.)**	**N**
1814.168 (0.000)	.443 (0.000)	0.197	0.186	16.893 (0.000)	71

Source: Data Proceed (2024)

The result provides an empirical evidence that social protection has a positive influence on economic growth. This result shows that social protection regulations can have an impact on economic growth (Bilal et al., 2017) and social protection had an effect on national economic growth (Zhuchenko et al., 2023). Social protection is an important pillar of inclusive and sustainable economic development. Strong social protection measures can have a significant impact on global economic growth in several ways. First, by providing social safety nets such as unemployment benefits, food aid, and education subsidies, countries can reduce economic uncertainty for their citizens, which in turn increases consumption and aggregate demand. Second, effective social protection programs can help reduce poverty and inequality, which are often obstacles to long-term economic growth. In addition, investments in health and education as part of social protection can increase the productivity and earning potential of individuals, which contribute to economic growth.

4.2 Social Protection Around The World

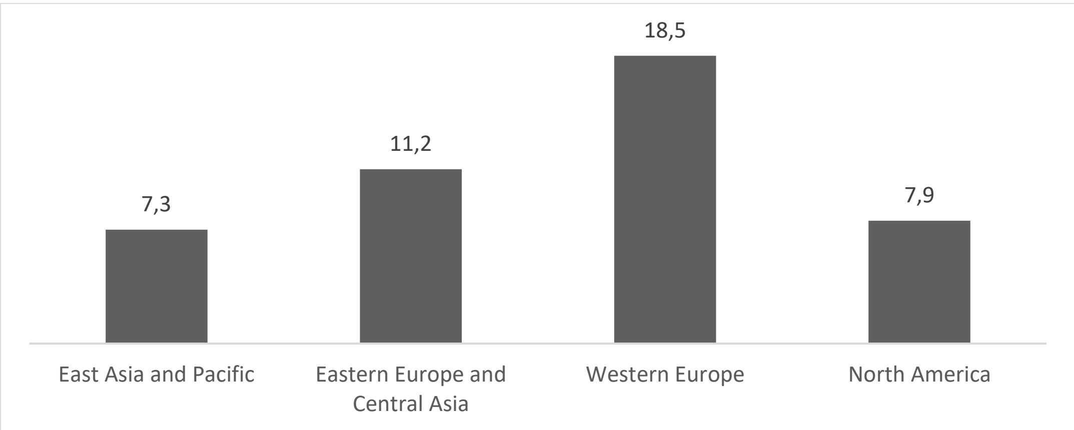

Figure 1. Social Protection Around The World
Source: Data Proceed (2024)

Figure 1 shows social protection around the world. Social protection in Western Europe is among the most comprehensive and inclusive in the world. West European social protection system are based on the core principle where society and individuals are both responsible of the industrial organization (Renevey, 2012). The social protection system in United Kingdom is characterized by universal or demogrant benefits, contributory benefits, tax credits and in-kind benefits (Lafleur & Vintila, 2020). Countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Germany have long been known for their strong social safety nets, which provide benefits such as unemployment insurance, pensions and universal health care. Besides safety nets, social protection in Western Europe focuses on investment in human capital and social cohesion. High-quality education and training, are financed by the state to ensure that all citizens have equal opportunities to develop skills and contribute to the economy. This creates a circle where better education leads to better jobs, which in turn lead to higher incomes and greater tax contributions. Western European countries often provide strong support for families, with benefits such as long and paid maternity and parental leave, as well as subsidies for childcare. Western European welfare is characteristized by innovation towards cost-containment, activation, social investment, and the flexicurity model (Bonoli & Natali, 2011).

A comparison of social protection between Eastern Europe and Central Asia shows significant variation, mainly due to the differences in the political, economic, and social histories of the two regions. Eastern Europe, many of which are former Soviet bloc countries, has undergone major transformations in its social protection systems since the collapse of the Soviet Union. These countries tend to have social protection systems that are more structured and integrated with EU policies, which emphasize social solidarity and inclusion. This region has undergone significant economic and political transitions. Social protection is often faced with challenges such as economic instability, demographic changes, and social inequality. Some countries have adjusted or expanded the coverage, duration and levels of social benefits and use of employment and social protection policies to mitigate social impacts. Social protection programmes in Eastern Europe have undergone major transformations. In many countries, family benefit packages have a negative net balance for families with children compared with childless couples (Hoelscher & Alexander, 2010). Reformation to pension systems, health insurance, and social assistance are included to reduce poverty and increase social inclusion in Eastern Europe. This reformation aims to improve efficiency and meet EU standards, which focus on poverty reduction and increasing social inclusion. Poverty rates are low due to encompassing basic pensions in Eastern Europe (Ebbinghaus, 2021). In Central Asia, social protection programmes play an important role to face the volatile economic environment challenge to cope and maintain their living standards (Gassmann, 2011). Countries such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan have developed social protection programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and people with disabilities. has a more heterogeneous approach to social protection. Coverage and funding reduce the potential poverty reduction impact of the programmes (Gassmann, 2011). Those countries have developed their own social protection programs, often with support from international organizations. These programs are generally aimed at supporting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and people with disabilities.

Social protection in North America encompasses a range of programs and policies designed to reduce poverty and economic vulnerability and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of strong social protection, with many governments in North America implementing or expanding programs to help those affected. Canada and United States engage in a highly divergent approaches to social policymaking during the pandemic (Béland, Dinan, Rocco, & Waddan, 2021). In the United States, programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid form the backbone of the social protection system, providing pensions, health insurance, and assistance to those in need. In Canada, programs such as the Canada Pension Plan and Universal Health Care provide similar benefits, with a more centralized approach. Mexico has also developed programs such as Seguro Popular to expand access to health care for its population not covered by traditional health insurance. Conditional income transfers and old age and disability transfers offer basic support for low-income groups often depends on employment (Brooks, 2023). Various forms of health insurance, retirement plans, and other benefits are offered as part of employee compensation packages in the United States. In Canada, while universal healthcare is provided by the government, some private sector provides supplemental services and insurance for services not fully covered, such as dental and vision care. In Mexico, the private sector has been a partner in initiatives such as Seguro Popular, contributing to broader healthcare delivery. There are range of initiatives, such as food assistance, housing subsidies, and job training programs, all of which contribute to the social safety net. These programs not only help individuals and families facing economic hardship, but also contribute to overall economic stability by maintaining purchasing power and preventing sharp economic downturns.

Social protection is an important pillar of economic and social development, especially in the East Asia and Pacific region, which faces unique challenges in this regard. In the region, levels of social protection are often low due to a variety of factors, including limited fiscal resources, diverse development priorities, and emerging economic structures. Despite significant economic and social change in the Southeast Asia region in recent decades, social protection systems remain a relatively residual component of public policy in most countries (Brooks, 2023). Effective social protection programs can help reduce poverty and inequality, and enhance the economic and social resilience of communities. The implementation of these programs is often hampered by inadequate infrastructure and weak administrative systems. This results in inequitable and inefficient distribution of social assistance. In addition, many countries in the region have large populations with a large share of informal employment, which excludes them from formal social protection systems. There is a limited place of social protection within dominant development models in the region and the systems are not adapted to the realities of vulnerability and the labour market (Brooks, 2023).

4.3 Economic Growth Around The World

National economic Growth can be distinguished by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Dipayani & Hidayah, 2023). Economic development can be indicated by the increase of production on economic activities (Santi & Afif, 2021). The differences in the determinants of economic growth are certainly caused by differences in the characteristics of an economy (Yusuf Afif & Dwi Pratikno, 2022). Figure 2 shows the economic growth in various countries.

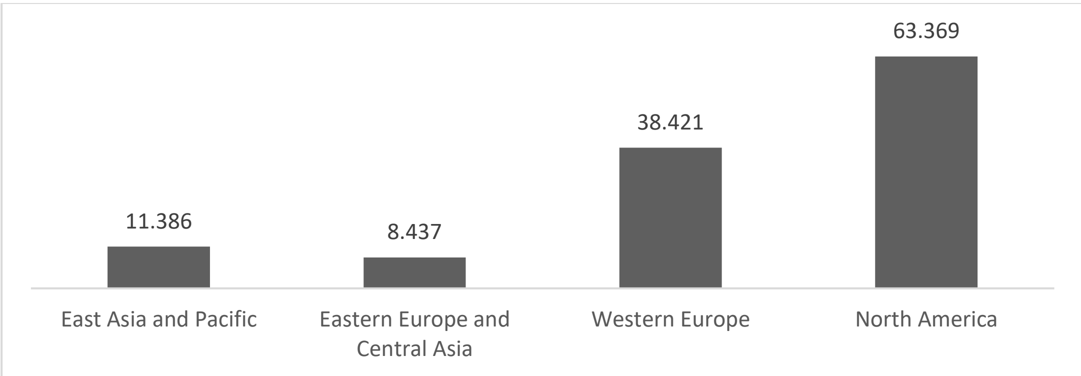

Figure 2. Economic Growth Around The World
Source: Data Proceed (2024)

The largest economic growth in North America, comprising Canada, the United States, and Mexico, These countries, despite their differences in economic size and level of development, have shown resilience and significant growth over the past few decades. The United States, as the largest economy in the region, has been the main driver of growth, with technological innovation and strong consumer power as two of its main economic pillars. Canada, with its more natural resource-focused economy, has been able to harness its natural wealth to drive growth, while Mexico has shown impressive progress in manufacturing and exports. All three countries have also benefited from free trade agreements such as the USMCA (formerly NAFTA), which have increased cross-border trade and investment. This has created a more integrated and efficient market, allowing companies to optimize their supply chains and expand their reach. In addition, political and legal stability in North America has attracted significant foreign investment, further bolstering economic growth. Issues such as income inequality, climate change, and demographic shifts have raised questions about the long-term sustainability of the current growth model. In the United States, for example, despite continued GDP growth, the gap between rich and poor is widening. In Canada, dependence on natural resource exports poses risks if global prices fall or if environmental policies change. In Mexico, security and corruption concerns remain a deterrent for potential investors. Nevertheless, North America remains an example of strong economic growth on the international stage.

The second largest economy is Western Europe. Western Europe has shown a positive trend in recent decades, driven by factors such as technological innovation, market integration, and stable economic policies. Countries such as Germany, France, and the Netherlands have been examples of economic success with consistently growing GDP and low unemployment rates. Coordinated monetary and fiscal policies in the region, especially through the framework of the European Union and the Eurozone, have created a conducive environment for investment and business growth. Western Europe also benefits from a strong education system that produces a skilled workforce, as well as advanced infrastructure that supports operational efficiency. The service sector, especially finance, insurance, and tourism, has been a major driver of growth, while manufacturing remains an important sector, especially in Germany, known for its automotive industry. There is a positive impact of entrepreneurship on European's economic growth (Stoica, Roman, & Rusu, 2020). Investments in renewable energy and green technologies have also opened up new opportunities and helped these countries in the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Economic growth in the East Asia and Pacific region, which includes countries at various levels of economic development, has undergone significant transformation, driven by factors such as foreign investment, technological innovation and progressive government policies. Countries such as China, Japan and South Korea have become major players in the global economy, while emerging economies such as Vietnam and Indonesia have shown growth potential. China has emerged as a global economic powerhouse, with rapid GDP growth and significant increases in industrial production and exports. Japan, despite challenges such as an aging population and deflation, remains the growth, with highly developed technology and manufacturing sectors. South Korea, with its export-oriented economic model, has successfully developed strong global brands in electronics and automotive. On the other hand, ASEAN countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand have demonstrated their ability to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and integrate into global supply chains. This has enabled them to increase their production capacity and expand into sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and services. Vietnam, in particular, has been a successful example of attracting FDI, with consistent economic growth and increasing exports. Income inequality, vulnerability to global market fluctuations, and the impact of climate change are some of the critical issues facing countries in the region. Trade tensions has also been a challenge for regional economic stability. The presence of macroeconomic problems may affect trades (Ivanović-Djukić, Lepojević, Stefanović, van Stel, & Petrović, 2018) . Government policies and regional cooperation will continue to play a critical role in determining the direction of economic growth in East Asia and the Pacific. Initiatives such as China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and regional economic partnerships such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) have the potential to further enhance economic integration and growth in the region. The East Asia and Pacific region remains a dynamic region with promising economic growth prospects.

Economic growth in Eastern Europe and Central Asia has shown different dynamics compared to other regions of the world. Historically, countries in the region have experienced a transition from centrally planned economies to free markets, which poses unique challenges in terms of industrial restructuring and global economic integration. Geographic and political factors is a challenge for their economic stability and growth. Limited access to export markets and natural resources, as well as regional conflicts, may hinder growth. On the other hand, these countries also have the potential for significant growth due to their relatively young populations and improvements in education and infrastructure. Foreign direct investment is often seen as the key to accelerating economic growth, but this also requires a stable and transparent business environment. Economic policy reforms, economic diversification, and improved governance are also important factors in determining the success of future economic growth.

Social protection mechanisms are pivotal in fostering economic growth, as they provide a safety net that can enhance productivity and stimulate demand. This relationship is a multifaceted domain that intersects significantly with the principles of sustainability accounting. Social protection programs, designed to mitigate poverty and reduce inequality, have been recognized for their potential to contribute positively to economic growth. These programs can enhance human capital by improving access to healthcare and education, thereby fostering a more productive workforce that can drive economic expansion. This aligns with the Unified Growth Theory, which posits that technological progress and population growth were historically offset until the demographic transition, whereupon human capital became crucial for development. Social protection supports this by investing in human capital through healthcare, education, and income security, thereby facilitating the transition from stagnation to growth. Public Interest Theory, which advocates for regulation to maximize social welfare, resonates with the role of social protection in correcting market failures and redistributing resources to mitigate inequalities. The harmonization of social protection regulations can address disparities among political units, promoting equitable growth and cooperation. Thus, social protection is not only a moral imperative but also an economic strategy that underpins various economic theories and regulatory frameworks, advocating for a holistic approach to growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and harmonized across different jurisdictions. The Doughnut Theory further complements this by emphasizing the balance between meeting societal needs and maintaining ecological sustainability. Social protection contributes to this balance by ensuring basic human needs are met without overstepping ecological limits. This relationship is particularly pertinent to sustainability accounting, which extends beyond traditional financial metrics to include social and environmental impacts in its purview. The incorporation of social protection into sustainability accounting, organizations can develop a more holistic understanding of their operations' impacts on economic growth and societal well-being.

Sustainability accounting, therefore, serves as a critical tool for capturing the broader implications of social protection policies. It enables organizations to report on non-financial outcomes, such as the enhancement of human capital and the reduction of social disparities, which are integral to achieving sustainable development. The integration of social protection impacts into sustainability accounting frameworks aligns with the triple bottom line approach, emphasizing the importance of social, environmental, and financial dimensions. This approach underscores the role of social protection as not only a moral imperative but also an economic catalyst that, when accounted for sustainably, contributes to a more resilient and equitable economy.

5. Conclusion

The results of this study provide insight into the role of social protection in economic growth. Social protection has a positive effect on economic growth. the effect of social protection on economic growth, Through the lens of sustainability accounting, this reveals a synergistic relationship where social investments lead to economic dividends. This perspective is crucial for policymakers and businesses alike, as it advocates for a balanced strategy that values human welfare as much as economic efficiency. By embracing sustainability accounting, organizations can demonstrate their commitment to inclusive growth and social responsibility, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable future for all. The synthesis of these theories presents a compelling case for the strategic integration of social protection in global economic policy to achieve a harmonious balance between growth, equity, and sustainability. These result of this study have implications for the harmonization of social protection regulations worldwide to deal with international financial dynamics and the development of governance frameworks in the social protection sector.

Limitations

This study is limited to 71 countries because of the data limitation. Future research is expected to expand the observation with more sample countries in a further period of time.

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