
Editorial Note

Green Jobs, Bright Futures: Bridging Economy and Sustainability

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The notion of "green jobs" within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is complex. It encapsulates the confluence of ecological sustainability, economic advancement, and societal welfare. The definition of green jobs varies such as green collars and sustainable employment, indicating a lack of consensus in the literature (Kozar & Sulich, 2023). Green jobs are defined as views that contribute to preserving environmental values. Kozar and Sulich (Kozar & Sulich, 2023) further explain that green jobs are part of the broader concept of green economy includes renewable energy, waste management, and sustainable agriculture. Green jobs are pivotal to the transition towards a green economy, which emphasizes sustainable practices and the reduction of carbon emissions. These job prospects encompass not only environmental preservation, they simultaneously foster economic innovation and social equity. These also support the SDGs target to generate approximately 380 million employment opportunities worldwide, especially within sectors such as food production and agriculture, energy and materials, as well as health and wellness (Placid Egbeh, 2018).

Green employment opportunities are regarded as a fundamental mechanism for facilitating sustainable development by fostering economic advancement while concurrently ensuring ecological viability (Boromisa et al., 2015). According to Schneider et al. (Schneider et al., 2022) they facilitate the transition toward a low-carbon economy, climate action and responsible for consumption practices. The establishment of green jobs is intrinsically associated with the principles of the circular economy. It prioritizes the optimization of resource utilization and the minimization of waste generation. Empirical evidence has indicated that this paradigm fosters the expansion of employment prospects within the sector dedicated to environmental goods and services (Sulich & Sofoducho-Pelc, 2022). Furthermore, green jobs denote a moral responsibility to conventional forms of employment, advancing the ideals of equitable labor practices and social justice, particularly within developing economies (Schneider et al., 2022).

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Although green jobs are essential for the promotion of sustainable development, however, numerous impediments obstruct this transition. These obstacles encompass economic, political, social, and technical aspect. Understanding these challenges is crucial for formulating strategies to advance green jobs and sustainable development. The initial expenditures and the absence of financial incentives hinder the implementation of green technologies and practices. For example, the construction sector encounters considerable economic obstacles in the integration of green building practices (Darko & Chan, 2016). Another issue is that private sectors frequently place greater emphasis on profit rather than ecological sustainability, which obstructing the implementation of green human resources management practices (Wang et al., 2024).

The lack of political commitment presents a significant barrier to achieving significant progress in the transition to green jobs and sustainable development. The fossil fuel industry, for example, engages in vigorous lobbying efforts to promote policies that align with their interests, frequently affecting the transition for renewable energy and green jobs (Makhoul et al., 2024). In addition, insufficiently developed green building codes and regulatory frameworks obstruct the implementation of sustainable practices across diverse sectors (Darko & Chan, 2016).

In terms of public awareness, there is a lack of understanding about the benefits of the green job (Darko & Chan, 2016). This perception bring about people reluctant to adopt the green job practices. Sweeny et al. (Sweeney et al., 2009) highlighted that the preparedness of the labor market generates additional obstacles to the promotion of green jobs particularly within sectors that are not related to renewable energy sources.

Although these obstacle are considerable, there exists the potential to solve them through various interventions. These interventions cover a range of policy framework, educational programs, promoting human resource practices, and active community involvement. By tackling economic, political, and social impediments, these strategies possess the potential to promote the shift towards a more sustainable economic framework.

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I recognize that I utilized chatGPT to gather an outline and general information regarding SDGs and green jobs. The prompts employed included creating a presentation outline for SDGs, definition of green jobs, and obstacles of green jobs. All responsibility for the information lies with the author.

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