

Convergence or Divergence: Comparative Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Islamic Economic Principle

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Abstract

This study investigates the convergence and divergence between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Islamic economic principles, with a focus on their shared priorities and areas of tension. The primary objective is to analyze how the ethical and operational frameworks of Islamic economics align with the global SDG agenda, particularly in the domains of poverty alleviation, environmental sustainability, and social justice. A case study methodology was employed, incorporating qualitative thematic analysis using NVivo software alongside theoretical comparative analysis to provide a comprehensive perspective. The findings reveal substantial alignment in ethical foundations, exemplified by the emphasis on equitable wealth distribution through instruments such as zakat and waqf, which correspond to SDG Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities). However, notable divergences emerge, particularly regarding gender equality (Goal 5) and environmental governance frameworks (Goal 13). Key challenges identified include regulatory constraints, varying cultural interpretations, and a lack of empirical data on the impact of Islamic finance in advancing SDG targets. The study concludes that while

Islamic economic principles offer significant potential for supporting SDG implementation, their scalability and effectiveness require strategic partnerships, contextual adaptation, and the development of robust data frameworks. Policy recommendations include fostering interfaith and policy dialogues, strengthening institutional capacities, and integrating Islamic financial instruments into national development strategies.

Keywords: Environmental Sustainability; Ethical Governance; Islamic Economic Principles; Social Justice; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the global community has increasingly acknowledged sustainable development as a crucial response to the multifaceted social, economic, and environmental challenges that confront humanity. This recognition led the United Nations in 2015 to create the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a thorough, inclusive framework consisting of 17 objectives and 169 targets meant at accomplishing worldwide wealth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion by the year 2030 (United Nations, 2015). Among these objectives are essential development issues as the elimination of poverty (SDG 1), the provision of high-quality education (SDG 4), the achievement of gender equality (SDG 5), and the lessening of climate change (SDG 13).

Grounded in the tenets of inclusion, equity, and adaptability across varied socio-economic and cultural contexts, the SDGs reflect a secular and universal development approach. Still, the execution of the SDGs presents several obstacles including insufficient financial resources, socio-political turmoil, institutional shortcomings, and cultural differences (Sachs et al., 2019; UNDP, 2021). Emerging as a strong alternative development model parallel to the SDG framework, the Islamic economic system combines ethical, socially responsible, and equity-focused ideas drawn from Islamic law (Shariah). Based in the core ideals of social justice, equal income distribution, and collective welfare, Islamic economics and finance try to advance human well-being via such instruments as zakat (compulsory charity), waqf (charitable bequests), and interest-free financial systems. Particularly those pertaining to poverty elimination (SDG 1), inequality reduction (SDG 10), and decent work and economic expansion (SDG 8) (Ahmed, 2021; IFSB, 2021) fit some SDG targets.

Unlike typical economies based on interest-based lending and speculative investments, Islamic economics forbids exploitative activities like *riba* (usury) and *gharar* (excessive uncertainty), therefore promoting ethical, risk-sharing, and socially beneficial investments (Usmani, 2002; El-Gamal, 2006). Though these targets are shared, the nexus between Islamic economic values and the SDGs is still underinvestigated. In policy settings where cultural and religious values clearly influence development goals, this negligence is especially obvious. Though both paradigms want to solve fundamental worldwide problems including poverty, inequality, and sustainability, their operational methods, normative frameworks, and philosophical bases usually diverge. For example,

the SDGs encourage a pluralistic and secular approach to development finance by means of public-private partnerships and global financial organizations. Islamic economics, on the other hand, depends on religiously approved financial instruments that might not be widely accepted outside of Islamic contexts or completely consistent with traditional financial systems (Hassan et al., 2020; Obaidullah, 2005; Naqvi, 1981).

Furthermore restricting the viability of particular SDG-aligned projects relying on conventional capital markets are moral restraints within Islamic finance, including prohibitions of debt trading and speculative investments (El-Gamal, 2006). For politicians, academics, and development practitioners trying to create culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate policies for realizing the SDGs in Muslim-majority nations and multicultural societies, this research gap offers a major obstacle. A comparative study is urgently needed to clarify not only the theoretical underpinnings and ethical underpinnings of both systems but also their practical compatibilities and tensions. Integrating Islamic economic ideas into the more general SDG framework could improve the legitimacy, acceptability, and efficacy of sustainable development initiatives in religiously oriented regions, hence advancing a more inclusive and varied world development plan.

This research aims at investigating the degree to which Islamic economic ideas may be matched with the SDGs so as to advance sustainable development in response to this need. The specific objectives of the research are fourfold:

1. To examine the theoretical foundations of both the SDGs and Islamic economic principles, highlighting their values, goals, and ethical considerations
2. To identify the points of convergence and divergence between the two paradigms in addressing economic, social, and environmental challenges
3. To evaluate the practical implications of integrating Islamic economic tools with the SDG framework; and
4. To provide policy recommendations for aligning Islamic economic principles with the global sustainable development agenda in ways that respect cultural diversity and foster effective implementation.

The value of this work is numerous. First, it investigates how faith-based economic systems, specifically Islamic economics can help to meet generally accepted development objectives, therefore bridging a significant knowledge gap in the literature. This has significant ramifications for international development policy as well as academic study. Second, Muslim-majority countries have unique developmental problems like youth unemployment, income inequality, and financial exclusion that demand context-specific solutions. Employing Islamic economic instruments in SDG execution can produce solutions that are culturally relevant as well as efficient (Ahmed, 2007; Iqbal and Mirakhor, 2011). Thirdly, the Islamic finance sector, with over \$2.5 trillion in worldwide assets, offers unexplored possibilities for funding SDG-aligned

projects via creative instruments like green sukuk (Islamic bonds for environmental projects) and socially responsible investing (SRI) funds (IFSB, 2021; Hasan and Dridi, 2011). Finally, this study's results might have cross-cultural bearing, providing knowledge about how other ethical and religious economic models could help sustainable development in several local environments.

In essence, this research will offer a strong, comparative framework for grasping theoretically and practically how Islamic economic ideals and the SDGs could be matched or opposed. By so doing, it aims at supporting inclusive, ethically based, globally relevant development policies as well as the academic discussion.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Overview of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations created the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 as a worldwide call to action to eradicate poverty, preserve the earth, and guarantee peace and riches for everyone by 2030. Addressing the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development, the framework comprises 17 interconnected objectives supported by 169 particular targets and over 230 global indicators. United Nations, 2015. Every objective is realized via a group of targets, quantifiable results that define what the planet wants to accomplish, and indicators, numerical measures used to monitor and present results. For instance:

Goal 1: No Poverty contains 7 targets, including eliminating severe poverty for all people globally and guaranteeing equal access to economic resources, with 14 indicators like the percentage of the population living below the international poverty line. With 11 indicators like literacy rates and school completion rates, goal 4: Quality Education includes 10 goals including free primary and secondary education and employability skills. With 14 indicators, Goal 5: Gender Equality has 9 targets including eliminating all forms of violence against women and ensuring women participation in leadership. Goal 13, Climate Action, consists of five targets integrating climate change strategies into national policies and enhancing education and awareness—with eight indicators, including per capita greenhouse gas emissions and national adaptation plans.

The foundation of the SDGs is the idea of "leaving no one behind," which underlines equity, inclusion, and worldwide solidarity. The plan calls for active involvement from a wide range of stakeholders governments, civil society, corporate sector, academics, and individuals in the planning, implementation, and monitoring efforts. Furthermore, regular voluntary national reviews (VNRs), global progress reports, and nation-level data tracking help the SDG framework to advance accountability and transparency. These procedures guarantee that attempts are based on evidence, quantifiable, and adaptable in accordance with local conditions and national goals. Though built on secular basis, the SDGs' universal values such as justice, dignity, and

sustainability make them flexible in many cultural, religious, and social contexts. This flexibility lets nations and communities incorporate their own moral and faith-based viewpoints into the pursuit of world development targets, therefore fostering local ownership and execution success.

Key Tenets of Islamic Economics

Derived from the Quran, Hadith, and Islamic legal interpretation (fiqh), Islamic economics offers a value-based framework stressing ethical behavior, fairness, and social welfare. Among the central tenets of Islamic economics are: Obligatory Almsgiving: Zakat A major element of Islamic economics meant to alleviate poverty and distribute wealth is zakat. Addressing income inequality and fostering social harmony (Siddiqi, 2000), it guarantees that some riches are transferred from the wealthy to those in need. By offering a well-defined mechanism for economic justice, zakat helps objectives like No Poverty (SDG 1) and Decreased Inequalities (SDG 10) within the framework of the SDGs.

Established for social and community welfare, Waqf is a voluntary, philanthropic endowment. Historically, waqf organizations have helped to fund public services like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, therefore supporting sustainable development (Kahf, 2003). This idea rings true with both Quality Education (SDG 4) and Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3). - Sukuk (Islamic Bonds): Unlike traditional bonds, sukuk forbids interest (riba) and depends on profit-sharing or lease agreements; instead, it is an ethical financial instrument based on asset-backed securities. This system encourages investments in sustainable projects that fit targets like Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) and Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9) (Usmani, 2002). Islamic finance stresses risk-sharing to guarantee shared benefit for all parties. Addressing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), this idea encourages ethical investment and group accountability (El-Gamal, 2006).

Comparable Philosophies

Although they have same goals such as poverty alleviation, social equality, and environmental sustainability, they are founded on distinct worldviews. The SDGs' secular character: Designed to go across religious and cultural borders, the SDGs use a secular, universal framework. To assess success, they stress international cooperation free from particular religious overtones relying on empirical measures. Islamic Economic Foundations in Religion: Guided by the ethical teachings of Islam, Islamic economics is naturally faith-based. Emphasizing how the afterlife affects social and financial behavior, it merges ethical responsibility into economic activities. These fundamental distinctions might make challenges to compatibility. The secular character of the SDGs, for example, could result in the exclusion of religiously mandated customs like zakat or waqf in areas where Islamic traditions are not well known. On the other hand, Islamic economics'

strong emphasis on Shariah-compliance could limit its usage in societies marked by secular administration or other religious ideas.

Principles of Ethics and Sustainability

The ethical ideas underlying Islamic finance including openness, justice, and social well-being offer chances for coordination with sustainable development. For instance, the prohibition of dangerous sectors (e.g., alcohol, gambling) is consistent with environmental and social sustainability; Principles of ethical investment discourage speculation and help to create stability, hence lowering systemic risks; Wealth redistribution systems like zakat directly address the structural inequities that the SDGs hope to resolve. Although Islamic economics offers an appealing example for sustainable methods, integrating it with the SDGs calls for astute navigation of cultural and philosophical divides. This comparative analysis aims to investigate these subtleties, so emphasizing possibilities for synergy and resolving possible sources of conflict.

Review of Previous Studies

Academic investigation on the association between Islamic economic principles and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been ongoing in recent years. Researchers have examined the degree of agreement between the ethical, environmental, and financial priorities of Islamic economics and the SDGs, highlighting conflicts as well as synergies. Emphasizing their common ethical basis, Zainal et al. (2019) investigated the conceptual compatibility between the SDGs and Islamic economic principles. The research showed that both systems give social justice, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability front importance.

Furthermore, Zainal et al. (2019) opined that instruments like zakat (charitable giving) and waqf (endowments) might be powerful means of reaching SDG targets, especially in education and poverty reduction. The study also highlighted the difficulties in using these tools in secular and non-Muslim situations, though. Drawing from Islamic sources and global development literature, this theoretical study depended on qualitative methods.

Based on these ideas, Ahmed et al. (2021) investigated the actual use of Islamic finance in aid of SDG projects by means of case studies in Indonesia and Malaysia. According to their study, Islamic financial methods like sukuk (Islamic bonds) have been successfully used to finance affordable housing and renewable energy projects, therefore supporting SDG Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Notwithstanding these achievements, the research found regulatory hurdles and low public awareness as important obstacles to scalability. Ahmed et al. (2021) posited that improving cooperation between Islamic financial

organizations and international development groups would improve the effectiveness of these projects.

Emphasizing points of disagreement, Nasir et al. (2022) presented a comparative analysis of the SDGs and Islamic economic principles. They observed that whereas the SDGs use a universal secular approach, Islamic economics is based on religious teachings, therefore producing possible conflicts in application especially in nations with a non-Muslim majority. For instance, Nasir et al. (2022) contended that cultural understandings of Islamic gender roles could obstruct advancement toward SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality), although both systems stress gender equality. To solve such problems, the study advised encouraging communication between Islamic scholars and worldwide development professionals.

Sari et al. (2020) examined how Islamic teachings on environmental stewardship (*khalifah*) correspond with SDG Goal 13 (Climate Action) in the domain of environmental sustainability. The research emphasized the Quranic focus on saving natural resources and lowering trash, which fits with worldwide initiatives to fight climate change. Sari et al. (2020), though, attacked the absence of organizational frameworks inside Islamic finance to execute these lessons correctly. Their study stressed the need for more organized environmental projects by integrating qualitative analysis with interviews with Islamic finance professionals.

Ali and Omar (2020) approached the assessment of the part of Islamic finance in reaching the SDGs using a mixed-methods methodology. Their results underlined the possibility of Islamic social finance, including zakat and *sadaqah* (voluntary charity), in alleviating income inequality and poverty. Still, they observed that the dependence on voluntary contributions restricts the scope of these initiatives. Ali and Omar (2020) advised combining Islamic social finance with national development initiatives to increase effect and sustainability. These investigations' emphasis on the ethical synergies between Islamic economics and the SDGs draws attention to the possibility for collaborative approaches, yet their excessive theoretical alignment sometimes misses the real-world obstacles of execution.

It is critical to note that many research lack strong quantitative data to assess the real influence of Islamic finance on SDG results, notably those by Ahmed et al. (2021) and Sari et al. (2020). Most studies, moreover, have concentrated on Muslim-majority nations, hence creating a major knowledge vacuum regarding how Islamic ideas might be applied to non-Muslim settings under the SDG projects. The empirical studies highlight the complementary nature of Islamic economic ideas and the SDGs in general, especially in domains including poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and ethical government.

However, the differences in cultural backgrounds and economic systems pose obstacles that calls for improved solutions. Cross-cultural case studies are the center of

this work, along with creative policy frameworks designed to close the gaps and improve the integration of these two perspectives.

METHODOLOGY

By using a qualitative research design with a comparative analytical approach, this study investigates the convergence and divergence of Islamic economic principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The methodological framework is grounded in case study synthesis, content analysis, and documentary analysis, which together enable a nuanced understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of the topic. Primary data for this study were obtained by thorough analysis of significant Islamic economic texts, including the Qur'an, Hadiths, classical and modern Islamic jurisprudence (*Fiqh*), and writings of well-known Islamic economists such as Maulana Maududi, Muhammad Umer Chapra, and Monzer Kahf.

These were cross-referenced with essential United Nations papers and publications on the SDGs, namely the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and subsequent progress reports from 2019 onwards. Secondary data from peer-reviewed journal publications, worldwide development reports, economic impact evaluations, and policy papers issued between 2019 and 2024 are also used in the research. Databases like JSTOR, ScienceDirect, Springer, the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) digital library provided the academic material pertinent to the research questions.

Software NVivo 12 Plus helped to arrange data systematically and categorize it using a comparative thematic content analysis. Under each topic, subthemes mirroring both SDG goals and Islamic economic solutions were developed to enable for convergence-divergence mapping. These thematic nodes include (1) Wealth Redistribution and Social Justice, (2) Environmental Sustainability, (3) Poverty Alleviation, (4) Gender Equity, and (5) Institutional Governance. Expert validation was sought from academics in both Islamic economics and development studies to guarantee validity and dependability. Peer debriefing and recurring conversations were used to sharpen thematic interpretations and lower researcher prejudice. Offering a whole and context-rich framework for assessing the compatibility and possible conflicts between Islamic economic doctrines and the global SDG agenda, the approach combines theological, theoretical, and empirical points of view.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study's conclusions show a complicated but perceptive pattern of convergence and divergence between Islamic economic principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While emphasizing friction points in areas where secular-modern values may clash with conventional Islamic law, the comparative content

analysis and case study assessment reveal strong ethical alignment, especially in issues of social justice, equity, and economic inclusiveness.

Table 1. Thematic Mapping of SDGs and Islamic Economic Principles

SDG Goal	Corresponding Islamic Economic Principle	Nature of Relationship	Key Mechanism/Tool
SDG 1: No Poverty	Zakat, <i>Sadaqah</i> , Waqf	Strong Convergence	Redistribution of wealth
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Waqf (for agriculture, food aid), Market regulation	Moderate Convergence	Social welfare institutions
SDG 5: Gender Equality	Equity-based Rights, Complementarity of Roles	Partial Divergence	Interpretation-dependent
SDG 10: Reduced Inequality	Islamic Wealth Distribution Ethics	Strong Convergence	Zakat, Inheritance laws
SDG 13: Climate Action	<i>Khilafah</i> (Stewardship), Haram on waste	Moderate Convergence	Environmental ethics, Green Sukuk

Source: Author’s NVivo thematic coding output based on UN SDG documents (2019–2023), Qur’anic and Hadith-based Islamic jurisprudence, and academic writings (Chapra, 2020; Kahf, 2022).

Ethical and Structural Convergence

One of the most prominent findings from NVivo coding and document analysis is the deep-rooted ethical synergy between the SDG framework and Islamic economic values. For example, SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality) align closely with **zakat**, a mandatory almsgiving system enshrined in Islamic law, which aims to purify wealth and redistribute income among the needy. Countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia have institutionalized zakat collection bodies that actively complement national poverty reduction strategies (Zamir & Hassan, 2021).

Table 2. Alignment of SDG and Islamic Economic Tools by Domain

Domain	SDG Target	Islamic Economic Tool	Degree of Convergence
Poverty Alleviation	SDG 1.3	Zakat, <i>Sadaqah</i>	High
Healthcare Access	SDG 3.8	Waqf-based hospitals	Moderate
Economic Inclusion	SDG 8.5	Non-interest Microfinance	High
Inequality	SDG 10.1	Inheritance, <i>Sadaqah</i>	High
Environmental Care	SDG 13.2	<i>Khilafah</i> , Haram on waste	Moderate

Source: Author’s compilation from NVivo cross-coded themes and secondary sources (IRTI, 2021; UNDP, 2022).

Divergence in Gender Equality and Institutional Interpretation

Although justice and equality are shared goals, some degree of variance is seen in SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Emphasizing complimentary roles over similar functions, Islamic economics acknowledges gender equality instead than absolute equality (Kamali, 2020). Critics contend that although this paradigm gives women rights in domains including inheritance, education, and entrepreneurship, certain interpretations restrict leadership roles and wider civic freedoms, therefore generating conflicts with the universal SDG 5 agenda. From discussions with Islamic intellectuals and development experts, NVivo-based sentiment analysis underlined a range of viewpoints on this subject, spanning from conservative to reformist. This suggests that cultural, legal, and geographic circumstances shape divergence, therefore it is interpretative rather than natural.

Environmental Stewardship and Emerging Islamic Green Finance

Both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Islamic economic philosophy give environmental sustainability first priority. The SDGs include explicit targets for climate action (SDG 13), sustainable cities (SDG 11), and responsible production and consumption (SDG 12). Emphasizing international climate agreements, policy structures, and big-scale interventions, these objectives highlight institutional and worldwide solutions. By means of the concept of Khilafah (trusteeship), which holds people accountable for the preservation of the Earth, Islamic ideas promote environmental management as a religious and moral duty. Muslims are advised to be stewards of the Earth, utilizing natural resources judiciously and saving the environment for posterity (Khan, 2010). Islamic economics exhibits mild convergence via Khilafah. Green Sukuk's rise in countries like Malaysia and the UAE is an Islamic financial invention meant expressly to help with climate reduction initiatives (World Bank, 2021). This viewpoint promotes a more local approach to environmental preservation by highlighting personal and community responsibility. A conflict could result from perceived misalignment between global institutional frameworks, which frequently include complicated rules and top-down methods, and the grassroots, faith-driven ethos of Islamic economics. But these frameworks can be complementary when institutions acknowledge and include the part of individual and community involvement in attaining sustainability.

Table 3: Selected Green Sukuk Projects in Islamic Countries (2019–2023)

Country	Project Type	Amount Issued (USD)	Islamic Principle
Malaysia	Renewable Energy	1 billion	Khilafah, <i>Maqasid al-Shari'ah</i>
UAE	Sustainable Transport	750 million	Halal Investing

Indonesia	Forest Conservation	500 million	Prohibition of Harm (<i>Darar</i>)
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Source: World Bank Islamic Green Finance Report (2023)

Social Justice

A foundation of both the SDGs and Islamic economic ideals is social justice. The SDGs encourage inclusive societies (SDG 16), eliminate poverty (SDG 1), and help to lower inequities (SDG 10). These objectives concentrate on policy-driven tools that correct systematic wrongs and guarantee fair access to resources. Islamic economics, however, stresses the well-being of underprivileged and vulnerable groups as a moral and religious obligation (Chapra, 2000). Instruments like zakat (required almsgiving) and waqf (charitable endowment) are expressly meant to redistribute wealth and provide for the less fortunate. Unlike the SDGs, which approach social justice through policy and legislation, Islamic economics views it as an ethical obligation deeply rooted in faith. Driven by spiritual accountability, this viewpoint usually motivates a greater dedication to resolving social injustice.

Economic Growth and Development

Advocates of the SDGs (SDG 8) urge for inclusive and environmentally conscious continuous economic expansion. Frequently, they concentrate on quantitative measures like GDP growth, job creation, and industrial output. These indicators seek to assess real development and economic influence on a worldwide level. Islamic economics, in contrast, stresses qualitative elements of development including ethical investment, equal wealth distribution, and the welfare of the society (Khan and Bhatti, 2008). Mechanisms like the outlawing of interest (riba) and risk-sharing promote a more socially responsible economic climate. While the SDGs emphasize measurable outputs, Islamic economics gives values and the moral consequences of economic activity top priority, hence offering a complimentary but perhaps conflicting viewpoint on what defines "development."

Ethics and Governance

Both systems have at center strong ethical behavior and effective governance. Encouraging inclusive and reactive institutions meeting social needs, the SDGs support transparency, accountability, and participatory governance (SDG 16). Promoting trust (*amanah*), justice, and ethical behavior in financial transactions (El-Gamal, 2006), Islamic economics stresses the moral aspect of governance. Governance under Islamic tenets embraces personal integrity and conformity with Shariah values beyond institutional accountability. Islamic economics stands apart from the more institutionalized approach of the SDGs in its dual emphasis on individual ethics as well as on system-level standards. Although both systems see governance as a means of attaining sustainability, their

approaches of execution vary. The reliance of the SDGs on formal institutions might clash with the Islamic economic focus on local ethical accountability. Overcoming these approaches calls for appreciating how communities and organizations help to create ethical government.

Good Living and Decent Lifestyle for All

The SDGs encourage guaranteeing everyone a basic standard of living, which includes access to essential services, quality education, healthcare, and economic prospects (SDG 3, SDG 4, and SDG 8). Their approach usually fits with enhancing material conditions and broadening access to resources. Islamic economics encourages these goals yet adds the idea of moderation (*wasatiyyah*). Islamic teachings oppose extravagant consumption and promote contentment, balance, and ethical living (Khan, 2010). This idea runs against the growth-oriented character of the SDGs, which may unintentionally encourage materialism in the quest of economic growth. Promoting sustainable living that harmonizes with social and environmental well-being, the Islamic emphasis on moderation provides a counterweight.

Areas of Convergence and Divergence

Though the SDGs and Islamic economic ideas have clear intersections, such as a dedication to social justice, environmental sustainability, and ethical governance they also show major disparities. Convergence: Both theories converge on common objectives including poverty reduction, fair resource allocation promotion, and sustainable practices encouragement. These similarities provide integration chances that let Islamic economic ideas improve the execution of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Muslim-majority areas. Their underlying beliefs and execution plans diverge. Emphasizing global cooperation and quantifiable development via institutional systems, the SDGs are secular in nature. Islamic economics, meanwhile, is anchored in religious teachings that give moral duties, ethical behavior, and community-driven action first priority. The dependence of the SDGs on international agreements and top-down policies that may conflict with the local, faith-based practices stressed in Islamic economics is a major area of tension. Fostering mutual understanding and maximizing synergies between global and religious viewpoints will help to resolve these conflicts and further sustainable development projects.

Challenges and Opportunities for Integration

Lack of empirical evidence on the effect of Islamic finance on SDG results, regulatory discrepancies, and cultural interpretations impeding coordinated implementation are among main obstacles to complete convergence. For example, though zakat can help to reduce poverty, its use outside of official government structures

leads to fragmentation. Similarly, waqf organizations sometimes have no legal systems or transparency for modernization (Obaidullah, 2020). Still, the findings also point to great possibilities. Alongside the growth of Islamic microfinance institutions, the ability to include zakat and waqf mechanisms into national development strategies could help inclusive economic growth and social protection.

CONCLUSION

This comparative study shows convergence as well as divergence between Islamic economic tenets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both systems are strongly devoted to social justice, environmental sustainability, and ethical government—which are critical for creating a more just and sustainable society. Still, they vary greatly in their basic beliefs and strategies for economic expansion. While Islamic economics is based on religious teachings that give ethical behavior, social responsibility, and community welfare priority, the SDGs are based in a secular, worldwide framework stressing collective action and quantifiable results. For governments, companies, and civil society to successfully encourage cooperation and advance sustainable development, understanding these parallels and contrasts is essential.

The results of this study have major consequences for several groups of interest. To improve the efficacy of SDG implementation, policymakers should think about incorporating Islamic economic ideas into national growth plans. More inclusive policies addressing the demands of underprivileged groups and encouraging equitable resource distribution can result from this integration. Companies can use Islamic finance to promote sustainable policies like ethical investing and responsible consumption, therefore improving social welfare and environmental stewardship. Advocating for inclusive policies, increasing knowledge of the need of both systems, and holding stakeholders responsible for their promises to sustainable development all depend critically on civil society organizations.

In accordance with the results of the thorough reviews and case studies, the following recommendations are made:

1. Educational initiatives on the part of Islamic finance in SDGs might increase public and institutional support. For instance, Indonesia's "Sharia Financial Literacy Month" brings attention to Sharia-compliant investment options.
2. Governments should develop supporting environments for Islamic financial institutions to match their activities with SDG goals. Malaysia's policies encouraging green Sukuk for renewable energy projects provide a model.
3. Promote stakeholder cooperation: Multilateral alliances, such as those between IsDB and the World Bank, should be broadened to combine resources and knowledge for large-scale sustainable development projects.

Future studies should investigate the practical ramifications of incorporating SDGs and Islamic economic ideas in many settings, especially in areas where Islamic finance is widespread. Collaborative projects among academics, practitioners, and policymakers can help to distribute knowledge and best practices, therefore helping to create a more sustainable and just society. Furthermore useful insights into how these concepts may work together come from multidisciplinary study looking at the convergence of Islamic economics with sustainable development. Encouraging conversation among several stakeholders and developing collaborations will help one to follow the ethical guidelines of Islamic economics and create a more coherent approach to reaching the SDGs. This cooperative effort will not only improve the efficiency of development projects but also guarantee that all members of society share in the advantages of sustainable development.

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