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The Role of Economic Growth and Decent Work in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Fuzzy Set Approach on OECD Countries

Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedeflerine Ulaşmada Ekonomik Büyüme ve İnsana Yakışır İşin Rolü: OECD Ülkelerinde Bulanık Küme Yaklaşımı

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Abstract

Aim: This study aimed to examine the impact of economic growth and decent work on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by OECD member countries.

Method: The data obtained from the 2024 Sustainable Development Report, which included the overall SDG scores and the indicator scores related to economic growth and decent work (SDG 8) for 38 OECD member countries, were analyzed using the Fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) method.

Results: Financial inclusion and protection of basic workers' rights were identified as the most impactful indicators contributing to sustainable development.

Conclusion: The study identified the critical factors contributing to sustainable development in OECD countries and provided valuable insights into the areas that countries should prioritize, improve, and support through concrete policy actions.

Keywords

Sustainable Development, Economic Growth, Decent Work, Goal 8, Fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis.

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Öz

Amaç: Bu çalışma, ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır işin, OECD üyesi ülkelerin Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Amaçlarına (SKA) ulaşmaları üzerindeki etkisini incelemeyi amaçlamıştır.

Yöntem: 38 OECD üyesi ülkenin genel SKA puanları ile ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır işe (SKA 8) ilişkin gösterge puanlarını içeren

2024 Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Raporu'ndan elde edilen veriler, Bulanık Küme Nitel Karşılaştırmalı Analiz (fsQCA) yöntemiyle analiz edilmiştir.

Bulgular: Finansal kapsayıcılık ve temel çalışan haklarının korunması, sürdürülebilir kalkınmaya katkıda bulunan en etkili göstergeler olarak belirlenmiştir.

Sonuç: Çalışma, OECD ülkelerinde sürdürülebilir kalkınmaya katkıda bulunan kritik faktörleri belirlemiş ve ülkelerin öncelik vermesi, iyileştirmesi ve somut politika eylemleriyle desteklemesi gereken alanlara ilişkin değerli içgörüler sunmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler

Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma, Ekonomik Büyüme, İnsana Yakışır İş, Hedef 8, Bulanık Küme Nitel Karşılaştırmalı Analiz.

Introduction

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives of people around the world (Clemente-Suárez et al., 2022). Adopted on September 25, 2015 by 193 member states of the United Nations, the SDGs protocol is a global roadmap consisting of 17 interconnected goals that include economic, social and environmental dimensions and are committed to be achieved by 2030. SDGs offers a long-term vision of society in which economic development supports social progress and takes into account the need to protect the environment (Grzebyk et al., 2023).

Goal 8 of the sustainable development protocol (Figure 1) aims to promote sustainable economic growth and decent work for all (Bilek Steindl & Url, 2022). The actions to be developed in this direction provide economic gains to countries, but also enable a more just, equal and inclusive society (Anholon et al., 2021). Goal 8's sustainable economic growth discourse aims for countries to raise their gross domestic product by increasing levels of economic productivity in technology-dominated value-added sectors and promoting access to financial services (Zehri et al., 2024). Goal 8's decent work dimension refers to efforts to create employment opportunities that provide a fair income, social protection and job security, while respecting the fundamental rights of individuals and eliminating forced labor and modern slavery (Monaco, 2024). Goal 8 focuses on economic growth without destroying decent work opportunities and without causing environmental degradation (Anholon et al., 2021).

SDG 8	
8.1	sustainable economic growth
8.2	diversify, innovate and upgrade for economic productivity
8.3	promote policies to support job creation and growing businesses
8.4	improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
8.5	full employment and decent work with equal pay
8.6	promote youth employment, education and training
8.7	end modern slavery, human trafficking and child labor
8.8	protect workers' rights and promote safe working environments
8.9	promote beneficial and sustainable tourism
8.10	universal access to banking, insurance and financial services
8.a	increase aid for trade support
8.b	develop a global youth employment strategy

Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goal 8
Source: Adapted from Bieszk-Stolorz and Dmytrów, 2023.

The fact that Goal 8 includes actions that address each of the triple bottom line (economic, social and environmental) of the overall SDGs makes it one of the most important goals in the sustainable development of countries (Anholon et al., 2021). However, Chigbu and Nekhwevha (2023) emphasize that the inadequate policy actions by countries and global crises have led to significant setbacks in achieving economic growth and decent work. In particular, the Covid-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges to achieving this critical goal, leading to a contraction in the global economy of around 3.5% in 2020. In many sectors affected by the pandemic, layoffs increased, and the rights and interests of employees could not be protected due to the insufficient social protection policies of countries (Jasni, 2023; Zehri et al., 2024). In addition to the pandemic, economic crises, ethnic and political internal conflicts, regional and global war atmosphere can be shown as other important obstacles to achieving this goal (Grzebyk et al., 2023). Therefore, monitoring and evaluating countries' performance towards Goal 8 is important for countries to make the right decisions at the right time on the path to sustainable development.

Scientific studies conducted in this context in the literature are limited. In one of these studies, Carlsen (2021) examined the degree of commitment of European Union (EU) member states to Goal 8 using a partial ranking technique. In another study, Grzebyk et al. (2023) aimed to group the EU27 countries according to the degree of implementation/achievement of each of these goals by considering all indicators that make up Goal 8 simultaneously. These studies comparatively analyze the performance of EU countries towards Goal 8 and rank them according to their achievements in the sub-indicators of Goal 8. However, there is no research in the literature that examines the impact, importance and priority of the performance of the indicators included in Goal 8 on countries' achievement of the overall sustainable development goals.

As a response to the gap in the literature, this study aims to determine the impact of Goal 8's economic growth and decent work discourse on the sustainable development of OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) member countries. In this context, the study examines the role of indicators/variables (GDP growth, NEET rate, employment-to-population ratio, basic labor rights, modern slavery, fatal work accidents, adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or mobile money service provider) published in the 2024 Sustainable Development Report for Goal 8 in achieving the overall sustainable development goals of OECD member countries. For this purpose, the study seeks to answer the following research questions:

1) How do GDP growth rates, NEET rates, employment-population ratios and universal access to banking, insurance and financial services, which are economic development indicators of Goal 8, affect the SDG performance of OECD member countries?

2) How do basic labor rights, fatal work accidents and modern slavery, which are among the decent work indicators, affect the SDG performance of OECD member countries?

3) How the various configurations of economic development and decent work indicators/variables affect the SDG performance of each OECD member country?

OECD countries were included in the unit of analysis of this study as the set of countries with consistent and reliable data on the SDGs (Megyesiova & Lieskovska, 2018). In this context, the data obtained from the Sustainable Development Goals Report (2024) for the overall SDG scores and Goal 8 indicator scores of 38 OECD member countries were analyzed with the Fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis (fsQCA) method. Within the framework of these variables, the term "absence" of SDGs, which appears frequently in FsQCA studies, is consistent with the low level of SDGs throughout the study. This is referred to as a situation that can hinder the formation of SDGs and is effective in the low level of achievement of their objectives. As a cluster-theoretic asymmetric method, fsQCA was used to explore the causal configurations of Goal 8 indicators. In this way, indicators/variables that cause countries to achieve or fail to achieve the SDGs were discovered and multiple configurations were identified for each country (Sahibzada et al., 2022; Alam et al., 2023). These configurations will help countries see the big picture of indicators that need to be prioritized, improved and acted upon, and shape future policy strategies accordingly. The study also provides analytical decision support to inform OECD countries on which indicators they should direct their resource allocation to increase their alignment with Goal 8. In this context, each country should shape and update its action plans for the SDGs they are committed to achieving by 2030.

Literature Review

Economic Growth and Decent Work

Sustainable Development Goal 8 focuses on promoting inclusive economic growth and decent productive employment for all (Monaco, 2024). Goal 8 is considered as one of the key sustainable development indicators to be achieved in countries where the OECD is an institution that feeds the economic growth agenda (Chertkovskaya, 2023). According to Goal 8, sustainable economic growth, which is recognized as an important element in countries' prosperity and living standards, requires at least 7% annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) (Roy et al., 2021). In this context, growth measured as GDP is positioned as the key to defining and assessing economic development (Chertkovskaya, 2023).

One of the key components for countries to achieve their economic development goals is to reduce unemployment rates (Fapohunda, 2012; Iduseri et al., 2022). According to Tjahjanto et al. (2023), high unemployment rates hinder economic growth and push countries away from sustainable development goals. However, unemployment, especially youth unemployment, has become a chronic problem in many countries due to wrong employment policies and global crises. For example, the Covid-19 pandemic, which has recently diminished its threat, has led to a global economic contraction and increased unemployment rates. The increases in unemployment rates during the pandemic have hindered global efforts towards sustainable development. (Jasni et al., 2023). Young people employed in sectors predominantly damaged by the virus have been more affected by this process. This has led to an increase in the number of youth unemployed, referred to as NEETs. The term NEET refers to the percentage of the population aged 15-24 who are not in employment and not in further education or training (Picatoste & Rodriguez-Crespo, 2020). The youth unemployed, referred to as NEET, have great potential to boost a country's productivity and GDP. Development focal points should therefore view youth as an investment opportunity worth allocating funds and effort to boost economic growth (Adeosun et al., 2022). Otherwise, NEETs can become a major threat to countries' sustainable development by creating economic and social costs (unemployment benefits, social assistance programs, crime rates, social unrest, etc.) (Puiu, 2020).

NEET rates may also vary depending on the population dynamics of countries (Cieslik et al., 2022). Especially in African and Asian countries, NEETs are increasing at a much faster rate due to population explosion. Countries evaluate the reflections of their population growth on labor market conditions with the employment-population ratio indicator. The employment-population ratio is a macroeconomic statistic that measures the employed civilian labor force relative to the total working-age population (Abraham & Kearney, 2020). The level of employment-population ratio of countries reveals the ability of the country's economy to provide jobs to this growing population. In other words, the level of employment-population ratio is an important indicator used to measure the impact of economic growth/decline on long-term employment trends (Leon, 1981). Thus, economic growth is sustainable if it expands the scope of economic activity to create more jobs for a growing population (Abraham & Kearney, 2020; Siddikee et al., 2022).

Another factor contributing to the economic development of countries is the increasing number of adults who have accounts in financial institutions or use mobile money services (Zehri et al., 2024). Museba et al. (2021) argue that the adoption of financial technology, mobile money and digital financial services has positive economic impacts by promoting financial inclusion. For example, Sub-Saharan Africa, which has increased the use of mobile banking financial services over the last decade, generates about 10% of its GDP from mobile money (banking) transactions (Nyimbiri, 2021). Especially with the Covid-19 pandemic, many countries have turned to digital financial services instead of traditional economic activities and financial inclusion in this area has increased rapidly (Zehri et al., 2024). Anholon et al. (2021) stated that approximately 45 million Brazilians received inadequate mobile banking services by 2019, but this number decreased significantly by 2020. In the aftermath of the pandemic, governments' and businesses' more intensive adoption of digital platforms has greatly accelerated the development of online transactions and e-commerce. In this context, digital financial services, which have evolved thanks to advances in technology, new customer behaviors

and financial regulations, facilitate banking transactions, encourage investment and increase overall economic productivity (Zehri et al., 2024).

Chertkovskaya (2023) argues that while a focus on increasing economic productivity contributes to economic growth, it can also jeopardize the pursuit of decent work, decent working conditions and ecological order. In a purely growth-oriented economy, rights and regulations that are considered part of decent work may be ignored. In order to prevent the negative impacts of economic growth on decent work, Goal 8 adopts the four core principles (elimination of forced labour, child labour, employment discrimination and recognition of the right to freedom of association/collective bargaining) set out in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998). In essence, these principles aim to secure workers' rights and free people from modern slavery (Moussa et al., 2022). However, the commercial actions of some developed countries, so-called expansionism (e.g. the EU's textile supply chains), can have negative impacts on the ability of less developed/ developing countries to achieve sustainable development goals (Malik et al., 2021). Emphasizing that many developed countries seek to achieve their development goals by exploiting the ecological and social resources of others, Chen (2024) argues that in this sense, countries are acting against the fundamental principle of the SDG Agenda (leave no one behind). Modern slavery and fatal labor accidents in current international trade practices can hinder progress in decent work opportunities, especially for less developed/developing countries (Malik et al., 2022).

Modern slavery is an umbrella term used to describe the violent exploitation of a person for personal or commercial gain (Boyd et al., 2018). The Global Slavery Index defines modern slavery as "situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or abandon because of threats, violence, coercion, abuse of power or deception" (GSI, 2016). According to Shilling et al. (2021), a workplace that withholds wages, uses violence and threats, employs deceptive recruitment practices, uses debt bondage, allows poor and unsafe working conditions, deprives workers of basic necessities and/or confiscates personal identification documents is a modern slavery environment. Worldwide, an estimated 40.3 million people live in modern slavery, almost three-quarters (71%) of whom are women and girls (Wailes & Mackenzie, 2023). Although its prevalence varies across countries, modern slavery is a global problem with examples of human exploitation occurring around the world. Despite various human rights laws, practices such as forced labor, child labor, slave labor, and human trafficking are found in many societies (Saha et al., 2023).

According to Shilling et al. (2021), countries' high dependence on imports in sectors such as construction, trade and agriculture has led to slavery being shifted from developed to developing countries through global production supply chains. Modern slavery mostly takes place when developed countries (with high GDP) trade with less developed/developing exporting countries in Asia and Africa (Simas et al., 2014). Malik et al. (2022) corroborate this view by showing that around 40% of the EU's modern slavery footprint is embodied in imports. Thus, modern slavery embodied in imports refers to victims exploited under poor working conditions in global supply chains to produce goods consumed in geographically remote regions (Mora et al., 2024). This leads to high rates of slavery in countries that are often large exporters of manufactured goods, where raw materials and low-skilled labor are abundant (Shilling et al., 2021).

In addition to the proliferation of modern slavery, fatal work accidents in less developed/developing countries as exporters have also been on the rise recently. Alsamawi (2016) found that half of the fatal work accidents in the international trade activities of the Chinese transportation sector occurred in exports to developed countries such as the US, the UK and Germany. Malik et al. (2021) emphasize that the majority of fatal work accidents in global supply chains of textile products can be attributed to the consumption-based footprint of EU countries. As a result, the exposure of individuals working in the supply chain of goods and services to conditions contrary to the principles of decent work, such as modern slavery and fatal work accidents, complicates the potential of less developed/developing countries to achieve SDGs.

Research Methodology

Since qualitative interpretation of quantitative data is made in the research, the basis of the research was formed within the framework of pragmatism, which includes both quantitative research

philosophy realism and qualitative research philosophy idealism and mixed research method (Günbayı & Sorm, 2018). Determining the paradigm of the research is defined as a set of beliefs based on philosophical assumptions and the interest of the researcher, and the researchers adopted both technical interest (quantitative) and hermonitic interest (qualitative) together in accordance with mixed research methods (Guba & Lincoln, 2005). While the philosophy of pragmatism is at the heart of mixed research methods, the focus is on the questions and outcomes of the research (Kaushik & Walsh, 2019). Moreover, the study was conducted by accepting the view that mixed research methods will increase the validity and reliability of data interpretation (Zohrabi, 2013). In order to determine the research methodology, the design of the study was developed (Figure 2) and a framework was created through a comprehensive literature review. Then, asymmetric findings were obtained with the data collection and analysis process.
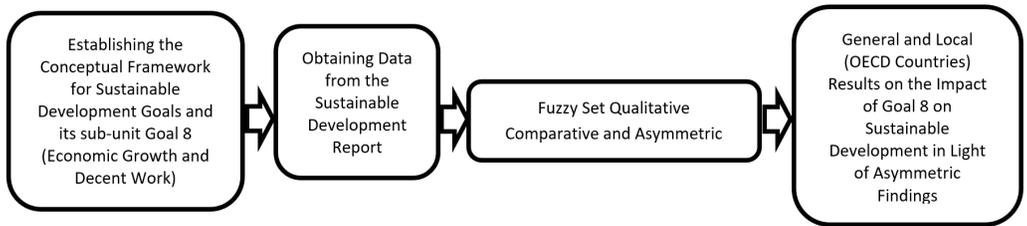
Establishing the Conceptual Framework for Sustainable Development Goals and its sub-unit Goal 8 (Economic Growth and Decent Work) → Obtaining Data from the Sustainable Development Report → Fuzzy Set Qualitative Comparative and Asymmetric → General and Local (OECD Countries) Results on the Impact of Goal 8 on Sustainable Development in Light of Asymmetric Findings

Figure 2. Research Design

Research Data

The data of the research includes the compilation of data for the SDG and its 8th sub-goal (economic growth and decent work) from the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report. Therefore, the data for both SDGs and Goal 8 were obtained from a single database, the SDG 2024 report. In this regard, the sources of the data compiled for Goal 8 are shown in Table 1. In addition, the data of the research was obtained by sampling 38 OECD member countries. This sample selection was based on the high development potential of OECD countries, the high index of SDGs in the reports, and the fact that it was designed in a way that we can easily obtain a cluster theoretical perspective due to the combination of both developing and developed member countries. For OECD countries with high development potential, exploring the status and dynamics of variables as part of the SDG targets is important in terms of obtaining sustainable development projections for the future globally (Megyesiova & Lieskovska, 2018).

Table 1. Data Sources

Data Name	Source	Connection
Adjusted GDP Growth	World Bank	https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD
Victims of Modern Slavery	Walk Free Foundation	https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/
Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution/ Mobile Money Service Provider	Global Findex Database	https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/FX.OWN.TOTL.ZS
Guarantee of Fundamental Labor Rights	World Justice Project	https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data
Fatal Work Accidents	Alsamawi et al. (2017) data updated to 2018	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2016.12.110
Victims of Modern Slavery	Malik et al (2022)	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jiec.13169

Table 1. Continue

Data Name	Source	Connection
Employment Rate	OECD	https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?df[ds]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df[id]=DSD_LFS%40DF_IALFS_EMP_WAP_Q&df[ag]=OECD.SDD.TPS&df[vs]=1.0&pd=2016%2C2023&dq=.EMP_WAP
Young People Not in Education and Employment (NEET)	OECD	https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?pg=0&b-p=true&snb=2&vw=tb&df[ds]=dsDisseminateFinalD-MZ&df[id]=DSD_HSL%40DF_HSL_CWB&df[ag]=OECD.WISE.WDP&df[vs]=1.0&pd=2019%2C2022&dq=.2_4.PT_POP_Y15T24._T._T._T.&to[TIME_PERIOD]=-false&lc=en
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG Report 2024	https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings

Source: Adapted from Sustainable Development Report (2024)

Analysis of the Research

In the study, the Fuzzy-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) technique was used as it was aimed to identify the effects of causal variables for the SDGs and to obtain country-specific cluster-type results. Ragin's cluster-theoretic analysis technique for analyzing the relationships between the causes and consequences of social phenomena allows for local inference on how variables in combination affect the outcome (Ragin, 2014). Since this technique is used as a bridge between quantitative and qualitative paradigms, it allows for the use of mixed research techniques, and its use in our research will bring many advantages as it reveals important situations such as developing and testing theories, simplifying complex clusters, and determining the necessity-adequacy of causal variables (Geremew et al., 2024). In addition, socio-economic-based comparative qualitative analysis technique has been among the trending techniques in the field of social sciences, especially in recent times, and has been considered very valuable for the formation of policy recommendations (Schneider & Wagemann, 2010). For these various reasons, the fsQCA technique was used in this study. The main pillar of conducting research analysis is the determination of descriptive statistics. In Table 2, descriptive statistics of the data obtained are shared and this constitutes the first stage before the analysis.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics

Variable Name	Origin Description	Abb.	Max..	Ave.	Min.
Adjusted GDP Growth	Adjusted GDP growth (%)	AGDP	13,4	0,4894	-4,1
Victims of Modern Slavery	Victims of modern slavery (per 1,000 population)	VMS	15,6	3,3368	0,5
Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution/ Mobile Money Service Provider	Adults with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (% of population aged 15 or over)	MSP	100	93,4131	36,9
Guarantee of Fundamental Labor Rights	Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed (worst 0–1 best)	FLR	0,95	0,7115	0,39
Fatal Work Accidents	Fatal work-related accidents embodied in imports (per million population)	FWA	6,4	2,7657	0,4
Victims of Modern Slavery Embodied in Imports	Victims of modern slavery embodied in imports (per 100,000 population)	MS	194,4	84,4026	12,2
Employment Rate	Employment-to-population ratio (%)	EPR	83,7	71,8947	53,8
Young People Not in Education and Employment	Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (% of population aged 15 to 24)	NEET	26,7	12,6631	5,3
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Sustainable Development Goals	SDG	86,4	79,1	69,3

FsQCA Findings

The FsQCA technique helps us to identify the impact of a wide range of causal conditions on the outcome. It also provides a great advantage for generating cluster theoretical results and policy recommendations in the context of countries. This technique allows us to identify causal relationships with even values in the range -1 and 1. Many units of analysis such as correlation, regression, beta coefficients, etc. are insufficient to provide results in an asymmetric context because they are linearly related (Wu et al., 2014). The fact that FsQCA reveals two-dimensional findings for both condition and outcome is a factor that increases the validity and reliability of the research. Finally, with this technique, both asymmetric and country-specific findings of the impact of the variables/indicators included in Goal 8, which is a sub-unit of SDGs, on achieving sustainable development goals are revealed.

3.1. Calibration of Data Sets

The last step before the analysis is the calibration process for all data for which the thresholds for descriptive statistics are established. The calibration process is a very critical step since the types of data within the scope of the analysis have very different numerical values (percentages, numbers, indices, etc.). It allows the quantities of the variables in the study to be converted into membership scores or fuzzy sets (Dusa, 2018). The more related the conditions are to the cluster, the higher the value is. In the cluster theoretical context, various thresholds have been proposed to determine value ranges. 0.95: represents the full membership threshold for a cluster, 0.50: the average membership threshold and 0.05: the minimum membership threshold and calibration is performed according to these values (Cangialosi, 2023). In this way, the raw data were made suitable for cluster theoretical analysis.

3.2. Consistency And Scope Analysis Findings

This analysis provides insight into whether the condition variables are necessary or sufficient for the outcome variables in a singular sense. In the necessity analysis, a condition variable with a value greater than 0.90 for the outcome variable means that the cluster has a high level of at least 90% proven in the theoretical context (Ragin, 2000). However, even if the requirement is not met, a consistency value of at least 0.50 indicates that the indicators are sufficient for testing (Ragin, 2006).

According to the consistency and coverage findings shared in Table 3, it is determined that the only absolutely necessary condition for the existence of SDGs in the cluster theoretical context is the existence of MSP. In other words, the increase in the number of adults with an account in a financial institution or mobile financial institution has an absolutely necessary positive impact on sustainable development. This may indicate that sustainable economic development increases at the same level as countries with a developing banking and financial sector. The absence of the VMS approached, but did not reach, the requirement. On the other hand, for the absence of SDGs, the absence of FLR approached but did not reach the requirement. In another case, it was found that all conditions for the presence of SDGs were sufficient for the analysis. It means that all conditions are sufficient to test for the presence of the SDGs. However, it is determined that the existence of MSP is not sufficient for the absence of SDGs. This condition, which is necessary for the existence of SDGs, is not sufficient for the absence of SDGs. In other words, it reveals that a high level of mobile or physical financial institution membership is not associated with a high level of SDGs. This result once again proves the advantage of asymmetric findings and shows that the effect of causal variables differs between the absence and presence of the SDG. All other conditions are found to be sufficient in a singular sense. It should be noted that all conditions affect the result in a singular sense. MSP can be included in the requirement when it becomes a configuration.

Table 3. Consistency and Coverage Values

Condition Variables		Consistency	Coverage		Consistency	Coverage
AGDP		0.6337	0.8096		0.7049	0.7820
~AGDP		0.8294	0.7640		0.8284	0.6625
VMS		0.4616	0.6894		0.6426	0.8333
~VMS		0.8883	0.7411		0.7604	0.5508
MSP	Outcome Variable: SDG	0.9857	0.6981	Outcome Variable: ~SDG	0.7842	0.4822
~MSP		0.2689	0.5894		0.5090	0.9687
FLR		0.8697	0.8688		0.6772	0.5874
~FLR		0.5870	0.6768		0.8488	0.8497
FWA		0.6907	0.8206		0.5866	0.6051
~FWA		0.6676	0.6503		0.8261	0.6987
MS		0.6809	0.8066		0.5934	0.6103
~MS		0.6710	0.6553		0.8120	0.6884
EPR		0.8176	0.7991		0.6778	0.5752
~EPR		0.5653	0.6689		0.7633	0.7841
NEET		0.5108	0.6526		0.7457	0.8272
~NEET		0.8647	0.7966		0.6868	0.5493

AGDP: Adjusted GDP Growth, **VMS:** Victims of Modern Slavery, **MSP:** Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution/Mobile Money Service Provider, **FLR:** Guarantee of Fundamental Labor Rights, **FWA:** Fatal Work Accidents, **MS:** Victims of Modern Slavery Embodied in Imports, **EPR:** Employment Rate, **NEET:** Young People Not in Education and Employment, **SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals

3.3. Logical Minimization with Truth Table Analysis

In the third step of the FsQCA technique, the truth table analysis, all possible condition combinations are identified and the consistency of the relationship of the combinations with the outcome is evaluated for each (Cangialosi, 2023). With the logical minimization process, which Ragin adapted to the field of social sciences, all condition combinations in the subset are identified and simplified in numerical form, and the configurations evolve into a language suitable for comparative analysis. Accordingly, the truth table and the logical minimization process are proposed as all possible combinations between causal condition variables = 2^n (n=number of conditions) (Pappas & Woodside, 2021). In other words, since there are eight conditions in our study, there are 28=256 causal condition combinations in the presence of SDGs and 28=256 causal condition combinations in the absence of SDGs. Since it is difficult and not necessary to evaluate these combinations together, the logical minimization process is needed. When the consistency value of 1.0 in the table was set as the exact threshold, the number of rows was cut as N≥0.95. Although many studies and program baselines suggest a cutoff of 0.80 (Sedita et al., 2022), the number of configurations is quite high, and if a higher consistency value is demanded, a cutoff above the threshold value is applied. As a result of the minimization process, 256 possible combinations for the presence of SDGs were reduced to 24 combinations, resulting in 6 configurations to be interpreted. On the other hand, for the absence of SDGs, 256 possible combinations were reduced to 24 combinations, resulting in 7 configurations to be interpreted.

3.4. Configurational Findings

The configuration findings allow us to identify the multifunctional structure of the variables in the subset for SDGs and to reveal the local results within the framework of these configurations. However, three different solution sets (complex, medium/intermediate, simple) were identified with the minimization stage. These solution clusters produce different results according to the degree of having sufficient empirical evidence, meaningful inference of relationships with the outcome and having sufficient cases in this context. While the complex solution excludes counterfactuals for the sake of high values, the simple solution gathers the basic facts together, and it is recommended to interpret the middle/intermediate solution cluster, which is considered to be the most plausible in the theoretical context and considers the basis without completely excluding counterfactuals (Liu et al.,

2017). When the consistency values in the intermediate/intermediate solution cluster reach at least 0.75, it shows that the configurations are designed quite well with the relevant condition variables, the configurations define the outcome variable quite well and are included in the subset (Sedita et al., 2022). In addition, it is recommended that the solution coverage value should be 0.25 and above in order for the configurations with condition variables to appropriately represent the outcome variable (Schneider & Wagemann, 2010). According to the intermediate solution results shared in Table 4, it is seen that the solution consistency value of the configurations for the existence of SDGs represents the main cluster at a very good level of 0.92. The solution coverage value is 0.79 and this result shows that the configurations can explain the presence of SDGs at a very good rate of 79%. On the other hand, the solution consistency value for the absence of the SDG is again at a very high level of 0.92 and it is determined that there are highly representative subsets. The solution coverage value for the absence of the SDG was found to be 0.71. This shows that the configurations explain the absence of SDG at a good level of 71%. As a result, it is found that the combinations of condition variables are highly relevant and appropriate in determining the causal relationship for both stages of the SDG.

Table 4. Configuration Results

Frequency Cutoff: 1		Outcome Variable: SDG	
Consistency Segment: 0.962335			
Configurations	Raw Coverage	Unique Coverage	Consistency
MSP*FLR*FWA*MS*EPR*~NEET	0.618486	0.0172075	0.943029
~AGDP*~VMS*MSP*FLR*~FWA*~MS*~EPR	0.437562	0.0560473	0.985604
~AGDP*MSP*FLR*~FWA*~MS*EPR*~NEET	0.4941	0.0265486	0.985294
~AGDP*VMS*MSP*FLR*~FWA*EPR*~NEET	0.341691	0.00147498	1
AGDP*~VMS*MSP*FLR*FWA*MS*~NEET	0.513766	0.0103244	0.928064
~AGDP*~VMS*MSP*FLR*FWA*MS*EPR	0.529499	0.00393313	0.980874
Solution Coverage: 0.790561			
Solution Consistency: 0.922018			
Frequency Cutoff: 1		Outcome Variable: ~SDG	
Consistency Segment: 0.95			
Configurations	Raw Coverage	Unique Coverage	Consistency
~AGDP*~VMS*~MSP*~FWA*~MS*~EPR*NEET	0.345413	0.0101926	0.998363
VMS*~MSP*~FLR*~FWA*~MS*EPR*~NEET	0.283126	0.0186864	0.94518
VMS*~MSP*~FLR*~FWA*~MS*~EPR*NEET	0.429219	0.0464326	0.998682
~AGDP*VMS*~FLR*~FWA*~MS*~EPR*NEET	0.509626	0.0605888	0.975081
AGDP*~VMS*MSP*~FLR*~FWA*MS*EPR*~NEET	0.376557	0.0821065	0.95
~AGDP*VMS*MSP*FLR*~FWA*MS*EPR*~NEET	0.302378	0.00736129	0.953571
AGDP*VMS*MSP*FLR*FWA*MS*EPR*~NEET	0.296149	0.0198188	0.957875
Solution Coverage: 0.717441			
Solution Consistency: 0.924143			

AGDP: Adjusted GDP Growth, **VMS:** Victims of Modern Slavery, **MSP:** Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution/Mobile Money Service Provider, **FLR:** Guarantee of Fundamental Labor Rights, **FWA:** Fatal Work Accidents, **MS:** Victims of Modern Slavery Embodied in Imports, **EPR:** Employment Rate, **NEET:** Young People Not in Education and Employment, **SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals

3.5. FsQCA Configuration Findings

Due to the nature of the FsQCA technique, after the simplification with the logical minimization process, configurations and therefore countries below certain thresholds are automatically deleted in the application and the results of those countries are interrupted. The interpretation of the countries in the configurations at the appropriate values obtained is in question. Interpretations can be made for

27/38 countries for the presence of SDGs and 15/38 countries for their absence. These interpretations, in the context of the advantage provided by the fsQCA technique, allow us to provide deep insights into the causal relationships for the SDGs that differ within OECD countries.

First of all, according to the general results presented in Figure 3, MSP and FLR are the two condition variables that are absolutely present for the existence of SDG among all configurations. NEET, on the other hand, appears as a condition that must be absent or neutral for the existence of the SDG, and no results were found for the presence of NEET in any configuration that positively affected the SDG. In all other configurations, the variables associated with presence-absence or neutrality vary. In the local context, for countries in the first configuration, despite the high incidence of fatal work accidents and victims of modern slavery among OECD countries, the SDGs are high due to the high level of membership in mobile/physical financial institutions, the guarantee of basic labor rights, high employment rates, as well as the low number of young people not in education or employment. In the countries belonging to the Northwest Mediterranean region in the second configuration, despite the low GDP growth rate and employment rate compared to OECD countries, the SDGs are high due to the low rate of victims of modern slavery, high membership in mobile/physical financial institutions, high guarantee of basic labor rights, low fatal work accidents, and low number of victims of modern slavery embodied in imports. In the third configuration, although the GDP growth rate is low, the SDGs are high due to high membership in mobile/physical financial institutions, high level of guarantee of basic labor rights, low level of fatal work accidents, high level of employment rate, low level of youth not in employment and education. In the fourth configuration, although the GDP growth rate is low and the number of victims of modern slavery is high, the SDG development goals are realized due to high membership in mobile/physical financial institutions, high level of guarantee of basic labor rights, low number of fatal work accidents, high employment rate and low rate of youth not in employment and education. In the fifth configuration, it is determined that the SDGs are rising due to the high number of fatal work accidents, high GDP growth rate despite the high number of modern slaves embodied in imports, high membership rate in mobile/physical financial institutions, guaranteed basic labor rights, and low number of youth not in employment and education. In the last configuration, the GDP growth rate is low, the number of fatal work accidents is high, the number of victims of modern slavery embodied in imports is high but the number of victims of modern slavery is low, the rate of enrollment in physical/mobile financial institutions is high, basic labor rights are guaranteed, and the employment rate is high.

On the other hand, as an advantage of asymmetric findings, a wide variety of configurations have emerged for the non-formation of SDGs. According to the findings shared in Figure 3, first of all, for the countries in the first configuration, SDGs are realized at a low level due to the low number of fatal occupational accidents, low number of victims of modern slavery, low number of victims of modern slavery embodied in imports, low GDP growth rate, low membership in physical/mobile financial institutions, low employment rates and high rate of young people not in education and employment. For the countries in the second configuration, SDGs are realized at a low level due to the low number of fatal occupational accidents, low number of victims of modern slavery embodied in imports, high employment rates and low number of young people not in education and employment, high number of victims of modern slavery, low rate of those registered in physical/mobile finances and low level of guarantee of basic labor rights. In the third configuration, although GDP growth rates are high, fatal occupational accidents are low, the number of modern slavery victims embodied in imports is low, the membership rate in physical/mobile financial institutions is low, the basic labor rights are low, the employment rate is low and the rate of young people not in education and employment is high. For the countries in the fourth configuration, despite the low GDP growth rates, fatal occupational accidents are low, the number of modern slavery victims embodied in imports is low, the basic labor rights are low, the employment rate is low and the rate of young people not in education and employment is high, the SDG is low. For the country in the fifth configuration, the SDG is achieved at a low level due to the high GDP growth rate, low number of victims of modern slavery, high membership in physical/mobile financial institutions, low fatal occupational accidents, high employment rates, low proportion of young people not in employment-education, low level of securing basic labor rights, and an increase in the number of modern slavery victims embodied in imports. In the sixth configuration, the SDG is achieved at a low level due to the high membership in physical/mobile financial institutions, high basic labor rights, low number of fatal occupational accidents, high employment rates, low proportion of young people in employment-education, and an increase in the number of modern slavery victims

embodied in imports. For the countries in the final configuration, although the GDP growth rate is high, membership in physical/mobile financial institutions is high, basic labor rights are secured, employment rate is high, the rate of young people not in employment or education is low, the SDG is realized at a low level due to the high level of modern slavery victimization, high level of fatal work accidents, and high number of modern slavery victims embodied in imports. Finally, as a result of all the results, the causal condition (high/low levels) relationships are conveyed in the context of countries for the SDG to be realized at a high/low level.

SDG							
Conf.	1	2	3	4	5	6	
AGDP		⊘	⊘	⊘	●	⊘	
VMS		⊘		●	⊘	⊘	
MSP	●	●	●	●	●	●	
FLR	●	●	●	●	●	●	
FWA	●	⊘	⊘	⊘	●	●	
MS	●	⊘	⊘		●	●	
EPR	●	⊘	●	●		●	
NEET	⊘		⊘	⊘	⊘		
	Norway, Netherlands Denmark, Austria Ireland, Germany Switzerland, Slovenia Estonia, Finland Lithuania	Spain, France	Japan, Czechia	Czechia, Slovak Republic	Norway, Ireland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland	Austria, Germany, Finland, Sweden	

~SDG							
Conf.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
AGDP	⊘		●	⊘	●	⊘	●
VMS	⊘	●		●	⊘	●	●
MSP	⊘	⊘	⊘		●	●	●
FLR		⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	●	●
FWA	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	●
MS	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	●	●	●
EPR	⊘	●	⊘	⊘	●	●	●
NEET	●	⊘	●	●	⊘	⊘	⊘
	Chile, CostaRica	Hungary, Portugal	Colombia, Türkiye, Mexio, Israel	Mexico, Greece, Korea Rep.	Australia	Slovak Rep.	Estonia, Lithuania

Outcome Variable: SDG (left axis label, top section)
Outcome Variable: ~SDG (left axis label, bottom section)

Figure 3. OECD Country-Specific Configuration Findings for SDG Presence/Absence

"●" indicates that the condition exists, "◎" indicates that the condition does not exist, and the blank spaces indicate that its presence or absence is not important.

AGDP: Adjusted GDP Growth, **VMS:** Victims of Modern Slavery, **MSP:** Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution/ Mobile Money Service Provider, **FLR:** Guarantee of Fundamental Labor Rights, **FWA:** Fatal Work Accidents, **MS:** Victims of Modern Slavery Embodied in Imports, **EPR:** Employment Rate, **NEET:** Young People Not in Education and Employment, **SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals

Conclusion and Discussion

The research focused on determining the relationships between causal conditions affecting the achievement of SDGs or the disruption of their achievement. According to the results, it was determined that possible condition combinations affect SDGs in both directions and that the effect of causal variables on SDGs is critical. According to the results of the single necessity-sufficiency analysis in Table 3, it was determined that the increase in membership in physical/mobile financial institutions (MSP) is quite necessary for the existence of SDGs, and all other conditions are sufficient. It was observed that the increase in membership in physical/mobile financial institutions is insufficient for the absence of SDGs, which shows that the relevant variable is quite important for the existence of SDGs and is not included for its absence. However, all variables except MSP are sufficient in a single sense, and all variables produce suitable results for designing in a configuration. Thus, in the research conducted for OECD member countries, country-specific SDG results were revealed in a set theoretical context. According to the configuration results in Table 4, it was determined that the combinations of conditional variables have a very good level of explanation rate of 79.05% for the presence of SDGs. Similarly, the explanation rate of the configurations of variables for the absence of SDGs is at a very good level of 71.74% and it has been proven that the configurations have a suitable explanation rate for both aspects of SDGs. However, it should be noted that there is a gap between 20-30% for both stages of SDGs. In Figure 3, each country's results regarding the presence/absence of SDGs are shared uniquely. Considering that OECD countries have high targets for achieving SDGs, each country could produce policy recommendations related to their own contexts.

First, our research has determined that the presence/absence of GDP growth is important in affecting SDGs in two ways and it has been noted that this condition varies by country. Economic growth aimed at increasing national income per capita is considered a sustainable condition that meets the needs of generations, as it is an important factor in improving the quality of life in material terms and reducing poverty (Hess, 2016). In the study of Korauš et al. (2017), which took Romania and Slovakia as a sample with GDP growth rates between 1995-2015; it was determined that according to the Bayesian linear regression results, a high GDP growth rate has a significant impact on sustainable economic development by reflecting positively on employment, favorable interest rates, and welfare conditions. In the study of Megyesiova and Lieskovska (2018), which included OECD member countries; Pearson correlation and regression analyses were conducted, and it was determined that the reflections of increases in GDP growth are an important source for sustainable development.

On the other hand, as a result of current study; it was determined that the two-way value of modern slavery victimization creates two-way results of the SDGs. It was seen that these results and the research findings in the field are in a similar relationship. It is accepted by the United Nations that all slavery-like practices disrupt the logic of decent work and, accordingly, seriously negatively affect sustainable development (Khan, 2022). According to Wailes and Mackenzie (2022); modern slavery experiences have a negative impact on social justice, disruption of economic growth (SDG Goal 8) and institutionalization (SDG Goal 16), and therefore on sustainable development. According to the results of the model test by Moussa et al. (2022), which included a sample of 167 countries; the prevalence of modern slavery has created an unstable society and has significantly negatively affected human development and therefore sustainable development.

On the other hand, although the effect of membership in physical/mobile financial institutions on SDG is accepted in the context of the literature, it is within the scope of a subject that lacks in-depth research. In fact, in the research of Su et al. (2021), a study was conducted with a platform proposal to facilitate the transition to a cashless economy, and according to the structural results revealed with the data obtained from 353 participants, it was stated that trust and loyalty to the mobile

environment were high and this situation would be effective in the development of sustainable finance, but in-depth analysis is needed in future studies to increase the evidence. According to the research results of Xu et al. (2024); The adoption of mobile payments such as Alipay has accelerated in today's conditions, there has been an increase of around 10% in the frequency of credit card use, and this situation has been considered valuable in terms of the continuity of economic stability. With the developing technological infrastructure in a global sense, competitiveness is developing in line with the SDGs with the development of finance and banking, and in-depth future studies in the field are welcomed (Rashid, 2018).

According to another research result, in connection with the literature, the protection of basic labor rights and the SDGs are interrelated. Guaita-Fernández et al. (2024) suggested in their research; between 2012 and 2021, in the sample of Spain, ensuring equality between men and women by strengthening basic labor rights and ensuring sustainable development accordingly. Zeb-Obipi and Kpurunee (2023), who analyzed the 8th Goal from a human resources perspective in Nigeria, suggested ensuring sustainability by protecting workers' rights, providing a safe and inclusive working environment, and developing the concept of decent work for economic growth. According to the results of the study by Islam (2023); inclusive factors such as equal bargaining power of workers and employers, wage harmony, provision of union rights, and secure working conditions enable the achievement of stable development goals.

Another result obtained in the research, in line with the literature, shows that there is a double-valued relationship between fatal occupational accidents and SDG achievement. According to Ma et al. (2021), the achievement of SDGs is carried to important dimensions with possible solutions for negative work outcomes such as injuries, disabilities, deaths, etc. globally. In response to the victimization caused by accidents in chemical laboratories by Giménez et al. (2024), an advanced oxidation process risk analysis has been applied, and it has been determined that improvements in occupational health and safety are an important way to achieve sustainable development goals. According to the World Health Organization and the International Labor Organization data, it has been observed that fatal occupational accidents are on a stable course, and it is predicted that the possibility of achieving sustainable development goals will increase by taking measures in this regard (Collie, 2024).

According to another result of our research, the relationship between modern slavery victimization embodied in imports and sustainable development is supported in the context of literature. Shilling et al. (2021) determined that sustainable development is negatively affected due to high dependence on imports, where human exploitation is intense, in North America, Western Europe, Australia and Japan. Mora et al. (2024) conducted a case study by taking the Democratic Republic of Congo as an example, determined that modern slavery is high in points where globalization is intense and trade input and output are high, and shared the necessity of creating policies on this issue. Malik et al. (2022), who examined import-based consumer demands in the European Union, shared that in-depth analyzes are needed for reform requirements for modern slavery and policy recommendations in this regard, considering sustainable development goals.

Finally, one of the research results is that the rates of young people who are not in education and employment affect the SDGs bidirectionally. This result shows that there is a similar finding with the inverse relationship in the literature. In the research conducted by Ruesga-Benito et al. (2018) using the 2016 EUROSTAT data as a sample, it was determined that since the NEET factor will bring poverty and exclusion, policy recommendations regarding the phenomenon are very important for a sustainable socio-economic structure. In the research conducted by Cieslik et al. (2022) examining youth unemployment and non-participation in education in Sub-Saharan Africa, it was stated that in order to ensure sustainable development, it is necessary to determine the obstacles to the inclusion of young people in the market or education services and to develop policy recommendations for this purpose. According to the results of Erdogan et al. (2021), who conducted a cross-sectional research on a sample of 51 people within the scope of the Youth Guarantee Program; It has been found that improved education, training and employment opportunities are the driving force of sustainable development in social and economic terms. Dluhopolskyi and Dluhopolska (2024) shared in their research that the NEET factor has a deep connection between ensuring social and economic

integration and achieving sustainable economic development goals, and at the same time, it was emphasized that research should be continued in order to create policy recommendations for future studies. Finally, in connection with the literature, it has been proven that all research variables have a deep relationship with SDGs and that this situation produces bidirectional results. Moreover, the common consensus in many studies regarding future study recommendations is the need to describe country-specific policy recommendations. Our research defines the two-dimensional relationship regarding the achievement/non-achievement of SDG targets in the context of set theory in OECD member countries and reveals policy recommendations.

Theoretical And Practical Implications

The research focuses on determining the relationship between the effective factors for achieving the SDGs and developing country-specific policies accordingly. As a result of the asymmetric findings accessed with the research results, theoretical development is provided with asymmetric outputs as well as the dominant symmetric results in the literature. As a result of the various configurations determined, local results reveal valuable findings in terms of literature and expand the conceptual framework. As stated in the research, practical outputs beyond theoretical effects contain the most important features of cluster theoretical studies. First of all, among the conditions where developed countries in the first configuration are dominant, the situation that needs to be considered for achieving the SDGs is the necessity of adopting policies that prevent fatal occupational accidents and modern slavery victims embodied in imports. For these countries, GDP growth rates and the existence or absence of policies for modern slavery victims do not have any importance for the SDGs. The continuity of other important factors will be important for the continuity of reaching the SDGs. In the second configuration, the policy measures to be taken against the low GDP growth rate and low employment for Spain and France, which are located in the Mediterranean part of the European Region, will be valuable for reaching the SDGs. It is seen that the policy guidelines regarding the NEET factor are insignificant and the continuity of other conditions is necessary. In the third configuration, the measures to be taken against the low GDP growth rate for Japan and the Czech Republic are very valuable for reaching the SDGs. It is determined that the presence/absence of policy recommendations regarding modern slavery victimization is insignificant, and the continuity of other factors is necessary. In the fourth configuration, it is observed that the policy measures to be taken against the low GDP growth rate and high modern slavery for the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are necessary for reaching the SDGs. It is determined that the measures taken for the victims of modern slavery embodied in imports are neutral in terms of the SDGs, and the continuity of other variables is very important. For the majority of the developed countries in the fifth configuration, measures to be taken against fatal occupational accidents and modern slavery victimization in imports will be the driving force for achieving the SDGs. It is seen that the policy recommendations regarding employment rates are neutral, and the continuity of all other variables are quite important for the SDGs. For the developed countries in the sixth configuration, it is determined that the low GDP growth rate compared to the OECD average on an annual basis, the high fatal occupational accidents and the high level of modern slavery victimization in imports are decisive for achieving the SDGs. It is determined that the NEET factor is neutral, and the continuity of other conditions is valuable for achieving the SDGs.

On the other hand, it has been determined that the countries in the configurations that cause the SDGs to not be achieved are relatively developing countries. For Chile and Costa Rica in the first configuration, the low GDP growth rate, low membership in physical/mobile financial institutions, low employment rates and high NEET rates will prevent the SDGs from being achieved through political measures. For Hungary and Portugal in the second configuration, considering that the GDP growth rate has no effect, it is determined that the high number of victims of modern slavery, low membership in physical/mobile financial institutions and low basic labor rights are conditions that will reverse the low level of SDGs from being achieved. In the third configuration, it is determined that for Colombia, Turkey, Mexico and Israel, measures against modern slavery are insignificant, and the low rates of membership in physical/mobile financial institutions, low levels of security for basic labor rights, low employment rates and high NEET rates will reverse the low level of SDGs

from being achieved through political measures. In the fourth configuration, while membership in physical/mobile financial institutions is insignificant for Mexico, Greece and the Republic of Korea, it is determined that the policy measures taken in the face of low GDP growth rate, high modern slavery victims, low basic labor rights, low employment rate and high NEET rate will reverse the low level of SDG achievement. For Australia in the fifth configuration, the measures taken in the face of low basic labor rights security and high modern slavery victims embodied in imports will reverse the low level of SDG achievement. In the sixth configuration, for the Slovak Republic, the policy measures taken in the face of low GDP rate, high modern slavery victims and high number of modern slavery victims embodied in imports can correct the low level of SDG achievement. For Estonia and Lithuania in the last configuration, the policy measures taken in the face of high modern slavery victims, high fatal occupational accidents and high number of modern slavery victims embodied in imports can reverse the low level of SDG achievement.

Future Directives

Although it was observed that the configurations formed by the relevant variables for achieving SDGs at a high/low level were covered to a significant extent in the study, it was determined that the explanation rate of 20%-30% was still left blank. In future studies, determining the blank variables in addition to the relevant variables and conducting in-depth analyses will be valuable for SDG literature. In addition, although the sample of our study is OECD countries focusing on SDGs, future studies will allow the expansion of the literature by adding different countries from different regions. Thus, this situation will create the opportunity for comparison by determining policy guidelines for SDGs in different countries. Moreover, conducting future studies specifically for some countries that were missing during the simplification phase with the FsQCA technique is of vital importance in terms of completing the OECD country sample. In future studies, the single explanation rate of the variables and the relationship test results can be revealed with the structural model test, and symmetric findings can be added to our asymmetric findings and the scope of the results can be expanded.

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Özet

Eylül 2015'te Birleşmiş Milletler, ülkelerin ekonomik, sosyal ve çevresel gelişimini desteklemek amacıyla 17 sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedefi (SKH) belirlemiştir. Genel anlamda bu hedefler tüm insanların yaşam standartlarını iyileştirmeyi ve dünyamızı korumayı amaçlamaktadır. SKH'lerin 8. Hedefi, ekonomik büyümenin yanı sıra bireylerin insana yakışır iş fırsatlarına, adil ücretlere ve güvenli çalışma koşullarına erişebildiği eşitlikçi ve sürdürülebilir bir topluma ulaşmayı amaçlamaktadır. Hedef

8'in sosyal eşitsizliğe ve çevresel bozulmaya yol açmadan ekonomik büyümeye odaklanması, onu en önemli SKH hedeflerinden biri haline getirmektedir.

Bununla birlikte, ülkelerin yetersiz politika eylemleri ve küresel krizler, Hedef 8'in ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır iş taahhüdünün gerçekleştirilmesinde önemli aksaklıklar yaratmaktadır. Bu durum, ülkeleri 2030 yılına kadar ulaşmayı taahhüt ettikleri SKH'lerden uzaklaştırmaktadır. Ülkelerin bu taahhütlerini zamanında yerine getirebilmeleri için, ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır iş konusundaki performanslarını izleyip değerlendirmeleri ve SKH'lere ulaşma üzerindeki etkilerini belirlemeleri önemlidir.

Bilimsel literatürde ülkelerin SKH 8 performansını inceleyen sınırlı sayıda çalışma bulunurken, ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır iş göstergelerinin performansının ülkelerin sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine ulaşmasındaki etkisini, önemini ve önceliğini inceleyen herhangi bir çalışma bulunmamaktadır.

Bu çalışma, Hedef 8'in ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır iş söyleminin OECD üyesi ülkelerin sürdürülebilir kalkınması üzerindeki etkisini belirlemeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu kapsamda çalışmada, 2024 Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Raporu'nda Hedef 8 için yayınlanan göstergelerin/değişkenlerin (GSYH büyümesi, NEET oranı, istihdam-nüfus oranı, temel çalışan hakları, ithalatta modern kölelik/modern kölelik, ölümlü iş kazaları (ithalatta), bir banka veya diğer finansal kuruluşta veya mobil para hizmet sağlayıcısında hesabı olan yetişkinler) OECD üyesi ülkelerin genel sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine ulaşmasındaki rolü incelenmektedir.

OECD ülkeleri, sürdürülebilir kalkınma hedeflerine bağlılığı yüksek, en tutarlı ve güvenilir verilere sahip ülkeler kümesi olarak bu çalışmanın analiz birimine dahil edilmiştir. Bu kapsamda, 38 OECD üyesi ülkenin genel SKH puanları ve Hedef 8 (ekonomik büyüme ve insana yakışır iş) gösterge puanları için Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri Raporu'ndan (2024) elde edilen veriler Bulanık kümeli nitel karşılaştırmalı analiz (fsQCA) yöntemi ile analiz edilmiştir. Küme teorik asimetrik bir yöntem olan fsQCA, Hedef 8 göstergelerinin nedensel konfigürasyonlarını keşfetmek için kullanılmıştır. Bu kapsamda, ülkelerin SKH'lere ulaşmasına veya ulaşamamasına neden olan göstergeler/değişkenler araştırılmış ve her ülke için birden fazla konfigürasyon belirlenmiştir.

Çalışmanın bulguları, her bir göstergenin/değişkenin OECD ülkelerinin SKH'lere ulaşmaları için gerekli olduğunu göstermektedir. Ayrıca finansal kapsayıcılığın artırılması ve çalışanlara temel hakların sağlanmasının ülkelerin sürdürülebilir kalkınması için en önemli göstergeler olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Ülkelerin GSYH rakamlarındaki artışlar sürdürülebilir kalkınmaya olumlu katkı sağlarken, düşüşler ülkeleri sürdürülebilir kalkınmadan uzaklaştırmaktadır. Bu çift yönlü bulgu diğer göstergeler için de benzerdir. Göstergelerin çeşitli konfigürasyonlarındaki dinamikleri, her ülkenin sürdürülebilir kalkınması için kritik olan faktörleri sistematik olarak ortaya koymakta ve öncelik verilmesi, iyileştirilmesi, önlem alınması gereken konulara ilişkin içgörüler sağlamaktadır. Çalışma aynı zamanda OECD ülkelerine Hedef 8 ile uyumlarını artırmak için kaynak dağılımlarını hangi göstergelere yönlendirmeleri gerektiği konusunda bilgi vermek için analitik karar desteği sağlamaktadır. Bu bağlamda, her ülke 2030 yılına kadar gerçekleştirmeyi taahhüt ettiği SKH'lere yönelik eylem planlarını şekillendirmeli ve güncellemelidir.

Çalışmada tespit edilen çeşitli konfigürasyonlar sonucunda ortaya çıkan ülkeye özgü sonuçlar, kavramsal çerçeveyi genişleterek karar alıcılar ve uygulayıcılar için pratik çıkarımlar sağlamaktadır. Bununla birlikte, çalışmada SKH'leri etkileyen değişkenlerin oluşturduğu konfigürasyonlarda yüksek açıklama oranlarına ulaşılsa da kalan (açıklanamayan) boşluğun (%20-%30) doldurulması için hangi değişkenlerin kullanılabileceği konusunda ileride araştırma yapılması önerilmektedir. Araştırmamızın örneklemi SKH'lere odaklanan OECD ülkeleri olmakla birlikte, gelecekteki araştırmalar analiz birimine farklı bölgeleri, uluslararası toplulukları veya ülkeleri dahil ederek literatürün genişlemesine katkı sağlayabilir.