

ABSTRACT

This dissertation investigates the pivotal forces propelling economic growth in six South Asian countries, focusing on the relationship of trade, human capital, and institutional factors. Employing the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) test, we establish the presence of a long-run relationship between these variables and economic growth, unveiling their positive impacts.

The study delves into the intricate dynamics of trade, human capital, and institutions as driving forces behind economic expansion. Through rigorous analysis and empirical evidence, we highlight the significance of these factors and their cumulative effects on shaping the economic trajectory of the selected South Asian nations.

Our findings underscore the critical role of human capital development and the upskilling of the labor force in fostering sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, the study emphasizes the pivotal role of trade and exports in enhancing economic prosperity. By capitalizing on these drivers, countries can unlock their full economic potential, leading to improved living standards and overall well-being.

As a result of this research, we put forth recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders.

Investments in human capital through targeted education and training programs can catalyze economic growth, while proactive measures to promote trade and expand exports can generate increased revenue streams. These steps, when implemented effectively, hold the promise of charting a path towards comprehensive and sustained economic advancement in the South Asian region.

Keywords:

Trade Openness, human capital development, Institutions, ARDL, Economic growth, South Asia