

Human Development Index, Gross National Income per Capita, and Social Development Indicators in Lao PDR in Years 1990–2022: Long Run Strategic Synergy Trends Analysis

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Abstract:

This study explores the relationship between Human Development Indicators (HDI) and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in Laos over a 32-year period, from 1990 to 2022. Using synergy analysis, the research examines the interplay between economic growth, human development, and social well-being within the context of Laos' development trajectory. The study identifies key HDI components, such as life expectancy, education, and income levels, and analyzes how these correlate with fluctuations in GNI per capita–HDI synergies throughout the period. The analysis uncovers synergy trends related to economic growth, its impact on social welfare, and the extent to which economic prosperity has translated into human development gains. Special attention is given to periods of rapid economic expansion, such as the early 2000s, as well as the effects of political and global economic shifts in ASEAN countries, including the impact of the 2008 global financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. Through this analysis, the study highlights key synergies and trade-offs between economic growth and human development outcomes, offering valuable insights for policymakers seeking to promote more inclusive and sustainable development strategies in Laos. The findings suggest that while economic growth has been strong, there is significant potential to better translate increases in GNI per capita into broader improvements in human development across the country. Issues related to human health and education policies are identified as critical areas for future policy attention.

Keywords:

Human Development, Gross National Income per Capita, Synergy Analysis, Synergy trendsGuidance.