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P(ISSN) : 3007-0031

E(ISSN) : 3007-004X

<https://rc-archive.com/index.php/Journal/about>



## Institutions, Peace, and the Rule of Law: Their Impact on Human Development in Developing Countries

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**Publisher :** EDUCATION GENIUS SOLUTIONS

**Review Type:** Double Blind Peer Review

## ABSTRACT

Rule of law is essential for a significant systematized life. Rule of law is the rare product in the contemporary world. The institutions and rule of law are crucial elements for promoting the human development both in developed and developing countries. The institutions, Peace and constancy play a major starring role in attaining human development. The aim of this paper is to analyze the connection between the institutions, peace and the human development. The United Nations Post-2015 agenda explains that the peace is the essential factor for attaining the development goals. The time span of the study is 2007 to 2017. The analysis has been carried out for selected developing countries by using a panel data appropriate technique. The results indicate that a political and economic institution has a negative impact on human development but is insignificant which indicates that the institutions of developing countries are not working well. The peace has a positive impact on human development and it is concluded that when the peace established in the developing countries then it promotes economic growth.

**Keywords:** Systematized, institutions, peace, human development

### 1. Introduction

Human development is a process in which choices of the people are enlarging and human capabilities progress in a progressive way (Doussard et. al., 2024). This study aims to investigate the interconnections amongst institutions, peace, the rule of law, and human development. These connections are extremely mind-boggling and unpredictable, because human development is a multidimensional idea and, on the grounds, that there is an assortment of essential organizations for any improvement measurement (Mandavilli, 2025). Accordingly, this paper aims to investigate the entire system of associations from the perspective of institutions, rule of law, peace, and human development and related issues (Tanyel et. al., 2021).

More this study explains that sound institutions and peace both are responsible for enhancing the human development (Higgins-Desbiolles et. al., 2022). Peace is a serious factor. Sustaining the peace is essential for providing the better conditions for investment and production. Peace also generates the essential foundations for a publicly favorable allocation of societal assets and promotes the growth which ultimately improve the human development (Ayinde, 2025). Human development and institutions are strongly connected; initially for expanding the human capabilities the institutions are compulsory (Nasrullah et al., 2023). Likewise, institutions are essential to be accurately concerned with providing the opportunities overall to people (Benvenuti et. al., 2023). Standards and societal norms such as fairness, unity and co-operation form official institutions and sets. Consequently, capabilities are inflated by the institutions (Cooper, 2023).

When considering the connection between institutions and human development, it is important to reconsider the concept of organizations. These are defined as a set of social rules that structure social interactions (Bratman 2022). According to definitions from Myrdal (1974) to Hodgson (2006) and others, it becomes apparent that not all institutions are equally beneficial for progress, and it is crucial to distinguish growth from development (Brinkman, 1995; Ciper and Dietz 2004). Numerous studies currently evaluate the interaction between institutions and human development (Ngoc and Tien 2023), attempting to identify the main relationships and causations between them. Within the capability approach, institutions and growth are considered as means

to an ultimate goal: human development. However, it appears that in developed countries, the theoretical connections between institutions and human development have not yet been thoroughly and systematically explored.

Starting with an analysis of the linkage between established organizations, whether in the public or private sectors, both formal and informal, it can be asserted that the literature has already illustrated the role of institutions in promoting human and economic development (Wirba, 2024), improving organization (Aoki, 2001), education (Bardhan, 2005), social capital (Kornai et al., 2004), trust (Raiser, 1999), and economic growth (Olson et al., 1998). Many of these aspects are crucial for human progress.

## **2.Literature Review**

Caparini et al. (2017) explored the idea that peace and development are ongoing processes that require proactive efforts to fully appreciate their contributions. The research concludes that while the concept of conflict prevention often remains idealistic, various developments in 2016 can be seen as investments in sustaining peace and potential avenues for achieving a positive peace, addressing today's increasingly intricate, interdependent, and unprecedented challenges of sustainable development. Kafula (2016) asserts that peace, stability, and human rights are crucial for attaining development goals in economies. These elements significantly influence human well-being and development. The study underscores that sustainable development cannot occur without peace and stability, tying peace to the profession's commitment to promoting human rights and social justice. He Yin (2016) observed that peacebuilding has been a primary focus of United Nations peace initiatives since the end of the Cold War. There is a causal link between institution building and economic development and between aspects of political and economic security (Nasrullah et al., 2023).

The consequence was the construction of an illusory peace and the safeguarding of a deceptive human security. In contrast, as an emerging nation, China has crafted a paradigm that could be termed peace through development, executed via its foreign assistance and economic ventures. Therefore, achieving peace requires mediating between liberal peace and peace through development, institution building and economic progress, and, regarding human security, political and financial safety. Tridico (2011) examines whether human development occurred alongside growth during the transition to a market economy in Central Eastern Europe. The primary hypothesis posits that economic growth does not always coincide with human development. An OLS model was utilized to correlate human development variables with GDP per capita.

The findings imply that within transition economies, human development serves as a sufficient but not essential requirement for economic growth (Iqbal et al., 2023). A Granger causality test supports this conclusion. Consequently, prioritizing investment in human development is vital for achieving GDP growth. Nonetheless, given the close relationship between human development and institutions, effective institutional policies are fundamental to the development process. Tridico (2015) examines whether human development occurred in tandem with economic growth during the shift toward a market economy in Central Eastern Europe. The key hypothesis suggests that economic growth does not constantly parallel human development. Through an OLS model, human development indicators were compared to GDP per capita, highlighting that human development acts as a sufficient yet non-essential condition for economic growth in transition economies. A Granger causality test supports this result, emphasising the importance of investing in human development for GDP growth. However, sound institutional policies are indispensable since human development is

intimately tied to institutions. According to Lombard (2015), every individual is entitled to a living level adequate for health and well-being, including access to food, clothing, shelter, medical care, essential social services, and security in certain circumstances. Upholding human rights can promote societal peace and balance.

Information on human rights forms the bedrock of social justice, equality, and empowerment. It fosters the conditions needed to overcome and transform domination and oppression through intentional and collective efforts to ensure individual and collective rights. Therefore, it can be inferred that acknowledging human rights and promoting equality serve as the foundation for global social justice and peace. According to Khan (2014), the sustainable development of any culture is consistently threatened by insecurity and conflict. Humanitarian crises often cripple health systems, destroy homes, schools, and entire communities, and lead to increased numbers of displaced people and refugees. A study concludes that education for sustainable development and peace is crucial in nurturing values that promote peace and non-violence. Morgaine (2014) suggests that the social work curriculum must further human rights and socioeconomic justice, which means ensuring that every person, regardless of their societal status, is granted fundamental human rights, such as freedom, safety, privacy, an adequate standard of living, healthcare, and education. Consequently, institutions providing social work programs should integrate social justice and human rights issues into their curricula to adequately prepare students. K. Julius et al. (2012) noted that a culture of peace will be realized when global citizens comprehend worldwide issues. Sustainable development is a fundamental Human Right, and the study also concludes that peace education is a vital part of quality basic education in Kenya.

Economic and social advancement is unlikely to occur in environments plagued by violence and social instability. The study suggests that governments should encourage the training of teachers and administrators to support peace education and foster democratic interactions. According to Tridico (2011), exploring institutions, human development, and growth in transitioning economies involves the OLS method for evaluating cross-country regressions and addressing their endogeneity issues. The researcher concludes that human development is sufficient but not essential for economic growth; if a country achieves human development, economic growth is likely to ensue, whereas economic growth can occur independently of human development. Ideally, a combination of human development and economic growth is favored. Yesufu (2009) emphasizes that development concerns justice, human rights, and peace. Barnett (2008) formulates a theory where peace is equated with freedom, elucidating key links between peace and development. This theory defines peace as expanding through the fair distribution of economic opportunities, political liberties, social opportunities, transparency assurances, protective security, and freedom from direct violence.

The necessary institutions for achieving peace as freedom are considered. Research indicates that a pluralist state is the most effective model for establishing and maintaining peace, which is defined as freedom. This theory's implications are explored concerning current and future analyses of the roots of violent conflict. De-Muro and Tridico (2008) investigated the role of institutions in human development. Their study highlighted significant differences between institutionalist and capability approaches, noting that while human capabilities are not essential for economic performance, the divergence stems from varying values attributed to freedoms and crucial economic rationalization. Perkins et al. (2007) emphasize the distinction between economic growth and development, i.e., development includes economic growth along with changes in various human development indicators such as life expectancy, infant

mortality, education, and other objectives like environmental sustainability, political democracy, income distribution, participation, and resource access. Ranis and Stewart (2000) describe the relationship between economic growth and human development as forming two chains. Cross-country regressions demonstrate a significant bidirectional connection with robust implications; that is, countries initially favoring economic growth, while those with strong human development but weak economic growth occasionally move into the Prosperous Group.

It is critical to prioritize sequencing that supports human development. Skaperdas (2002) states that slow growth occurs in regions with abundant resources where governments cannot ensure basic safety, particularly in Developed countries. Resource abundance fuels violence, such as theft, looting, funding rebel factions, and civil conflicts. A surplus of resources makes it simpler for dictators to appease political adversaries. Additionally, the political benefits of vote-buying via inefficient resource redistribution increase with resource abundance. These persistent political incentives tied to resource wealth are only mitigated in countries with robust institutions.

Hussein et al. (2004) explored the interplay between security, governance, conflict, and development, and examined how public, private, and civil society organizations can develop their perspectives on security and insecurity. The study aims to ignite debate on approaches to addressing the security agenda pertinent to the current realities and evolving dynamics on the ground. The research raises issues relevant to the extensive involvement of regional actors, individuals, groups, and institutions at varied levels in addressing conflict and security in West Africa. Conversely, market-driven institutions, as proposed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), appear to lack statistical significance when linked to human development. Effective structured social institutions and policies are critical for improved resource distribution, better access, and social cohesion (Bardhan, 2005). Booser et al. (2003) found that the Human Development Index (HDI) reflects people's living conditions more accurately than GDP. Policies influence how services are delivered, encompassing human rights considerations. Peace-oriented social work would aim to involve clients in policy creation processes actively. Social workers also engage in various roles, including lobbyists, campaigners, advocates, persuaders, collaborators, communicators, activists, and individuals (Gray, 2002). From a developmental standpoint, the state's sovereign power enables it to resist and adapt to global changes while granting freedoms and entitlements to its citizens. This renewed focus on the state is also characteristic of the critical peace studies advocated by Patomaki (2001).

### **3.Data Sources and Methodology**

#### **3.1 Data Sources**

In this analysis the data is taken from Global peace index, World Development Indicators (WDI), Fraser Institute of Economic Freedom, Freedom House Index and Heritage Foundation Index of Economic Freedom. In this paper Fixed Effect method is used. The time period of the study is 2007 to 2017 and exploration is accompanied with data based on 53 developing countries.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The methodology used in this study is given below,

To examine the influence of variables upon dependent variable, fixed effects panel model has been applied. Therefore, the subsequent regression form is used

$$Y = f(X_1, \dots, X_n)$$

*Equation 1*

Where  $Y$  is presenting the HDI which is measuring the human development and  $X$ 's are the proxies for peace, political institutions and economic institutions. The functional form of the model is

$$HDI = f(Peace + Eco + Pol + Rol + Trade + Bribery + Inflation)$$

Equation 2

The panel method comprises on both time series as well as cross sectional data The fixed effect model is given as under:

$$Y_{it} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_i + \alpha_1 X_{it} + \mu_{it}$$

Equation 3

In fixed effect method  $\alpha_0$  is a constant term of overall model and  $\alpha_i$  is time effect of each country in each period. The  $\mu_{it}$  is the error term which is time varying term and effect the  $Y_{it}$ .

We also use the Drisck and Kray standard error test with fixed effect model because when there is autocorrelation and heteroscedasticity is present in our model then this test provides more consistent results (Oscar, 2007).

### 3.3 Variable Description

The variable description model is given as under:

Table 1 Variable Description

Variable	Definitions	Sources
<b>HDI</b>	Human development Index is used as a proxy for human development.	
<b>GPI</b>	Global peace index is used as a proxy for peace.	Global peace index
<b>POL</b>	Political rights are used as a proxy for political institutions.	Freedom House Index
<b>ECO</b>	Legal property rights are used as a proxy for economic institutions.	Fraser Institute of Economic Freedom
<b>ROL</b>	Rule of law is used as a proxy for rule of law.	Word Governance indicator
<b>BRIBES</b>	Bribes are used as proxy for bribery.	Fraser Institute of Economic Freedom
<b>SAVINGS</b>	Savings as a % of GDP is used proxy for savings.	World Development Indicators (WDI)
<b>TRADE</b>	Trade as a % of GDP is used proxy for trade.	World Development Indicators (WDI)

<b>INLATION</b>	Consumer price index is used as a proxy for inflation.	World Development Indicators (WDI)
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#### 4 Empirical Results

This paper examines the relation among human development, peace and institutions. The institutions of developing countries hammered human development whereas the peace has positive impact on human development. The panel data techniques are applied for the analysis. The time span of the study is 2007 to 2017 The data has been taken out from WDI, Freedom House Index, and Global peace Index and Fraser Institute of Economic Freedom. Subsequent models are used in experiential valuation.

##### 4.1 Model 1: Human development, Peace and Economic Institutions

In model 1 the relation between human development, peace, economic institutions, rule of law, inflation, savings and trade is evaluated.

The econometric version of the model is given as under,

$$HDI_{it} = \psi_0 + \psi_1 GPI_{it} + \psi_2 ECO_{it} + \psi_3 ROL_{it} + \psi_4 INF_{it} + \psi_5 S_{it} + \psi_6 TRADE_{it} + U1_{it}$$

Equation 4

Table 2 Human development, Peace and Economic Institutions

Variables	FE	D AND K FE
	(0.000)*	0.279
<b>GPI</b>	.0129612	0 .0129612
	0.552	0.756
<b>ECO</b>	-.0016485	-.0016485
	(0.000)**	(0.000)***
<b>ROL</b>	.0183364	.0183364
	(0.000)*	(0.000)**
<b>INF</b>	-.0006047	-.0006047
	0.524	0.182
<b>S</b>	.0000455	.0000455
	(0.000)*	(0.000)**
<b>TRADE</b>	.000178	.000178
	(0.000)*	(0.000)*
<b>CONSTANT</b>	.6079858	0.6079858

\*Coefficient significant at 1%, \*\*Coefficient significant at 5%, \*\*\*Coefficient significant at 10%

In the 4.1 table the analysis has been carried out by Fixed Effect Model and Fixed Effect Model with standard error Driscck and Kray test. In Fixed Effect Model the relation among the human development, peace, economic institutions, inflation, saving and trade is estimated. The peace has a positive impact on human development and it is significant at 1% level of significance whereas the economic institutions have a negative impact on human development and it is insignificant which indicates that economic institution does not playing its role in improvement of human development. The rule of law, savings and trade has positive impact on human development where as

inflation has negative impact on human development. In Fixed effect model with D and K standard error test almost results are similar to Fixed Effect model but in this test, peace is insignificant which indicates that peace does not play its role in enhancing the human development

#### 4.2 Diagnostic and Model Specification Tests

In the following table the results of Diagnostic and Model Specification Tests are applied.

Table 3 Diagnostic and Model Specification Tests

Hausman Test		
$\chi^2(6) = (b-B)'[(V_b - V_B)^{-1}](b-B) = 15.66$		
Prob> $\chi^2 = 0.0157$		
Wooldridge test for Autocorrelation	Modified Wald test for Group wise Heteroscedasticity	Ramsey RESET Test
F( 1, 52) = 1540.256	$\chi^2(53) = 2022.69$	F(3, 573) = 20.79
Prob > F = 0.0000	Prob> $\chi^2 = 0.0000$	Prob > F = 0.0000

\*Coefficient significant at 1%, \*\*Coefficient significant at 5%, \*\*\*Coefficient significant at 10%

The Hausman test is applied for checking Fixed Effect is appropriate or random effect appropriate. So F test is significant which indicates that Fixed Effect is appropriate. The Wooldridge test for autocorrelation and Modified Wald test for Group wise Heteroscedasticity are applied which significant which shows that Autocorrelation and Heteroscedasticity are present in our model. The overall diagnostic and specification tests are satisfactory for the model.

#### 4.3 Model: 2 Human Development, Peace and Political Institutions

In model 2 the relation between human development, peace, political institutions, rule of law, bribery, savings, trade and inflation is evaluated.

The econometric version of the model is given as under:

$$HDI_{it} = \phi_0 + \phi_1 PEACE_{it} + \phi_2 POL_{it} + \phi_3 ROL_{it} + \phi_4 BRIBERY_{it} + \phi_5 S_{it} + \phi_6 TRADE_{it} + \phi_7 INF_{it} + U2_{it}$$

Equation 5



Table 4 Human development, Peace and Political Institutions

Variables	FE	D and K with FE
PEACE	(0.000)* .0100028	0.337 .0100028
POL	(0.531) -.00087	0.552 -.00087
RULE OF LAW	(0.000)* .01659	(0.000) .01659
BRIBERY	(0.000)* -.01616	(0.000) -.01616
S	(0.595) .00003	0.383 .00003
TRADE	(0.078)*** .00013	(0.000)* .00013
INFLATION	(0.0000)* -.00055	(0.000)* -.00055
CONSTANT	(0.000)* .68578	(0.000) .68578

\*Coefficient significant at 1%, \*\*Coefficient significant at 5%, \*\*\*Coefficient significant at 10%

In table 4.3 the analysis has been carried out by Fixed Effect Model and Fixed Effect Model with standard error Driscoll and Kraay test. In Fixed Effect Model the relation among the human development, peace, political institutions, rule of law, bribery, saving, trade and inflation is estimated. In Fixed effect model peace, rule of law bribery and inflation are significant at 1% level of significant whereas trade is significant at 10% level of significant. Political institutions are insignificant which indicates political institutions does not playing its role in human development. The coefficient sign of peace indicates that the 1% improvement in peace increases the human development 1 percent. The coefficient sign of political institutions indicates that the political institutions have negative impact on human development but it does not play its role in human development. The bribery and inflation have a negative impact on human development whereas rule of law, savings and trade has a positive impact on human development. In Fixed effect model with D and K standard error test almost results are similar to Fixed Effect model but in this test, peace is insignificant which indicates that peace does not play its role in enhancing the human development.

#### 4.4 Diagnostic and Model Specification Tests

In the following table the results of Diagnostic and Model Specification Tests

Table 5 Diagnostic and Model Specification Tests

Hausman Test		
	$\chi^2(7) = (b-B)'[(V_b - V_B)^{-1} - (V_b - V_B)^{-1} B (B-B)'](b-B) = 29.57$	
	Prob>chi2 = 0.0001	
Wooldridge test for autocorrelation	Modified Wald test for groupwise heteroskedasticity	Ramsey RESET test

$$F(1, 52) = 921.241 \quad \chi^2(53) = 2965.89 \quad F(3, 572) = 13.50$$

$$\text{Prob} > F = 0.0000 \quad \text{Prob} > \chi^2 = 0.0000 \quad \text{Prob} > F = 0.0000$$

\*Coefficient significant at 1%, \*\*Coefficient significant at 5%, \*\*\*Coefficient significant at 10%

In table 4.4 the Hausman test is applied for checking Fixed Effect is appropriate or random effect appropriate. So, F test is significant which indicates that Fixed Effect is appropriate. The Wooldridge test for autocorrelation and Modified Wald test for Group wise Heteroscedasticity are applied which significant which shows that Autocorrelation and Heteroscedasticity are present in our model. Generally diagnostic and specification tests are satisfactory for the model.

## 5 Conclusion and Recommendations

This paper tried to investigate how the economic and political institutions affect the human development in the selected developing countries. Furthermore, it also explores how the peace affects the human development in the developing countries. This paper tried to investigate how the peace, economic and political institutions affect the human development in the selected developing countries.

In model one the relation between economic institutions, peace and human development is carried out with some explanatory variables. The economic institutions have a negative and insignificant relation with human development which indicates that the economic institutions are not working well and their direction of working is to unproductive projects.

The peace has positive impact on human development and when peace increases then per capita income also increases so ultimately this channel enhances the human development.

In second model we explore that the effect of political institutions and peace on human development. The political institutions have negative and insignificant effect on human development which indicates that the political institutions are not working well in developing countries. The results of explanatory variables are according to theory.

### 5.1 Recommendations

- Peace is essential for a significant systematized life. So, developing economies should establish the peace.
- The government should improve the quality of economic and political institutions.
- The government should curtail down the bribes.
- The government should implement rule of law.
- The government should encourage the trade.
- The government should boost up the level of savings.
- The government should control the inflation.

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