



**Cambridge**  
**International**

**Professional Research Thesis**

**Titled**

**The role of sustainable development in  
empowering Sinai women in light of Egypt's  
Vision 2030**

**Researcher**

**EMAN IBRAHIM BASYOUNY MOHAMED**

**Supervisor signature**

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# SUMMARY

*Sustainable development is considered one of the central concepts that countries strive to achieve in order to enhance the well-being of their populations and ensure long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability. In this context, Egypt's Vision 2030 emerges as a comprehensive strategic plan aimed at improving the quality of life and promoting economic growth, with a focus on achieving social justice and empowering all segments of society.*

*Sinai, as one of the strategic and vital regions of Egypt, possesses unique opportunities and challenges that require special attention within the context of sustainable development. Over the past decades, Sinai has undergone significant transformations that have directly impacted the lives of its inhabitants, particularly women who face numerous challenges related to economic and social empowerment.*

*The Sinai woman is considered a central figure in the process of sustainable development in the region, as she plays a significant role in the social and economic fabric of Sinai. However, women in Sinai face various challenges ranging from cultural and social issues to economic and technical aspects. Therefore, empowering women in Sinai is an integral part of the sustainable development strategy and requires integrated interventions that support their active participation in all aspects of life.*

*The importance of this research lies in highlighting how the principles of sustainable development can be applied in the context of empowering Sinai women, within the framework of Egypt's Vision 2030. By analyzing current policies and development initiatives, this study aims to provide a*

*comprehensive view of the impact these policies have on improving the status of women in Sinai and creating an enabling environment to enhance their skills and capabilities.*

*This research will examine the various dimensions of sustainable development in Sinai, including education, health, finance, and social support, and how these dimensions interact with the needs of Sinai women. It will also address the challenges women face in the region and propose practical solutions to address them, based on data and field research.*

*In conclusion, this study aims to contribute to building an effective framework that supports the empowerment of Sinai women and contributes to achieving the goals of sustainable development, thereby improving the quality of life for the residents of Sinai and strengthening their role in achieving the objectives of Egypt's Vision 2030.*

## **The study Problem.**

*Sustainable development is considered one of the fundamental pillars of growth and prosperity strategies worldwide, and its achievement in the Sinai region is a crucial step toward ensuring stability and well-being for the Sinai community. However, despite being an integral part of the social and economic fabric of the region, Sinai women face numerous challenges that hinder their full empowerment and prevent society from benefiting from their potential.*

*Under Egypt's Vision 2030, which aims to achieve sustainable development across the country, a noticeable gap exists between the strategic goals and the practical application of empowering Sinai women. Despite efforts to develop infrastructure and enhance economic and social opportunities, women in Sinai still face a range of obstacles that prevent their active participation in the development process.*

*These obstacles include issues such as limited access to educational and healthcare resources, weak job and training opportunities, as well as cultural and social barriers that restrict women's freedom to engage in economic and social activities. These challenges highlight the necessity of studying the effectiveness of current policies and their impact on empowering Sinai women, as well as exploring ways to enhance their participation in line with the strategic goals of Egypt's Vision 2030.*

*Therefore, the problem addressed by this study lies in the insufficient understanding of how to achieve sustainable development in Sinai in a way that ensures the effective empowerment of Sinai women. There is an urgent need to explore the relationship between development policies and the*

*lived reality of women in Sinai, and how to develop suitable strategies that address the existing gaps and contribute to achieving the national goals of the future vision.*

*This study aims to highlight these gaps and analyze how sustainable development impacts the empowerment of Sinai women, thereby providing practical recommendations that contribute to improving the current situation and enhancing women's participation in building an advanced and sustainable community.*

## The importance of studying:

*The study of the role of sustainable development in empowering Sinai women holds significant importance, given the complex challenges facing the Sinai region, within the framework of Egypt's Vision 2030, which aims to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development across the country. Focusing on empowering women in this region is not merely a humanitarian and social matter; it is also a crucial factor for achieving national developmental goals.*

*Within the context of Egypt's Vision 2030, which seeks to achieve a transformative leap in various sectors, the role of Sinai women stands out as a key element that cannot be overlooked in the process of change and development. Empowering women in Sinai is not limited to improving their individual living conditions but extends to enhancing the economic and social capacity of the entire region. The more the capacities of women are strengthened and their empowerment advanced, the greater their contribution to achieving social stability and economic growth, thus supporting efforts for sustainable development.*

*This study is of particular importance because it sheds light on the relationship between development policies and the actual realities faced by women in Sinai, analyzing the extent to which these policies achieve their intended objectives. It seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges that women in this region face, which will help in developing more effective strategies to support them. By highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of current policies, the study contributes to proposing practical and implementable solutions for improving the current situation.*

*Additionally, the importance of this study stems from its potential to serve as a valuable reference for policymakers and stakeholders involved in implementing sustainable development programs. The recommendations derived from this study can assist in designing initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of Sinai women and improving their living standards, thereby supporting the broader goals of Egypt's Vision 2030.*

*In conclusion, this study contributes to building a solid knowledge base for understanding how to achieve sustainable development in a manner that enhances women's empowerment. This will open new avenues for development in Sinai and allow for a greater realization of the human and natural resources available in the region.*

## Objectives of the study:

- *Analyzing the Impact of Current Development Policies on Empowering Sinai Women.*
- *Identifying the Key Challenges Faced by Women in Sinai in the Context of Sustainable Development.*
- *Exploring the Alignment of Development Initiatives with the Needs of Sinai Women.*
- *Providing Strategic Recommendations to Improve the Effectiveness of Development Policies in Supporting Women's Empowerment.*
- *Evaluating the Impact of Current Programs and Initiatives on Enhancing the Economic and Social Capacities of Women in Sinai.*

## Study hypotheses and questions.

### ***Study Hypotheses:***

- 1. Current development policies in Sinai positively influence the empowerment of Sinai women.*
- 2. Sinai women face a range of cultural and social challenges that hinder the achievement of sustainable development in the region.*
- 3. There is a gap between the needs of Sinai women and the development initiatives currently available.*
- 4. Improving and adapting development policies to meet the needs of Sinai women will significantly enhance their economic and social capacities.*
- 5. Current development programs and initiatives are insufficient to achieve the desired goals of empowering Sinai women.*

### ***Study Research Questions:***

- 1. How do current development policies impact the empowerment of Sinai women in the region?*
- 2. What are the key challenges faced by Sinai women in the context of sustainable development?*
- 3. To what extent do current development initiatives align with the needs of Sinai women?*
- 4. What possible strategies can improve the effectiveness of development policies in supporting the empowerment of Sinai women?*
- 5. What is the impact of current development programs and initiatives on enhancing the economic and social capacities of women in Sinai?*

## Study Approach.

*The descriptive analytical approach was used to examine the "Role of Sustainable Development in Empowering Sinai Women in Light of Egypt's Vision 2030."*

**The limits of the study:**

**Spatial boundaries: Arab Republic of Egypt.**

**Time limits:2024-2002**

## Study plan.

*The study plan will be organized as follows, with several chapters, sections, and subsections, concluding with a summary:*

### ***Chapter One: Theoretical Framework and Scientific Concepts***

- ***Section One: The Nature of Sustainable Development***
  - *First: The Emergence of Sustainable Development*
  - *Second: The Concept of Sustainable Development*
  - *Third: Dimensions and Components of Sustainable Development*
- ***Section Two: An Introduction to Understanding Women's Empowerment***
  - *First: The Nature of Women's Empowerment*
  - *Second: Barriers to Women's Empowerment*
  - *Third: Types of Empowerment and Their Goals*

### ***Chapter Two: The Role of Sustainable Development in Empowering Women***

- ***Section One: Sustainable Leadership and Achieving Sustainability Goals***
  - *First: The Concept of Sustainable Leadership*
  - *Second: Characteristics of Sustainable Leadership*
  - *Third: Dimensions of Sustainable Leadership*
- ***Section Two: Features of Egypt's Vision 2030***
  - *First: Egypt's Vision 2030*
  - *Second: Sustainable Development Goals*

- ***Section Three: The State's Efforts in Empowering Women (The "Decent Life" Initiative as a Model)***
  - ***First: The National Strategy for Empowering Egyptian Women 2030***
  - ***Second: The "Decent Life" Initiative and its Impact on Empowering Women***
  - ***Third: Women Empowerment Projects within the "Decent Life" Initiative***
- ***Section Four: Women's Rights in the Arab World and the Challenges They Face***
  - ***First: Women's Rights in United Nations Legislation***
  - ***Second: The Legal Status of Arab Women***
  - ***Third: Obstacles to the Progress of Arab Women***
  - ***Fourth: The Status of Women in the Gulf Region***
  - ***Fifth: The Status of Women in the Maghreb Region***
  - ***Sixth: The Status of Women in the Mashreq Region***
  - ***Seventh: Characteristics of Egyptian Women and Their Role in Community Building***

### ***Chapter Three: Empowering Sinai Women within the Framework of Egypt's Vision 2030***

- ***Section One: The Reality of Sinai Women and Development Challenges***
  - ***First: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Sinai Women***
  - ***Second: Challenges Facing the Empowerment of Sinai Women***
  - ***Third: Opportunities Available for Empowering Sinai Women***

- ***Section Two: Strategies for Empowering Sinai Women in Light of Egypt's Vision 2030***
  - ***First: Goals of Egypt's Vision 2030 Related to Women's Empowerment***
  - ***Second: Programs and Initiatives for Empowering Sinai Women***
  - ***Third: Mechanisms for Implementing and Monitoring Women Empowerment Programs for Sinai Women***
- ***Section Three: International Protection of Women's Rights***
  - ***First: General International Human Rights Conventions***
  - ***Second: Governing Principles in the International Convention on Women's Rights***
  - ***Third: The Role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Enhancing Women's Protection***

## **Chapter One: Theoretical Framework and Scientific Concepts**

### **Section One: The Nature of Sustainable Development**

#### **First: The Concept of Sustainable Development**

*Sustainable development is a term that emerged on both the international and local stages, finding its place amidst numerous contemporary concepts such as globalization, the clash of civilizations, modernism, postmodernism, human development, structuralism, genomics, informatics, and other expressions that we must understand in order to find a language of discourse with the world. Additionally, it is essential to be aware of the meaning of these terms to avoid confusion or misinterpretation. The definitions of these terms often take different forms, interpretations, and readings, depending on the nature of the country, its culture, the perspective of the term's creator, and the perspective of the interpreter. This creates a degree of ambiguity and confusion in the meaning of the term, not only for the general public but also for specialists themselves.*

*It is noteworthy that before the concept of sustainable development began circulating in the late 1980s, the prevailing concept was simply "development" in its traditional sense. The concept of "development" emerged after World War II, following the political independence of many countries in the Third World. It was during this time that the major capitalist countries began promoting the traditional developmental thought, which emphasized that the poverty and ignorance faced by Third World countries were the result of their backwardness—not the legacy of*

*long-standing colonialism. Consequently, this ideology introduced the concept of development as a tool through which Third World countries could overcome backwardness and catch up with developed nations.*

*The concept of sustainable development has gained widespread usage in recent times, and the first official reference to it came in the "Our Common Future" report, published by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. This commission was established by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in December 1983, under the chairmanship of Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Prime Minister of Norway, and consisting of 22 prominent political and economic leaders from around the world. The aim was to continue global economic growth without the need for radical changes to the structure of the global economic system.*

*The definitions provided for sustainable development can be classified into two categories:*

### **Category One: Brief Definitions**

These are referred to as "unilateral" definitions of sustainable development. In fact, these definitions are closer to slogans and lack scientific and analytical depth. Examples include:

- Sustainable development is development that is renewable and capable of being sustained.
- Sustainable development is development that does not conflict with the environment.
- Sustainable development is development that ends the mentality of infinite natural resources.

***Category Two: More Comprehensive Definitions, including:***

*According to one definition, sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It focuses on integrated and sustainable economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.*

*Sustainable development is the process of developing land, cities, communities, and businesses in such a way that meets present needs without undermining the ability of future generations to meet theirs.*

*The Brundtland Report, issued by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, titled "Our Common Future," defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

*The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines sustainable development (as adopted in 1989) as follows:*

*"Sustainable development is the management and protection of the resource base, and the direction of technological and institutional change in a way that ensures the fulfillment and continuation of human needs for both present and future generations. Such development (in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries) protects the land, water, and genetic resources of plants and animals, and does not harm the environment. It is technically appropriate, economically viable, and socially acceptable."*

*It is clear that sustainable development is, in fact, a "comprehensive concept linked to the continuity of economic, social, institutional, and environmental aspects of society." Sustainable development enables society, its individuals, and its institutions to meet their needs and express their existence in the present, while preserving biodiversity, maintaining ecological systems, and ensuring the continuity and sustainability of positive relations between human and biological systems. This ensures that the rights of future generations to live a decent life are not infringed upon. The concept of sustainable development also underscores the necessity for the world to address the risks of environmental degradation, which must be overcome without neglecting the need for economic development, as well as social equity and justice.*

*It is also noteworthy that despite the comprehensive nature of the concept of sustainable development, which includes economic, social, institutional, environmental, and other aspects, the emphasis on the environmental dimension in the philosophy and content of sustainable development arises from the fact that many diverse economic projects place pressure on the environment. This pressure results either from the use of depletable natural resources or from the waste and pollution caused by such projects. Therefore, sustainable development takes environmental integrity into account, giving equal and balanced attention to environmental conditions alongside economic and social conditions. Environmental protection and the balanced use of natural resources are integral parts of the sustainable development process.*

*It is also important to note that integrating economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes is a key path to achieving sustainable development. Environmental considerations in any given*

*decision do not necessarily conflict with the economic objectives of that decision. For example, agricultural policies that aim to preserve the quality of agricultural land to improve long-term agricultural development prospects, and the increased efficiency in energy and material use, can serve environmental goals.*

## ***Chapter Two: An Introduction to Understanding Women's Empowerment***

*The discussion of women's empowerment marks a point of intersection between a culture of marginalization, exclusion, and discrimination, and a culture of gender equality and participation. The prevailing culture often reduces women to marginalized, disheartened beings, stripped of even the most basic human rights, in the name of honor on one hand, and in the name of preserving family values on the other. However, the process of empowering women opens new windows of self-awareness and prepares society to create new perceptions of their roles.*

*Global attention to the issue of women's participation and integration into processes of equality, development, and peace has notably increased since the First World Conference on Women in Mexico in 1975, followed by the Second in Copenhagen in 1980 and the Third in Nairobi in 1985. This was further emphasized in the outcomes of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, where the conclusions and recommendations of these meetings underscored key developmental concepts, such as the empowerment approach. This approach aims to enhance a woman's self-image, self-confidence, and value within the family and society.*

*Despite these international conferences advocating for women's rights, there remains a tangible absence of women in various life sectors, particularly in the political arena. This absence is due to prevailing customs, traditions, and intellectual-cultural legacies. In addition, factors such as high illiteracy rates, a lack of awareness about women's rights and roles, as well as the heavy burdens women bear both at home and outside it, further compound this issue.*

*The results of these global conferences affirmed the women's right to actively engage in dialogue, analysis, and discussions about the social, economic, political, and cultural conditions affecting their capabilities and status. This includes their right to participate in decision-making processes concerning themselves and their families, as well as their right to awareness and training, enabling them to become active contributors in society. The aim is to achieve justice and equality in its broadest sense, across all levels.*

*Women's integration into economic activities and an increase in their participation in the labor market result in numerous economic benefits. These include access to employment opportunities that provide a steady source of income and optimal utilization of human resources at the national level. Such integration helps meet targeted economic growth rates, raises women's competitiveness in the labor market, and combats unemployment in the face of market economies, privatization, and globalization. Economic participation by women is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development. Women's involvement in economic growth accelerates progress, as women are not merely survival-seekers. The projects women undertake, whether small or medium-sized, contribute positively and significantly to strengthening national economies.*

### ***First: The Concept of Women's Empowerment***

*Women's empowerment is linguistically defined as enabling an individual to do something. It is said that someone "cannot" do something when they are unable to accomplish or rise to the task. Empowerment, as an approach, can provide a means to rethink the current practice of social work and community organization in order to achieve the necessary social*

*change, especially by supporting the participation of target groups and increasing their involvement.*

*Empowerment is also defined as the processes carried out by community organizers to help a group or community achieve a certain impact in order to meet their legitimate demands.*

*Women's empowerment is a complex process that involves creating the experiences and resources—both material and technical—that are not provided by the traditional socialization of women. It also entails creating self-perceptions in women that are rooted in confidence, decision-making courage, and sound judgment, as well as transforming the discriminatory view that society has of them. In this sense, empowerment is not just about training; it is a social and psychological process that provides women with an opportunity to contribute to societal life and enhance their positive roles, whether at home, at work, or in their relationships with others.*

*Women's empowerment means assisting women in their development, instilling self-confidence, overcoming obstacles to achievement, and engaging them actively in responsibilities. The concept of empowerment can be seen from several angles, including a **societal dimension** that advocates for creating space for women to participate in all areas of **economic, social, and political** life, thereby giving them control over their choices and encouraging development while managing population growth.*

*Empowerment is also defined as the use of public policies and measures aimed at supporting women's participation in **political** and **economic** life, and others, to ensure their involvement in decision-making that directly affects society and its institutions. It is also seen as the ability to control*

*productive relationships through which women contribute economically and socially, thus leading to family welfare and societal progress.*

*Some views on empowerment focus on the concept as providing women with **technical** and **professional training** so that they can find job opportunities and actively contribute to the development process.*

## Conclusion.

*Sustainable development is a critical element in achieving the goals of women's empowerment and enhancing their role in various aspects of life, which is clearly reflected in the context of Egypt's Vision 2030. Through this study, we have reviewed the role of sustainable development in empowering Sinai women, analyzing the developmental policies and initiatives implemented in Sinai and their impact on improving the status of women.*

*The results of the study show that sustainable development has the potential to bring about tangible positive changes in the lives of women in Sinai, by enhancing access to education, health services, providing job opportunities, and offering economic support. However, the study also revealed several challenges faced by women in Sinai, ranging from cultural and social barriers to deficiencies in infrastructure and resources.*

*Based on the analysis, we find that there is an urgent need to develop current developmental policies to better align with the needs of women in Sinai. This requires enhancing the alignment between developmental initiatives and the actual living conditions of women, as well as providing ongoing support for programs that focus on improving their capabilities and skills.*

*The importance of continuous research and evaluation of the impact of developmental policies on women's empowerment is highlighted, as well as the need to develop new strategies that address the identified gaps. Strengthening collaboration between governmental bodies, civil society,*

*and the private sector will play a prominent role in achieving sustainable development goals and effectively empowering women.*

*In conclusion, this study provides a valuable knowledge framework and reference for policymakers and practitioners in the field of sustainable development. The study's recommendations serve as practical steps towards achieving tangible improvements in the status of Sinai women, contributing to the creation of a more sustainable and just society, and fulfilling the national goals of Egypt's Vision 2030.*

## Results:

- **Improved access to education:** *The results show a significant improvement in the access of women in Sinai to educational opportunities, thanks to developmental initiatives focused on enhancing educational infrastructure and providing scholarships. However, there are still gaps in providing higher education and advanced vocational training.*
- **Increased employment opportunities:** *The study recorded an increase in job opportunities for Sinai women due to developmental projects that focused on creating new job opportunities and developing women's skills. Yet, a significant proportion of women still face challenges in obtaining stable and well-paying jobs, due to the weak economic infrastructure in certain areas.*
- **Improvements in healthcare access:** *The study observed improvements in the access to healthcare for women in Sinai, due to developmental efforts that supported the development of healthcare facilities and the provision of basic health services. However, there is a need for further improvement in the quality of healthcare services, expansion of mental health services, and healthcare training.*
- **Social and cultural barriers:** *The study revealed the presence of social and cultural obstacles that hinder women's empowerment, including cultural restrictions that affect women's ability to participate economically and socially. These challenges require awareness-raising strategies and changes in social values and practices.*

- **Gap between current policies and the actual needs of Sinai women:** *The study found a gap between current developmental policies and the actual needs of women in Sinai. While policies aim to improve economic and social conditions, their implementation has not always aligned with the living realities and challenges faced by women in the region.*
- **Need for better coordination:** *The study highlighted that improving the effectiveness of sustainable development requires better coordination between government bodies, civil society, and the private sector. Cooperation between these stakeholders can enhance the implementation of development programs and increase their effectiveness and benefits.*
- **Insufficient impact of some programs:** *Despite the efforts made, some developmental programs did not fully achieve the desired impact on women's empowerment, highlighting the need for continuous evaluation and adjustments to strategies based on tangible results.*

***These findings underscore the importance of continuing to develop and adapt developmental policies and programs to better meet the needs of Sinai women. They also highlight the need to address social and cultural challenges and enhance cooperation among all relevant parties to achieve sustainable development goals comprehensively and effectively.***

## Recommendations:

- *Develop comprehensive educational programs targeting women in Sinai to enhance their skills and capabilities.*
- *Increase investment in improving the economic infrastructure to create sustainable job opportunities for women in Sinai.*
- *Enhance access to comprehensive healthcare services, including mental health care and maternal care.*
- *Implement awareness programs to change the social and cultural attitudes that hinder women's empowerment.*
- *Improve coordination between government bodies, civil society, and the private sector to ensure effective implementation of development programs.*
- *Provide additional support to initiatives focused on empowering women economically through funding and training.*
- *Conduct periodic evaluations of development programs to adjust strategies and ensure they effectively meet the needs of women in Sinai.*
- *Promote community participation and increase female representation in decision-making processes at the local and regional levels.*

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