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Reviewing the Interactions Dynamics of Human Development, Democracy and Political Rights in the Light of Economic Development

İnsani Gelişme, Demokrasi ve Siyasi Hakların Etkileşim Dinamiklerinin Ekonomik Kalkınma Işığında İncelenmesi

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the intricate relationship between human development and political rights, search their collective impact on economic development. Acknowledging the centrality of economic development in societal stability, the article highlighted the multifaceted nature of human development, emphasizing education, health, and quality of life. Political rights, including democracy, are investigated as pivotal determinants influencing these human development factors and vice versa. The review explores a mutual association between political rights and human development. The article emphasizes the important role of education, demonstrating its ability to foster political engagement, shape national values, and mitigate inequalities. Similarly, health outcomes are influenced by political environments, with government policies shaping healthcare systems and resource allocation. Quality of life is intricately linked to political environment, with accountable governance and democratic processes enhancing societal well-being. Reviewing the related literature, the article explores the connection of political rights, democracy, and human development. It stresses the importance of understanding this interrelation for policymakers and offers insights into potential future research directions. The comprehensive review provides a foundation for understanding how the interplay between human development and political rights contributes to economic development, thereby enriching the discourse on the nexus of societal stability, political structures, and human well-being.

Keywords: Democracy, Political Rights, Economic Development, Human Development

ÖZ

Bu makale, insani gelişme ve siyasi haklar arasındaki ilişkiyi araştırmakta ve bunların ekonomik kalkınma üzerindeki kolektif etkilerini araştırmaktadır. Ekonomik kalkınmanın toplumsal istikrardaki merkeziliğini kabul eden makale, eğitim, sağlık ve yaşam kalitesini vurgulayarak insani gelişmenin çok yönlü doğasını vurgulamaktadır. Demokrasi de dahil olmak üzere siyasi haklar, bu insani gelişme faktörlerini etkileyen temel

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belirleyiciler olarak araştırılmaktadır ve bunun tersi de geçerlidir. Bu makale, siyasi haklar ve insani gelişme arasındaki ilişkiyi araştırmaktadır. Bu bağlamda, eğitimin önemli rolünü vurgulayarak, siyasi katılımı teşvik etme, ulusal değerleri belirme ve eşitsizlikleri azaltma yeteneğini göstermektedir. Benzer şekilde, sağlık bakım sistemin sonuçları, sağlık sistemlerini ve kaynak tahsisini belirleyen hükümet politikaları ile siyasi ortamlardan etkilenmektedir. Ek olarak, yaşam kalitesi, toplumsal refahı artıran demokratik süreçlerle karmaşık bir şekilde siyasi çevre ile bağlantılıdır. Bu makale, ilgili literatürü gözden geçirerek siyasi haklar, demokrasi ve insani gelişme arasındaki bağlantıyı araştırmaktadır. Politika yapıcılar için bu ilişkiyi anlamının önemini vurgulamakta ve gelecekteki potansiyel araştırma yönlerine ilişkin içgörüler sunmaktadır. Bu makalenin sonuçlarına bakarak, insani gelişme ve siyasi haklar arasındaki etkileşimin ekonomik kalkınmaya nasıl katkıda bulunduğunu anlamak için bir temel sağlar ve böylece toplumsal istikrar, siyasi yapılar ve insan refahı arasındaki bağlantı hakkındaki literatürü zenginleştirmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Demokrasi, Politik Haklar, Ekonomik Gelişme, İnsani Gelişme

1. Introduction

In the light of the importance of economic development in stability of society, the discussion is still gone around what are the factors that maybe play a significant role in enhancing achievements of this process. Economic development focuses on ensuring stability in people's lives by enabling them to live at a higher standard and in favorable conditions. Within this context, one of the primary functions of economic development is to contribute to the stability of society (Nafziger, 2006: 15). Further, economic development is essentially synonymous with economic growth, accompanied by changes in income distribution, the economic structure, and enhancing live conditions. Additionally, improvements in workforce skills and education are vital factors. It should be noted that achieving economic growth alone does not qualify as economic development if it does not lead to a reduction in inequality and the equitable distribution of wealth among the people in society (Meyer et al., 2017: 1379).

One of the determinants of economic development is human development. It refers to the investment on building human capital which is defined as organizational capability, educational qualifications, productivity, efficiency, and good health (Nafukho, 2004: 545-546). The Human Development Index (HDI) serves as a summarized indicator that assesses the overall progress in vital aspects of human development. It evaluates societies based on three primary dimensions: health, education, and standard of living (hdr.undp.org). This mean that the study of human development starts from investigating the level of population health, education, and standard of living.

Education is widely seen as a fundamental tool for creating equal opportunities and is acknowledged as the primary source of human capital, which is crucial for an economy (Byrd, 2011, 112). Furthermore, education has a clear impact on economic growth, as evidenced by improvements in productivity, work efficiency, income, poverty reduction, and overall living standards (Tsertseil et al., 2017: 305).

Health is another important factor that influences economic development. Various studies in biology and social sciences have shown the positive impact of better health on productivity (Bhargava et al., 2001: 424). Population health plays a critical role in achieving economic development. For instance, the AIDS epidemic has reduced life expectancy and hindered economic progress in populous African countries, highlighting the need for improved policies to reduce poverty (Bhargava, 2001: 176). The quality of labor and human capital is greatly influenced by health. Some companies recognize the importance of employee health in enhancing productivity and may choose to pay higher wages to promote a healthy workforce

(Mankiw, 2013: 187). Overall, health is considered to have a significant positive effect on economic growth, as measured by life expectancy (Bloom et al., 2004: 1).

On the other side, the literature extensively discusses the influence of political institutions on economic development. Acemoğlu and Robinson (2012) indicated to a case study on the impact of political institutions in the city of Nogales, located on the US-Mexico border. They showed differences between the two parts of the city, demonstrating that children in Mexico face low-quality services, extreme poverty, limited access to education, and overall underservice due to low income. In contrast, children on the US side receive superior education, healthcare, and other services. The authors assigned these differing living standards to political freedom, wherein citizens have the right to self-governance, justice, and the rule of law. The Nogales example serves to illustrate that political freedom, despite the potential for rapid growth in authoritarian regimes, leads to sustainable development while authoritarian regimes eventually succumb to economic and political crises, as evidenced by historical events in the Soviet Union, Congo, and Spain during the 18th century.

Furthermore, Keefer and Khemani (2004) highlighted that the inefficiency of democratic institutions can account for the inadequate performance of civil service in many countries. When voters lack information, coordination mechanisms, or trustworthy political parties, politicians become slower in delivering public goods and resort to direct political exchanges such as vote buying or favoritism.

An important question arises regarding the role of political institutions in determining the type of governance, whether participatory or non-participatory, and its impact on economic development. Çukurçayır and Tezcan (2011) underline the influence of institutional structure on both the social and economic aspects. They emphasize that the provision of individual rights and freedoms, encompassing political rights, civil liberties, and economic freedoms, underscores the significance of these factors.

Moreover, Tunçsiper and Biçen (2014) assert that numerous studies have established the crucial role of political institutions and their management in economic performance. The authors emphasize that evaluating high-growth and prosperous countries should not solely rely on factors like capital accumulation, skilled labor, and technological development, but should also account for differences in institutional structure.

To sum up, both human development and political institution have a fundamental impact on the economic development level. However, what is the impact of interaction between the human development and political institutions represented by political rights or democracy level? This article attempts to review the interaction between human development factors,

health, education and quality of live, and political rights or democracy level. The article aims to review literature to find if there is interaction between each other or not. Thus, the next section will discuss this interaction between the two factors. Later, the final section will conclude the reviewing and highlighted the future research opportunities accordingly.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Human Development and Political Rights

According to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) (2020), political rights pertain to an individual's ability to participate in the civil and political aspects of society and the state without facing discrimination or oppression. They are closely tied to the person's citizenship status. Similarly, Miller (2015) suggests that political rights encompass the privileges granted to adults to actively engage in political activities while being protected against oppression and discrimination.

These rights emphasize the positive freedom of actively participating in governing a nation (Civil and Political Rights). They include the right to vote in elections or attend political rallies, focusing on granting citizens the ability and privileges to engage in various political activities.

The term democracy is widely recognized throughout history. Democracy, derived from the Greek word "demos" meaning people, is a political system where power resides with the citizens (Linz, 2000: 58). According to Linz (2000), democracy can be understood through the elections once allowing citizens to vote freely, civic responsibility and authority are exercised by adult citizens or elected representatives in a free and fair manner, safeguarding individuals' freedoms and rights including freedom of expression, empowers citizens to participate in political systems, and when the regime upholds values of cooperation, reconciliation, and tolerance.

BenYishay and Betancourt (2014) highlight that the division of democracy into political rights and civil liberties offers a comprehensive framework for analyzing democracy.

Thus, in the light of democracy definition, it can be seen that political rights, as one of democracy component, refer to an individual's ability to participate in political and civic affairs freely, without coercion. Individuals have the right to establish political parties and engage in processes such as supporting or criticizing the government.

On other side, Human development refers to a many-sidedness such as education, health, and quality of living, which goes more than focusing on income. It prioritized the development of human well-being rather than prioritizing national wealth (Vladimir et al.,

2022; Eka; 2022). Furthermore, Fransiskus (2022) pointed out that human development is the process of expansion of people's choices by enhancing the human abilities to share in all dimensions of economic development. Similarly, Sabina (2010) highlighted that the final goal of human development is enlarging people's choices.

Consequently, the primary question of this article is that are political rights interact with various aspects such as education, health, and quality of life which finally lead to enhancing economic development? Muddassir (2019) highlighted that the election process is essential in human development. He suggested that the election process influence the human development through elected leaders. Further, Giorgio, et al. (2018) reported that there is a positive relationship between democracy and human development especially in former socialist countries during the transition period.

Relatedly, Atif and Ishak (2016) found that the democracy has a positive impact on human development in African countries in both short and long run. Also, Sujay (2016) pointed out that democracy is fundamental in human development. Lastly, Sharmila (2015) suggested that the human development needs democracy, and the level of human development depends on the level of democracy accordingly. This discussion led us to conclude that the political rights and democracy directly impact the development of human by influencing education levels, healthcare, and overall quality of life. Countries that uphold democratic human rights are better positioned to advance these areas compared to those with autocratic political systems.

Remarkably, since the 1980s, many governments have enacted laws promoting economic growth and wealth creation, allowing market forces to regulate supply and demand. However, globalization has posed challenges to free market initiatives, leading to protective measures and preventive mechanisms. Governments have formed alliances and partnerships to strengthen international relations. Political rights have facilitated the mobility of human resources across countries for training and development (Yasmeen et al., 2019: 39-47). They have also influenced the role of human resource management in recruitment and strategic functions.

Furthermore, political rights have improved organizational performance through political management. The political class contributes ideas and resources that promote talent management within economies. Instead of merely implementing processes and forms with minimal benefits, managers are empowered to create value for organizations. Therefore, the success of companies depends on their understanding of the political factors in their regions and their ability to navigate them. Managers must adhere to employment standards, such as providing fair wages and ensuring equitable employment practices, to avoid political conflicts

(Lopes Cardozo and Shah, 2016: 520). Additionally, employers foster workplace diversity and cultivate cross-cultural awareness based on the political climate of their region (Roper et al., 2020: 310). Hence, human resources professionals must comprehend organizational and regional policies to facilitate human resource development and prevent conflicts in the political environment.

To summarize, substantial evidence and discussions lead us to conclude that there exists a meaningful connection between political rights, democracy, and human development, with each influencing the other. The following sections will go deeper into a literature review to determine if there are coherent indicators of this interaction among the elements of human development, political rights, and democracy. The review will specifically focus on the interrelation between education, health, and quality of living with political rights accordingly.

2.1.1. Education and Political Rights

According to Adyanti et al. (2019), political rights significantly influence human development, necessitating HR teams to analyze training requirements, the nature of work, labor laws, and legal precedents. Political directions play a crucial role in shaping the educational landscape of various nations (Jackson, 2016). The national curriculum, types of schools, school accountability, and examination methods are all influenced by the fundamental political rights within a country. Consequently, the political system becomes the determining factor in whether a nation achieves a top layer education system or one of lower quality. Conversely, the education system itself works to mitigate inequalities within the political system and fosters political mobility, preventing injustices and promoting human dignity (Jackson, 2016). Politicians from various parties can find common ground on educational and national issues when provided with a quality education (Eis et al., 2017: 50).

The curriculum framework of a country also has a significant impact on its political knowledge (Dorzweiler, 2021: 566). Teaching political concepts in schools equips future politicians with valuable analytical skills and instills ideas like liberalism that can potentially transform a nation. It is crucial to cultivate educational values centered around discussion, dialogue, and critical thinking to develop both the education system and the political values of a country (Dorzweiler, 2021: 566). Engaging in critical thinking allows leaders and educators to form attitudes that enhance schools and work environments. Conversely, if teachers harbor negative attitudes towards politics, they may encounter difficulties in dealing with political matters.

Furthermore, an individual's level of education has an impact on their opportunities within the political arena. The relationship between education and political rights varies, as some argue that education fosters political engagement and societal competitiveness among individuals compared to those who are illiterate (Lopes Cardozo and Shah, 2016: 520). However, education also facilitates the development of political systems and encourages understanding of representation issues (Lopes Cardozo and Shah, 2016: 520). While the level of education does not impose restrictions on citizens' exercise of democratic rights such as voting or forming political parties, political rights are instrumental in promoting effective representation, which in turn improves education systems within a country. Hence, education and political rights are interconnected and mutually reinforcing components in the construction of a society.

2.1.2 Health and Political Rights

A country's political landscape plays a crucial role in shaping its healthcare system. The availability of healthcare resources at the national and local levels relies on the political goodwill to allocate sufficient funds for healthcare personnel and operational expenses. The distribution of these resources is also contingent upon the political environment of the country. Health professionals actively engage in political arenas to advocate for legislative measures related to healthcare issues, such as the use of therapeutic cannabis (Zaami et al., 2018). Government support can enhance a country's health systems by formulating regulations that bring about transformative changes in the industry.

The management of healthcare structures, processes, and legislation lies within the realm of political authorities. Healthcare professionals make informed choices by electing leaders who actively advocate for resources within the healthcare sector (Lacy et al., 2018: 22). However, a divisive political stance can have detrimental effects on a country's healthcare. Historical instances in Europe illustrate how politicians, through wars and genocides, caused massive loss of life among citizens (Kopel, 2021). The success of communism in Central European countries in delivering healthcare services may be attributed to its effective provision of health services (Kujawska, 2017: 93). This underscores the significance of politics in safeguarding population health. Democratic governments often exhibit better social health services, leading to lower infant mortality rates.

Political rights can bolster a nation's healthcare system. For instance, the United States spends a staggering \$2.7 trillion annually on Medicare and public health insurance. With the federal government allocating over 20 percent of its budget to healthcare, questions arise regarding the efficient allocation of these funds (Rumbold et al., 2017: 713). Certain healthcare

areas, such as breast cancer treatment, receive excessive funding, while others, like bladder cancer, receive less attention despite the national burden. Governments provide financial support to states based on the number of individuals requiring healthcare services within the community.

Moreover, a country's healthcare status is indicative of its overall stability. In India, for instance, the government is obliged to uphold the health rights of its citizens and provide comprehensive physical and mental healthcare services as outlined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Petersen et al., 2017: 699). The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasizes that countries should allocate sufficient resources to meet healthcare standards (Piper et al., 2019: 580). Hence, the government's commitment and political will to enhance healthcare infrastructures hold great importance.

2.1.3 Quality of Life and Political Rights

Life quality encompasses various aspects such as the economy, family relations, employment, personal characteristics, health, satisfaction, and developments, all of which have a connection to political rights (Lacy et al., 2018: 23). The Palestinian population, for instance, has endured prolonged political conflicts resulting in ongoing wars. Consequently, a government that upholds the rule of law and is answerable to its citizens enacts policies that foster development, thereby enhancing the quality of life (Rumbold et al., 2017: 713). Countries that combat corruption within their judiciary, police, and administration also contribute to an improved quality of life for their citizens. By ensuring accountability, these countries effectively utilize resources. The United States, for example, promotes corporate checks and balances, access to information, and freedom of access to enhance government and public institution accountability (McCormack, 2018: 437). Consequently, such governments reduce instances of corruption and misappropriation of public funds, leading to overall improvements.

Moreover, political phenomena such as the quality of life and political participation are closely intertwined. Individuals can experience a good quality of life when they possess the right to join multiple political parties and engage in political events like elections. Trust in the state is also indicative of a high-quality life, encompassing confidence in government spending on development, constitutional processes, and the functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches (Guillaume and Huysmans, 2019: 279). Furthermore, direct democracy plays a role in determining the quality of life since it enables the government to operate within legal boundaries, while citizens have the ability to hold it accountable. Thus, direct democracy grants the freedom of expression and the right to question the government, ultimately leading to improved execution of duties.

Furthermore, democracy enhances the quality of life by promoting political freedoms (Della Porta, 2016). Developed countries rely on democracy to uplift the quality of life for their citizens and to refine their political and leadership structures. For instance, the United States establishes leadership academies to cultivate future leaders and enhance political and social systems, consequently impacting the quality of life.

The following figures summarize the literature review of the interacting between human development and political rights.

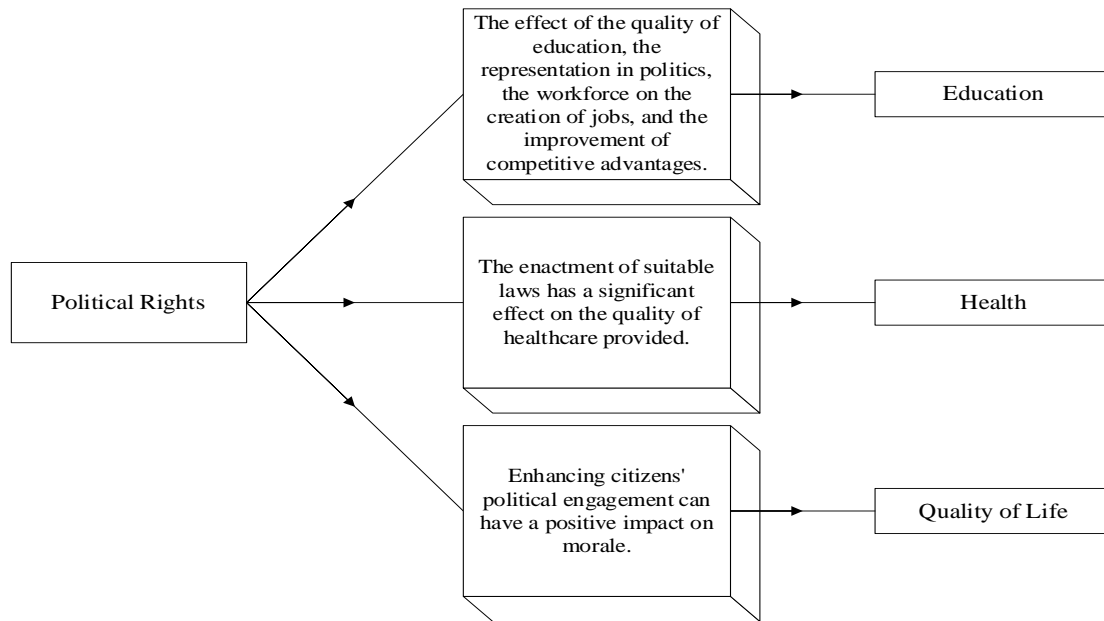


Figure 1: The impact of political rights on human development

Figure 1 was obtained with the help of Jackson, (2016), Zaami et al. (2018), Lacy et al. (2018), McCormack, (2018) and Della Porta, (2016) sources.

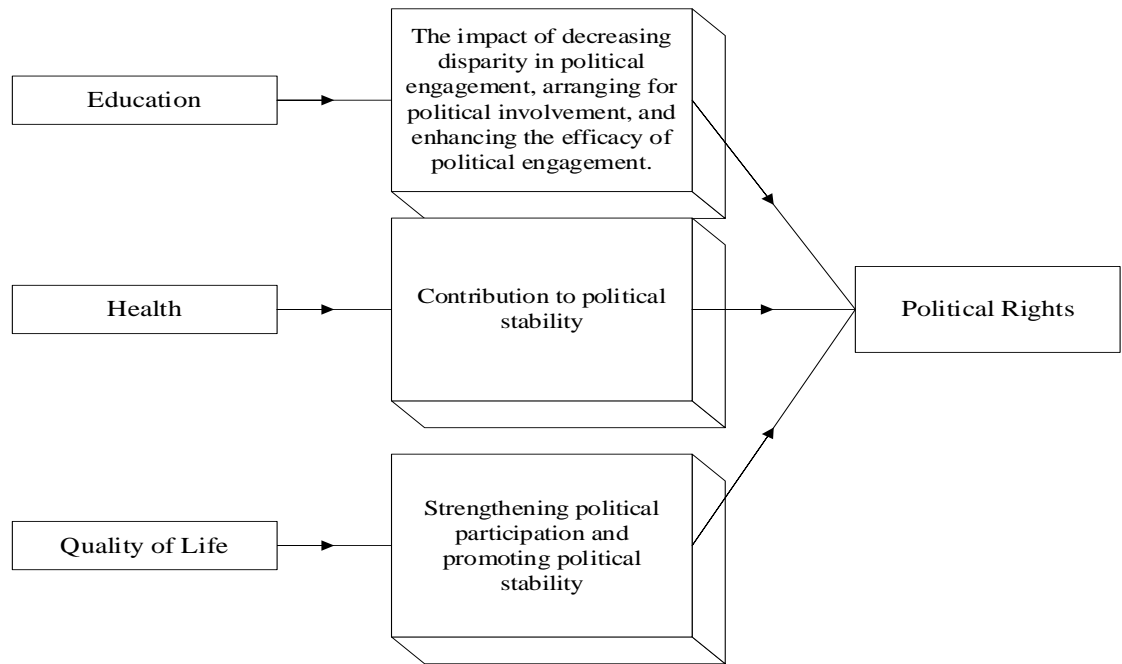


Figure 2: The impact of human development on political rights

Figure 2 was obtained with the help of Jackson (2016), Eis et al. (2017), Dorzweiler, (2021), Zaami et al. (2018), Kopel, (2021), Kujawska, (2017), Rumbold et al. (2017). Petersen et al. (2017), Lacy et al. (2018), McCormack, (2018) and Della Porta, (2016) sources.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, this article reviews the interaction between human development, particularly in the aspects of education, health, and quality of life, and political rights or democracy. The literature review provides a comprehensive understanding of the interaction between these factors, emphasizing their important roles in economic development.

The study recognizes that economic development goes beyond mere economic growth; it necessitates a reduction in inequality and the equitable distribution of wealth. Human development emerges as a pivotal determinant, encompassing factors such as education, health, and overall quality of life.

Political institutions also emerge as significant factors, with examples highlighting the impact of political freedom on sustainable development. The analysis emphasizes the importance of evaluating governance types, whether participatory or non-participatory, and their subsequent effects on economic development.

The literature review then reaches into the specific interactions between human development factors and political rights or democracy. It recognizes that political rights, including the right to participate in civil and political aspects freely, are essential components

of democracy. The article explores the positive relationship between democracy and human development, with examples citing the influence of political institutions on services and living standards in different regions.

Education, health, and quality of life are analyzed in relation to political rights. The article concludes that there exists a meaningful connection between political rights, democracy, and human development, with each element influencing the other. The later sections imply a deeper exploration of these interactions, specifically focusing on education, health, and quality of life in relation to political rights.

In summary, the article suggests that human development and political institutions are fundamental determinants of economic development. The interactions between education, health, quality of life, and political rights contribute significantly to shaping societies and their economic performance. This comprehensive understanding sets the stage for further exploration, providing a foundation for future research opportunities in this critical intersection of human development and political institutions.

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

This article explores the intricate relationship between human development and political rights, search their collective impact on economic development. Acknowledging the centrality of economic development in societal stability, the article highlighted the multifaceted nature of human development, emphasizing education, health, and quality of life. Political rights, including democracy, are investigated as pivotal determinants influencing these human development factors and vice versa. The review explores a mutual association between political rights and human development. The article emphasizes the important role of education, demonstrating its ability to foster political engagement, shape national values, and mitigate inequalities. Similarly, health outcomes are influenced by political environments, with government policies shaping healthcare systems and resource allocation. Quality of life is intricately linked to political environment, with accountable governance and democratic processes enhancing societal well-being. Reviewing the related literature, the article explores the connection of political rights, democracy, and human development. It stresses the importance of understanding this interrelation for policymakers and offers insights into potential future research directions. The comprehensive review provides a foundation for understanding how the interplay between human development and political rights contributes to economic development, thereby enriching the discourse on the nexus of societal stability, political structures, and human well-being.

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