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THE EFFECT OF THE CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX AND PUBLIC SUPERVISION ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Abstract

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 8 on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, faces significant challenges across many countries. One of the main obstacles is corruption, which undermines economic efficiency, reduces investment, and weakens public trust. In addition, weak public oversight leads to a lack of accountability in the management of national budgets. These issues create a need to understand the extent to which the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and public oversight influence the attainment of economic growth. This study aims to empirically analyze the impact of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and public oversight on the achievement of SDG 8. The study employs secondary data sourced from Transparency International, the Worldwide Governance Indicators, and the UNDP, covering 148 countries in 2021, and uses multiple linear regression with the Human Development Index (HDI) as a control variable. The results indicate that both CPI and public oversight have a positive and significant effect on the attainment of SDG 8, while HDI shows no significant influence. These findings underscore the importance of governance integrity and effective public oversight in supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. They also provide implications for governments and stakeholders in formulating more responsive development policies to accelerate the achievement of SDG 8.

Keywords: *Corruption Perception Index, Public Oversight, Sustainable Development Goals 8*

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1. Introduction

SDG 8 focuses on Decent Work and Economic Growth, aligning with the 2020–2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan policies that aim to enhance economic value added through the creation of decent employment and sustainable economic growth. However, the achievement of this goal is often hindered by weak governance, particularly corruption, and the low effectiveness of public oversight. Corruption undermines economic efficiency, reduces investment, and erodes public trust in government institutions. Meanwhile, weak public oversight exacerbates the lack of accountability in the management of state resources, including the national budget. These two factors are interconnected and jointly impede the realization of inclusive economic growth as mandated by SDG 8. In this context, understanding the relationship between corruption and public oversight is essential to assess the extent to which both factors influence the successful attainment of SDG 8. This study specifically aims to analyze the impact of the Corruption Perceptions Index and public oversight on the achievement of SDG 8 across various countries, in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how these factors contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth. According to Alfaris et al. (2023), measuring economic growth is crucial because it serves as an indicator of improvements in public welfare. This is consistent with the findings of Suprapto et al. (2023), who state that economic benefits can be achieved when social SDGs are fulfilled. However, no previous studies have examined the influence of the Corruption Perceptions Index and public oversight on the achievement of SDG 8.

Corruption is regarded as a major obstacle to economic development (Zouaoui et al., 2017). Efforts to combat corruption have long been implemented through various methods, and sanctions against corrupt actors have been intensified; however, reports of corruption continue to appear almost daily, and news of arrest operations targeting corrupt officials remains prevalent (Guritno & Mangkunegara, 2022). Like many developing countries, they face substantial social, economic, and political challenges related to the widespread prevalence of corruption and bribery around the world (Furqan & Din, 2019). In recent years, however, corruption has been measured at regional, national, and global levels, largely through perception surveys as the primary method of data collection (Suyatmiko, 2020). The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is an index of corruption published by Transparency International. Established in 1995, it is presented as a ranking that compares the perceived levels of public-sector corruption across 180 countries (Domashova & Politova, 2021). This index is considered a composite indicator, primarily based on public or institutional perceptions of corruption (Christos et al., 2018). The CPI is an important measure due to media attention and its influence on policymaking in both donor and developing countries (Baumann, 2020). Accordingly, a study by Tantikul & Soranarak (2024) found that countries with lower levels of corruption and more advanced economies tend to have higher SDG 8 scores. This aligns with the findings of Halkos et al. (2025), who state that preventing and combating corruption requires an appropriate legal framework and strong institutions to ensure accountability, transparency, participation, and engagement in decision-making. In this context, governments play a significant role in achieving SDG 8.

Although many previous studies have examined the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and economic growth separately, the causal relationship between these variables and the achievement of SDG 8 has not been explicitly addressed. Within the framework of sustainable development, improvements in CPI scores enhance investor confidence and economic stability, thereby stimulating increased investment. Higher levels of investment subsequently strengthen national productivity and expand employment opportunities. Thus, CPI not only serves to reduce corruption risk but also indirectly supports the achievement of SDG 8 through mechanisms that enhance investment, productivity, and the overall quality of economic growth. Public oversight plays a crucial role in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, which focuses on decent work and economic growth. Through effective oversight, transparency, and accountability, the management of resources can be maintained, ensuring that budgets for programs supporting job creation and productivity enhancement are allocated optimally. This is consistent with the findings of (Aminda et al., 2024).

Although numerous studies have highlighted the role of public oversight in enhancing government transparency and accountability, most of these studies focus only on domestic contexts or specific sectors without examining their contribution to the broader achievement of SDG 8. Moreover, these studies tend to analyze public oversight as a single variable rather than as part of a governance mechanism that operates alongside other factors such as corruption levels. Only a limited number of studies have explored how public oversight contributes to the attainment of SDG 8 in a cross-country context, particularly through its interaction with the CPI in influencing economic development outcomes. This condition indicates an important gap in the literature that has not been extensively addressed by previous research.

Although numerous studies have highlighted the importance of corruption and public oversight in shaping development performance, most prior research has examined these variables separately. Only a limited number of studies have empirically investigated the combined impact of the Corruption Perceptions Index and public oversight on the achievement of SDG 8 in a cross-country context. The absence of comprehensive research that simultaneously considers these two governance factors indicates a significant gap in the literature that needs to be addressed.

This study provides significant theoretical and empirical contributions. Theoretically, it integrates two governance dimensions, corruption levels and the effectiveness of public oversight, into a single analytical model to explain the achievement of SDG 8, an approach that remains relatively uncommon in the existing literature. Empirically, this study employs extensive cross-country data covering 148 countries, thereby offering stronger and more generalizable comparative evidence than previous studies. The simultaneous incorporation of these two governance variables provides new insights into how governance mechanisms influence sustainable economic growth at the global level.

Based on data from 2021, with a total sample of 148 countries, it was generally found that the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and public oversight have an impact on efforts to enhance SDG 8. Several findings and contributions can be described as follows. ***First,*** CPI has a positive effect on SDG 8. This finding supports the study by Sunday Kalisa (2019), which stated that CPI influences the improvement of SDG 8, meaning that the higher the CPI score, the higher the SDG 8 score in a country. The novelty of this study lies in the use of samples from various countries to analyze the effects of CPI and public oversight across these nations. ***Second,*** public oversight has a positive effect on SDG 8. This result is consistent with the findings of (2021), who analyzed that higher levels of public oversight in a country are associated with higher SDG 8 scores. The novelty of this research also lies in the use of CPI scores and public oversight as variables to examine their combined impact on SDG 8. Therefore, CPI and public oversight can contribute to improving SDG 8 by ensuring more efficient economic policies and sustainable development that truly benefit all segments of society.

The limitation of this study is that it focuses solely on the CPI score and the effectiveness of public oversight in relation to the achievement of SDG 8, without providing a more detailed analysis of other factors that may influence SDG 8. Therefore, there remains an opportunity for future research to further analyze the impact of CPI and public oversight on SDG 8.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Theory of Sustainable Development

The theory of sustainable development has become a key component of development strategies adopted by governments worldwide. The SDGs serve as a comprehensive global framework for achieving sustainable development, encompassing 17 goals, 169 targets, and more than 300 recommended indicators (Barbier & Burgess, 2017). This theory emphasizes the importance of economic growth that is not solely oriented toward increasing gross domestic product (GDP), but also takes into account social and environmental dimensions. The theory is particularly relevant because public oversight and efforts to reduce corruption can create more favorable conditions for achieving sustainable economic growth (Hazmi, 2024).

2.2 Accountability Theory

Several key elements within accountability theory include transparency, responsibility, and oversight. In this context, transparency is defined as the obligation to provide clear and accurate information regarding actions or decisions that have been taken. Responsibility refers to the duty to justify actions or decisions and to ensure that these decisions align with the public interest. Meanwhile, oversight relates to the process of monitoring and evaluating actions or decisions to ensure compliance with established objectives and interests (Deseraldo et al., 2024). This theory is closely connected to the obligations of governments and public institutions in managing resources and reporting to the public. In the context of public oversight, strong accountability can reduce corruption and enhance public trust, which in turn can support economic growth (Ismowati et al., 2022).

2.3 The Influence of the Corruption Perception Index on SDG 8

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) contributes positively to economic growth, as explained by Epaphra & Masawe (2017) in their study of 15 MENA countries. Their findings indicate that corruption poses a significant barrier to economic growth because it hinders investment activities and the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI). The stronger the control of corruption in a country, the more effectively the government can promote economic development (Sauda & Furqanb, 2024). This suggests that the cleaner a country is from corrupt practices, the greater its economic growth potential (Ichvani & Sasana, 2019). In addition, Sunday Kalisa (2019) found that CPI has a positive and significant relationship with SDG 8 performance, meaning that higher CPI scores are associated with better sustainable development outcomes. Similar results were reported by Wardhani (2023), who emphasized that corruption poses serious risks to the achievement of the SDGs, and therefore, its eradication requires cross-sectoral commitment and strong institutional collaboration.

Overall, previous research findings indicate that corruption has a negative relationship with economic growth and sustainable development outcomes. However, these findings are not always consistent. For instance, unlike the study by (2017), which found a negative effect of corruption on investment and economic growth, the study by Sunday Kalisa (2019) reported a positive effect of CPI on the achievement of SDG 8 in several African countries. These differing results may be attributed to variations in country contexts, levels of development, and the indicators used to measure sustainable development. Therefore, this study seeks to provide a more comprehensive empirical synthesis by incorporating a cross-country sample to reassess the impact of the Corruption Perceptions Index on the achievement of SDG 8 at the global level. In doing so, this study aims to enrich the literature on the relationship between anti-corruption governance and sustainable development within the context of international economics. Based on the explanation above, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H1: The Corruption Perception Index has a positive effect on SDG 8

2.4 The Influence of Public Oversight on SDG 8

Effective public oversight can enhance government and private-sector accountability, which in turn promotes better work practices and compliance with policies that support economic growth (Ritonga, 2024). (Angelina et al., 2020) found that oversight has a significant positive effect on financial performance, indicating that public control mechanisms can strengthen organizational governance and reduce the potential for resource misallocation. This finding is reinforced by Effendi (2021), who emphasizes that higher levels of public oversight in a country are associated with better SDG 8 indicator achievements.

However, findings across different contexts show that the results are not entirely consistent. For example, unlike the study by Angelina et al. (2020), which demonstrated a significant positive effect, Ritonga (2024) reported that the impact of public oversight on improving performance and stakeholder trust still depends on transparency and the capacity of oversight institutions in each country. These variations indicate that institutional strength, legal systems, and the prevailing culture of accountability within a country strongly influence the effectiveness of public oversight. Therefore, this study seeks to expand the empirical evidence by examining the effect of public oversight on the achievement of SDG 8 using cross-country data. This approach is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the role of public oversight as a governance instrument in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Based on the explanation above, the following hypothesis is proposed:

H2: Public oversight has a positive effect on SDG 8

3. Research Methods

This study employs a quantitative approach with a descriptive-verificative method aimed at explaining and testing the influence of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and Public Oversight (PUBOVG) on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, while considering the Human Development Index (HDI) as a control variable. The data for this study are drawn from various sources, including SDG 8 indicators, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), public oversight measures, and the Human Development Index (HDI). The dataset encompasses 193 United Nations member countries for the year 2021.

This study employs a complete-case analysis approach, in which only countries with fully available data for all variables are included in the sample. This approach is used because 31 countries lack public oversight data, and 14 countries lack CPI data, resulting in a final sample of 148 countries. This method ensures that the regression model can be estimated accurately without bias arising from missing key variables. The research sample consists of 38 countries in Asia, 39 in Europe, 43 in the Americas, 3 in Australia/Oceania, and 25 in Africa. The data used are secondary data obtained from the World Bank, Transparency International, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). All data are cross-sectional and correspond to the most recent year available for each institution's indicators. The analysis was conducted using EViews 12.

Data analysis was carried out using multiple linear regression to examine the effect of CPI and PUBOVG on the achievement of SDG 8. The model was estimated using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method, as it produces efficient and unbiased estimators as long as the classical assumptions are met.

Before the estimation process, several classical assumption tests were conducted, including:

- Normality test of residuals, to ensure that the error terms are normally distributed so that the t-test and F-test remain valid.
- Multicollinearity test, to examine whether the independent variables are highly correlated with one another. The evaluation was performed using the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF).
- Heteroscedasticity test, to assess whether the residual variance is constant. Autocorrelation test, to determine whether there is correlation among residuals that may affect the accuracy of the estimates.

These diagnostic tests are necessary to ensure that the estimation results meet the BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator) criteria. The empirical model employed in this study is specified as follows:

$$\mathbf{SDGs8i = \beta 0 + \beta 1CPIi + \beta 2PUBOVGi + \beta 3HDIi + \varepsilon i}$$

With the following definitions:

- SDGs8 = SDG 8 achievement score
- CPI = Corruption Perceptions Index
- PUBOVG = public oversight
- HDI = Human Development Index (control variable)
- β_0–β_3 = regression coefficients
- ε = error term

This model is used to test the following hypotheses:

- H_1: The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has a positive effect on the achievement of SDG 8.
- H_2: Public oversight (PUBOVG) has a positive effect on the achievement of SDG 8.
- H_3: The Human Development Index (HDI), as a control variable, has a positive effect on SDG 8.

Table 1 provides a concise overview of the operationalization of the variables and the data sources used in this study.

Table 1. Operationalization of Variables and Data Sources

Name	Variable Operationalization	Units / Scales of Measurement	Data Source
SDG 8	Measures the achievement level of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, which focuses on inclusive and sustainable economic growth as well as the creation of productive and decent employment opportunities.	Score 0–100	UNDP / World Bank
CPI	Describes the level of perceived corruption in the public sector of a country. A higher score indicates a lower level of corruption.	Score 0–100	Transparansi Internasional
PUBOVG	Describes the effectiveness of public oversight over the government, measured through the Voice and Accountability indicator from the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), which reflects freedom of expression, press freedom, public participation, and citizen control over the government.	Scale −2.5 to +2.5	World Bank (WGI)
HDI	Measures human well-being across three key dimensions: health, education, and income.	Score 0–1	UNDP

Data Source: Processed by Researchers (2024)

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Result

4.1.1 Descriptive Statistics

Table 2. Variable Descriptive Statistics

Description	Obs	Mean	Std. Developer	Min	Max

Life Development8	148	72.41	10.28	39.54	93.29
CPI	148	44.07	18.74	0.00	88.00
PUBOVG	148	9.59	11.56	0.00	54.00
HDI	148	0.73	0.16	0.00	0.96

Number of Observations = 148
Explanation of Variable Operationalization in Table 1
* * , * * = Significant P value 1%, 5%

Secondary data, STATA-17 output (Processed, 2024)

Table 2 provides a comprehensive descriptive statistical overview of each variable. The mean value of the SDG 8 variable is calculated at 72.41, indicating that, on average, the countries included in this sample exhibit relatively strong economic growth. However, regarding the CPI variable, the mean score of 44.07 suggests a low level of perceived corruption across the sample countries, meaning that, on average, the countries in this study experience relatively high levels of corruption. The PUBOVG variable, which assesses the quality of public oversight, has an average value of 9.59, reflecting a generally low level of public oversight among the countries in the sample. For the HDI variable, which ranges from a minimum value of 0.00 to a maximum of 0.96 with an average of 0.73, the results indicate that, on average, the countries in this sample demonstrate a relatively high level of human development.

4.1.2 Correlation Analysis

Table 3. Variable Correlation Analysis

VARIABLE	*LIVE DEVELOPMENT8*	*CPI*	*PUBOVG*	*HDI*
LIVE DEVELOPMENT8	1.000			
CPI	0.650*** (0.000)	1.000		
PUBOVG	0.178** (0.029)	0.039 (0.634)	1.000	
HDI	-0.211*** (0.009)	-0.273*** (0.000)	0.116 (0.158)	1.000

Number of Observations = 148
Explanation of Variable Operationalization in Table 1
* * , * * = Significant P value 1%, 5%

Secondary data, STATA-17 output (Processed, 2024)

Table 3 presents a comprehensive correlation analysis among the main variables of this study. The correlation between the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) and SDG 8 achievement shows a significant coefficient of 0.000 at the 1% level, while the correlation between Public Oversight and SDG 8 achievement has a significant coefficient of 0.029 at the 5% level. Additionally, the control variable, Human Development Index (HDI), exhibits a significant coefficient of 0.009 at the 1% level with respect to SDG 8 achievement. These results indicate that SDG 8 is not only correlated with CPI and PUBOVG but also with HDI.

4.1.3 Hypothesis Test Results

Table 4. Hypothesis Test Results

Variable	*Expected Signs*	*SDG 8*
_CONS		58.594***
		(0.000)
CPI	(+)	0.334***
		(0.000)
PUBOVG	(+)	0.142***
		(0.004)
HDI	(+/-)	-3.751
		(0.371)
Prob > F		0.000
Adj R-Quadratic		0.450
Means Vif		1.07

Number of Observations = 148
Explanation of Variable Operationalization in Table 1
* * , * * = Significant P value 1%, 5%

Secondary data, STATA-17 output (Processed, 2024)

Table 4 presents the results of the multiple linear regression analysis used to examine the effects of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Public Oversight (PUBOVG), and the Human Development Index (HDI) on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8. The results indicate that the CPI variable has a coefficient value of 0.000, significant at the 1% level. The PUBOVG variable has a coefficient value of 0.004, also significant at the 1% level. Meanwhile, the HDI variable has a coefficient value of 0.371 and is not statistically significant. Thus, H_1 and H_2 are supported, while the control variable HDI does not exhibit a significant effect on SDG 8.

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The Effect of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) on SDG 8

Based on the regression results, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) exhibits a positive and significant effect on SDG 8, with a coefficient value of 0.000 and a significance level of 1%. This indicates that higher CPI scores (reflecting lower levels of corruption) are associated with greater achievement in inclusive and sustainable economic growth. These findings support the first hypothesis (H_1), which posits that CPI has a positive influence on SDG 8. Given the positive coefficient and a significance level below 0.01, H_1 is statistically accepted. These findings are consistent with Good Governance Theory, which emphasizes the importance of integrity and transparency in public administration. Within the framework of agency theory, lower levels of corruption reduce agency costs between the government and society, thereby improving the efficiency of public resource allocation. This result is also aligned with (2025), who found that lower levels of corruption create a more conducive investment climate, strengthen economic stability, and promote the creation of productive employment opportunities. Thus, combating corruption is a critical factor in accelerating the achievement of SDG 8 across countries.

4.1.2 The Effect of Public Oversight (PUBOVG) on SDG 8

The results indicate that Public Oversight (PUBOVG) has a positive and significant effect on SDG 8, with a coefficient value of 0.004 and a significance level of 1%. This means that the stronger the system of public oversight over government policies and performance, the higher the achievement of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. These findings support the second hypothesis (H_2), which states that PUBOVG has a positive effect on SDG 8, and with a significance level below 0.01, H_2 is statistically accepted. These findings support Good Governance theory, in which public participation and accountability mechanisms constitute key pillars of effective governance. Within agency theory, public oversight functions as a control mechanism to prevent potential abuses of power by agents (governments) toward principals (citizens). This study is also consistent with (Lisa & Sjarief, 2025), who found that enhanced transparency and public participation strengthen government accountability and improve economic performance. Thus, these results reinforce the view that strong public oversight directly contributes to the achievement of SDG 8.

4.1.3 Discussion of the Control Variable: Human Development Index (HDI)

Based on the regression results, the Human Development Index (HDI) does not have a significant effect on SDG 8, with a coefficient value of 0.371 and a significance level above 0.05. This indicates that improvements in HDI have not yet made a direct contribution to accelerating inclusive economic growth in most countries included in the sample. This finding suggests that enhancements in human quality (through education and health) require time to generate tangible effects on aggregate economic growth. Structural factors such as labor productivity, investment climate, and governance quality also play an important role in mediating this relationship. This finding is consistent with the studies of (2023), which explain that human development and economic growth have a complex long-term relationship, where the impact of HDI becomes significant only when accompanied by productive economic policies and efficient governance.

Overall, the findings indicate that the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and Public Oversight (PUBOVG) have a positive and significant effect on SDG 8, thereby supporting the acceptance of H_1 and H_2. In contrast, HDI does not exert a significant influence on SDG 8. These results reinforce the relevance of Good Governance theory and agency theory in explaining the relationship between governance quality, public accountability, and sustainable economic growth. Practically, the findings emphasize that efforts to reduce corruption and strengthen public oversight mechanisms should be prioritized in global economic development policies. Enhancing the effectiveness of oversight institutions, improving policy transparency, and promoting public participation can accelerate the achievement of inclusive and equitable economic growth as mandated by SDG 8.

In addition to supporting the research hypotheses, the empirical results also reveal clear patterns among the countries in the sample. Countries with low levels of corruption and strong public oversight systems, predominantly found in Europe and parts of East Asia, tend to exhibit higher SDG 8 scores. Conversely, countries characterized by high corruption levels and weak public oversight mechanisms, particularly in regions such as Africa and Latin America, display lower SDG 8 achievements. This pattern provides real-world context to the regression findings and reinforces the interpretation that governance quality is a key determinant in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth. These findings also clarify the empirical linkage with sustainable development theory and accountability theory. Within accountability theory, public oversight mechanisms function as controls that limit opportunities for the abuse of power, thereby enhancing transparency and the effective use of public budgets. These accountability mechanisms mediate the influence of corruption control on inclusive growth: when corruption decreases and public oversight strengthens, the efficiency of resource allocation improves, fostering more productive economic activity. This aligns with sustainable development theory, which posits that governmental integrity and public accountability are fundamental pillars for achieving stable, sustainable, and equitable economic growth.

The hypothesis testing results indicate that the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and Public Oversight (PUBOVG) have a significant influence on achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth, in line with the targets of SDG 8. Low levels of corruption support the establishment of transparent, efficient, and credible governance, which is essential for creating economic stability and enhancing investor confidence. On the other hand, effective public oversight ensures accountability in policy implementation, prevents irregularities, and promotes the optimal use of resources. Within the framework of Good Governance Theory, public oversight serves as one of the main pillars for fostering transparency, accountability, and governmental effectiveness. Good governance emphasizes the importance of public control mechanisms and community participation to ensure that economic policies are implemented efficiently and in alignment with the public interest. The finding that public oversight positively influences SDG 8 supports the view that enhanced transparency and civic engagement can strengthen public trust and promote sustainable economic growth.

Meanwhile, according to Agency Theory, the relationship between the government (as the agent) and society (as the principal) requires effective oversight mechanisms to reduce information asymmetry and prevent the misuse of power. Corruption reflects a failure of these oversight mechanisms. The finding that the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) significantly influences economic growth reinforces the assumptions of this theory: the lower the level of corruption, the more efficient the allocation of public resources and the stronger the national economic performance. Therefore, strengthening the function of public oversight not only has a direct impact on transparency but also serves as a governance mechanism to address conflicts of interest between the principal and the agent. Thus, the empirical results of this study align with Good Governance Theory and Agency Theory, which conceptually explain how public oversight and corruption levels influence the achievement of inclusive and sustainable economic growth in accordance with SDG 8. The integration of theoretical frameworks with empirical evidence provides a stronger conceptual foundation for policy recommendations related to improving governance and combating corruption.

These findings also support sustainable development theory, which emphasizes the balance between economic growth, social well-being, and sound governance. In this context, corruption control and strengthened public oversight are essential prerequisites for achieving stable and equitable economic growth. Therefore, the findings of this study have practical implications for governments and international institutions to enhance anti-corruption policies and expand the role of society in public oversight as part of global strategies to achieve SDG 8.

5. Conclusion

This study aims to analyze the influence of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and Public Oversight (PUBOVG) on the achievement of SDG 8 across 148 countries in 2021. The regression results indicate that CPI has a positive and significant effect on SDG 8, with a coefficient of 0.000 and a significance level of 1%, thereby supporting the first hypothesis (H_1). Similarly, PUBOVG has a positive and significant effect, with a coefficient of 0.004 and a significance level of 1%, thus supporting the second hypothesis (H_2). Meanwhile, HDI has a coefficient of 0.371 and is not statistically significant, indicating no effect on SDG 8. These findings underscore that reducing corruption and strengthening public oversight are key factors in enhancing inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The empirical results also reveal clear patterns across different regions. Countries with low levels of corruption and strong public oversight, such as those in Europe and East Asia, tend to achieve higher SDG 8 scores. In contrast, countries in Africa and Latin America with high corruption levels and weak public oversight display lower SDG 8 scores. This pattern provides real-world context that reinforces the quantitative findings and highlights the importance of governance in promoting inclusive economic growth within specific groups of countries. Therefore, the interpretation of the results should carefully consider cross-country contexts and should not be generalized without accounting for each country's structural differences. Theoretically, the findings of this study reinforce accountability theory and sustainable development theory. Public oversight mechanisms play a crucial role in limiting opportunities for the abuse of power, enhancing transparency, and strengthening the effective use of public budgets. These accountability mechanisms serve as a mediating pathway linking corruption control to the improvement of inclusive economic growth. When corruption is low and public oversight is strong, resource allocation becomes more efficient, thereby promoting the optimal achievement of SDG 8. Thus, institutional integrity and good governance constitute fundamental foundations for the successful attainment of sustainable development goals across countries.

This study has several limitations. First, the use of data from 148 countries out of the total 193 UN member states may limit the generalizability of the results, as some countries lack CPI or PUBOVG scores. This may introduce representation bias, particularly for developing countries with unstable governance characteristics. Second, the variables used are limited to CPI, PUBOVG, and HDI, excluding other factors such as institutional quality, economic inequality, education, and fiscal capacity, which may also influence SDG 8. These limitations may affect the robustness of the findings, and the results might differ if applied to other time periods or specific country groups. Therefore, the interpretation of the results should carefully consider cross-country contexts and should not be generalized without accounting for each country's structural differences.

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