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**THE IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON LOSS OF HUMAN CAPITAL**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The ongoing war in Ukraine impacted on loss of human capital, children education, healthcare facilities and migration. The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations In 2015 by the 2030 aim to globally people live their life with peace and prosperity. There are a total seventeen goals which are important to balance development, social, political and environmental sustainability. This research paper discusses war impacts on Sustainable Development Goals and disturbing economic growth and development. The study suggests that peace and prosperity is important for a nation to grow fast so government policies are required to overcome economic instability and bring social, economic and environmental stabilization.*

**Keywords:** Human Capital, War in Ukraine, Sustainable Development Goals

**INTRODUCTION**

Human capital is the backbone of a nation's economic growth and development. The knowledge, skills and abilities of an individual can be developed through good education, healthcare and building up a skilled workforce to achieve economic success. Large scale economic growth found in countries like Germany and the United States due to education in the 19th century. Benefits of human capital can be categorized into two parts first for the individual and second for the national economy. Individual benefits of human capital we can say increased per capita income and for nations increased in national income. Human Capital is directly connected to achieving the sustainable development goal as it enables the people to make research on solutions to environmental and social challenges and improve productivity for better sustainable growth. United Nations Member States adopted Sustainable development goals as a blueprint for peace and prosperity to all people. In September 2015, adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, there are a total 17 Sustainable Development Goals that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. If countries adopt these sustainable development goals its GDP may not be very high but it will be sustainable over a longer period of time. These goals help a country as a guiding principle for sustainability and balanced economic, social and environment development. This is a very important call for action to all developed and developing countries in a global partnership. They realized that ending poverty and other lacking resources go hand in hand with different strategies that improve health and education, and reduce the gap of inequality. It also helps to tackle climate change and to preserve our oceans and forests. These sustainable development goals are efforts of decades by countries and the United Nations with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

“Human Capital is the key driver of overall economic development”. The war in Ukraine impacted negatively on loss of human capital and achieving sustainable development goals. Russia-Ukraine War began in February 2014 Russian Military forces invaded Crimea, an autonomous republic of Ukraine. On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Russian Federation warned of no intervention from any country in this war and built up their military presence in the Crimean Peninsula. Conflict between nations continuously increased because Russia seized one more region in Ukraine's Donbas. This war resulted in more than 14000 people being killed and Ukraine massive loss of human capital, which impacted on the nation's social, economic development. Large number of skilled people flee away from their country including doctors, teachers, lawyers and this breaks the chain of investment levels. The war has damaged social and physical infrastructure and led to not getting health and education facilities to citizens, decline in child birth ratio, increase in child mortality rate. The Government of Ukraine tries to bring back their citizens to guarantee them to provide security and safety to live. Nation lost its ability to rebuild after the war to fight against poverty and inequality. Human capital is pivotal in a nation's economic growth and development globally but war forced 6 million people to migrate, 22 percent workforce reduced, 65 percent people lost income, 44 percent unable to fulfill their basic needs and 73 percent dropdown earnings.

The war between Russia and Ukraine affected Ukraine's economy and it is also the biggest challenge of United Nations sustainable development goals agenda 2030. The 17 goals of Sustainable Development Goals promote peace and prosperity but this war destroyed everything and brought economic instability in a nation.

### • Sustainable Development Goals



The 17 sustainable development goals are: Goal 1 No poverty, Goal 2 Zero hunger, Goal 3 Good health and wellbeing, Goal 4 Quality education, Goal 5 Gender equality, Goal 6 Clean water and sanitation, Goal 7 Affordable and clean energy, Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth, Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 10 Reduced inequality, Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities, Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production, Goal 13 Climate action, Goal 14 Life below water, Goal 15 Life on land, Goal 16 Peace and justice, strong institutions Goal 17 Partnerships to achieve the goals. These 17 goals were prepared by the United Nations Development Goals 2000, urging the countries to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity. The main objective of these goals was 'leaving no one behind'. The Agenda2030 focused on adopting a holistic approach to achieve these goals globally.

The war is continuously going on and still not resolved so it's affected by poverty by damaging infrastructure, livelihoods. Millions of people migrated from the nation, many people displaced resulting in economic challenges. Ukraine could not export wheat and grain; this created problems in food security worldwide. The war leads to many people losing their life, injuries, psychological trauma and badly affected healthcare facilities to these people. School infrastructure damaged and disturbed children's education. Increases energy prices globally and increases in dependency on fossil fuels. Environment getting polluted increased carbon emissions. War breaks the human rights law to live peaceful, justice, and stable life. One of the major long-term consequences of the war in the nation is the loss of human capital, its impacts on economic growth and economic development, and innovation. Many people were killed in war, several injured and its reduced labour, increased mental health problem, reduced labour productivity. Foreign companies are not ready to make investment in a war zone and decline in employment opportunities.

### OBJECTIVE

**The main objectives of the paper as follows:**

- To analyze the long-term effect of the war on education, healthcare and skill development and effects on Sustainable Development Goal
- To understand war in Ukraine impacts on loss of human capital.
- To analyze effects of war on job losses, migration of skilled workforce and decreasing labor force.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Balazs Egert and Christine de La Maisonneuve studied "The impact of the war on human capital and productivity in Ukraine" in 2023. They discussed how the Russian invasion very badly affected the economy of Ukraine and drastically brought down GDP, employment. The quality education is building skillful human capital with good productivity that contributes to nation growth and development. The war between nations impacts teaching and learning outcomes and adult skill development. Countries making more expenditure on the armed forces, households decrease their income and its negative impact on children's education. Human capital

affected by war, lower educational outcomes, loss of skillful working abilities of the working age population will reduce by 7% by 2035 and slowly bring down negative effects.

“The effects of wars: lessons from the war in Ukraine” in this research Pierre, Bocquillon, Suzanne Doyle, Toby S. James, Ra Mason, Soul Park & Matilde Rosina explained in 2024 that war is a central characteristic of global politics which affects international relation, history, economics, sociology consequences of war. This study helps us to understand war deeply and complicatedly affects human life, human development value and attitudes, policy and governance, and the power of nations around the world. The effect of the war continued in many areas.

Shaul Kimhi, Yohanan Eshel, Hadas Marciano, Bruria Adini these authors studied “Impact of the war in Ukraine on resilience, protective, and vulnerability factors” in 2023. They discussed war as human made conflicts among nations brought adversities in the country. This current study analyzes the resilience, protective and vulnerability factors as samples of Ukrainian citizens during the war. The result of this study reported distress symptoms, sense of danger and perceived threats. In Ukraine protective factors of respondents are level of hope, wellbeing and morale, and they predicted three types of resilience: individual, community in place of sense of danger, distress symptoms and level of threats. This research shows that war threatens the independence of people and sovereignty of a nation under certain conditions.

“War in Ukraine: an overview of environmental impacts and consequences for human health” the research contributed by Walter Leal Filho, Joao Henrique Paulino Pires Eustachio, Maria Fedor Tetiana Lisovska. This paper studied the environmental effect of the Ukraine war on natural resources. Focus on impact of war on water, air soil and biodiversity. The study finds solutions to overcome these environmental effects. Also studied about long term challenges Ukraine faced while recovering and aimed to understand the implication of different methods for the environment to human health. This research approach is valuable for public health, proposing various methods for recovery and long-term sustainability.

“Impact of the Russia-Ukraine War on Education and International Students” this topic was discussed by By Fakir Al Gharaibeh, Ifzal Ahmad and Rima Malkawi in 2022. They studied the war crisis effect on the national and international economy which consists of education, research and science. This forces to migrate local and international students, teachers and educators in universities, schools, and institutes in Ukraine so in this study focusing on global effort to sustain higher education.

“Loss of human capital as a threat to Ukraine national security in the context of the migration crisis”, this topic studied by Viktoriia Zahurska-Antoniuk Viktoriia Zahurska-Antoniuk in December 2023 discussed that internal conflicts, intervention and violation of human rights lead to migration became national security crisis.

“The Effect of the War on Human Capital in Ukraine and the Path for Rebuilding” discussed by Yuriy Gorodnichenko Marianna Kudlyak Ayşegül Şahin in June 2022. This studies analysis on the effect of war on human capital.

“Preserving Human Capital in Ukraine in times of War” this research done by Olha Hapicieva, Volodymyr Sarychev, Adel Bykova, Dmytro Dziuba and Oleksandr Pohorilyi Department of Economics and Social and Labor Relations, University of Customs and Finance, Dnipro, Ukraine in 07-06-2023. They talked about how war brought significant skillful professionals to migrate countries so it must preserve the human capital in Ukraine.

## **RESEARCH GAP**

The Russia Ukraine war ongoing conflict between two nations began since 2014 and became problematic in 2022 and continuous affecting loss of human capital. There has been research on economic, social, political and environmental issues by researchers but loss of human capital became a barrier to achieve the sustainable development goals this study area was unexplored. Human capital plays a key role in driving economic growth, social stability and environmental sustainability. Without human capital education, healthcare and skill development it became impossible to achieve sustainable development goals. Human capital must be prioritized by the government, businesses and societies to ensure sustainable growth and development in a country. To achieve sustainable development goals human capital is playing a crucial role for agenda 2030. This study about the impact of the war in Ukraine on loss of human capital. Due to the war in Ukraine, people migration, economic instability and demographic challenges create unfavorable situations toward the sustainable development goals. Key sustainable development goals affected by loss of human capital in Ukraine..

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## DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The research methodology used in this study is based on secondary data and qualitative analysis. This methodology ensures validity, reliability and comprehensive understanding of the topic. This research study adopts qualitative and descriptive research using secondary data analysis to understand the effects of war on loss of human capital and declining sustainable development goals.

This study aims to understand the 17 sustainable development goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity. Sustainable development growth is important to ensure long term economic development and preserve our natural resources fostering environmental protection.

## FINDINGS

The war in Ukraine impacted the loss of human capital and the country faced demographic challenges, shortages of labour, Disturbance of essential services.

- 1. Higher Mortality rate:** War in a country increases the death rate and around seven million citizens flee the country.
- 2. Migration of Youth:** Many teenage boys start to migrate over 190,000 boys aged 14 to 17 in the European Union .3. Shortages of Labor: Due to war skillful doctors, lawyers migrate in another nation has led to severe labor shortages particularly in healthcare services.
- 3. Problems in achieving sustainable development goals:** The sustainable development goals also known as global goals. The war in Ukraine has badly impacted the country's human capital, leading to challenges in achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 4. Russia Ukraine war:** The conflict between two nations worsened the standard of living and poverty levels in Ukraine. A Human Impact Assessment coordinated by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) revealed that since February 2022, 65% of Ukrainian households have experienced income reductions, with 44% unable to meet basic needs.

**Agricultural sector:** The war has decreased agricultural production and supply which led to food shortages and increased hunger. The agricultural infrastructure has created problems of food security, not only in Ukraine but also in regions dependent on its exports.

**Health and wellbeing:** Due to the migration of doctors, damage to infrastructure, it's difficult to get medical services.

**Education:** Educational infrastructure damaged disrupted children and education and development

The war in Ukraine resulted in significant human capital losses, adversely affecting the country's progress toward multiple SDGs. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from the international community to support Ukraine in mitigating the conflict's impact on sustainable development.

## SUGGESTIONS

### 1. Evaluation of Loss of Human Capital:

- Conduct surveys and collect statistical data on migration patterns and workforce displacement.
- Analyze which industries (e.g., IT, healthcare, education) have been most affected.
- Compare pre-war and post-war employment rates to quantify labor market disruptions.

### 2. Studying the Impact of Forced Migration and Brain Drain

- Investigate how many skilled workers and professionals have left Ukraine.
- Assess how migration has affected Ukraine's innovation and economic growth.
- Examine how host countries benefit from the influx of Ukrainian talent.

### 3. Evaluating Damage to Education and Skill Development

- Analyze disruptions in school and university education due to war.
- Assess the role of online and remote learning in mitigating education loss.
- Investigate skill shortages caused by interrupted education and training programs.

**4. Examining the Impact on Healthcare and Public Services**

- Research how the loss of medical professionals affects healthcare access.
- Investigate the long-term mental health effects of war on the workforce.
- Analyze the strain on Ukraine's healthcare system due to mass casualties and migration.

**5. Investigating Economic and Business Disruptions**

- Study how business closures and infrastructure destruction impact employment.
- Assess the effect of war on entrepreneurship and small businesses.
- Examine the role of foreign investment in stabilizing Ukraine's labor market.

**6. Exploring Strategies for Recovery and Reconstruction**

- Research policies that encourage skilled workers to return post-war.
- Investigate international programs supporting Ukraine's workforce recovery.
- Analyze the effectiveness of digital work and remote job opportunities in rebuilding human capital

**CONCIUSION**

The war between two nations has been impacted on sustainable development goals which are prepared for the aim of peace and prosperity. Sustainable development goal couldn't achieve because large number of people died, so many became handicapped, children became homeless damage of infrastructure result into the unemployment, do not have sufficient food to eat, disturbance in education and healthcare. Human capital is an asset of nation building and plays a key role in economic growth and development, research and bringing progress in society. The war in Ukraine impacted badly on the overall development of the nation.

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