

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The United Nations (UN) developed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of international goals intended to be implemented locally by its members in order to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development. It is thought that the SDGs' existence will assist developing countries develop faster overall because this program aspires to end poverty (Rassanjani, 2018). The SDGs, also referred to as the Global Goals, are a collection of objectives within a global agreement to eradicate poverty, save all that keeps the world habitable, and guarantee that everyone lives in peace and prosperity, both now and in the future. In order to address the substantial empirical and scientific evidence that the world need a radically more sustainable approach, the goals were formally endorsed by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 for the period 2016–2030. The goals offer a carefully thought-out framework that is politically acceptable, scientifically sound, and easily understood by the general public. Only through understanding what came before the SDGs can their practical and political significance and the difficulties they present be fully understood (Morton et al., 2017).

An increasing number of global governance institutions are prioritizing the need for comprehensive social policies and measures that can slow down the rapid loss of resources. A fundamental component of many programs and guiding principles of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was ratified by all member states in 2015, is sustainability, which is widely defined as ensuring that the needs of future generations are satisfied without compromising the requirements of the present. The Agenda outlines 17 objectives for preserving life's welfare and safety, including the best possible functioning of cities, towns, infrastructure, and animals, plants, and soil. Not just government and non-government organizations, but as many other actors as possible must participate in order to achieve this significant and broad goal. The implementation of religious principles and regulations that support sustainability is an important factor for environmental participation since sustainability involves many different powers.

The 12th Sustainable Development Goal “Responsible Consumption and Production” aims to significantly reduce waste production through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse while also achieving sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, halving global food waste per capita at the retail and consumer level, and achieving environmentally sound management of chemicals and many other wastes throughout their life cycle. The UAE has made progress in supporting the SDGs, particularly SDG-12 which deals with responsible production and consumption. However, challenges remain, particularly in managing waste, reducing carbon footprints, and promoting sustainable practices in the business sector. The UAE continues to work to raise public awareness about the importance of sustainable consumption, as well as encouraging businesses to adopt more environmentally friendly production practices. Furthermore, consumption not only describes the financial health of people or households, but also represents cultural and behavioral values in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It also helps to determine the activity of each sector of production by determining the amount of money spent on each sector. Consumption behavior can be viewed as an examination of how people allocate their income to fulfill the needs in keeping with their preferences and the resources that are available to them (Katsaiti et al., 2017). The government is aware that private sector assistance for sustainability initiatives is crucial given the UAE's rapid economic expansion. The key to supporting future progress is open communication about priorities and obstacles, as well as prompt support for each other's activities.

Along with SDG targets in UAE government and federal development plans was the National Committee's main target for 2017. SDG priority targets are starting to be discussed for inclusion in the Cabinet's decision-making process, the performance management framework, and the UAE government's statistical data reporting process. A prioritization process for SDG targets has been completed. A national initiative with several stakeholders from business, higher education, federal and local government, and civil society organizations has been launched to raise public awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the 2017 SDGs annual event with the theme "Excellence in Implementation", members of the National Committee presented an overview of the strategic framework for SDGs implementation. They also provide case studies showing how the SDGs are being implemented in specific policy areas in the UAE. The SDG Index, which evaluates the global community's progress toward the

SDGs and shows how policy gaps can be addressed through comparisons between countries, is presented by the UN Sustainable Solutions Development Network (UN SDSN). In addition, they discussed on the significance and approaches to reporting, monitoring, and policy coherence, emphasizing the critical roles that data and policy have in guaranteeing the SDGs are realized.

The Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCA) is attempting to simplify the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in sectoral plans and strategies, sustainable business practices, and consumer behavior in order to ensure the achievement of SDG 12 (National Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018). The Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) concept aims to improve the economy and environment by minimizing pollution along the entire value chain, which includes the production and consumption processes. It does this by focusing on all phases of the life of materials and products. SCP was included into the UAE Green Agenda 2030 and selected as the theme for National Environment Day in the United Arab Emirates from 2017 to 2019. The creation of a National SCP Plan is being undertaken by the Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MOCCA). Key priority for implementing the SCP have been identified as the materials and construction, transportation and mobility, and food and agriculture sectors (United Arab Emirates National Committee on SDGs, 2017).

In order to achieve priority, the government needs to start creating affordable, clean energy for the public as well as strong environmental regulations. In addition to considering environmental issues, governments also need to ensure that research and development initiatives generate employment opportunities. Sustainability has many aspects since it could be considered from a variety of perspectives and applied to all areas (Harahap et al., 2023).

The UAE now has one of the best-performing governments in the world because to significant improvements made to the public sector over the last ten years. In order to achieve its national development goals, the UAE is putting into place a state sector performance architecture that will make sure the government is responsive, effective, and at the highest level of public sector management in all areas of its operations, from service delivery to policy formulation (United Arab Emirates National Committee on SDGs, 2017).

B. Research Question

Why is there a gap in achieving SDGs targets in the UAE?

C. Theoretical Framework

1. Policy Implementation Theory

This theory focuses on the processes through that government policies are put into effect. This study will look at the challenges of implementing sustainability and environmental policies into practice in the UAE, as well as the factors that affect how effectively they work. Thorough analysis of the body of research on the subject of policy implementation and proposes a fresh conceptualization of the process. The first section of Hill and Hupe's publication discusses the significance of policy execution in relation to public administration and policy. Hill and Hupe also emphasize that the way policies are put into practice has a big impact on how successful they are, even when they are well-drafted. They found that not achieving policy goals is frequently due to implementation failures.

This journal article analyzes several theoretical frameworks that have been created to comprehend the application of policies. These methods are divided into two primary schools by the authors: top-down and bottom-up methods. The top-down method focuses on how lower-level bureaucracy implements decisions made at the top level on policy. The bottom-up strategy, in contrast, highlights the significance of local stakeholders and front-line officials in determining the course of policy. Each of these strategies has both advantages and disadvantages of its own. Hill and Hupe attempted to incorporate the most advantageous aspects of top-down and bottom-up approaches in their new framework proposal. They propose in a more comprehensive model that takes into account the complex interactions between the different players—from policy makers to field implementers to policy beneficiaries—involved in the implementation of policies. Additionally, this model acknowledges the significance of the political, social, and economic environment in shaping the implementation process.

One of the main contributions of this journal article is its emphasis on the importance of coordination and communication between various levels of government and organizations. According to Hill and Hupe, effective policy implementation is the product of teamwork in which

all participants are aware of their own roles and responsibilities. They also emphasized how adaptable the implementation process must be in order to accommodate changes local situations. Additionally, this article presents a number of critical elements, including institutional capability, political support, community involvement, and resource availability, that affect how well policies are implemented. Hill and Hupe emphasize that continuing monitoring and evaluation is essential to ensuring that policies continue to be applicable and efficient (Van Meter & Van Horn, 1975).

In a top-down method, higher authorities establish overall policies and goals that are related to SDG 12, resulting in lower level bureaucracy then interpretations and puts into practice. To encourage sustainable growth, the UAE government has developed an elaborate national policy and framework. For instance, the National Agenda and UAE Vision 2021 have particular goals for sustainable production and consumption, which the lower levels of bureaucracy are required to carry out.

The bottom-up strategy, on the other hand, places more emphasis on including local communities and stakeholders in the process' implementation. In order to guarantee that local context and requirements are taken into account while implementing policies, lower-level bureaucracy is essential. In order to modify and improve policies in response to current situations and community feedback, this method frequently calls for active community involvement and feedback mechanisms. Educational initiatives and local awareness campaigns are two examples of bottom-up approaches to encourage sustainable purchasing habits.

For implementation to be successful, it is important to bridge the gap between high-level policies and implemented policies at the grassroots level. In addition to engaging with businesses and local communities to ensure their active participation and commitment to sustainable practices, this involves good communication and coordination between various levels of government. In order to achieve the goals of sustainable consumption and production, the lower-level bureaucracy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) implements SDG 12 by following to national policies established by higher authorities and modifying these policies to local conditions through community participation. This process combines top-down and bottom-up approaches (Cheng et al., 2021).

D. Hypothesis

The gap in achieving SDG targets in the UAE can be explained by several factors at the top level (government, policymakers, and political leaders) related to the Policy Implementation theory. Policies are often poorly implemented, resulting in uneven impacts, due to variations in the quality of policy implementation across levels of government. Policy implementation is often complicated by a lack of collaboration between stakeholders and institutions. Implementation of SDG policies is difficult in less resourced areas due to uneven capacity and resources. Policy effectiveness is reduced due to low public participation, especially when behavioral change is needed. Finally, weak monitoring and evaluation systems result in failure to implement policies and delays in problem-solving. These factors collectively explain the gap in achieving SDG targets in the UAE.

E. Research Methods

The author chose to use qualitative methods to explain the thesis entitled "IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IN RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)". This research collects and analyzes data using literature searches and research by reading various books, journals and others. Data sources include policy documents, government reports, and case studies. The analysis was carried out to identify success factors and obstacles in implementing the SDGs, as well as providing recommendations for future improvements.

F. Scope Of Research

This thesis research focuses on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to responsible consumption and production in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This research will examine the reasons and factors for gaps in achieving SDGs targets in the UAE, as well as the strategies implemented to achieve these goals. In addition, this research will explore the history and policies that support the implementation of SDGs in the UAE, including the role of the government, private sector and society in efforts to achieve sustainable consumption and production.

G. Outline

CHAPTER 1:

This chapter contains a description of the background, theoretical framework, and methodology of thesis research.

CHAPTER 2:

This chapter, explain how the SDGs have developed, what the SDGs are like in the UAE, and the targets set by the UAE, as measurable achievements and deadlines set by the UN as a world development agenda for peace and prosperity of humans and the planet earth now and in the future.

CHAPTER 3:

This chapter, explain what strategies the UAE uses to align gaps with SDG targets, including key initiatives and policies. The author will discuss how the UAE government collaborates with the private sector, local communities and international organizations to promote sustainable practices. By applying Policy Implementation Theory, the author will explore mechanisms, strategies and policies that facilitate or hinder the implementation process.

CHAPTER 4:

This chapter contains a description of research conclusions and recommendations in the form of relevant suggestions based on research findings.