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Introduction:

Inequality in sustainable development between countries is one of the sustainable development goals with a high economic, social, and environmental degree. The role of Western imperialism and colonialism support economic dominance and constrains opportunities for development in former colonies. Inequality in sustainable development erodes our efforts to achieve economic growth, reduce poverty, and increase social mobility. As well as it increases political tension and often triggering conflict and instability. This research report will tackle the issue of inequalities in development between former colonies and colonists and hopefully finding a solution.

Definition of Key terms:

Global Inequality: Refers to the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities and power among nations that shape the well-being of individuals globally.

Colonialism: Colonialism is a practice of one country taking full or partial political control of another country. Hereby using their resources to increase their own power and develop their economies.

Sustainable Development Goals: The United Nations' 193 member countries adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, an ambitious global undertaking to end poverty, address inequalities and tackle climate change over the next 15 years.

Sovereignty: Sovereignty means countries get to control what happens inside their borders and can't interfere what happens elsewhere.

Exploitation: Exploitation is the use of something in order to take an advantage of it. This was often done by colonial powers exploiting natural resources such as raw materials from former colonies. This increased the colonial powers wealth because of the use of indigenous people as low-cost labour.

GINI Index: The GINI Index is a measure of the distribution of income across a population. A higher GINI Index indicates a greater inequality, with high income individuals receiving much larger percentages of the population's total income.

Background:

Inequality defines our lives in various ways and forms different issues. Since the 1990s global inequality declined for the first time since the 1820s. Since this trend we have mostly seen inequality in income levels between countries decline. Yet income levels between countries since then have risen. Inequalities are driven and measured by different factors such as gender, age, origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, class, and religion. For most part we have seen income inequality improve in the last 25 years, meaning average incomes in developing countries are increasing. Although the gap between countries is still considerable.

Since the global economic crisis in 2008, inequalities have regained major public and policy concerns. Many events since 2008 highlight the unequal access to previous economic policies and negligence regarding inequality. Inequality between countries on average have declined the last few decades, nonetheless it remains an important issue to solve. As inequality between countries have decreased, economic inequality within countries have increased what threatens the declining trend of global inequality.

Global inequality has been affected by historical event, disputes, and exploitation. Colonialism extensively effects inequality, where European colonizing powers shaped modern inequality by wealth, resources, and labour from nations in Asia, the Middle East and Africa to develop their own economies. Many European nations such as France, Belgium, Britain, and Spain created colonies in countries that only in the 20th century gained sovereignty. In Europe, wealth created by colonialism led to conditions that allowed the Industrial Revolution. Most Western societies have an industrialized focus and are on top of the global socioeconomic hierarchy. For example, how citizens of industrialized countries have higher living standards than those of less industrialized countries, this example communicates the differences between colonizers and their former colonies.

Newly independent countries continue to suffer due to their colonial past, facing inequality. They are influenced by European ideologies; their economies have been stagnated due to centuries worth colonial extraction of their natural resources and

exploitation of labour. Some countries had no governmental structure and so endured military dictatorship.

There are different theories of how global inequalities are formed and affect the world. The modernization theory believes that global inequalities are formed by internal factors that limit the development between countries. The dependency theory believes that they are formed because of external and exploitative relationships that keep the underdeveloped and developing countries poor.

Major parties involved:

Former colonial powers: There are countries that were once colonial powers and shown to take part in how colonialism has shaped modern inequalities. This affects former colonized nations their economic and political development also after their independence. Examples of former colonial powers are Spain, Russia, United States, United Kingdom, and France.

Former colonized nations: Countries that formerly have been colonized by Western powers, and are still affected by their influence for example because of exploitation and the unequal distribution of natural resources such as raw materials.

International Organizations: Organizations such as the World Bank that have a significant role in the development of former colonized nations and the reduction of inequality. For example, the World Bank is an international development organization owned by 187 countries. Their goal is to reduce poverty by lending money to the governments of its poorer members to improve their economies. It is also one of the

biggest research centres in development. The World Development Indicators (WDI) databases provides a large range of inequality indicators such as the share of consumption and the GINI index. The World Bank is working to promote shared prosperity, meaning that they work on increasing incomes and welfare in the poorer countries but also in middle-income countries.

Relevant UN treaties, resolutions, and reports:

World Social Science Report 2016: This report examines the harmful impacts of inequalities on citizens, communities and countries. The report was prepared by the international social science council (ISSC) in Paris in cooperation with UK-based Institute of Development studies at the University of Sussex and co-signed by UNESCO. The report is based on more than 100 contributors from 40 different countries.

Rio+20 Summit in 2012: The united nations conference on sustainable development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2012) resulted in a focused political outcome document which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development. Here they developed a set of Sustainable Development Goals, which build upon the Millennium Development Goals.

UN Report “Inequality – Bridging the Divide”: A report published by the United Nations on how to tackle inequality. How income inequalities between countries have improved and is getting worse.

Previous attempts to solve the issue:

Previously there have been different attempts to solve the issue of global inequality.

This includes events such as social movements and electoral campaigns, along with outrage for compensation for the finance sector and protests against governmental policies. The reduction of inequality involves a collaborative effort that must motivate all concerned parties. To finally find a solution that constitutes a genuine political and social innovation.

Possible Solutions:

There are multiple possible solutions that can be done to try to solve the issue of inequality in sustainable development between colonized nations and colonizers. Due to colonization, there is an immense economic inequality and a gap between rich and poor. A solution for this issue can be adopting policies to achieve greater equality, especially fiscal policies what will create new opportunities for former colonized nations and decrease the gap between high- and low-income households. Also wage policies might ensure a more stable economic status in developing countries and social protection to reduce and prevent poverty. Another solution can be to ensure equal opportunities for former colonized nations by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practice by promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and actions. The implementation of effective and viable policies is important, such as raising marginal tax rates on the highest income brackets, improving tax compliance, eliminating tax exemptions, and reassessing the role of property and wealth taxes.

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