

ISTANBUL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY (ISTCES) 2025

*Pathways to Inclusive Growth: Overcoming Challenges in
Emerging and Developing African Countries.*

24-26 SEPTEMBER 2025

Book of Proceedings

Editors

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34.

Linkage Between Higher Education Development and Environmental Degradation: An Empirical Evidence from Pakistan

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Dr. Noman Arshed²

Concerns related to environmental sustainability are increasing, particularly in the case of developing countries where redundant human capital poses a severe threat to the environment. Present study examines the role of higher education towards environmental sustainability in the case of Pakistan. The association between higher education development and CO₂ emission is examined through the ARDL model from 1965 to 2020. Apart from ARDL the non-linearity among variables have been tested through QARDL model. The number of students enrolled in higher education institutes has been used as a proxy for higher education development. The bounds test findings confirmed the cointegration among variables, whereas the Error Correction Term (ECM) coefficient indicates that the series converges toward its long-run path with a speed of 49 percent per year. Findings concluded that development in higher education act as a catalyst in reducing environmental degradation, raising awareness among individuals to change their consumption patterns from non-renewable to renewable energy sources. Furthermore, results of Quantile regression confirmed that the U-shaped environmental Kuznets Curve exists in the case of Pakistan. This study suggests that expanding higher education can be a powerful instrument for finding an innovative solution to overcome environmental challenges.

Keywords: Higher education, Carbon Dioxide Emission, Economic Growth, Johansen Cointegration

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