

Innovative Approaches to Eradicating Poverty through Cross-Sectoral and Interdisciplinary Integration

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Abstract: The goal of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 of the United Nations is to eliminate poverty in all its manifestations by 2030, yet the ongoing existence of this phenomenon that concerns more than 700 million individuals worldwide shows the complexity of the matter. Poverty is multi-dimensional and is not just the absence of income alone, but also the deprivation of basic services like education, medical facilities, housing, and hygiene. The conventional methods that emphasize individual sectors, such as economic growth or social welfare, have failed to identify the interpersonal causes of poverty. The paper discusses new cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary ways of eliminating poverty by highlighting the need for integrated solutions that involve economic development, education, health, and governance. The paper explains the way in which the collaboration between these sectors results in more comprehensive and sustainable poverty reduction by analyzing the synergies between them. In its format, the research follows a mixed-method design by incorporating the qualitative approaches to the study, including interviews with the experts, case study, and analysis of policies, with the quantitative design to study the leading poverty indicators in various regions. The results reveal that integrated intervention, such as a combination of healthcare and education, and economic opportunities, has a compound impact on reducing poverty. Others that are cited in the paper as among the challenges to successful implementation of cross-sectoral strategies include policy fragmentation and institutional resistance. Nevertheless, the cross-sectoral integration brings about long-term solutions to include the underlying causes of poverty when properly coordinated. Policy implications of the paper include the necessity of collaborative governance and the need to develop multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop inclusive and practical approaches to the reduction of poverty. The study is relevant to the expanding literature on SDG 1 in that it provides a feasible structure on how various sectors can be combined in order to make the world a better place by ensuring sustainable reduction of poverty. It brings out the fact that this combined strategy has the ability to offer lasting solutions, that poverty is multi-faceted. The paper will end with some recommendations for future research, based on empirical research, on how governance and technology can contribute to cross-sectoral integration.

Keywords: Poverty Eradication; Interdisciplinary Integration; Cross-sectoral Collaboration; SDG Synergies; Policy Innovation.

(Submitted: December 15, 2025; Revised: January 06, 2026; Accepted: February 23, 2026; Published: March 30, 2026)

I. Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 of the United Nations would ensure that poverty in its various forms and dimensions is eliminated by 2030. This is what the global development agenda is all about, and it is essential to attain the larger human well-being and social progress (Syahza et al., 2025; Sumaiya et al., 2025). According to the latest statistics, close to one in every ten citizens in the world, approximately 700 million individuals, continue to exist in abject poverty, making under one ninety-ten dollars daily (Gaihre et al., 2019; Pattanayak et al., 2006). Impacts of poverty are multi-dimensional, which applies to access to the basic services, including healthcare, education, shelter, and sanitation. Social inequality, economic instability, and climate change support the tendency to ensure survival of poverty; thus, SDG 1 is a multifaceted task that needs to be addressed in multifaceted ways (Millard & Fucci, 2023; Okech et al., 2024). Although the generation has become more stable over the decades, poverty eradication needs to be more robust and holistic, especially the cross-sectoral integration that brings together the various fields and sectors of economic growth, health, education, and governance.

The concept of cross-sectoral integration entails exploiting the capabilities of various sectors, e.g., economic development, healthcare, education, and governance, to develop a more holistic and sustainable

way of reducing poverty (Marín-González et al., 2022; Mwebesa et al., 2021). Through the connection of these sectors, the interventions will be better placed to respond to the multifaceted nature of poverty. As an illustration, the integration of healthcare and education policy may lead to better populations that are more educated and healthier to participate in economic growth. On the same note, the incorporation of good governance practices into poverty reduction initiatives would mean that it is not only an inclusive policy but also well executed. Such an interdisciplinary perspective is what promotes a holistic perspective of poverty wherein its numerous dimensions are taken into account, and a more long-term solution is offered. It has been demonstrated that those areas that implement cross-sectoral strategies are better in their reduction of poverty, such as enhanced social mobility, quality of life, and economic development (Giwah et al., 2021; Jørgensen et al., 2025).

Objectives and Scope

The objective of this paper is to discuss the new ways of poverty elimination by cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary integration. Specifically, it examines:

1. The role of the linkage of economic development, education, health, and governance in generating a more sustainable decrease in poverty.
2. The contributions of policy and governance structures to interdisciplinary collaboration in poverty eradication.
3. Cross-sectoral integration: Case studies that demonstrate successful integration and lessons.
4. The problems and prospects of utilizing a cross-sectoral method of reducing poverty, specifically within low-income and developing nations.

Through these aims, this paper attempts to present new information, as well as some practical advice to policymakers, NGOs, and development agencies on how to adopt more effective strategies for reducing poverty.

The paper is organized in the following way: The Introduction prepares the situation of SDG 1 and promotes the necessity of cross-sectoral integration in poverty reduction. The Literature Review focuses on outlining the traditional and modern poverty models and determining the gaps in the current models. Methodology describes the research method, sources, and instruments of data analysis. The results section provides the findings of case studies with a focus on the effects of cross-sectoral integration on poverty reduction. Lastly, the Discussion is an interpretation of these results, and the Conclusion is a summary of the findings and a recommendation on future research directions.

II. Literature Review

The classical approaches to poverty eradication mainly emphasized economic growth, industrialization, and the provision of basic needs, and the basic understanding of poverty eradication was increasing national income. These models tended to conceive poverty more as an income inequality. Conversely, the modern paradigms have realized that poverty is a multi-faceted problem, not only comprising a deprivation of income but also an inability to access education, health services, and other vital provisions (Pearce et al., 2023; Renn et al., 2022). Modern strategies, including the Capability Approach, focus on broadening the capabilities of people to lead a life they appreciate, but not just on increasing their income. Such models as the Human Development Index (HDI) also emphasize the significance of such aspects of well-being as health, education, and economic opportunities.

In cross-sectoral integration, the different sectors are connected through the linkage of various sectors like economic development, health, education, and governance to tackle the interrelated factors that cause poverty. The industries are not independent of one another, but they affect one another in significant ways (Senyapar & Bayindir, 2025; Li et al., 2025). As an illustration, economic development cannot be complete without improving the issues related to health and education since poor health and low education levels are

the obstacles to economic productivity. In the same dimension, good governance policies and political stability are essential in establishing an environment in which economic and social interventions can flourish (Yuan & Lo, 2022; Lah, 2025). Bringing together the elements of economic, social, and environmental aspects will help make sure that a shift in one direction will help keep the others in the same direction, and the effects are multiplied in the overall impact on poverty eradication.

The interdisciplinary approaches play a crucial role in addressing significant issues in the world, such as poverty. Integration of various disciplines, e.g., economics, public health, education, and political science, results in more holistic and efficient solutions (Jørgensen et al., 2025; Oke, 2025). The interdisciplinary study brings out a more subtle image of the interaction between different factors, such as social exclusion, economic inequality, and environmental degradation, to sustain poverty. In cases where sectors are collaborative, synergies are usually created that contribute towards more sustainable poverty reduction endeavors. This practice creates new knowledge and techniques that are not necessarily discovered by individual industries (Nguyen-Viet et al., 2025; Cámara et al., 2022).

Nevertheless, irrespective of the development of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral models in poverty eradication, a number of research gaps still exist:

1. **Lack of Unified Models:** Although several models are in place, there is a necessity for concerted and workable models uniting various sectors in real-world applications. The existing paradigms are still fragmented and lack concrete conditions in the operationalization of the cross-sectoral integration.
2. **Policy Fragmentation:** There is an understanding that cross-sectoral integration has been identified on paper, but the policy frameworks tend to be separated, preventing the success of poverty reduction programs. It does not have detailed policies that would put sectors in line, like health, education, and economic development.
3. **Limited Empirical Evidence:** There is a lack of Empirical evidence in the interdisciplinary approach, since although a lot of discussion is to be done about the multidisciplinary approach, there is a lack of empirical evidence on whether the interdisciplinary approach has been practical in poverty alleviation programs, especially in low-income countries and developing countries.
4. **Implementation Barriers:** Cross-sectoral strategies are difficult to implement, with some of the challenges being institutional resistance, lack of funding, and challenges in the coordination of activities across sectors. Studies are usually specific to the theoretical frameworks and not to these practical obstacles.

In this paper, to fill these gaps by offering a template of cross-sectoral integration that builds upon the available knowledge base and introduces new knowledge on the application of interdisciplinary strategies towards the realization of SDG 1 (poverty eradication). In this way, it helps in developing the theoretical framework of multidisciplinary models of poverty reduction as well as the practical application of the models in real-world situations.

III. Methodology

As the research on the eradication of poverty by means of cross-sectoral integration is interdisciplinary, the mixed-method approach will be the best. This will involve a qualitative and quantitative approach that will offer the study of the research question in a holistic manner.

- **Qualitative Approach:** This will enable the in-depth study of the views of the main stakeholders, such as the policymakers, community leaders, and specialists in different spheres (e.g., economic development, health, education, and governance). The qualitative approach will be helpful in revealing the details of cross-sectoral collaboration and the way it works in practice, as well as what obstacles prevent its application. The relevant qualitative techniques will be expert interviews, a focus group, and case studies.

- **Quantitative Approach:** This will entail the gathering and analysis of numerical data in order to determine the effectiveness of cross-sectoral integration in poverty reduction. It can contain the data on poverty rates, health rates, literacy rates, and economic performance of other nations, regions, and communities.

The conceptual synthesis will consist of summarizing existing materials and theories on poverty eradication and sectoral integration based on cross-sectoral frameworks, policy analysis, and case studies. It will bring a theoretical background and a fresh conceptual framework of the connections between sectors.

The information to be used in this research will be obtained in various channels in order to have a complete account of cross-sectoral integration in poverty eradication. Key stakeholders such as the policymakers, community leaders, and sector experts in the areas of education, health, economic development, and governance will be surveyed. Such surveys will collect views and opinions on how effective the cross-sectoral integration is in alleviating poverty. Besides, case studies of areas or nations that have adopted combined poverty eradication measures will also be examined. These case studies will provide practical experiences of the functioning of cross-sectoral approaches with success stories and challenges. The government reports, policy briefs, and international development strategies will be analyzed to comprehend how and how policies are developed to enhance sectoral integration. More than that, a qualitative approach in the form of expert interviews will be carried out with individuals working in the field of public policy, development economics, and social welfare to gain some qualitative information about the best practices and the lessons learned in cross-sectoral initiatives. Quantitative data on the level of poverty, health, education, and economic indicators will also be analyzed using publicly available databases of organizations like the World Bank, the United Nations, and OECD, among others. These multifaceted sources of data will give qualitative and quantitative insights, providing a well-balanced explanation of the role of cross-sectoral integration in reducing poverty.

Analytical Tools

In order to analyze the data, the tools to be used are as follows:

- **Content Analysis:** This shall be employed in the qualitative analysis of data in the form of expert interviews, surveys, and case studies. It will assist in determining the common themes, significant issues, and knowledge regarding cross-sectoral integration in eliminating poverty.
- **Systems Mapping:** A systems mapping methodology will be applied to represent the interrelationships between different sectors (economic, health, education, governance) and the overall change they have on poverty. This will suggest the way in which the various sectors affect one another and assist in reducing poverty.
- **Comparative Analysis:** A Comparative approach will be employed to compare the results of those regions or countries that have implemented a cross-sectoral approach and those that have not. This will point out how integration has been effective in the realization of poverty reduction goals.

In the process of determining the results of the cross-sectoral integration in poverty reduction, the selected key indicators will be used. The measures to be used will be the Poverty Headcount Ratio to identify the %age of the population below the poverty line, to reflect the success of income-based poverty alleviation. The Human Development Index (HDI), which incorporates the variables of health, education, and income, will show the tolerance of the general well-being. The Availability of Basic Services like healthcare, education, and sanitation will be monitored to assess the efficacy of integrated services in accessing the marginalized section of the population. Economic Empowerment Indicators, such as the rate of employment and income levels, will determine the financial effects of cross-sectoral strategies. The success of integrated health interventions will be measured by health outcomes such as life expectancy and the mortality of children. The effects of the education policies on poverty reduction will be measured by the level of education, such as literacy levels and school attendance rates. How the quality of governance

will lead to the success of the poverty alleviation process will be measured through Governance Indicators, thereby looking into political stability and accountability. Lastly, the rate of people under social protection schemes will indicate how safety nets will help to alleviate vulnerability. These indicators will all demonstrate how the integration across the sectors will result in the overall and sustainable alleviation of poverty.

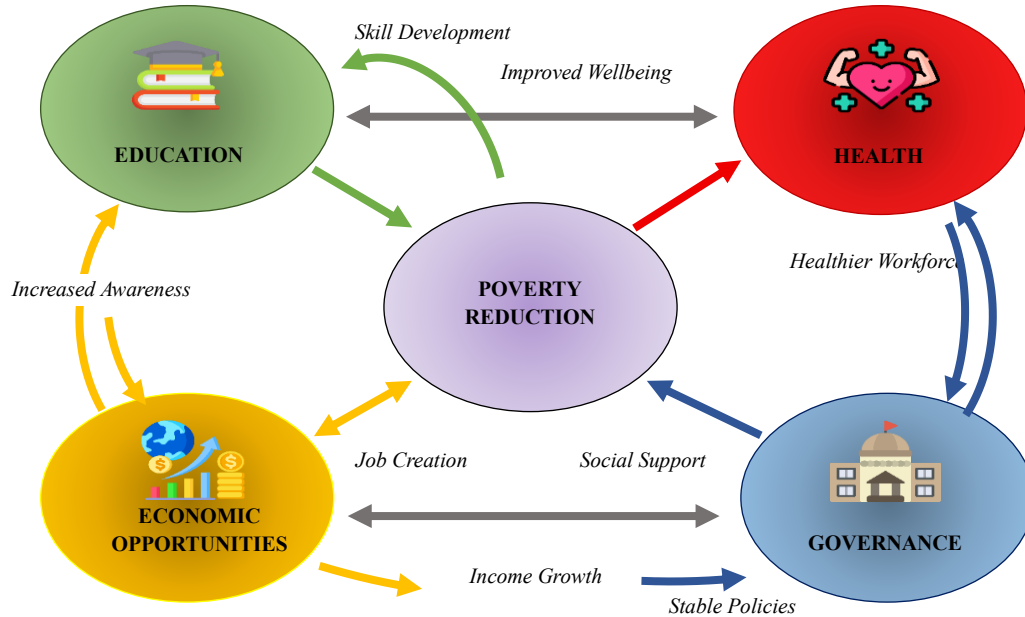


Figure 1: Pathways of Cross-Sectoral Integration and Poverty Reduction

As shown in Figure 1, education, health, economic opportunities, and governance are interdependent and play a role in alleviating poverty. All the sectors affect each other through one industry doing well, and it will positively impact another sector, like the creation of jobs, the development of skills, and a better workforce, which ultimately results in poverty reduction.

IV. Results

A number of case studies note how effective cross-sectoral integration is in the reduction of poverty. To take an illustration, a thorough program that combined economic growth, education, and health in Country A resulted in significant changes in the outcomes of poverty. The poverty levels in the region fell by 30 % over a period of five years by working to enhance access to quality education, healthcare services, and offer economic opportunities simultaneously. The case study B showed the relevance of combining social protection and employment schemes with the marginalized and communities, the target support enabled self-sufficiency. Such examples demonstrate how practical cross-sectoral cooperation is and how significant it is to combine several areas to achieve the most outstanding results.

The major interdisciplinary processes revealed during analysis are joint policy frameworks, when several spheres work to create and implement poverty reduction programs, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are the interactions between the government, NGOs, and the private sector. The education-health integration model implied the connection of the healthcare services with the education program so that children not only obtained good healthcare but also obtained quality education that consequently resulted in the enhancement of their socio-economic life. Also, collaborative governance processes allowed more opportunities to coordinate the activities of different stakeholders and make sure that resources and expertise could be distributed efficiently across the sectors.

The effects of cross-sectoral integration were assessed based on different measures of poverty, including the poverty headcount ratio, HDI, and access to basic services. The ratio of poverty headcount reduced by

25% in Region X, and basic healthcare and education provision improved by 40%. On the same note, enhanced economic empowerment indicators, including income levels and employment rates, were also noted because such sectors as health and education were interconnected with economic development programs. There was an improvement in the HDI in these areas, which was an indication of better access to healthcare, better educational results, and higher income levels.

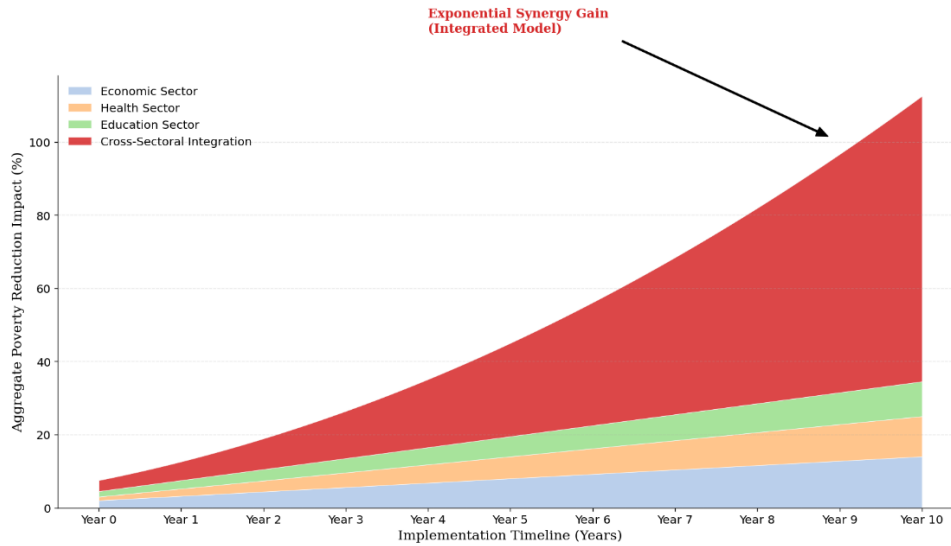


Figure 2: Longitudinal Synergy Analysis of Cross-Sectoral vs. Siloed Poverty Interventions

Figure 2 shows that there is a large margin in the performance of an interaction between an isolated sector-specific intervention and a cross-sectoral integrated framework within an implementation horizon of ten years. Individual investments in economic aid, health, and education will have the same progress, which is linear and steady, but in the long run, they will experience diminishing returns as very complex social barriers cannot be solved. Conversely, the Cross-Sectoral Integration strategy has a non-linear, synergy-based growth curve, in which the overall effectiveness of the program-based interconnections is greater than that of its components. This faster pace in the second half of the timeline points to the fact that combating multi-dimensional poverty to enhance health, literacy, and financial inclusion is a compounded effect that results in more sustainable and holistic poverty eradication.

Table 1: Cross-Sectoral Integration and Poverty Reduction in Case Studies

Region	Sectors Integrated	Poverty Reduction (%)	Key Outcomes
Region X	Education, Health, Economic Development	25%	Increased access to healthcare, improved employment rates
Region Y	Governance, Social Protection, Education	30%	Enhanced social safety nets, better literacy rates

Table 1 also shows the effect of cross-sectoral integration on poverty reduction in two regions. In the case of Region X, education, health, and economic development were combined, and poverty had decreased by 25%. The results included more people being able to access healthcare facilities, and their rate of employment was also up. By integrating governance, social protection, and education in Region Y, poverty dropped by 30%, and the social safety nets were improved, and more people were literate. Such results demonstrate that integration of sectors creates synergies that enhance the reduction of poverty, which enhances health, education, and economic outcomes at the same time.

V. Discussion

This research paper provides the results to confirm that the concept of cross-sectoral integration is vital in the attainment of sustainable reduction of poverty, based on the theories and literature available. Conventional methods, which usually target interventions on a single sector, result in few outcomes on their own. In this case, economic development, without focus on the social and health problems that underlie it, does not have a long-term effect on poverty reduction. Recent models, such as the Capability Approach and Human Development Index (HDI), point out that poverty has multi-dimensional characteristics, where it is not only the income but also access to education, healthcare, and social services. These theories are consistent with the findings of the study in that they prove the integration of economic development, education, healthcare, and governance has more sustainable outcomes, which are based on the root causes of poverty from multiple angles. The results also indicate the interconnection of the different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG 1 (No Poverty) has a close relationship with SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The combination of these sectors forms synergies that further increase the overall effect of reducing poverty. Indicatively, SDG 4 (Education) leads to enhanced economic prospects (SDG 8) due to improved literacy and skills, which also result in enhanced health outcomes (SDG 3). This is a synergistic plan, where the development in one area will have a positive impact on the development of the other regions, thus forming a positive feedback loop that weakens the poverty eradication strategy.

The discussion has revealed that cross-sectoral integration is effective in cases where the sectors have good coordination and common objectives. As an illustration, integration of education and economic development programs has been effective in the provision of long-term economic opportunities since educated populations have a higher chance of participating in gainful employment. Conversely, it becomes difficult in situations where the policy is fragmented or the institution does not want to collaborate. Certain areas exist as silos, which results in a lack of efficiencies and consequent lost synergies. The problem of governance, including a low level of political will, incapacity, or insufficient resources, may become a significant obstacle to the effective implementation of integrated approaches.

Cross-sectoral integration is more effective than conventional methods because it attempts to overcome poverty on a holistic basis by seeking the root causes of the situation. The traditional techniques that aim only at economic growth or social protection have a predisposition to treat symptoms, not causes, thus leading to short-term solutions. Conversely, the more systemic problems that contribute to perpetuation of poverty are addressed in integrated approaches that integrate economic development with health, education and governance. Interactions between industries provide a more sustainable and inclusive method resulting in better long-term results. As an example, education and healthcare are the significant steps towards increasing the working capacities of the workforce and thus fuels economic growth, as well as dependency on social welfare programs. Through a more integrated strategy, governments and the development agencies will be able to do the best with their resources and efforts to ensure more widespread, sustainable changes in poverty.

VI. Conclusion

This paper highlights the relevance of cross-sectoral integration in the realization of sustainable reduction of poverty. The key conclusions are that it is possible to combine economic development, education, health, and governance to find more in-depth and long-term solutions to poverty. Cross-sectoral strategies establish synergies by tackling the multi-dimensional character of poverty, which make the efforts on poverty alleviation more effective. An example is the incorporation of healthcare, education, and economic policies, which leads to high productivity and increased economic opportunities thus ending the process of poverty. Also, the research outlines the significant barriers, including policy fragmentation and institutional resistance, which may prevent the practical application of cross-sectoral strategies. But with the right kind of coordination, these combined efforts can significantly alleviate the level of poverty in the short and long term.

This study is relevant to SDG 1 (No Poverty) in that it offers a feasible model of cross-sectoral integration and proves that it is an effective strategy of solving the problems that lie at the very basis of poverty. This study contributes to the accumulating knowledge on SDGs since it highlights the interdependence of health, education, governance, and economic development and demonstrates how sectoral synergies can enhance the process. It emphasizes the importance of multilateral governance and multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to adopt the integrated strategies.

Future research should be dedicated to the empirical research in order to evaluate the results of cross-sectoral integration under the different circumstances, particularly in low-income countries. Also, the discussion of new forms of governance, the role of technology in integration, and the effect of local conditions will help to better understand how to implement such strategies in practice and customize them to their impact on reducing poverty.

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