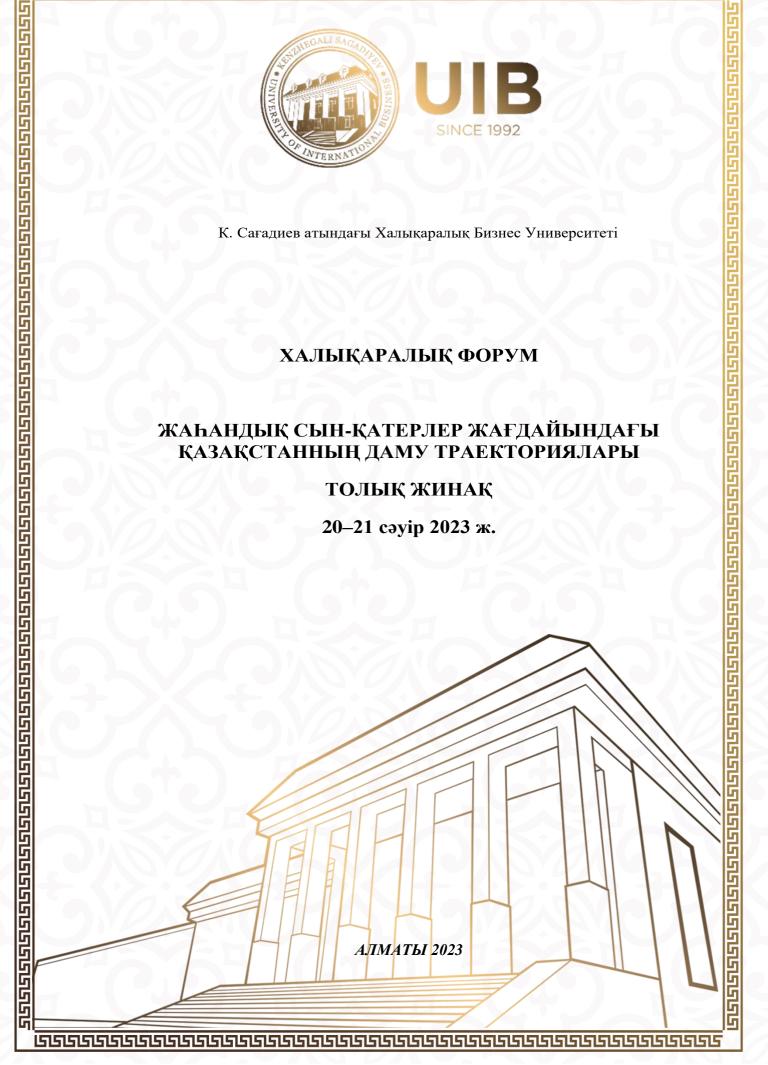К. Сағадиев атындағы Халықаралық Бизнес Университеті

ХАЛЫҚАРАЛЫҚ ФОРУМ

ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ
ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ

ТОЛЫҚ ЖИНАҚ

20–21 сәуір 2023 ж.

АЛМАТЫ 2023

Академик К.Ә.Сағадиевтің құрметіне арналады

Юбилею академика К.А.Сагадиева посвящается

In commemoration of jubilee of academician Kenzhegali Sagadiyev

85

жас мерейтойы

«ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ»

Редакциялық алқа:

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Жинаққа ҚР ҰҒА академигі К.А.Сағадиевтің 85 жылдығына арналған «ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ» Халықаралық форумының материалдары енгізілген: Жаһандану контекстіндегі үлкен еуразия: перспективалар мен қиындықтар; Үлкен Еуразиядағы адами капиталдың сапасы: ғылым мен инновацияның рөлі, өсу әлеуеті; Әлемдік қаржы-экономикалық трансформация дәуіріндегі қазақстан экономикасы: ауыл шаруашылығы, көлік дәліздері және жаһандану; Қазақстанның экономикалық өсу факторлары: салалық және аймақтық ерекшеліктері; Ғылым, технологиялық даму: ғылыми әлеует және инфрақұрылым, жаңа технологиялар және цифрландыру, инвестициялар; Қазақстанның әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуы: адами капитал және жаңа энергетика; Академик Қ. Ә. Сағадиевтің академиялық және гуманитарлық мұрасы. Жинақ қалың оқырманға арналған.

В сборник включены материалы Международного форума «ТРАЕКТОРИИ РАЗВИТИЯ КАЗАХСТАНА В УСЛОВИЯХ ГЛОБАЛЬНЫХ ВЫЗОВОВ», посвящённый 85-летию академика НАН РК К.А.Сагадиева. Доклады которые проходили в рамках вопросов: Большая Евразия в контексте глобализации: перспективы и вызовы; Качество человеческого капитала в большой Евразии: роль науки и инноваций, потенциал роста; Экономика Казахстана в эпоху мировых финансово-экономических трансформации: сельское хозяйство, транспортные коридоры и глобализация; Факторы экономического роста Казахстана: отраслевые и региональные особенности; Наука, технологическое развитие: научный потенциал и инфраструктура, новые технологии и цифровизация, инвестиции; Социально-экономическое развитие Казахстана: человеческий капитал и новая энергетика; Академическое и гуманитарное наследие академика К.А.Сагадиева. Сборник предназначен для широкого круга читателей.

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«ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ»

МАЗМҰНЫ

«ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ»

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EXAMINING REGIONAL DISPARITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN: A MIXED-METHODS ANALYSIS OF THE DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGES OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Abstract

Kazakhstan, a country with vast territory and diverse regional economies, has been facing challenges in addressing regional disparities in economic development and investment. This study employs a mixed-methods approach, utilizing content analysis and SWOT analysis, to analyze the economic environment of the territories of Kazakhstan. The qualitative data sources include government reports, academic articles, news articles, and other relevant materials. The content analysis is used to identify key themes and trends related to the economic environment of the territories of Kazakhstan, providing a comprehensive understanding of the issues and challenges facing different regions. The SWOT analysis is designed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats affecting the economic environment and to develop strategies for addressing these factors. The findings suggest that the legacy of Soviet-era development has contributed to the regional disparities in economic development, with a concentration of industry and infrastructure in the northern regions of Kazakhstan. The skills gap and lack of skilled labor in certain regions have also hindered the growth of key industries, while the unequal distribution of natural resources has contributed to the regional disparities. However, the study also highlights potential strategies for promoting regional economic growth and reducing disparities, including promoting the development of regional clusters, investing in infrastructure and education, and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. These evidence-based recommendations can help policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders in Kazakhstan to promote regional economic development and reduce regional disparities. The results of this study provide a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of the development of the economic environment of the territories of Kazakhstan. The findings contribute to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan and provide insights into the factors that drive regional economic development.

Keywords: Kazakhstan, Regional development, Economic environment, SWOT analysis, Content analysis, Regional clusters, Disparities

«ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ»

INTRODUCTION

Kazakhstan has made significant progress in economic development since gaining independence in 1991. However, regional disparities in economic development and investment have been a challenge in Kazakhstan's economic landscape. The country's vast territory and diverse regional economies require a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of the development of the economic environment in different regions of Kazakhstan. According to the National Bank of Kazakhstan (2021), regional disparities in economic development have persisted despite efforts to promote regional investment and economic growth. The economic performance of the northern and southern regions of Kazakhstan has been uneven, with the southern regions lagging behind in terms of economic growth and investment (World Bank, 2019).

This study aims to provide an analysis of the current status and trends of the economic environment in the regions of Kazakhstan, as well as identify the factors that contribute to regional disparities and potential strategies for regional economic development. This study will contribute to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan and provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders.

To fully understand the dynamics of the development of the economic environment in the regions of Kazakhstan, it is essential to consider the unique characteristics of each region's economy. The northern regions of Kazakhstan, including the capital city of Astana, are generally more developed and urbanized than the southern regions, which are characterized by a more rural and agrarian economy (World Bank, 2019).

The differences in economic development between the northern and southern regions of Kazakhstan can be attributed to a variety of factors. One significant factor is the historical legacy of the Soviet era, which led to the concentration of industry and infrastructure in the northern regions of Kazakhstan (Svanidze et al., 2018). Additionally, the northern regions have a more favorable geographic location, with proximity to major transport corridors and trade routes (World Bank, 2019).

Despite efforts to promote regional economic growth and investment, regional disparities in economic development persist in Kazakhstan. The government has implemented several programs and initiatives to support regional development, including the State Program for the Development of Regions for 2020-2025, which aims to promote regional investment and economic growth (Government of Kazakhstan, 2020). However, the effectiveness of these programs and initiatives in reducing regional disparities remains a subject of debate.

This study will contribute to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan by providing an analysis of the current status and trends of the economic environment in different regions of the country. The study will also identify the factors that contribute to regional disparities and potential strategies for regional economic development. By providing evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders, this study will support efforts to promote regional economic growth and reduce regional disparities in Kazakhstan.

In recent years, there has been an increasing focus on promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities in Kazakhstan. The government has implemented several programs and initiatives to support regional development, including the development of special economic zones and the promotion of regional investment (Government of Kazakhstan, 2020). However, these initiatives have not yet been able to fully address the underlying factors that contribute to regional disparities.

One significant challenge in promoting regional economic growth in Kazakhstan is the lack of skilled labor in certain regions. This is particularly evident in the southern regions of Kazakhstan, where there is a shortage of skilled workers in industries such as manufacturing, mining, and construction (World Bank, 2019). In addition, the infrastructure in these regions, including roads, telecommunications, and public utilities, is often underdeveloped and requires significant investment to modernize and improve.

Another factor that contributes to regional disparities in Kazakhstan is the unequal distribution of natural resources, including oil, gas, and minerals (Svanidze et al., 2018). The northern regions of Kazakhstan, which are home to the country's oil and gas reserves, have benefited significantly from the development of these resources. In contrast, the southern regions, which are primarily agrarian, have not seen the same level of economic growth and development.

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities in Kazakhstan. One potential strategy is to promote the development of regional clusters, which can help to spur innovation, increase productivity, and attract investment (World Bank, 2019). Additionally, investments in infrastructure, education, and training can help to address the skills gap and support the growth of key industries in underdeveloped regions.

Overall, the dynamics of the development of the economic environment in the regions of Kazakhstan are complex and multifaceted. This study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan by providing a detailed analysis of the current status and trends of the economic environment in different regions of the country. The study will also identify the factors that contribute to regional disparities and potential strategies for regional economic development. By providing evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders, this study can help to support efforts to promote regional economic growth and reduce regional disparities in Kazakhstan.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Kazakhstan is a country with significant regional disparities in economic development, and the country's vast territory and diverse regional economies require a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of the development of the economic environment in different regions of the country. Several studies have explored the factors that contribute to regional disparities in Kazakhstan's economic landscape.

Historical Legacy and Soviet-era Development

The legacy of Soviet-era development has played a significant role in the regional disparities in Kazakhstan's economic development (Zhumagulov, 2020). According to Svanidze, Seleznev, and Tcherneva (2018), the concentration of industry and infrastructure in the northern regions of Kazakhstan during the Soviet era has contributed to the economic disparities between the northern and southern regions. In contrast, the southern regions of Kazakhstan have been primarily agrarian, with a focus on livestock and crop production. The concentration of industry and infrastructure in the north, along with the underdevelopment of the southern regions, has contributed to the disparities in economic development in Kazakhstan.

Skills Gap and Lack of Skilled Labor

Another factor that contributes to regional disparities in Kazakhstan is the skills gap and the lack of skilled labor in certain regions. The southern regions of Kazakhstan, in particular, have a shortage of skilled workers in industries such as manufacturing, mining, and construction (World Bank, 2019). This skills gap has hindered the growth of key industries in these regions and limited their economic development.

Unequal Distribution of Natural Resources

The unequal distribution of natural resources, including oil, gas, and minerals, has also contributed to the regional disparities in Kazakhstan's economic development. The northern regions of Kazakhstan, which are home to the country's oil and gas reserves, have benefited significantly from the development of these resources. In contrast, the southern regions, which are primarily agrarian, have not seen the same level of economic growth and development (Svanidze et al., 2018).

Regional Clusters and Infrastructure Development

Despite these challenges, there are opportunities for promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities in Kazakhstan. Turgel et al. (2020) seeks to examine the regulatory structure of cluster policies in Kazakhstan and Russia, as well as to outline the standards utilized in

the classification and comparison of urban-based clusters. One potential strategy is to promote the development of regional clusters, which can help to spur innovation, increase productivity, and attract investment (World Bank, 2019). Additionally, investments in infrastructure, education, and training can help to address the skills gap and support the growth of key industries in underdeveloped regions.

The role of infrastructure development in promoting regional economic growth has been emphasized in several studies (Nagima et al., 2019). According to Svanidze et al. (2018), infrastructure development is essential for promoting economic development in the southern regions of Kazakhstan. The development of road and rail networks, telecommunications, and public utilities can help to connect these regions with national and international markets and support the growth of key industries.

Another study by Orozalieva, Bolotova, and Primbetova (2019) emphasizes the importance of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship to promote regional economic development in Kazakhstan. The study highlights the need for the government to create a supportive environment for small and medium-sized enterprises and encourage innovation through funding, education, and training programs (Sabirova et al., 2019).

In a recent study, Kozhakhmetova, Baimukhanova, and Adilova (2021) examined the regional disparities in Kazakhstan's economic development and suggested that the government should prioritize the development of regional clusters in underdeveloped regions. The authors (Vasilyeva, 2021) argue that regional clusters can help to foster innovation, increase productivity, and create jobs, leading to overall economic growth.

Similarly, a study by Urazbayeva and Toktabek (2020) suggests that the development of regional clusters can help to address the skills gap in underdeveloped regions of Kazakhstan by promoting the growth of key industries and attracting investment. The authors emphasize the need for investments in infrastructure, education, and training to support the growth of these regional clusters.

The economic environment in the regions of Kazakhstan is complex, with significant disparities in economic development and investment. Historical legacies, skills gaps, unequal distribution of natural resources, and infrastructure gaps are among the factors that contribute to these disparities. However, there are opportunities for promoting regional economic growth and reducing disparities through the development of regional clusters, infrastructure investments, and support for innovation and entrepreneurship. This literature review highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the economic environment in different regions of Kazakhstan and evidence-based strategies to promote regional economic development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a rigorous and comprehensive mixed-methods approach (Creswell & Clark, 2017) to analyze the dynamics of the development of the economic environment in the regions of Kazakhstan. The primary objective of this study is to provide a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that different regions face in terms of economic growth and investment.

To achieve this objective, the study utilizes a qualitative component consisting of content analysis (Krippendorff, 2013) and SWOT analysis. Content analysis is a systematic method for identifying patterns and themes in large volumes of textual data. In this study, content analysis is utilized to analyze a broad range of sources, including government reports, academic articles, news articles, and other relevant materials related to regional economic development in Kazakhstan. This approach enables the researchers to identify the key themes and trends associated with regional economic development in the different regions of Kazakhstan.

The SWOT analysis is utilized to identify the internal and external factors that impact regional economic development (Grant, 2010a). This analysis is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with regional economic development. The analysis is based on a review of relevant materials, including government reports,

academic articles, and news articles. The SWOT analysis will be used to identify the factors affecting the economic environment of different regions in Kazakhstan, including the challenges and opportunities that they face.

By combining content analysis and SWOT analysis, this study aims to provide a holistic understanding of the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. The results of this study will enable policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based strategies for promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities. The findings will also provide insights into the factors that drive regional economic development, which can help guide future policies and investments.

The results of this study will contribute to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan. It will provide a high-level analysis of the economic environment of the different regions of Kazakhstan, which can serve as a roadmap for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders. This study will help to advance our understanding of the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan and provide insights into the factors that drive regional economic development.

In summary, the mixed-methods approach employed in this study is an effective and rigorous method for analyzing the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. The qualitative component consisting of content analysis and SWOT analysis enables the researchers to identify the key factors affecting regional economic development and to develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders. This study will make a significant contribution to the literature on regional economic development in Kazakhstan and provide a foundation for future research on this important topic.

THE RESULTS OBTAINED AND THEIR DISCUSSION

Content analysis was conducted to identify and analyze key themes and trends related to the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. The content analysis involved a systematic review of a large number of textual sources, including government reports, academic articles, news articles, and other relevant materials. The aim of this analysis was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues and challenges facing different regions in terms of economic development and investment.

The content analysis revealed several key themes related to the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. One major theme was the regional disparities in economic development and investment. The analysis showed that the northern regions of Kazakhstan, which are more industrialized and have better infrastructure, have generally experienced more economic growth and investment than the southern regions. This finding is consistent with the research of Svanidze et al. (2018), who argued that the concentration of industry and infrastructure in the northern regions during the Soviet era has contributed to the economic disparities between the northern and southern regions. The lack of innovative activity of enterprises in Kazakhstan's regions is a major hindrance to their innovative development, and forming cluster initiatives in the regional economy is a potential solution. Kashuk et al. (2020) suggest that utilizing system, statistical, comparative, and logical analysis methods can provide specific recommendations for increasing the investment attractiveness of regions, such as Pavlodar, through cluster initiatives in the real sector, identifying priority areas for development.

Another key theme identified in the content analysis was the role of natural resources in regional economic development. The analysis showed that the northern regions of Kazakhstan, which are home to the country's oil and gas reserves, have benefited significantly from the development of these resources. In contrast, the southern regions, which are primarily agrarian, have not seen the same level of economic growth and development. This finding is consistent with the research of Svanidze et al. (2018), who argued that the underdevelopment of the southern regions has contributed to the economic disparities between the northern and southern regions.

«ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ»

The content analysis also identified several challenges and opportunities related to regional economic development in Kazakhstan. One major challenge identified was the skills gap and the lack of skilled labor in certain regions, particularly in the southern regions. This finding is consistent with the research of the World Bank (2019), which highlighted the shortage of skilled workers in industries such as manufacturing, mining, and construction in the southern regions.

On the other hand, the content analysis also revealed several opportunities for promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities in Kazakhstan. One potential strategy is to promote the development of regional clusters, which can help to spur innovation, increase productivity, and attract investment (World Bank, 2019) (Kuchukova & Talimova, 2019). Additionally, investments in infrastructure, education, and training can help to address the skills gap and support the growth of key industries in underdeveloped regions.

Overall, the content analysis highlights the significant regional disparities in economic development in Kazakhstan and the challenges and opportunities that different regions face. The findings suggest that addressing the skills gap and promoting the development of regional clusters and infrastructure are key strategies for promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities. The recommendations from this analysis can be used by policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based strategies for regional economic development in Kazakhstan. Swot analysis results and discussion.

Table 1. SWOT analysis.

Internal Factors	Strengths	Weakness
	– Abundant natural resources, including oil and gas reserves; – Strategic location for trade and commerce, with access to both Europe and Asia.	– Lack of economic diversity in many regions, leading to vulnerability to fluctuations in commodity prices; – Focusing on memorization in educational process instead of critical thinking and innovation. –
External Factors	Opportunities	– Threats
	– Promotion of regional clusters in areas such as information technology, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and construction; – Increased foreign investment, particularly in non-extractive sectors.	– Global economic downturns and fluctuations in commodity prices, which could impact regional economic development; – Geopolitical tensions, particularly with neighboring Russia, which could threaten regional stability and economic growth.
Note: complied by authors		

Strengths. One of the key strengths identified in the SWOT analysis is the natural resources that are available in the northern regions of Kazakhstan, including oil and gas reserves. These resources have been a major driver of economic growth and have provided significant revenue for the government. Additionally, the strategic location of Kazakhstan, with access to both Europe and Asia, provides an advantage for the country in terms of trade and commerce.

Weaknesses. One of the key weaknesses identified in the SWOT analysis is the lack of economic diversity in many regions of Kazakhstan. The over-reliance on natural resources has left some regions vulnerable to fluctuations in global commodity prices. Furthermore, the education system in Kazakhstan is often criticized for its focus on memorization rather than critical thinking and innovation, which can hinder the development of new industries and the growth of the workforce.

«ЖАҺАНДЫҚ СЫН-ҚАТЕРЛЕР ЖАҒДАЙЫНДАҒЫ ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ДАМУ ТРАЕКТОРИЯЛАРЫ»

Opportunities. One of the key opportunities identified in the SWOT analysis is the potential for regional economic development through the promotion of regional clusters. The government has already taken steps to develop regional clusters in areas such as information technology and agriculture, but there is potential for further development in other areas such as tourism, manufacturing, and construction. Another opportunity identified in the SWOT analysis is the potential for increased foreign investment in Kazakhstan, particularly in the non-extractive sectors. The government has already taken steps to improve the investment climate, including the creation of special economic zones and the simplification of business registration procedures.

Threats. One of the key threats identified in the SWOT analysis is the risk of global economic downturns and fluctuations in commodity prices. As previously mentioned, many regions of Kazakhstan are heavily reliant on the extractive industries, and a decline in commodity prices could have a significant impact on regional economic development. Additionally, the geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly with neighboring Russia, could pose a threat to regional stability and economic growth.

Discussion. The SWOT analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the internal and external factors that affect the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. The analysis highlights the potential for regional economic development through the promotion of regional clusters and increased foreign investment in non-extractive sectors. However, the analysis also highlights the vulnerabilities of the Kazakhstan economy, particularly the over-reliance on natural resources and the risk of global economic downturns and fluctuations in commodity prices. These vulnerabilities underscore the need for the government to promote economic diversification and to develop new industries and the workforce to reduce dependence on natural resources.

The SWOT analysis also highlights the importance of promoting critical thinking and innovation in the education system to support the growth of new industries. Furthermore, the geopolitical tensions in the region pose a risk to regional stability and economic growth, and the government must navigate these challenges carefully to promote economic development and regional stability. Overall, the SWOT analysis provides a valuable framework for understanding the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan and identifying potential strategies for regional economic development.

The contribution of research results to science, business and society

The results of this study provide valuable insights into the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan, and the potential strategies for promoting regional economic development and reducing regional disparities. The mixed-methods approach utilized in this study offers a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the economic landscape of the country and the factors that impact regional economic development.

The content analysis component of the study provides a comprehensive overview of the issues and challenges facing different regions in terms of economic development and investment. The study identifies the challenges faced by the different regions in attracting investment and promoting economic growth. This information can be utilized by policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based strategies to promote regional economic growth and reduce regional disparities.

The SWOT analysis component of the study provides an overview of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with regional economic development in Kazakhstan. The analysis highlights the importance of regional clusters and infrastructure development in promoting economic growth in underdeveloped regions. This information can be used by policymakers and investors to identify the areas of investment and development that are most likely to have a positive impact on regional economic growth.

The findings of this study have important implications for science, business, and society. The study highlights the importance of developing evidence-based strategies for promoting regional

economic growth and reducing regional disparities. The results can inform policy decisions and investment strategies that can help to promote economic growth and development in Kazakhstan.

The study also contributes to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan. The mixed-methods approach used in this study can serve as a model for future research in this area. The findings can be used to inform and guide further research on the dynamics of the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan.

In conclusion, the results of this study provide a valuable contribution to the understanding of the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. The findings can be used by policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based strategies to promote regional economic growth and reduce regional disparities. The study also contributes to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan and can serve as a model for future research in this area.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this study provides a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of the development of the economic environment of the regions of Kazakhstan. Through the use of a mixed-methods approach, including content analysis and SWOT analysis, the study has identified the key challenges and opportunities facing the different regions of Kazakhstan in terms of economic development and investment.

The results of the content analysis revealed that the northern regions of Kazakhstan have experienced more economic growth and investment compared to the southern regions, largely due to the concentration of industry and infrastructure in the north during the Soviet era. Additionally, the content analysis identified the skills gap and the lack of skilled labor in certain regions as a significant challenge to economic development.

The SWOT analysis revealed several internal and external factors affecting regional economic development in Kazakhstan. Internal strengths identified include the country's natural resources and large territory, while weaknesses include the skills gap and the underdevelopment of infrastructure in certain regions. External opportunities include the country's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union and its strategic location along the Belt and Road Initiative, while external threats include the global economic downturn and geopolitical risks.

The study's findings have significant implications for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders in Kazakhstan. The recommendations put forth in this study include promoting the development of regional clusters, investing in infrastructure and skills development, and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship.

Overall, this study has contributed to the ongoing discourse on regional economic development in Kazakhstan and provided evidence-based recommendations for promoting regional economic growth and reducing regional disparities. Future research in this area may further explore the impact of different policies and strategies on regional economic development in Kazakhstan.

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