

## Reinvestigating the Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis for the relationship between Water Pollution and Economic growth in less industrialized economies

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### Abstract

Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) hypothesis has dominated literature in ecological and environmental economics. Though a lot of studies have either validated or refuted theory, researchers are still divided as to its relevance in explaining environmental disasters in this modern era. Besides, not many studies have verified the validity of theory for the water pollution-economic growth nexus. The proposed study seeks to examine whether economic growth drives water pollution in less industrialized economies. The research approach is deductive since the study seeks to validate or invalidate a theory. The research design is causal since the study seeks to explain the effect of economic growth on environmental pollution. The research method is quantitative since the study relies on secondary quantitative data to study the relationship between water pollution and economic growth. The target population represents 81 nations across the globe. From this number, a sample of 79 countries with high water pollution would constitute the sample size. The sample design would be a purposive sampling method since the selected countries must meet certain criteria. The source of data would be primarily secondary data. Data would be gathered from World Bank Development Indicators. The analysis method would be an observation of cross sectional panel data over 31 years from 1990 to 2020. Statistical modelling methods include Cross-sectional dependence test, Unit root test, Cointegration test, Causality test, ARDL. Data would be analyzed with the assistance of Microsoft Excel, EViews, RStudio, and Stata.

**Keywords:** Environmental Kuznets Curve, Water pollution, Economic growth, Less industrialized economies, etc.