



Navigating the pandemic: Assessing COVID-19's impact on sustainable development and climate change goals

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Abstract

The world economy as a whole has collapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India implemented a severe lockdown on March 23, 2020, by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030, to safeguard the lives of its citizens. This humanitarian and economic disaster is something the nation is constantly fighting and conquering. The countries' efforts to meet their SDG 2030 have probably been hampered by this situation. There's still hope even though India's economy has also weakened. All targets are examined in detail to examine the consequences of pandemics, and a quantitative impact analysis is conducted concerning the Sustainable Development Goals through the application of ranking techniques. Deeper perspectives on the Sustainable Development Goals are provided by critically analyzing the targets and indicators to characterize the goals from their fundamental point of view, including the nature of goals, relying factors, locus of the goal, and interactions between Sustainable Development Goals. Proposing rescue programs, the government hopes to boost the nation's economy and spark the passion of its people. The pandemic has caused people's views on all facets of life to shift. This study outlines how COVID-19 affects SDG 2030 and makes some recommendations for improvement.

Keywords: Covid-19, sustainable development goals, economic crisis, lockdown, climate change

Introduction

When United Nations (UN) Member States adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, the world pledged to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By altering the course of progress and postponing the process of accomplishing the 17 SDGs, the unique situation brought about by COVID-19 in early 2020 is undermining this commitment. The overarching objective of "leaving no one behind" is endangered by the increasing inequality that exists today. However, financing sustainable development is made even more challenging by the growing global challenges and the financial and economic crises brought on by COVID-19. In early January 2020, the COVID-19 virus first surfaced in Wuhan, China. Since then, it has spread quickly to approximately 215 countries and territories, posing an unprecedented health crisis that has impacted not only our era but also global history. A considerable number of lives have been lost as a result of it, and livelihoods have suffered greatly. Nearly every part of the world's economy is being adversely affected by this epidemic, in addition to the global economy. As of June 22, 2020, 9.17 million individuals tested positive for COVID-19; of these, 0.47 million had passed away, 4.90 million had recovered, and the remaining 3.79 million were still fighting the virus.

We are currently dealing with a global health, economic, and humanitarian crisis unlike any other as a result of the emergence and rapid spread of COVID-19. It is essential to go through a green recovery that keeps the Sustainable Development Goals in mind in order to recover from the climate catastrophe and the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic. However, the most recent data on sustainable development is not very promising. More importantly, though, it implies that we will have to work much harder to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The current situation has rightfully put health at the top of the agenda for all countries, requiring a scaling up of the available health facilities to provide a strong response. Experts predict that until a medical cure in the form of a COVID-19 vaccine is developed, governments will continue to give health as a top priority. Strict quarantine regulations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic are hurting economies and causing catastrophe in numerous nations across the globe. But the pandemic has also had an intriguing effect on the environment. Hand sanitizer shortages, border closures, and social distancing norms are not the only effects of the pandemic as it spreads around the world.

Impact of COVID-19 on Climate Change

COVID-19 has affected millions of people's lives as well as the environment. Lower CO₂ emissions and less human movement enhance the quality of the air and encourage wildlife to enter urban areas. Scientists have confirmed that in certain places, the quality of the air has recently improved. As factories, airplanes, and other forms of transportation close, air pollution decreases in nations severely affected by the virus, such as China, Italy, and Spain. Carbon emissions have also decreased as a result of work-from-home laws reducing commuting.

For every million dollars of global GDP in recent years, we produced about 500 tons of CO₂. 2019 saw the release of 40 billion tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere for every \$88 billion in global GDP. This relationship suggests that a drop in CO₂ emissions could follow a decline in global GDP brought on by the approaching economic downturn. Eventually, the COVID-19 pandemic will offer opportunities and insights that motivate environmental action. For example, a new norm for online activities such as remote work, education, and commerce will be established. Furthermore, as our governments, corporations,

and even social media platforms effectively cooperate, we may find ourselves better prepared to tackle other pressing issues such as climate change. How we address this health crisis will determine how we respond to a climate disaster in the next decades. Long-lasting, sustainable habits can be formed as a result of circumstances changing. As a result of the epidemic, people would have faced scarcity, so certain practices that happen to be environmentally beneficial might persist. For example, the decline in personal consumption and travel, as well as food waste.

This problem with public health could be the catalyst for another well-known crisis that, although it seems to be developing slowly, has the potential to have a significant impact on society. According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the threat posed by COVID-19 is temporary, but the threat posed by extreme weather events brought on by climate change, such as droughts, floods, and storms, will persist for years and require continuous action. It's safe to say that this was not the way that anyone planned to cut carbon emissions. There is a hidden cost associated with COVID-19 for people's mental health, the global healthcare system, and our standard of living. It has, however, also highlighted the significance of communities watching out for one another; this may be a crucial lesson as we address climate change.

Covid 19 and Sustainable development

A sustainable future for all people is the goal of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but achieving them has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Determining the extent to which the pandemic has impacted each Sustainable Development Goal and directing the post-pandemic scenario to expedite the accomplishment of each goal are critical. Another problem is a lack of knowledge about the Sustainable Development Goals and how each one influences the others through trade-offs and synergistic effects.

The global community is currently engaged in a war against COVID-19. Disagreements over the condition of the world economy, the political and economic structure, and healthcare continue to rule a number of discussions on a daily basis. Even though the crisis has claimed many lives, it has had alarming effects on the global economy and the prospects for sustainable development. The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are expected to be significantly impacted by this pandemic on a broad scale through a range of economic, social, and political pathways.

A vision for the welfare of our global community is one of the Sustainable Development Goals. The goals essentially acknowledge that sustainability, efficiency, and equity are an intractable triangle. The pandemic has exposed the true nature of nations everywhere and questioned the viability of pursuing these goals and upholding this trinity. COVID-19 not only makes it impossible to accomplish the SDGs, but it also demands that their timeline be reevaluated because its presence has slowed the expansion of their accomplishment. First off, because of international travel and border closures, the pandemic has exacerbated economic isolation. Additionally, there have been several concepts that have led to mistrust among nations. Multilateralism has failed globally as a result of the combination of all these factors. As a result, SDG #17, "Partnership for all the objectives," is the one that includes everything before progressively falling Apart.

The pandemic would have a detrimental effect on SDGs 8 and 9 (Decent Work and Economic Growth and Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), which is reason for concern. Because of the decline in global inflation, the economy is It goes without saying that the pandemic has a big effect on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). More than 258 thousand people had died and 3.7 million people had been infected by May 2020 due to the virus. We see a global adoption of social isolation and quarantine regulations alongside a strong reliance on digital connectivity.

The equitable dimension of holistic development would be hampered by the inability to adapt in the virtual world, which would raise rates of hunger and poverty and make it more difficult to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 4, 6, and 10. facing its worst-ever recession and achieving its goals of (No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Clean Water, Sanitation, and Reduced Inequalities, respectively). The COVID-19 pandemic nearly brought an end to business activity in March, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which resulted in a significant slowdown in the yearly increase in prices for goods and services. Despite the fact that a lot of services have moved online, traditional manufacturing is struggling and closing its doors.

On the other hand, less economic activity has improved SDGs 13, 14, and 15 by allowing nature to breathe easier. (Life Below the Water, Life on Land, and Climate Change). Jim Scheer, Head of Data and Analytics at the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, estimates that by 2020, transportation will account for 25% less of the total, which will result in 12% less carbon dioxide emissions. A number of species have also returned.

We have a chance to unite around this epidemic and use it as inspiration to achieve the SDGs. It has made our global order's shortcomings abundantly evident. As the world tries to overcome the challenges the pandemic has thrown at us, we cannot lose sight of the SDGs. We need to take the necessary actions and try to turn this crisis into an opportunity if we are to achieve our goals. Fallen apart, we rise together.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on both sustainable development goals (SDGs) and efforts to combat climate change. Here are some of the key impacts

Economic Slowdown and Poverty

- The pandemic has caused economic disruptions worldwide, leading to job losses, reduced incomes, and increased poverty levels.
- Economic downturns can hinder progress toward achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)

Food Security and Nutrition

- Lockdown measures and disruptions to supply chains have affected food production, distribution, and access.
- This has exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition, impacting progress towards SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Healthcare Systems and Health Outcomes

- The strain on healthcare systems due to the pandemic has diverted resources away from other health priorities.

- This can impede progress towards SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), particularly in low-resource settings.

Education Disruptions

- School closures and disruptions to education systems have affected millions of students worldwide.
- This could hinder progress towards SDG 4 (Quality Education) and exacerbate existing educational inequalities.

Gender Equality

- The pandemic has disproportionately affected women, who are more likely to bear the burden of caregiving responsibilities and face increased risks of gender-based violence.
- These challenges can undermine progress towards SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Climate Action and Emissions Reduction

- The pandemic has led to temporary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions due to decreased economic activity and travel restrictions.
- However, these reductions are likely to be short-lived and may not significantly impact long-term climate change without sustained efforts toward decarbonization.

Renewable Energy and Sustainable Transport

- Disruptions to supply chains and investment uncertainties have impacted the deployment of renewable energy and sustainable transport infrastructure.
- This could delay progress towards SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Biodiversity Conservation

- The pandemic has increased pressure on natural ecosystems through activities such as deforestation, wildlife trade, and habitat destruction.
- This threatens biodiversity conservation efforts and undermines progress towards SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Global Cooperation and Multilateralism

- The pandemic has strained international cooperation and solidarity, with countries focusing on domestic responses to the crisis.
- This could hinder collective action on climate change and sustainable development, impacting progress towards all SDGs.

Suggestion

- **Green Recovery:** A thorough plan is required to handle the COVID-19 aftermath. During the next several years, governments will spend over USD 10 trillion on economic recovery. These investment packages offer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to build a robust and equitable economic recovery that prevents unchecked climate change and ecological collapse. As we stated earlier, we are in favor of a green recovery that will position our economies for the long term in this regard.
- **Build political commitment and leadership at the highest level:** Develop political commitment and

leadership at the highest level in order to influence national discourse, support recovery strategies that are in line with the SDGs, mobilize governmentwide action, and orient recovery measures in the direction of sustainable development.

- **Adopt a strategic long-term vision:** To make informed choices and considering the consequences of today's decisions, and building resilience against the long-term shocks that will affect the economy, society, and environment.
- **Strengthen policy integration:** To balancing often divergent economic, social and environmental priorities for recovery.
- **Ensure whole-of-government coordination:** To identify and address policy divergences and conflicts between measures for recovery and achievement of the SDGs.
- **Engage subnational levels of government appropriately:** To align priorities and promote coordinated action at different levels of government for sustainable recovery.
- **Engage key stakeholder effectively:** To ensure that different voices are heard and work with all relevant actors to identify challenges, set priorities, align actions and mobilize resources for recovery.
- **Analyze and assess policy impacts:** To consider the effects of domestic recovery measures on global sustainable development.
- **Strengthen monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems:** To inform the design of coherent and sustainable recovery strategies and adjust recovery measures in light of potential negative effects on sustainable development.

Conclusion

As the world tries to recover from this pandemic and bring prosperity back to the world, the Sustainable Development Goals must be used to address fundamental problems. Because sustainable development addresses the demands for many equities while simultaneously preserving biodiversity, humans are essential to it. Justice, peace, and strong institutions are the focal points of SDG 16, which is presently unresolved. The increasing death rate among their citizens poses a serious threat to the stimulus packages that the governments of various countries are releasing in an attempt to revitalize their respective economies. The next barrier is still not having received a vaccination. As a result, India will now, like other nations, improve its economy by raising its budget for each of the five pillars, which will aid in the achievement of the SDG.

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