



UN sustainable development goals and gender equality in Indian context

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals stressed upon the idea of universality so as to make sure that both the developed and the developing countries are benefitted out of it and an inclusive approach is adopted so as to make sure that no one is left behind. It is important to note that Sustainable Development Goals demand fuller participation of governmental agencies, civil society, the private individuals and process organizations. In order to make sure that Sustainable Development Goals are achieved by the year 2030, there are provisions kept for regularly tracking progress of this program. It is stated that while the world has been facing challenges like poverty, lack of healthcare facilities and gender inequality, all of these have increased in the covid period and development has suffered a setback. Many countries are finding it tough to meet the challenges of development in their nations and have tend to ignore the principles of Sustainable Development Goals. One of the most important goal is the fifth goal of the sustainable development goals which is "Gender Equality" that aims to empower women and eliminate violence against females in the world. It is a significant component of Sustainable Development Goal's and important for ensuring a healthy life and wellness. This is a basic human right and crucial for a sustainable future. Some achieving these goals provide economic growth to a country and lead it towards development reforming the condition of women by adopting policies and enforcing legislation for women empowerment.#

Keywords: Poverty, gender, sustainable, global goals, development

Introduction

United Nations is an international organization that promotes peace, development and order in the world. Its numerous agencies play a pivotal role in undertaking development in all countries of the world especially in the third world countries. The year 2015 proved to be an important year in which United Nation adopted Sustainable Development goals that later came to be known as Global goals. The aim was to promote peace and prosperity in the world and eradicate poverty, inequality and hunger by the year 2030. In total 17 goals were adopted which was considered to be interrelated as pursuing of one goal shall lead to fulfillment of other goals as well. It was underlined that development must be achieved in socio-economic sphere and a sustainable environment is created. The Sustainable Development Goals stressed upon the idea of universality so as to make sure that both the developed and the developing countries are benefitted out of it and an inclusive approach is adopted so as to make sure that no one is left behind. It is important to note that Sustainable Development Goals demand fuller participation of governmental agencies, civil society, the private individuals and process organizations. In order to make sure that Sustainable Development Goals are achieved by the year 2030, there are provisions kept for regularly tracking progress of this program. It is stated that while the world has been facing challenges like poverty, lack of healthcare facilities and gender inequality, all of these have increased in the covid period and development has suffered a setback. Many countries are finding it tough to meet the challenges of development in their nations and have tend to ignore the principles of Sustainable Development Goals. It is time to assess the progress of Sustainable Development Goals as they are time bound goals which have a set target of 2030 and we are already in the year 2025. The Pledge undertaken by the United Nations is to "Leave no one behind".

Sustainable Development Goals and targets which are briefly explained as under: -

No Poverty: Poverty is a great challenge facing the world. In many countries of the world there is a good proportion of people who live below the poverty line. Sustainable Development Goals seek to fight extreme poverty in the world and end it by the year 2030.

No Hunger: Hunger is another challenge faced in many nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Women and children face food shortage and suffer from malnutrition and other health related diseases.

Well Being and Good Health: Sustainable Development Goals aim to provide greater health facilities to the poor in the world and increase life expectancy of the people. It is important to reduce mortality rate among the young children due to prevalence of the various diseases.

Education: It is well known that education paves the way for development. Sustainable Development Goals give importance to promoting enrollment rate for children specially girls. It is stated that better facilities and spread of awareness among people can lead to achievement of literacy among the people.

Gender Equality: It is well known fact that women members face inequality in social, political and economic sphere. Sustainable Development Goals aim at empowerment of women and encouraging their participation in the decision-making process within the state and the society.

Water and Sanitation: Sustainable Development Goals aim at providing clean drinking water to the poor and a

proper sanitation facility. In various countries of the world over are the main source of drinking water but are polluted. Poor cannot afford water treating machines thus it is imperative that nations must ensure a continuous supply of clean drinking water.

Affordable and clean energy: Sustainable Development Goals aim to promote renewable energy and encourage energy efficiency in various countries of the world. It is stated that electrification of rural areas is prioritized in the countries like Bangladesh, Kenya and India.

Decent work and economic growth: Sustainable Development Goals have an aim to promote better opportunities of work to the people in the poor countries. It is important that child labor is ended and at the same time workers must have a safer environment. There should be encouragement of women members at the place of work and organization must ensure better countries and safety.

Industry, innovation, Technology and innovation: It aims to establish industrialization in those countries that lack growth. Sustainable Development Goals promote innovation and use of technology in various countries of the world. Generation of employment is sought so as to promote prosperity in the society. Patent laws must be made flexible so as to make sure that developing countries also get benefitted from it and are not to remain dependent in the developed countries of the world for the want of technology.

Inequality reduction: Gender inequality is also a major cause of concern in the world where people face disparity in various spheres of life. Migrant and marginalized workers face discrimination in the world and are denied their due rights. It is important to reduce inequality in the world.

Sustainable Cities: The aim of Sustainable Development Goals is to establish Sustainable cities that possess a safe and resilient infrastructure. It is to observe that people living in cities get proper infrastructure and connectivity. A network of roads be made available so as to have easy access to public transport and convenient commuting.

Sustainable consumption: It is important that sustainable development takes place in the world therefore it is necessary that sustainable patterns of production and consumption are achieved. Chemical free production and organic farming be promoted and consumption is based on the pattern of Reduce, Recycle and Reduce.

Climate action: The main focus of Sustainable Development Goals are mitigating the challenge of climate change. World is facing challenges of global warming and carbon emission. It is aimed at renewable energy resources shall be used and carbon emission by the developed countries is brought under acceptable levels. Demand is for a clean and safe environment for everyone in the world.

Life below water: Oceans are a great source of minerals and other resources which is why Sustainable Development Goals put stress on protecting oceans and species that exist under water. It is a well-known fact that temperature in the oceans is missing thereby threatening the existing of various species.

Strong Institutions: Sustainable development goals aim at promoting peace in the world. We are witnessing greater conflicts in the world like that of Israel-Palestine and Ukraine- Russia. One finds that such conflicts leading to loss of lives of innocent people and violates principles of human rights and dignity. Sustainable Development Goals aim at strengthening international institutions that shall promote justice at the world level.

Partnership for the goals: The Global goals stress upon the need of South-South cooperation and encourage international cooperation at the world level. The idea is to realize that rich and poor nation of the world realize that their fate is intertwined thus by the way of extending their cooperation in attainment of Sustainable Development Goals, it shall pave way for their own development of the world.

Gender Equality in India

Gender equality is a key pillar of sustainable development as recognized by United Nations through its 17 sustainable development goals. The agenda 2030 for sustainable development contains 17 goals and 169 targets. They are global in nature and universally applicable. India with its diverse culture, social and economic landscape faces unique challenges in achieving these goals while addressing gender disparities. This is a basic human right and crucial for a sustainable future. Achieving these goals provide economic growth to a country and lead it towards development reforming the condition of women by adopting policies and enforcing legislation for women empowerment. At the heart of this mission lies the urgent need to address the pervasive gender gap that persists across societies hindering the realisation of true equality and hampering the holistic advancement of nations. India as a rapidly growing economic and cultural force stands poised to champion a transformative journey towards bridging the gender gap and realizing the United Nations ambitious sustainable development goals. The main target to achieve gender equality under the SDG's is to end violence and harmful practices in public and private sphere. It stresses on ensuring women all kinds of participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels providing them with all the access to the reproductive health facilities. The most significant challenges in achieving gender equality includes the end of violence based on gender and the lack of access to education and economic opportunities for women. In India the national government has undertaken various measures for reducing gender inequality at various levels. Its launched "Beti Bachao Beti Pado" program that has improved the child sex ratio at birth in 104 districts out of 161 districts of India. However, in this endeavor to achieve gender equality it is not exclusively the duty of government initiatives rather it represents a collective responsibility including NGO's and the society.

The term Gender is occasionally used narrowly and synonymously with the term sex, however its broader definition encompasses a wider scope. The gender gap in India is a multifaceted challenge for revivates across several societal dimensions encompassing education, employment, healthcare and cultural norms. India has improved its position as cited in world Gender Gap Report 2023 and at present is ranked 127 out of 146 nations and in terms of gender parity from 135 last year but these statistics

is hardly a cause to cheer. In this context following are the four fundamental dimensions of the gender gap index:

1. Economic participation and opportunities
2. Education attainment.
3. Survival and Health
4. Women empowerment at Political Level.

India is demonstrating a notable progress in the field of education and women empowerment there by achieving sustainable representation of women exceeding 40% in local governance but according to the reports, the representation of women in parliament is still around 15% where in women make up of 22% of India GDP which is lower than the global average of 45%. Political empowerment records a declining score in India due to the diminishing share over the years. Women have served as head of the state and the government in past 50 years. Despite taking strides towards enhancing girls' education and removing obstacles like early marriage, inadequate sanitation impact. The cultural construct of Indian society with varying degrees and variable concern against the opposite sex has led to preference for male child and the challenges still persist for Gender Equality in India.

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