

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## The Indian Story

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Edited by  
Joseph Xavier





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## **Sustainable Development Goals: The Indian Story**

Editor: Joseph Xavier

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## FOREWORD

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a long history of evolution, starting from the UN Conference on the Human Environment at Stockholm, Sweden in 1972. As a decade passed, in 1983, the United Nations created the World Commission on Environment and Development, where the idea of Sustainable Development was defined as, ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’. It further progressed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 where Agenda 21 was developed and adopted by the UN members states.

It was Colombia that had proposed the idea of SDGs at an event in Indonesia as a preparation for the Rio+20. In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held, and a resolution titled, “The Future We Want” was adopted by the member states. The most important themes agreed on were poverty eradication, energy, water and sanitation, health, and human settlement as most of the developing and underdeveloped countries suffer from these human problems.

The SDGs succeeded the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. The SDG were implemented by all the 193 UN member states, with an aim to incorporate them with structural changes in their planning. Uganda developed its National Plan in line with the SDGs. India set up the NITI Aayog and plans to implement the SDGs by 2030 after localising them.

In this quest to attain the desired goals, across the world, many States, Organisations, Institutions, Universities, INGOs and NGOs etc have been part of this dream to end inequality, poverty, illiteracy, gender discrimination and ensure Justice, Peace, Dignity as well as Prosperity. The Jesuits world over have been instrumental in carrying this important task forward as they 'Prepare Men and Women for Others', I am one among them being an alumnus of Loyola College, Chennai!

It is highly commendable to note that the Indian Social Institutes of both Bengaluru and New Delhi, along with St. Aloysius College, Mangaluru have not only collaborated to conduct a national seminar but have come forward to document their experiences in the form of publishing a book which would benefit the students, teachers, NGOs, social workers as well as policy makers. It is this sharing of such experiences which goes a long way in making learning as a process that would benefit the marginalised.

In the introduction, Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ has rightly critiqued the way the SDGs have been perceived and implemented. He has pointed out clearly that the SDGs are not just a programme to be implemented but have a clear and defined political, social, economic and cultural agenda.

Dr. John Mohan Razu has pointed out how success against poverty has had little impact against inequality, which has just got worse everywhere. Though we see reduction in poverty, the gap between the poor and the rich is ever increasing and it is a dangerous curve which needs to be addressed immediately and hopefully, the SDGs should find a way out of this mess.

Beena Muniyappa in her paper related to Women and the girl child, discusses the problems the faced by women and girls in India and the different projects and schemes available to mitigate these sufferings and how they align with the SDGs. As a country where being born as a woman is seen as a curse, the SDGs, if implemented properly, would be a boon to bring about gender equality.



Another important area of concern is the Reproductive and Child Health issues as India has the highest Child mortality rate in the world! Laxmi Acharya and Divya Poojary have taken a case study research method and provided with a sample study pointing towards a larger picture of the areas of neglect and recommend the gaps to be bridged.

Rekha Yeligar discusses the burning issue of gender equality and women empowerment. She points out the areas like education, health care, economic empowerment, political empowerment as tools that could bring in gender parity and make the SDGs workable for creating an egalitarian society.

Shubhamangala Shenoy and Shreeprajna have discussed the role of women in Sustainable Development, they clearly point out that women are key managers of natural resources and powerful agents of change. Women are born leaders as we have seen in the Chipko movement or the Narmada Bachao Andolan. They are more concerned in conservation as they have to pass on a better future to their offsprings.

Empowering High School Children in Life Skill Education is the area discussed by Hemita Keithellakpam and K. Purnima. Most school children lose their way during adolescence and that, school children are considered the most productive members of the society due to their physical and intellectual potentialities. Hence, their potential needs to be tapped for a better future for our society and country by imparting adequate knowledge and skills.

William George discusses the evils of commercialisation of education. It is an area which every person needs to ponder upon as we need to decide whether we can lend our future to the market! He has given the example of Finland which has one of the most vibrant educational system worthy of emulation.

Decent work is a continuous concern in the field of employment, in the paper titled, Economic Growth, Employment Opportunities in LPG Era, Rosemary F N, the author has pointed out the anomalies

of the present economic system which is market driven and has lost human values and urges the welfare system to be implemented fully.

Deekshitha and Maria Janet discuss the state of affairs of the handloom weaving industry which was a pride of India. It becomes all the more important to revamp this industry as part of Sustainable Development to maintain a harmonious balance. Elango Stanislaus and Nisargapriya T S discuss the issues related to SDGs and Education with reference to the tribal communities and point out the areas of SDGs that could help the indigenous communities in India.

As we are at crossroads in dealing with communalism, Shahib Anwer touches upon how SDGs could help in mitigating the sufferings of the minorities in India through a meaningful development agenda. Shujayathulla E discusses Peace and Justice in India as the turmoil of CAA, NRC and NPR have enmeshed the country into a battle ground. Unless peace and good sense prevail, is there a chance to prosper as a country is the question to be pondered!

Right to housing is a basic need and Kiran Kumar P advocated the cause of this need which has deprived millions in India. Hema S Kodad, Nimmy Sosa James and Celine Elizabeth George bat for clean energy and a proper implementation of the Nation plan for Climate Change along with small practical ways of energy conservation. Finally, Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ, does not surprise me by 'Walking with the poor' and mooted the bottom-up approach as most Jesuits world over have done in different contexts over the past five centuries.

After going through the entire publication, I sincerely hope that this book reaches out to those who implement the SDGs at different level as lots of efforts have been invested in research as well as providing concrete suggestions. I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ for his commendable efforts in taking the lead to conduct a meaningful seminar and publish the seminar papers. My Best Wishes to all the authors and hope their efforts would be rewarded by suitable implementation of their ideas to shape the "The Future We Want".

**Raja P. Arumugham**

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National Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals – The Indian Story was organized on 13 and 14 February 2020, in the premises of St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), in Mangaluru. Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru is deeply grateful to all those who contributed in different ways for the success of this seminar.

At the outset, I would like to thank Fr. Dionysius Vaz SJ, the then Rector of St. Aloysius College and currently the Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province, Fr. Pravin Martin SJ, the Principal of St. Aloysius College, Fr. Vincent Pinto SJ and Dr. Denzil Fernandes SJ, the Executive Director of Indian Social Institute Delhi, for accepting our proposal to jointly organize this national seminar.

I am grateful to Dr. K. Sankaran, Director, Justice K. S. Hegde Institute of Management, Nitte for his inaugural address and Dr. Rita Noronha, Director, Center for Development Studies and Education, Mangaluru for her valedictory address. While Sankaran set the tone for the seminar, Rita invited the presenters and students for an ongoing engagement at different levels in realizing the 2030 agenda of SDGs, being sensitive to the lives of the poor.

I am especially grateful to Dr. Joyce Lobo, Ms. Shwetha Rasquinha and Mr. Manoj Fernandes from St. Aloysius College and Dr. Alwyn D'Souza SJ, Fr. Francis D'Souza SJ, Mr. Shujayathulla E and Ms. Rosey Mukherjee from Indian Social Institute Bengaluru, for generously taking up the responsibility to plan and implement the proceedings of this seminar in a professional manner while also attending meticulously to details. I also thank the students at St. Aloysius College and those who participated from neighbouring cities and contributed by sharing critical reflections, based on their personal experiences.

The national seminar was an opportunity to bring together students, lecturers, NGOs and development practitioners to engage in a

collective reflection. Among the paper presenters, there were 5 students, 3 research scholars, 15 lecturers and 2 development practitioners. To every one of them, the Institute is grateful.

I am extremely grateful to Mr. Raja P. Arumugham, the UN Special Envoy for Syria and an alumnus of Loyola College, Chennai for his encouraging and insightful foreword.

I need to specially mention some friends and colleagues who contributed their mite in bringing out this publication – Ms. Harshita, St. Claret College, Bengaluru, Mr. Shujayathulla E and Mr. Arul Prakasam of Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru and Prof. Paul Newman, St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru. I am indebted to the printers, Optim Graphics Institute, Bengaluru for their support and cooperation.

The Institute believes in promoting collective discerned actions in social change processes, from a bottom-up approach. This publication is yet another contribution of the Institute to amplify the voices from the field.

**Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ**

Director

Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru

# SDGs - THE INDIAN STORY: INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL SEMINAR

*Joseph Xavier*

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A national seminar on **SDGs – The Indian Story**, was organized jointly by Indian Social Institute Bengaluru, St. Aloysius College (Autonomous) Mangaluru and Indian Social Institute Delhi on 13 and 14 February 2020 at St. Aloysius College premises. Five years after the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all the people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030, the heads of these three institutions considered it as an important step to provide space for students, academicians, activists, heads of NGOs and CSOs to collectively reflect on the emerging Indian story of SDGs in realizing 2030 global agenda to which India is a signatory. 2015 was a landmark year for international policy shaping, with the adoption of four major agreements:

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015). This framework recognized increasing impact of disasters and their complexity in many parts of the world, to enhance global

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efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction to reduce losses of lives and assets from disasters worldwide.

2. Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015) emphasized ending poverty and hunger and to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions by promoting inclusive economic growth, protecting the environment and promoting social inclusion. For the first time, social inclusion and building inclusive communities assumed much significance.
3. The third agreement was SDGs. Under the slogan, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” 17 SDGs were adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
4. The fourth and yet another milestone was Paris Agreement on Climate Change, December 2015.

To these four agreements, let me add one more important document. During the same time, in May 2015, Pope Francis also gave to the world an Encyclical – *Laudato Si’* – On care for our Common Home. In this Encyclical, the Pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming, and calls all people of the world to take “swift and unified global action”.

In this National Seminar, we deliberated on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development premised on 17 SDGs and the works done by the Government of India from 2015. 2030 agenda had its roots in The Earth Summit held in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In that Summit, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment. Later at the dawn of the millennium, in 2000, UN Millennium Summit gave the world, elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

to reduce extreme poverty by 2015. Learning lessons from the implementation of MDGs and emerging new global challenges, the world leaders agreed to recommit themselves and signed off on 17 SDGs.

The immediate precursor to SDGs was United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012 wherein the member states articulated the “The Future We Want”. What is the future we want? This is the question that I would like to place before you during this seminar. The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Through the pledge to ‘Leave No One Behind’, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing ‘zeros’, including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls, as per United Nations Development Programme.

The 17 SDG goals and 169 indicators are laudable. Anyone who reads them will be inspired. These are the ideals we have set for ourselves and the future we would like to construct. However, the track record of implementation is not all that glorious as various studies show us. One of the reasons is that such global agreements lack accountability mechanisms. Commitment to an ideal is good but not good enough, unless it is backed up by concrete bottom-up plan of action, governance and accountability mechanisms, and necessary finance. If a government does not commit to these parameters, SDGs goals will remain in the vacuum.

India is a signatory to SDGs. Abhijit Banerjee, who won Nobel Prize in Economics in 2019, raised apprehensions about the growth agenda

pursued by India. He said that India's dream of becoming a global superpower certainly cannot coexist with poor social indicators. The slow progress and lack of political will is a call for engaging in a critical analysis of the emerging scenario and look for opportunities to strengthen our commitment to SDGs. As citizens, the question is how can we hold the government accountable? Unless and until the citizens put pressure on the government to honour its own global commitment, we will not be able to realise the SDG targets.

In this background, the organizers of this seminar deemed it necessary to revisit and examine India's commitment to realizing SDGs. What is the Indian story of SDGs? Is India on track in honouring its commitment to SDGs? These are the questions that we raised. It was an opportunity to take stock of where India was in realizing SDG goals so that necessary course corrections could be initiated. In this background, this National seminar was organized.

Unfortunately, these days, people do not believe in the data provided by the government. People think that governments fake data. The scientific measuring parameters are often fiddled with. In 2019, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, reported, "India has a "long way to go" to achieve its target of public health spending, its primary health infrastructure is inadequate, and the country faces a dearth of data to track its progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". A government which cannot admit its own data on unemployment is not going to give its citizens realistic picture of implementation of SDGs.

UN, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, prepared baseline report 2018 on SDG India Index, which had been severely criticized by academic and non-governmental bodies. One of the claims made by this report was that the government had built millions of toilets which had improved the sanitation of the poor and consequently health status. The Center for Budget and Governance Accountability reports



suggests changes in the policy design, creating new institutions and development programmes, strengthening the institutions run by the State and local governments, ensuring monitoring and accountability in fulfilling and tracking the progress of SDGs.

In November 2019, I had visited a few villages in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. I found small newly constructed rooms adjacent to many houses. In the wall, it was written '*Ijjat Ghar*' which means dignity house. Those houses were also uniformly numbered. I inquired with the villagers what those small rooms were. They told me that those were toilets and were built by the government under *Swachh Bharat* scheme. Out of curiosity I asked them, "Do people use them?" The villagers said that they were used to store fodder for animals. They also told me, "How could we defecate close to our house?" This was the cultural mindset of the people, which the Nobel Laurette Abhijit brings out with evidences in his book 'The Poor Economics'. What is evident from the narrative is that SDGs are not just an economic agenda; it is social, cultural and political.

More than relying on false data, in this seminar, the three institutions brought together students and scholars who had concretely studied on life stories of the poor and the marginalized and were ready to engage in collective deliberation from the perspectives and experiences of the poor and excluded communities. Through this National Seminar, we provided collective space to discuss and look for diverse ways through quality academic discourses, to offer new impetus for better realization of SDGs and thus usher in changes to improve the quality of lives of the poor.

## **Objectives**

1. To develop deeper understanding of the importance of SDGs from the perspective of the poor in India, especially dalits, adivasis, women, children, minorities, rural poor and other marginalized communities.

2. To bring out experience and data-based analysis of progress and gaps in the realization of SDGs
3. To critically examine the relevance of various policies / programmes / schemes developed and implemented by the Government of India and States to realise SDGs
4. To analyze the impact of various policies / programmes / schemes on the marginalized communities.
5. To develop indicators for measuring reach and realization of SDGs and promote alternative thinking and strategies.

We had received over 32 abstracts and we finalized 20 papers for final presentation. Apart from inaugural and valedictory sessions, we had six sessions, in the form of panels, on the following themes:

1. Leaving No one behind – End Poverty and Hunger
2. Access to Gender equality and justice
3. Promoting Good health and Wellbeing
4. Ensuring quality education
5. Enhancing Decent work and reduced inequalities
6. Now or Never – Climate action

The paper presenters were a great pool of resource persons reflecting from multidimensional cultural and experience settings. At the end of each panel, the audience had sufficient time to raise questions, make comments and offer their critique. Based on collective reflections, the authors reworked their papers. Through this publication, Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru takes the discourse to public domain for further discussion and action. Despite many challenges we face today in our country, let us not forget that we are the future, and we need to define our common future - the Future we want.

# SDGs INTERROGATED: WIDENING INEQUALITY AND SKEWED DEVELOPMENT

*John Mohan Razu*

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## **Development Nuanced**

‘Development’ is a Post-World War II concept. A key word commonly used amongst communities and particularly amongst two-third world. It has assumed alarming proportions as it is believed that it would usher ‘progress’, ‘growth’ and ‘prosperity’ from poverty to prosperity; from tradition to modernity; from agrarian to industrialization; from primitive to technological; from superstition to rationality and from local to global. Countries of the world, the UN bodies, international and regional financial agencies, non-governmental (NGOs) and quasi-governmental organizations contribute huge sums of money towards development initiatives in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The core of development for many revolves around was ‘growth’. Modernization or Growth-oriented development paradigm finds its centrality amidst wide-ranging shades of development models/theories, such as Walt Rostov’s ‘take-off’ and five stages leading to mass-consumption society. The ‘modernization’ or ‘growth’

development paradigm is geared towards integration of global production, distribution and consumption based on market-driven model, which can only force people and communities into one unified system of economy, values and culture. ‘Growth’ or ‘modernization’ paradigm in theory and practice is synonymous with westernization.

It is an irony that the majority of people tend to think within the narrow confines of economic parameters, such as growth in per capital income, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP), exports and so on. One side of the world reflects affluence, quality of life and what not, whereas the other side portrays squalid conditions, grinding poverty, hunger, malnutrition, joblessness, infant mortality and so on. Therefore, the planet we live in, portrays two worlds, a globe within a globe. These two worlds epitomize diametrically opposing scenarios. For example,

- \* The Millennium Declaration and the Campaign to reduce extreme poverty by half before 2015 came into being even as the world population as about to learn that the numbers of the poorest of the poor were steadily increasing as a proportion of the world population. At the same time, the richest of the rich were engrossing an ever-longer proportion of the world’s wealth.
- \* Underdevelopment grows during periods of economic growth, and poverty persists, inequality deepens, despite growing overall prosperity.
- \* The compilations of the World Development Indicators for 2001 indicated the kind of challenges ahead, according to the World Bank. For example, of the world’s six billion people, 1.2 billion live on less than \$1 a day; about 10 million children die under the age of five, most from preventable diseases; more than 113 million children do not attend school; and about half a million women die each year during pregnancy and childbirth from complications that can be treated or prevented.

The Human Development Reports since 1998 reveals ‘alarming explosions’ in global consumption pattern, but also points out billions of people left behind as those living in abject poverty and thus living in squalid conditions. The apparent revelation is that the gap between the rich and poor is widening further. Have these people missed yet another ‘consumption revolution?’ Almost all the reports of UN or UN-related agencies state that almost three-fifths of the 4.4 billion people live in LDCs and almost three-fifths of those live-in communities without even basic sanitation.

Further, the UN Development Reports from its agencies since 1990s consistently keep projecting the trends for the present and the future. The following quotations would reflect on how far our development initiatives, both at the global and local levels fostered or created impact while addressing the development issues. It would also help to see the present scenarios of development indicators as we are in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being.

– Earth Summit Report, 1992

The North has roughly one-fifth of the world’s population and four-fifths of the income, and it consumes 70 per cent of the world’s energy, 75 per cent of its metals and 85 per cent of its wood. Replicating the patterns of the North in the South would require ten the present amount of fossil fuels and roughly 200 times as much mineral wealth. And in another 40 years, these requirements would double again as the world population doubles.

– Human Development Report, 1994

In saying ‘development’, however, most people are now saying the opposite of what they want to convey. Everyone gets confused. By using uncritically such a loaded word, and one doomed to extinction, they are transforming its agony into a chronic condition. From the unburied corpse of development every kind of pest has started to spread. The time has come to unveil the secret of development and see all its conceptual darkness.<sup>1</sup>

As Wolfgang Sachs, a noted development thinker once said, “Development has become a shapeless, amoeba-like word. It cannot express anything because its outlines are blurred.”<sup>2</sup> It is in this context, it is important to look at development critically since it involves people, their future and welfare. Gunnar Myrdal rightly points out, “Every study of a social problem however limited in scope, is must be determined by valuations. Hence development as such is not value-free, but value-loaded concept.”<sup>3</sup> Development is value-loaded and reflects the emergent political economy and represents the global hegemonic arrangements.

Former President of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn told the EU and US leaders that their lavish agriculture subsidies were impoverishing third world farmers. Continuing further he said, “Subsidies rob poor countries of markets for their products.” Elaborating further, “Spending on subsidies is six times what the rich countries provide in foreign aid to the developing world.” Former President Bush of USA had pledged that its aid budget will be increased by up to \$5bn (£3.6bn) a year bill in 2006. Mike Moore, former President of the World Trade Organization (WTO), said that “abolishing all trade barriers could boost global income by \$2.8 trillion and lift 320 million people out of poverty by the year 2015.”<sup>4</sup>

The first UN conference while addressing the direct foreign aid, the organizers said that... “after a steady decline in development

assistance...the mere fact that world leaders had agreed that more aid was needed was a significant accomplishment.”<sup>25</sup> On similar vein, the British International Development Secretary, Clara Short, said the conference markets a major turning point and reiterated that “We’ve reversed a decade of declining budget and the world is uniting around the reform agenda.”<sup>26</sup>

To put the discourse within a framework and in the proper perspective, William Easterly, the iconoclastic economist who spent 16 years at the World Bank, estimates more than £700 billion has been disbursed in aid since 1950—yet in many parts of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, living standards are now lower than they were 30 years ago.”<sup>27</sup> We need to interrogate the growing contradictions of the dominant powers and global arrangements. Let me site one classic example that, in one of the World Bank’s reports suggested that, “A flow of aid equivalent to 1 per cent of national income will cause a 0.6 per cent rise in growth, a 1.2 per cent fall in poverty, and similar decline in infant mortality.”<sup>28</sup> Shedding light on this, William Easterly said that “World Bank and IMF’s structural adjustment loans have not been working for 20 years.”<sup>29</sup> Notions and variance of shades of development are not neutral or neutral, but are equally value-loaded, having political connotation with perspective.

### **Pervasive inequality**

Inequality is widening. A maze of recent facts and figures ranging from income inequality data to many others from the Human Development Survey and wealth inequality numbers indicate socio-economic and gender disparities have grown along with GDP. What it means is that, while the poor have indeed benefitted from India’s economic success, the risk have garnered a greater share. Some of these statements and utterances need careful scrutiny. For instance,

- 
- \* In the 10 years between 2005-06 and 2015-16, India pulled more than 271 million people out of extreme poverty, a population larger than that of Indonesia. Further, the biggest gains were made, among the states and groups that were the worst off. But the governments have been on an overdrive to cover the basic needs of poor people, widening inequality leaves them exposed to the same disadvantages that had limited their life choices to begin with. Such inequalities stand out in key areas that determine how effectively people can beat poverty.<sup>10</sup>
  - \* Worldwide, fewer people are now living in poverty than in the decades before. But success against poverty has had little impact against inequality, which has just got worse everywhere. In India, the top 1 per cent of the wealthy, roughly 13 million people, hold 42.5 per cent of national wealth as against 2.8 per cent held by the bottom 50 per cent, or about 650 million of the poorest citizens stated Oxfam in a report released ahead of the World Economic Forum meet in Davos, Switzerland, 2020. It also added that the world's richest 1 per cent have more than twice the wealth of the rest of humanity combined. In India and elsewhere, the brunt of this inequality is borne by women, who have to battle the double disadvantage of socio-economic deprivation and discriminatory norms.<sup>11</sup>
  - \* Economic growth and environmental sustainability can often appear framed as other/or phenomena, that is, as mutually exclusive. Suggesting that the creation of prosperity has to come at the cost of ecological degradation. But a report by World Economic Forum suggests that, it is businesses themselves that have far greater exposure to climate change than is immediately apparent as more than half of the global GDP coming from economic activities is dependent on nature. That means, most businesses everywhere should worry more about supporting the



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response to climate change – to protect their profits and the planet, both.<sup>12</sup>

- \* India has slipped four places to No. 112 in the latest report on gender parity by the World Economic Forum. But the slide in the Global Gender Gap report 2020 is despite a slight improvement in the country's score. That is because the countries that were placed below India in the previous edition of the report (2018) have achieved bigger improvements in closing the gender gap, show that much work remains to be done in India. India is at the bottom of the table for all components of gender parity analyzed by the report of 153 countries, political empowerment being the only exception. On Gender Gap Index, 0 represents complete inequality and 1 represents complete equality.<sup>13</sup>

Above data candidly explains in detail the layers of inequality present globally and nationally. Inequality is the core of skewed development and thus adds many dimensions as such:

Inequality is not just about disparities in wealth distribution. A large number of Indians not only have very low income, but their opportunities for healthcare, education and social security are dreadfully inadequate. UNDP's 2019 Human Development Report (HDR) explores precisely these inequalities in human development, by going beyond income and identifying the deep-rooted systemic drivers of inequality.<sup>14</sup>

Inequality prevails, whether rich or poor countries, high level inequality persists in many high-income countries and it is rising alarmingly. Inequality implies different things to different people. Inequality is closely related and is sometimes combined in composite measures. In a divided and fragmented world, 'equality' as a concept becomes very important. Rousseau rightly observed that inequality prevails at an alarming level, where a privileged few keep accumulating, and a

vast majority of people is struggling for the bare necessities of life. But does that mean the ideal of equality is the answer?

At this point, although the ideal of equality as an absolute principle posits impossibility, however, we ought to strive to make ‘equality’ workable and realizable. However, equality as a functional concept by all means should be realized and be strived for. ‘Equality’ as a concept and theory should be made to work because it is rich in meaning and essence. For instance,

At the heart of the notion of equality lies the conviction that each person is of infinite, and hence equal, worth and should be treated as such. This means that being human is far more important... This conviction should colour our attitudes and relationships and should shape social structures, which are networks of relationship and distribution. We recognize other people’s equal worth by our attitude towards them, our treatment of them, our relationships with them and our regard for them, and also, rather more indirectly, but very significantly, in the way a society and its distribution of resources of all sorts are organized.<sup>15</sup>

Reducing inequality almost requires narrowing the economic and social divides because of the fact that,

The norms relating to social inequality determine the distribution of resources among individuals, families and groups. Unequal distribution causes high and low positions and other dysfunctional consequences. Such a ubiquitous phenomenon of inequality is not uniformly intense and mono causal and monolithic. There is constant structuring and re-structuring of social inequality. Inequality is a ‘relational’ rather an ‘absolute’ phenomenon. Inequality and equality may coexist in family and community. Also criteria such as income, occupation, education

and competition alone cannot explain the entire gamut of social inequality.<sup>16</sup>

Unless we articulate clearly how inequality affects different layers of society, we may not progress with this type of venture. Inequality reduces economic efficiency and traps societies in bad development paths through inequality-perpetuating institutions in three ways:

- \* **Inequality** reduces the participation of poor people in political processes, both directly and indirectly. This, in turn, reduces the likelihood that poor people have access to education, health care, and other services that would contribute to growth.
- \* **Inequality** can hinder the establishment of independent and impartial institutions and the enforcement of binding rules, because they might reduce the benefits of the privileged.
- \* **Inequality** makes it easier for the wealthy to hold out in political bargaining, either directly or through capital flight. It, therefore, makes it more difficult for societies to respond quickly and optimally to external shocks.

Each of these effects prevents the emergence of institutions that would distribute income, assets, and opportunity more widely.<sup>17</sup> Inequality is entrenched within the structures and systems of governance, which is systemic and pervasive.

### **The future is now – Sustainable development its pivot**

The acquisitive mind has infinite and insatiable greed and thus ingrained in exploiting the natural resources and accumulation of wealth. The inquiry mind goes beyond the narrow confines and sees the big picture taking the whole humanity and the planet by employing reason and science for the present and future generations. Because of this ‘some’, the world is still livable because they look beyond—the Mother Earth and her future and its survivability. Their logic firmly

grounded on the wholeness of the cosmos and its inhabitants—living and non-living not by compartmentalizing, but by integrating. The irony is that the world that we live in and confront by and large is being reined by the audacious, atrocious and petty-minded leaders.

There are a few with futuristic concern, critical mind coupled with reason and care for the planet and its species are increasingly being sidelined or even silenced and therefore, their voices are hardly heard. It is a fact that, on the one hand, wealth keeps generating at alarming levels, while on the other, there has been depletion of natural resources resulting in erratic climatic conditions all over. As against the background, the fact and the reality we live in by all means ought to be acknowledged that there is intrinsic link between the environment, the planet, economy, humanity, future of children and the cosmos we live in. Overstepping or minimizing or even negating the things we confront and face in our day-to-day existence leads to catastrophic consequences.

We are reminded by the scientists and futurologists who tell us that we should take “Doomsday Clock” seriously and if we fail to moderate the problems and challenges, it would be late and shall never reverse the clock again. They did warn that things are getting worse locally and globally that have ramifying effects. The canopy we live is inter-connected and closely linked with each other. Therefore, it is imperative that it should be seen as a whole, and not in parts. Healthy life, vibrant economy, quality life, good environment, prosperity and progress, are all dependent on the sustainability of the planet on which development goals hangs. Everything is scientifically ordered and functions on its laws and rhythms.

Meddling with these aspects shall hamper the whole and therefore, exploiting the nature and its resources for human wants and greed would result in imbalance in the laws of nature. Sustenance of the Mother Earth and its resources becomes crucial and vital for us.

Considering the present and the future of our planet in 2015, 195 nations agreed that they can change the world for better. This will be accomplished by bringing together respective governments, businesses, media, institutions of high education, and local NGOs to improve the lives of the people in their country by the year 2030. The following are the goals:

- \* Eliminate Poverty
- \* Erase Hunger
- \* Establish Good Health and Well-Being
- \* Provide Quality Education
- \* Enforce Gender Equality
- \* Improve Clean Water and Sanitation
- \* Grow Affordable and Clean Energy
- \* Create Decent Work and Economic Growth
- \* Increase Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- \* Reduce Inequality
- \* Mobilize Sustainable Cities and Communities
- \* Influence Responsible Consumption and Production
- \* Organize Climate Action
- \* Develop Life Below Water
- \* Advance Life on Land
- \* Guarantee Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- \* Build Partnerships for the Goals

At the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the leaders of the world at the UN had agreed to translate the MDGs, but hardly translated

those goals glo-cally. As we have just begun the second decade of the century, we are engaged in examining and analyzing SDGs and to be translated by 2030. Hardly have we made any significant inroads into the goals. By and large, they are all intact except, a few paving ways to serious consequential effects. Whether we like or not, we should agree to the fact that everything is connected to nature wherein all parts belong to the whole. All the aspects that we find in SDGs are directly connected to the nature that we live-in.

As against the backdrop, it is not possible to realize SDGs without safeguarding the natural world, which is the core. In recent times, we have been witnessing fury of the Mother Earth at unprecedented levels, causing huge damages to many countries. Colossal damages to the people as well as to the exchequer. Comity of nations keeps promising many things to its citizens but fails to deliver quality of life and healthy environment. Those who govern should be responsible and prudent, so that the economic climate in planning, procedures and processes is done without squandering natural resources.

Entire human existence is premised on nature and its eco-systems. Reliance on human arrogance and greed that propels humans might be against natural world with all sorts of irresponsible actions and interventions that have led to nature's fury for which we have no answers. SDGs are so deeply constrained to the current development model—both the global as well as local. The dominant growth or modernization development paradigm seems to be in collusion with the economic pursuits and aspirations of crony capitalists, oligopolistic corporations and those subscribing to unregulated free-market capitalism wielding with power and authority.

Limitless growth is firmly believed and consciously promoted as part of the growth model to maximize profits that involves and entails indiscriminate and exploitative tendencies of the human and natural resources. Growth in per capita income, GDP, GNP, mushrooming of

concrete buildings, flyovers, skyscrapers, malls, eight-lane autobahns, neon lights and host of others are just means of development and not development, wholly. Growth or Modernization model of development emphasizes and focuses on converting the eco-space into concrete jungles that prompts us to ask a few questions: At what cost and for whom? It is at the cost of nature, poor and marginalized masses.

Development, as of now, is capital-intensive, exploitative of natural and human resources. It fails to take into account the present and future of the planet and majority of people and falls short of SDGs goals centering humans. The cost undoubtedly will be colossal, consequential and irreversible. The future of our planet is bleak. The present development paradigm—Growth/Modernization is now dominant model being promoted by the countries of the world which posits paucity of Human Development Indices (HDIs). It fails to take into account the people as actors and participants of development.

Poverty syndrome might have come down, but inequality is widening within and between countries, resulting in centralization of wealth, resources and peoples' and nations' destiny. It is the Nature, the Mother Earth and Our Planet that creates wealth, develops people, runs economy, makes people and nations prosperous, industry and agriculture moving. The core of human endeavors is solely dependent on nature. It is the nature that makes human existence possible and provides sustenance. If the nature is destroyed, we cannot have human development as well. Therefore, sustainable development is a pre-requisite for a healthy natural world.

The bottom line of SDGs is to preserve and promote life in all fullness that embodies aspects of life in its entirety. And so, if we damage the natural world, we are damaging our present and future. The economic footprints that believe in exploiting the nature without any moderation threaten our own future. Rising Ocean levels, volatile

and unpredictable temperature swings across the planet, large stretch of cracked land and large swaths of land, some countries will sink, and many others will become uninhabitable, triggering mass climate-induced migration.

We have been witnessing some of these trends, such as the city of Venice witnessed floods and the water receded suddenly; people and tourists who visited Paris had to keep their heads cool all the time and went for showers; in India, the city of Mumbai received unprecedented rains in one day, despite monsoon arrived late; the weather conditions in many parts of the country went volatile to the extremes; Australian bushfires is a classic example that destroyed billions of species and green cover. The natural world is intrinsically linked to the human world. The natural world provides life and livelihood for all but only a minuscule enjoys, ravaging the nature and all the fruits that it provides by depriving life and livelihood of many.

The laws that regulate the domains of economy, polity and ecology are connected to each other and any wrong to the nature, will show its adverse effects in some form or the other. The fulcrum of human existence is fully dependent on natural world and any interference or dent would result in disastrous consequences. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), set at the United Nations, are a set of targets across 17 sectors ranging from poverty to environment, to be met by all member states by 2030. The objectives are clear, commitments are tall, but realization by 2030 is grave. Unless and until the developed and developing world's take their commitments seriously, particularly the nature, our planet and the cosmos, we sink together for our flaws and arrogances. Let me conclude by invoking J Krishnamurti in this connection that - "It is odd that we have so little relationship with nature, with the insects and the leaping frog and the owl that hoots among the hills calling for its mate. We never seem to have a feeling for all living things on the earth."



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**Endnotes**

- 1 Gustavo, “Development” in *Development Dictionary*, Wolfgang Sachs (ed.), (New Delhi: Orient Long man Ltd, 1997), p.8.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 See for example both the volumes of Gunnar Myrdal’s writings such as *Asian Drama*, and others that deal on development and underdevelopment where he basically argues and pushes his thesis that underdevelopment of the third world esp. the Asian region by and large could be attributed to the exploitative extraction of raw materials by the imperial powers and by using the third world countries as their market which has created abundance of development of the developed West at the cost of the least developed countries. The source is not available.
- 4 See “Guardian” (March 22, 2002), p. 18.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 For more details refer UN Human Development Report 2019 by UNDP.
- 11 “The Times of India”, January 21, 2020.
- 12 For more data See “The Times of India”, January 24, 2020.
- 13 For others classifications and sectoral analysis and divergences See “The Times of India”, December, 2019.
- 14 A comprehensive article that covers all aspects of development by Shoko Nada, UNDP resident representative entitled *Inequality and Discontents* in “The Indian Express”, December 10, 2019.
- 15 Cf. Duncan B Forrester, *On Human Worth* (London: SCM Press, 2001), p.30.
- 16 K.L. Sharma (ed.), *Social Inequality in India: Profiles of Caste, Class & Social Mobility* (Jaipur: Rawat Publications), p.16.
- 17 See *World Development Report 2003*, p.89.

# INITIATIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs IN INDIA

*Maria Fatima De Souza and Gladys D' Souza*

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## **Abstract**

According to the UN, the implementation of the sustainable development goals for any nation in general will be conditioned by six mega trends –which relates to poverty and inequalities, demography, environmental degradation and climate change, shocks and crisis, financing and technological innovations. The financial resources are a key factor to various other capital and human resources. Hence, this research has the following objectives: a. To assess the government initiatives aimed towards translating the sustainable development goals into achievable targets in the national context and b. To evaluate the initial roll-out and implementation framework towards achieving sustainable development goals in India.

## **Introduction**

The UN is an intergovernmental organization tasked to promote international cooperation and to create and maintain international order. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build

resilient nations. It helps countries to develop policies, partnerships and institutional capabilities (UNRISD, 2017).

The 2030 agenda of the UN development framework consisting of 17 Goals that addresses the key concerns of humanity and 169 interlinked targets within these Goals affirms to be more dedicated in achieving its goals that sustainable development requires in building peaceful, just and inclusive society. The sustainable development goals are universal, highly ambitious and comprehensive to accomplish the business which remained unaccomplished of the Millennium Development Goals (A handbook for youth, 2015).

Hence, the 2015 UN development framework consisting of 17 goals that addresses the key concerns of humanity and 169 interlinked targets within these goals are being adopted, replacing the Millennium Development Goals that reflect the complex and inter-related nature of social, economic and ecological wellbeing parameters.

Although sustainable development is now a shared and defining concept of this modern age, there were important steps taken throughout history to make this possible. In 1972, the UN Conference on the Human Environment reestablished the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) making environmental concerns. In 1980, the governments, NGOs and experts gathered to prepare a global document on conservation. In 1987, World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) presented official report “One Common Future” and coined the word ‘sustainable development’. Sustainable development has a history of conceptual evolution that long precedes the work of the Brundtland Commission (Estes, R. J. 1993). There is a reasonable linkage between the conceptual origins of sustainable development and the religious rituals and magical practices of the world’s very earliest peoples, especially those mystical practices that emphasized self- and environmental-renewal through the offering of sacrifices or

thanksgiving to deities on whom one's own well-being and that of the earth depended (UN Support for 2030 Agenda, 2016).

## **Literature Review**

In September 2000, at the turn of the century, 189 countries marched forward at the UN headquarters in New York and signed the historic millennium declaration. The 2030 Agenda builds on earlier commitments, more recently the aspirations set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Millennium Declaration. In much of the period leading up to and through the MDGs' target date, and in many parts of the world, progress in several areas that are also reflected in the SDGs has been strong. This is especially the case for income poverty, access to education and health services, and improved sources of clean water. In other areas, progress has been steady but less marked, including on gender equality, nutrition and access to sanitation facilities, glaring income disparities within countries, insecure and low-paid employment, climate change and environmental degradation. In order to affect lasting change, the proactive management of the policies and institutions that shape, support or mitigate developments in these areas will therefore be very important. All can potentially be shaped so that they become positive dynamics in SDG.

Hence, in September 2015, the world's governments signed an historic agreement to eradicate poverty, improve the living standards and well-being of all people, promote peace and more inclusive societies and reverse the trend of environmental degradation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits to promoting development in a balanced way—economically, socially and environmentally—in all countries of the world, leaving no one behind and paying special attention to those people who are poorest or most excluded. It contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with associated targets to assess progress.

The Sustainable Development Goals of the UN are heading towards its implementation at this stage. The implementation by different countries seems to show or directs that most of the countries are optimistic towards achieving the set goals. The countries have realized that it is the need of the hour to reevaluate and reassess its development and conduct a thorough audit to identify the damage caused to the non-replenishable natural resources, with which the future generations will be left with nothing to lead their lives (SDGs coming to life, 2016).

This requires, within governments, and populations more generally, an awareness of the evidence on the causes and consequences of trends in these areas. It requires a sophisticated and informed discussion on the costs and benefits of different courses of action, or indeed inaction (A guide for stakeholders, 2015).

The ‘UNDG Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda Reference Guide to UNCTs’ was produced as a first output to support United Nations Country Team (UNCTs). It lays out an array of approaches and tools across eight guidance areas that UNCTs can discuss with Member States to adopt the 2030 Agenda to national, subnational and local conditions and realities. Early efforts to mainstream the SDGs in national plans and frameworks are happening in all the member countries. The UN has been requested to support efforts to develop strategies for the mapping of existing national plans and frameworks for the realization of the SDGs, setting up dedicated government entities to ensure policy coherence, and help with the formulation of long-term visions covering the full duration of the 2030 Agenda. These initial steps of analysis and localization of the Agenda are often accompanied by public awareness raising campaigns, involving a multitude of stakeholders and using technology and social media to break new ground in engaging the public in implementing the SDGs. The ‘Mainstreaming Reference Guide’ organizes joint efforts

by UNCTs in this regard and provides support and technical advice on early mainstreaming (German Committee Future Earth, 2016).

Hence, 193 countries gathered at the UN summit on the Sustainable Development Goals to adopt an ambitious new global development agenda. Along with other world leaders, Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi too expressed India's commitment to work towards achieving these goals by 2030.

However, India's achievement in achieving Millennium Development Goals is mixed and lopsided. Some targets were favorably achieved like gender equality, poverty and others were very slow on achievement like universal primary school, child and infant mortality etc.

At this stage, it is pertinent to quote our Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi regarding the implementation of SDGS in India, "Much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the sustainable development goals. Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful. Sustainable development of one-sixth of humanity will be great consequence to the world and our beautiful planet".

Thus, the 2030 goals need to be integrated into national, subnational and local plans for development, and subsequently into budget allocations, which is a need of the hour for India.

**Table 1: Implementation/Initiatives of SDGs, June 2016**

Goal	Implementing Agency	Existing Government Schemes	New Initiatives
1. End poverty in all its forms	Rural Development	National urban livelihood mission, MGNREGA, NRLM, NSAP & NLRMP	PMJDY, PMJJBY, APY
2. End hunger, achieve food security and nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	National food security mission, MIDH, NMSA, National oil seed and oil palm mission, NMAE&T, RKVY (ACA), NLM, LH & DC, NPBB & DD	TPDS, NNM, NFSA (2013), Mid-Day Meal
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages	Health & Family Welfare	National health mission including NRHM, HRH & ME, NMA including mission on medicinal plants, national Aids control & STD control programme, ICDS	Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana-2006
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable education & promote lifelong learning opportunity	Human Resource Development	Sarvasiksha Abhiyan, NPNSPE(MDM), RMSA, Support for Educational Development including teachers training & adult education, scheme for providing education for Madrassas, Minorities & disabled, RUSA, umbrella scheme for education of ST, students	Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat

5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women & girls	Women and Child Development	National mission for empowerment of women including Indira Gandhi Sahyog Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi scheme for empowerment of adolescent Girls (SABLA)	BBBP, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, STEP (2014), JSY, SWADHAR (a scheme for women in difficult circumstances), KGBN
6. Ensure availability & sustainable management of water and sanitation to all	Ministry of Water Resources, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation	National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, PMKSY, NRCP	Namami Gange Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission, Inter-linking of rivers
7. Ensure affordable, reliable, sustainable & modern energy to all	Power	-----	DDUGJY, NSM-providing continuous supply of electricity to rural India, India energy policy, Power-2015-electrification of the remaining 20000 villages, including off-grid solar power, five new ultra-mega power projects each of 4000MW to be stalled



8. Promote sustained, inclusive, sustainable economic growth, full productive employment and decent work to all	Labour and Employment	NSS, Skill Development Mission, social security for unorganized workers including Rashtriya Swastaya Bima Yojana	Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya yojana, NRDM
9. Build resilient infrastructure & promote inclusive sustainable industrialization & foster growth.	Commerce and Industry	Border area development programmes (BADP) (ACA), MHA/ Mo, NHDP, CDPS, PMGSY	Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Shramev Jayate Karyakram, minimum government maximum governance, make in India, startup India, ease of doing business initiatives, FDI Policy
10. Reduce inequality within & among countries	Social Justice and Empowerment	MSDP for Minorities, BRGF, scheme for Development of scheduled castes, scheme for development of other backward classes and de-notified nomadic & seminomadic tribes, SDEBCs, backward regions grant fund (BRGF)	Grants from central pool of resources for north eastern region and Sikkim, Udaan. PAHAL, give it up campaign for LPG subsidy, Mudra yojana

11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient & sustainable	Urban Development	RAY, IAY, PMAGY, National programme for persons with disabilities, JNNURM, ACA	Smart cities mission, PMAY, AMRUT, HRIDAY
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC)	-----	National policy on bio-fuels, National clean India fund, NCEF, RE (Renewable energy global investment promotion meet & expo Feb 2015)
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change & its impact	MOEF&CC	-----	National action plan on climate change, National Mission on Green India, national solar mission, National mission for enhanced energy efficiency, NMSH, MWM, NMSHC, NMSA, NMSFK for climate change

14. Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas & marine resources for sustainable development	Earth Sciences	Conservation of natural resources and ecosystem	National plan for conservation of aquatic Eco- system, Sagarmala project
15. Protect, restore & promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, forest, desertification & halt add reverse land degradation and bio-diversity loss	MOEF&CC	National afforestation programme, integrated development of wildlife habitat, project tiger	Project elephant, NEP-2006, National aquo forestry policy 2014, national action plan to combat desertification, 2001
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for all, justice to all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Home Affairs	PYKKA, Development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary including gram nyayalayas, ICPS	Digital India, Pragati platform, RTI
17. Strengthen the means of implementation & revitalize the global partnership for development.	Finance, science & technology, commerce and industry, MOSPI, MOEF&CC	Support for statistical strengthening	South-south co-operation, India Africa summit, SCO, BRICKS, NBD & SAARC

Adapted – SDGs (draft, mapping, development, monitoring and evaluation office NITI Aayog, New Delhi.)

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## **Objectives of the study**

Hence this research has the following objectives:

- \* To assess the government initiative aimed towards translating the sustainable development goals into achievable targets in national context.
- \* To evaluate the initial roll-out and implementation framework towards achieving sustainable development goals in India.

## **Methodology**

The methodology used is in- depth exploratory interviews with the UNDP volunteers in India. An open-ended questionnaire was administered to 2 volunteers. Besides, this research also uses relevant published data and research articles.

## **Sampling**

The study used the UN Volunteers to gather the data. This resulted in interviewing 05 volunteers from India, out of which one was interviewed personally by the researchers, and telephonic interview was conducted with 1 volunteer.

## **Findings and analysis**

As the fastest growing economy of the world, today India is uniquely placed to deliver on the commitments to inclusive and sustainable development. Externally, the country has played a key role in shaping the SDGs and ensuring the balance among its three pillars-Economic pillar, Social aspects and Environmental aspects. Internally, it has launched many programs to make progress towards these goals.

The entire planning for implementation and monitoring at the Central level will be successfully coordinated by NITI Aayog, which is also overseeing many existing programmes and schemes of the Government as shown in Table 1 above.

Hence, strengthening institutional mechanism is of critical importance to implement the SDGs.

The first, Voluntary National Review Report on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals was presented by NITI Aayog, Vice Chairman Mr. Arvind Panagariya, at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017. In his report, he stated that India has played an important role in shaping the SDGs and this has meant that the country's development goals are imbibed in the SDGs itself. As such, India has been effectively committed in achieving the SDGs even before they were fully conceptualized.

As indicated in literature review, many countries have also started to implement advanced mainstreaming activities, ranging from systematically addressing policy coherence across multiple sectors (horizontal coherence) and at different levels of government (vertical coherence), budgeting for the future, and assessing risks and fostering adaptability inspired by the 'Mainstreaming Reference Guide' and other tools that have been put in place.

The UNCTs are ready to support governments to implement this more complex stage of the 2030 Agenda. Hence, the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 sustainable goals which are of concern to countries and people across the world, will guide the member states over the period of 15 years.

Hence, the 2030 Agenda aspires to ensure prosperity and wellbeing for all people, while protecting the planet.

The findings have managerial implications of providing appropriate information for policy makers and other stakeholders and thus, can be better mainstreaming and implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the larger interest of the population and our planet.

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## Conclusion

In Indian approach, reviewing national plans and adapting the SDGs to national contexts, monitoring reporting, accountability, and coordinating across government sectors and ministries is being considered by the Government as indicated in Table 1

According to NVR (2016), however India may experience constraints in procuring finance as financial resources are a key factor to various others like capital and human resources.

According to UNDP 2016, the implementation of sustainable goals needs every country to judiciously prioritize and adapt the goals and targets in accordance with the legal challenges, capacities and resources available. He observed the following challenges:

1. Provision of financial resources. The experience at the time of MDGs was felt that the financial resources were meager.
2. Record keeping and monitoring all the plans and sub-plans were necessary.
3. Breaking the politico sphere and march ahead of political economic interest to enhance the cordial relationship between center and state to strengthen the implementation procedure.
4. Reaching out to the grass root level, percolating to each and every segment of the backward society such as ST, SC, and OBC.
5. Strengthening institutional mechanism fostering strong monitoring and evaluation systems and accountability.

Thus, taking the above challenges as steppingstones, the SDGs need to be taken forward by mainstreaming into the existing plans and sub plans in India.

## **Limitations**

As stated above, the research is based on exploratory study coupled with the literature review. Second level quantitative study would be expedient to further affirm the findings of this study testing on a larger sample.

## **Scope for the further research**

The implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development goals is in its primary stage in India. The study of probable problems at the implementation stage will assist the process of getting started and marching ahead. The financial requirement is a major concern for most of the countries, and India is no exception. Hence, studies directed towards procurement and raising of funds for developmental plans in achieving the SDGs will assist the country to target national and UN resources at priority areas identified in the mainstreaming.

Studies may also be directed towards policy support to ensure that the expertise of the agencies of the UN development system is made available in a timely and cost-effective manner.

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# THE STORY OF THE WOMAN AND GIRL CHILD

*Beena Muniyappa*

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## **Abstract**

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 2015, 2030 agenda emphasizes Gender equality in empowering global population, given the numerous constraints encountered by people all over the world. The Government of India has implemented several schemes and incentives towards achieving this goal. Schemes like Beti Bachao–Beti Padhao, Sukanya Sammrudhhi Yojana, Support to Training and Employment for Women, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Swadhar 2011, and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay have been initiated by the Government of India to achieve the goal of gender equality and to empower women and girl children. This paper is an attempt to enumerate these schemes and incentives, given the significance of Sustainable Development Goals as indicated by the United Nations. Several of these schemes have so far been successful in gathering momentum but an accelerated and concentrated effort for the same is the need of the hour.

Wikipedia (2020) defines sustainable development as ‘organising principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems, to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend’.

These goals were adopted in 2012 at the United Nations Conference held at Rio de Janeiro. The purpose was to conceive a set of goals that were universal in stretch and had to fulfil the needs of urgent environmental, political and economic challenges that the world faced (Reddy, 2016). These goals are a result of a long-drawn process of an interaction between international organisations, governments and civil society, expected to be fulfilled by 2030. Numerous stakeholders may have to take up compromises in terms of building consensus among themselves (Agrawal, 2018).

According to Leach (2016), the United Nations Development Programme has, on its agenda, gender equality as one of its goal. According to the agenda, ending all discrimination against women and the girl child is not just a basic human right, it is presumed to be empowerment and a necessity.

The agricultural sector witnesses a fair share of significant contribution from women, as men are more inclined to quit this profession earlier. In 2012, nearly 43 per cent of all farm workers in Asia and 47 per cent in Africa, were womenfolk, with the highest percentage of women farm workers in South-East Asia, with close to 50 per cent or higher proportion, choosing to take up agriculture. The contribution of women in this sector has been significantly rising over the years except in northern Europe.

Sustainable Development Goals in India towards gender equality has to run parallel to empowerment of women and girls. Integration of environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability,

along with goals of climate change, water, food and land, health and reproduction and other issues also have to be accounted for.

More often, women's roles in sustainable development and its achievement follows simplistic stereotypes that focus mostly on women's roles and project them to be victims or saviours of the situation. This is, in contradiction, to the said objective of spelling out sustainable development goals towards gender equality. The policy matters and makers towards achieving these goals need to focus on breaking these stereotypes and amalgamating climate change, 'planetary boundaries' and green economies, together with challenging gender stereotypes (Leach, 2016).

In the Indian context, gender inequality is ridden with multiple issues, including limited access to health care, high morbidity and mortality rates, low literacy rates, domestic violence, child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and poverty.

The 'whys' and 'wherefores' for this can be attributed to several contexts, but mostly to poor education and lack of awareness. According to a study conducted by Brahmapurkar in 2017, the highest disparity in literacy rates was found in the state of Bihar, where the urban women's illiteracy rate was 29.5 per cent whereas there was only 11.2 per cent of men's illiteracy. Similarly, 25.2 per cent of the rural womenfolk are illiterate and only 8.8 per cent of rural men are illiterate. The least female illiteracy rates were found in the state of Meghalaya, with just 6.6 per cent illiteracy among the urban women and 9.2 per cent rate of illiteracy among rural women of Goa. The highest occurrences of child marriage were in the urban West Bengal (27.7 per cent) and the least, was in Goa with a mere 2.7 per cent of rural population that reported cases of child marriage.

The statistics speak volumes about the dismal state of womenfolk in India. Achieving sustainable development under these circumstances

is not just farfetched but may appear to be impossible in many states. Despite such hardships, the Government of India has launched several initiatives to empower women and fuel accelerated momentum towards achieving gender equality which is in line with the SDGs of the UNDP resolution of 2016.

The following are the Sustainable Development Goals, targets, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Nodal agencies and interventions as notified by the Government of India in June 2016.

Under the 17 sustainable development goals identified by the UN, gender equality is goal number 5 and is named as ‘Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.’ This sustainable goal falls under the purview of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Centrally Sponsored Schemes initiated by the ministry are:

- a. National mission for empowerment of women, including Indira Gandhi Mathritav Sahayog Yojana
- b. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls

In total, 6 interventions have been put into place by the Government of India and they have been listed below, along with their targets.

- a. Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao was launched to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls across the country. This scheme was introduced on 22 January 2015. It is a cooperative scheme that involves the Ministries of Women and Child Welfare, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development, under the sole motive of empowering the girl child. According to Rani (2018), the initiative was first introduced in districts of India where the girl child sex ratio was the least.
- b. Sukhanya Sammrudhi Yojana is a formal financial inclusion scheme advocated by the Government of India for the betterment

of girl children (Rajat, 2016). This scheme was also introduced 22 January 2015. This is a savings scheme, that targets parents of girl children. It is a scheme that can support future education and marriage expenses for a girl child.

- c. Support to Training and employment Programme for Women (STEP): Under the STEP initiative, employment and training programmes are designed in such a way, that women improve their skill sets, so that economic growth and income generation activities can be taken up. These programmes train women in skill up-gradation, especially those who are economically backward and are asset less. The training is in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry and wasteland development. It was launched in 2014 as a part of Skill India Development Programme.
- d. Janani Suraksha Yojana: It is a safe motherhood intervention under the umbrella of National Health Mission. It was launched to intervene and reduce maternal and infant mortality rates, by promoting institutional assistance during childbirth among pregnant women. Under the aegis of the National Maternity Benefit Scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana was launched in April 2005.
- e. SWADHAR: This scheme was launched to extend support to women in distress through rehabilitation, so as to enable them to lead a life with dignity. It was launched in 2015 to support women in difficult circumstances. The target of this scheme is mainly women who have been deserted and lack financial support, victims of natural disasters or those who have been rendered homeless due to unforeseen natural calamities, women prisoners released from jails and those who lack economic and financial support from family, victims of domestic violence, family discord and trafficked women.

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- f. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay: To provide educational facilities for girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority communities and families below the poverty line in Educationally Backward Blocks. The scheme of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay was introduced in 2004 by the Government of India.

### **Aims of the Schemes**

- a. These schemes aim to improve the life of the girl child through improving efficiency of the various welfare services and to also raise awareness about women's rights. The policy makers strongly believe, that when women are educated, they are empowered with knowledge and awareness.
- b. Low-income families are the most benefitted, as these schemes encourage small savings and is quite practically useful, as no tedious process has to be followed during enrolment.
- c. The aim of these schemes is to bring under its purview, women, especially those from the asset-less, marginalized groups living in rural and urban areas and train them for economic empowerment.
- d. The reduction in maternal and infant mortality rates, especially during childbirth, is the prime focus area of one these schemes. This was introduced in the states where there is documentary evidence of low institutional delivery rates like in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Rajasthan, Orissa and Jammu & Kashmir. Certain schemes also provide performance-based incentives to its volunteers under the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA).
- e. These schemes look towards rehabilitation and redressal of women in distressed situations due to various reasons, especially, those without social or economic support. These are also aimed to provide legal aid to those distressed women who cannot afford

it and supply enough support to women so that they can restart their lives.

- f. Gender disparities still persist in rural areas and among disadvantaged communities. Looking at enrolment trends, there remain significant gaps in the enrolment of girls at the elementary level as compared to boys, especially at the upper primary levels. The objective of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay (KGBV) is to ensure that quality education is feasible and accessible to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools with boarding facilities at elementary level. The disadvantaged communities, mostly in rural India still reel under multiple issues and episodes of gender disparity. The enrolment statistics of girl students drastically reduces at the upper primary level. There is a significant gap between enrolment numbers especially with girls. Under this scheme, girl children belonging to predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities are accommodated in residential schools.

### **Limitations**

Although the NITI Aayog, agency responsible for implementing these schemes, has in full fervour, launched several of these initiatives, the State is equally responsible in its fruition. The United Nations emphasises on the active contribution and participation of civil society organisations in the process.

There are concerns raised in the following areas with regard to successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in India.

- a. The primary concern is with regard to identifying indicators for marking progress or improvement with the SDGs. There is no concrete evidence recorded which speaks about these ‘indicators’ to measure the outcomes.

- b. Despite serious efforts from the democratic machinery, financing the SDGs is a hurdle. Only collaborative efforts with private organisations will improve the status.
- c. The NITI Aayog plays the leading role in implementing SDGs but it also has the mammoth task of tracking the progress of each of these SDGs. This leads to confusions over ownership, thus reducing accountability.
- d. As previously mentioned, the indicator to measure the progress or implementation success rates is still unclear. This could perhaps exist due to laxities in documenting the proceedings.

The above limitations can be overcome only through meticulous planning and development of an exclusive model for implementing, monitoring, measuring and reporting SDG related course of action. Statistical data, better documentation and the fixing of suitable indicators will add to the successful monitoring and redressal of issues, challenges and concerns faced by the nodal agencies looking into SDGs in India.

## **Conclusion**

India, as a nation has one seventh of the world's population. Attaining universal success may be impossible without India's contribution. An emphasis within the Indian subcontinent has to be on a localised, cross-sector collaboration, which is parallel to the policies and agendas of national interest. By unlocking the collective strength of its people, ideas, networks and technologies tend to accelerate the pace of progress, while galvanising action from NGOs, popular culture stars, corporates, brands, media and civil society (Economic Times, 2019).



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# KNOWLEDGE ON AVAILABILITY OF RCH SERVICES AND ITS UTILIZATION

*Laxmi Acharya and Divya Poojary*

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## **Abstract**

Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme is a comprehensive sector wide flagship programme, under the umbrella of the Government of India's (GoI) National Health Mission. The reproductive child health programme aims to broaden health care to include all reproductive health problems of women and not limit services only to maternal and child health and family planning. Reproductive health has been of great concern of every woman. It is a crucial part of general health and central feature of human development. In the past few years, the issue of reproductive health has been increasingly perceived as social problem. The overall health status, particularly, the status of reproductive health, still remains unsatisfactory. It is an observed fact that millions of women in developing countries have less awareness and lack of utilization of reproductive and child health services. The insufficient health services available to women and children are evident from high infant and maternal mortality rates. The main purpose of this study is to explore and assess the level of knowledge on availability on RCH

services and its utilization among married women of reproductive age group. The descriptive study was conducted in selected villages of Shikaripura Taluk, Shimoga, Karnataka. The respondents were interviewed through structured interview schedule. The study also highlights on the perception of the women about the need of RCH services in betterment of their health conditions and identify the factors responsible for the effective utilization of RCH services. This paper includes introduction, review of literature, methodology, findings, conclusion and recommendations.

## **Introduction**

India was the first country to have an official family planning programme, which was initiated in 1952. The National Family Planning programme first adopted a clinical approach following the planned Parenthood movement of western countries. Family Planning clinics were established in urban and rural areas of the country. When it was realized that the outreach of such clinics was limited, the extension approach was introduced in 1963, taking cue from the community development movement in the United States (1988). This approach involved educating the population to bring about changes in the knowledge, attitude and behavior of the people with regard to family planning. A large army of family planning extension workers were employed to carry out this activity. Family planning was subsequently integrated with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programme in 1966. The activities of the programme broadened considerably and in addition to family planning, the programme was supposed to provide a variety of services to mothers and children, including antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care, immunization of children against various vaccine- preventable diseases, and counseling on maternal and child health problems and nutrition.

In India, women belonging to reproductive age group (15 to 49 years) and children (below 15 years) constitute nearly 54 per cent of the total

population. They comprise the vulnerable section of the population, due to risks connected with childbearing, in case of women and growth and development and survival, in case of infants and children. Reduction of infant and childhood mortality, maternal mortality and improvement in maternal health care are the major goals in National Health Policy 1983, 2002, National population policy 2000, National Rural Health Mission 2005, Millennium Development Goals, Family Planning Summit 2020 and others. It is a priority field for the policy makers and planners (Sunder Lal, 2018).

### **Situation of Maternal Health in India**

Every year in India, roughly 30 million women experience pregnancy and 26 million have live births. Every year, over 46,500 pregnancy related maternal deaths occur in the country. Million more suffer pregnancy ill health. Coverage of full antenatal care in India remains at around 2,655 with variable quality of antenatal care. Nearly 81 per cent of deliveries are attended by skilled birth attendants and nearly 25-40 per cent of deliveries take place at homes. Post-natal care tends to be low at 36 per cent (NFHS-3).

In India, observable fact is that some states like Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are having high maternal mortality rate. There are various causes for maternal mortality rate like anemia, hemorrhages, abortions, toxemia, etc. Literacy levels amongst women are low and less women are exposed to media and thereby, women lack health information.

### **Situation of Child Health in India**

Every year, around 26 million babies are born in India, around 5 per cent of them do not even survive up to 5 years of age. Neonatal, Infant and Childhood mortality is at increasing rate. One third of babies born in India tend to be of low birth weight (less than 2500g). Over 29 per cent of children below the age of 5 are

underweight and 39 per cent stunted reflecting widespread or malnutrition in early years of life. Neonatal care is negligible or poor in rural and urban slum areas (Sunder Lal, 2018).

### **Definition of Reproductive Health**

Reproductive health can be defined as “states in which people have the ability to reproduce and regulate their fertility and are able to go through pregnancy and childbirth. The outcome of pregnancy is successful in terms of maternal and infant survival and well-being and couples are able to have sexual relations free of the fear of pregnancy and of contracting diseases”.

### **Objectives of RCH programmes**

The main objectives of RCH programme are, to safely reduce the unwanted pregnancies and fulfilling the reproductive needs of people by providing them. It also aims at paying attention on stability in population, safe childhood and health of children.

Outline of RCH: According to these services, it is necessary to pay special attention to the health of women, boys and girls. The strategy about reproductive and child health fulfills various needs of women and children. Good health protection from sexually transmitted infections/diseases, antenatal, intra-natal and postnatal care and availability of appropriate health services for safe abortion are essential.

### **Main points of RCH programmes**

- \* Safe abortion services.
- \* Sterility removal services.
- \* Control and treatment of STDs/STIs
- \* Contraception.
- \* Child health and child welfare.
- \* Improving the social status of women.

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## **Significance of the study**

Reproductive and child health programme is the flagship programme of the Department of Family Welfare, Government of India. “Make every mother and child count” reflects the need for today. Governmental and International community makes the health of women and children a higher priority. The reproductive child health programme aims to broaden health care to include all reproductive health problems of the people and not limit services only to maternal and child health and family planning. Woman is an important person for her children and family. She nourishes her foetus and gives birth to child. The health of a woman is, therefore, important because women face the risk of childbearing. Further, women carry the burden of pregnancy. It is an observed fact that millions of women in developing countries have less awareness and lack of utilization of reproductive and child health services.

## **Objectives of the study**

- \* To explore and assess the level of knowledge on availability on RCH services and its utilization among married women of reproductive age group
- \* To know about the views of women about the need of RCH services for betterment of their health conditions
- \* To identify the factors responsible for the effective utilization of RCH services

## **Review of literature**

The study was conducted mainly to know the utilization pattern and factors influencing the utilization and non-utilization of RCH services at various levels of health services in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. The findings of the study reveal that about 87 per cent of the respondents have the knowledge of facilities available in the sub-centre followed by PHC (70.2 per cent) and private hospital (40.7 per cent) in

Pindra. The utilization of ANC, PNC and immunization were higher among the agriculturists, weavers and labourers than respondents who were in business and service. 79.1 per cent of the mothers received nutritional advice from health workers at sub centre level. About 13 per cent of the respondents have not availed any health facilities provided by the government (Ratan Kumar Srivastava, 2009).

The study conducted among married women of reproductive age group in the selected villages of Shimoga district in Karnataka. The study revealed that there was 100 per cent utilization of health services during antenatal, natal and post-natal periods, also during immunization for children at the age of 12-23 months. The mothers of selected area had the awareness on RCH and their utilization of health services. It is found from the study that the community health nurses are playing a pivotal role in health care delivery system, especially, in rural areas (Malathi, 2010).

According to the study, family member was the main source of ANC registration. There was significant association between ANC registration and education and socio-economic status of the participants ( $p < 0.05$ ). The study concluded stating that as the education level increases, the awareness about various services also increases and ultimately leads to increase in utilizing various services like ANC registration, institutional delivery, adopting family planning methods and so on (Dr. Rajan N. Kulkarni, 2016).

The findings of the study make it clear that income becomes the strongest factor in getting information and knowledge about family planning and controlling family size. The high percentage (60 per cent) of the respondents have not taken their children for immunization due to lack of time. Most of the respondents were aware about at least one method of family planning (Devi, 2014).

The focus of the survey was on the coverage of antenatal care immunization, services the extent of safe deliveries, the contraceptives, prevalence of family planning practices. The study also highlighted on the awareness on the RTI, STI, HIV/AIDS and availability and utilization of various government services (Sulabha Prasuraman, 1998-1999).

### **Research Methodology**

**Research Design:** The descriptive research design was followed. The authors have undertaken a study on the level of knowledge on availability of RCH services and its utilization among married women in Shikaripura Taluk and visited Primary health centers, Anganavadi centres and met pregnant women, mothers as respondents. The findings of the study can be applied only in Shikaripura Taluk and it would be beneficial to bring changes and improvement in the quality and coverage of reproductive and child health services and programmes by proper interventions.

**Locale of the study:** The study was conducted mainly in Shikaripura Taluk. The respondents are selected based on sampling method from that community.

**Sampling Method:** The principal instrument used to collect information is from field, itself. Sample of 60 respondents were drawn from Shikripura. The respondents were selected using a random sampling method.

**Sources of data:** Both primary and secondary sources of data collection were followed.

### **Limitations of the study**

- \* The analysis is based on the opinion and perception of the respondents, which may be biased. The survey is based on sampling methodology. All the limitations of sampling can apply in this study too.

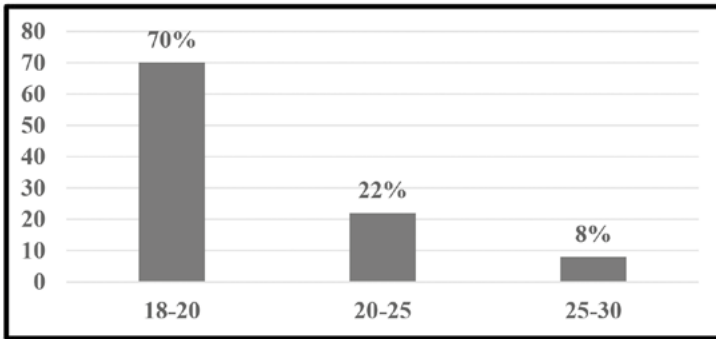


\* This study is limited to the selected areas of Shikaripura Taluk and research findings can be applied only in those selected Areas.

## Analysis and Interpretation

For data analysis and interpretation, the authors have selected and presented only few major variables of research. The variable name and their analysis are explained below:

### Chart 1: Age-wise distribution of Respondents

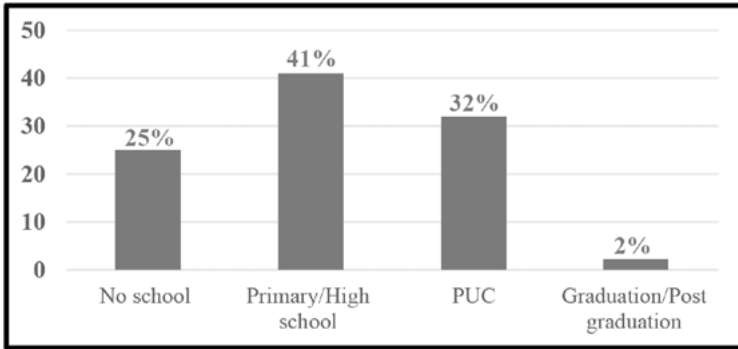


The above graph shows that out of 60 respondents, 70 per cent of the respondents belong to the age group of 18-20 years and 22 per cent of the respondents come under the category of 20-25 years and 8 per cent of the respondents belong to the category of 25-30 years.

The study claims that the women respondents are of different ages and the different age groups make the study diverse because to know about the respondent's condition in this crucial stage and also their understanding about the benefits of RCH services.

### Chart 2: Educational qualification of the Respondents

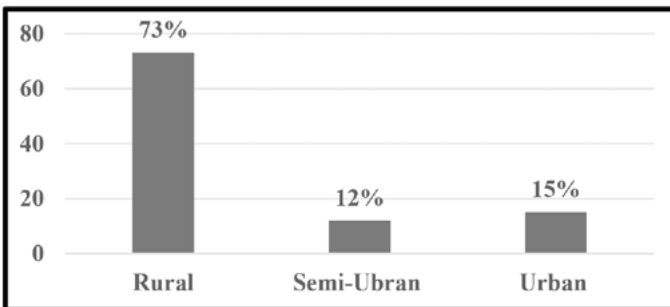
From the above graph, it is evident that out of 60 respondents, 25 per cent of respondents have not gone to school, further 41 per cent of the respondents have primary and high school education, also 32 per cent of the respondents got PUC education, 2 per cent of respondents have completed graduation and post-graduation.



The study states that most of respondents studied up to primary and high school. They do not have schooling and considered as illiterates. It is to say that education makes individuals to be aware about themselves and also about their problems. So, the investigator can expect good co-operation from the respondents with regard to this study.

### Chart 3: Domicile

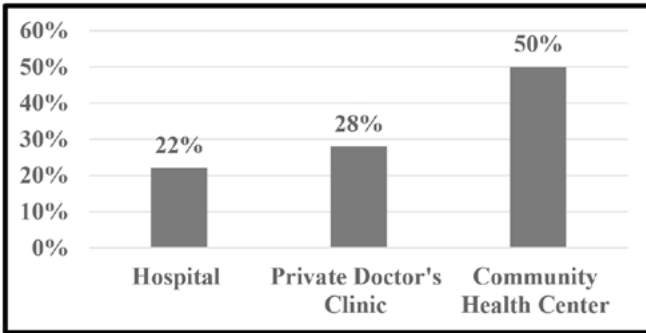
The above chart clearly depicts that out of 60 respondents, 73 per cent of the respondents are from rural background, whereas 15 per cent of them are from urban area and 12 per cent of the respondents belong to semi urban areas.



The people from rural background face much more problems. They are majorly illiterate, and they may not be aware of their own problems. This factor motivated the investigator study about them.

### Chart 4: Visit for prenatal checkup

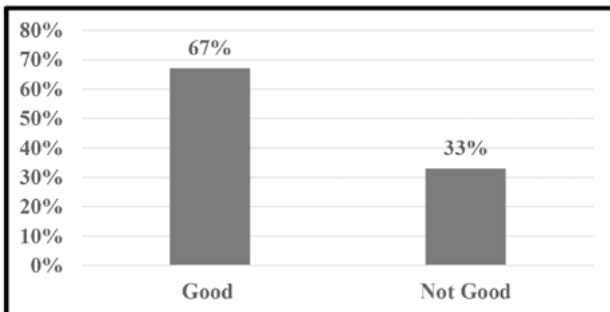
The above graph shows that among the 60 respondents, 50 per cent of the respondents visit the community health centre and 28 per cent of the respondents visit the private doctor’s clinic and 22 per cent of respondents visit the hospital.



The above analysis revealed that most of the respondents visited Community health centre for their checkup and few others had visit to private clinics and hospitals. The primary health and community health centers are providing tremendous service in rural areas and also poor people can afford to get quality health care from such centers.

### Chart No. 5: Opinion about benefits of RCH services

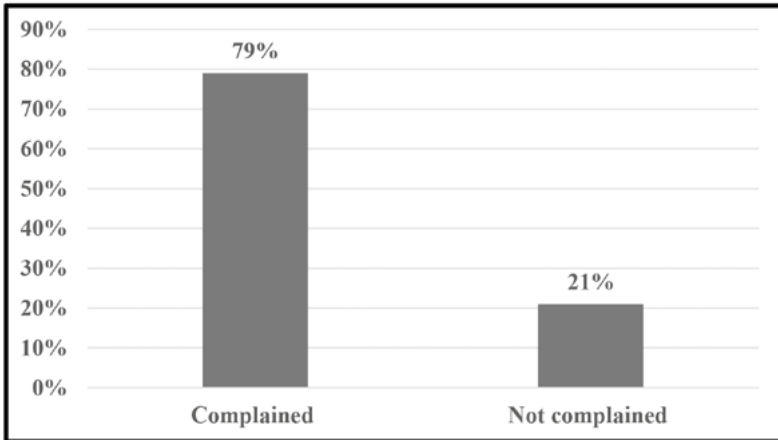
The above graph shows that among the 60 respondents, 67 per cent of the respondents said RCH benefits are ‘good’ and 33 per cent of the respondents said it is ‘not good’.



The chart brings us to the conclusion that the RCH services to the family life are rarely found but usual nature of human being is to keep thinking about satisfied incidents when they are actually free. Though there are some problems with regard to the implementation of RCH is concerned, it seems to be negligible.

### **Chart 6: Complaint about treatment**

The above graph shows that among the 60 respondents, 79 per cent of respondents complained about the treatment and 21 per cent of respondents have no complaints about the treatment.



The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that though there are family problems and work stress, the women are not giving any complaints about the treatment. Instead, they try to manage their life effectively. The majority respondents have a better adjustment with regard to treatment and hospital.

**Table 1: Occupation**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Agriculture	29	48
Daily Wage	21	35
Govt sector	8	13
Pvt sector	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table illustrates that out of 60 respondents, 48 per cent of the respondents engaged in agriculture and 35 per cent of respondents are daily wage earners and also 13 per cent of people are workers in government sector and 4 per cent of respondents belong to private sectors.

The great majority, 48 per cent of the respondents are engaged in agriculture and others working as daily wage earners. We can assume that their economic condition and their standard of living also influences their level of knowledge and awareness about major health issues and concerns.

**Table 2: Types of service getting from Primary Health Centre**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Madilu kit	17	28
Medical facilities	3	5
Financial support	40	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table illustrates that out of 60 respondents, 67 per cent of the respondents get the service of financial support and 28 per cent

of respondents get the service of 'madilu kit' and also 5 per cent of people get the service of medical facilities.

The above graph states that majority of the respondents are getting financial support from the hospital, so we can assume that the primary health centers are providing services and other benefits to the rural poor women at the crucial stage and also to get access to the quality health services at low and reasonable costs.

## **Findings and Discussion**

**Type of family:** It is evident that 70 per cent of the respondents belong to nuclear families, 22 per cent of them have joint family and remaining 8 per cent of them have extended family background. The family pattern and its value system also brings about attitudinal changes in their members pertaining to reproductive health issues. Nowadays, the role of families has declined, due to structural changes which have taken place in the Indian society and the concomitant disintegration of the nuclear family system.

**Income of the Respondent:** Out of 60 respondents, 38 per cent of respondents have Rs. 20,000 income, further 37 per cent of the respondents are having Rs. 11,000 income, also 23 per cent of the respondents have Rs. 30,000 income and the rest 2 per cent of respondents have Rs. 45,000 income.

The level of the family income is a clear indicator that most of the families were not in a healthy financial status, which may be one of the reasons for their issues and problems. Families are also supposed to give priority to the needs of the women, especially at the reproductive age group.

**Age at marriage:** The data reveals that greater number of respondents married at 18-22 years age group and we can say that the reproductive health problems are associated with the age of marriage.

Knowing about the normal weight of the child at birth: Around 28 per cent of the respondent's children belong to category of 3 kg weight and 25 per cent of respondents have told that 2 kg 900 g, and also 25 per cent of respondents told that 3 kg 800 g weight of child and 22 per cent of respondents said 2 kg 100 g weight of their child. Birth weight of the child also helps to understand the prenatal health condition and also the maternal health. If pregnant women are provided with proper care and nutritional supplement, they can deliver healthy babies.

Getting tablets and nutritious food avail under RCH: Majority, 77 per cent of the respondents, are getting nutritious food under RCH and 23 per cent of the respondents are getting the nutritious food avail under RCH services. The study reveals that majority of the respondents are getting nutritious food and tablets under RCH services. This helps us to understand that the reproductive child health services have reached to the rural poor women and they are getting benefits out of it. The role of community health units and centers need to be highlighted here in giving special attention to the reproductive health of the poor rural women.

Got treatment under trained staff in the hospital: Great majority of the respondents, 73 per cent, got treatment under trained staff in hospital, and 27 per cent of the respondents responded 'no' to the question. Majority of the respondents have received quality treatment under trained health professionals in hospitals. This highlights the level of care and health services, which are provided under RCH scheme to the rural women pertaining to their reproductive health.

Emergency treatment service facilities available under RCH: Nearly 70 per cent of the respondents are getting emergency treatment facilities and 30 per cent of the respondents are not getting emergency treatment under RCH. There are some respondents getting the emergency treatment available under RCH services. The reproductive

child health programme aims to broaden health care, to include all reproductive health problems of the people and not to limit services only to maternal and child health and family planning.

Knowledge of gap between children: Most of the respondents (77 per cent) have knowledge about gap between children and 23 per cent of the respondents do not have knowledge about that. This study helps us to understand about the knowledge level of the rural women pertaining to reproductive health matters. It can be understood that the greater number of respondents have knowledge regarding gap between first and second baby. In present society, rural women have access to health information through mass media and are also aware of various women issues after being members of various associations and support groups.

Getting children for immunization: Majority, 70 per cent of respondents have not taken children for immunization and 30 per cent of respondents have taken children for immunization. Early childhood vaccines are one of the best ways to protect children from serious diseases. By getting children vaccinated, we can keep our family and community healthy. There is an urgent need to bring awareness among rural people about the importance of giving immunization to children.

Availed any financial aid from hospital for the delivery: Majority, 72 per cent of respondents have got the financial support during delivery time and 28 per cent of respondents did not get any financial support from the hospital during delivery time. Majority of the respondents have utilized the health benefits provided by the government through various programmes. The local health centers are playing major role in implementation and reaching the benefits to the poor rural people. We can also find that there are various obstacles for the proper implementation of the health programmes.



Got the benefit of ‘madilu kit’: A greater 55 per cent of respondents have not received the ‘madilu kit’ and 45 per cent of respondents have received the ‘madilu kit’. A greater portion of respondents have not got the benefits of health programmes which may be because of various factors, like lack of awareness or lack of proper implementation of the programmes in rural areas.

Complaint about treatment: Majority, 79 per cent of respondents complained about the treatment and 21 per cent of respondents have no complaints about the treatment. Though there are family problems and work stress the women are not giving any complaints about the treatment. Instead they try to manage their life effectively. The majority respondents have a better adjustment with regard to treatment and hospital.

Health issues during pregnancy: 45 per cent of respondents have high blood pressure and 28 per cent of respondents had vaginal bleeding and 27 per cent of respondents had labor pain. Respondents had some major health complaints and problems during their pregnancy. These complications can involve the mother’s health, foetuses health or both. These complications may turn pregnancy into a high-risk event.

Opinion about Infrastructure of the hospital: The study highlights that 86 per cent of respondents said hospital is good and 14 per cent of respondents said it is not good. The study takes us to the conclusion that the greater part of the women respondents expressed positive opinion about the hospital infrastructure. This helps us to understand that the health centres which are set up in rural areas are fully equipped with good infrastructure and are getting quality treatment from trained medical professionals.

Awareness about HIV and AIDS: The study reveals that 88 per cent of respondents are aware about HIV and AIDS and 12 per cent of

respondents (pregnancy women) do not have awareness regarding HIV and AIDS. It brings out the reality that a greater number of women know about the HIV and AIDS. Since it is a major health problem, government as well as non-governmental organizations work jointly to create awareness among public regarding HIV and AIDS, so as to reduce infection and morbidity rate.

Aware of maternal mortality rate: Greater number (67 per cent) of the respondents are not aware of maternal mortality rate, while 33 per cent of the respondents are aware of maternal mortality rate. The study reveals that a greater number of respondents are not having any knowledge regarding maternal mortality rate. Women die as a result of complications during and following pregnancy and childbirth. Most of these complications develop during pregnancy and most of them are preventable and treatable. There is a need to create awareness among women regarding pregnancy complication.

### **Recommendations**

- \* Proper training must be given to the staff who are involved in the programmes.
- \* Proper education about various health schemes and awareness on health issues must be created among women belonging to reproductive age group
- \* There is a need to improve the implementation and management of policy by using a participatory planning.
- \* To improve quality, coverage and effectiveness of existing family welfare services must be assessed.
- \* To gradually expand the scope and coverage of the family welfare services to eventually come to a defined package of essential RCH services

- \* Expand services to the entire sector of family welfare beyond RCH scope.
- \* Decentralization for better services.
- \* Allowing states to adjust and improve programmes features according to their direct needs.
- \* Pool together financial support from external sources
- \* Good facilities and quality must be maintained in services provided by the Health units and centres.
- \* Disease Prevention and health promotion activities need to be initiated at the grass root level and organising community health camps for early diagnosis can be effective in achieving overall health goal.

## **Conclusion**

The reproductive and child health program following the recommendation of the ICDP, the RCH program provides a new vision to the population policy to provide high quality health service.

A major deterrent in the implementation of the new program has been the lack of understanding of the reproductive health approach. The lack of involvement results in the health workers irregularity and insufficient visit to the field, which will result in regular and better quality of services. The RCH approach replaces the numerical, method-specific targets and monetary incentives for providers with a broader system of performance measures and goals focused on a range of reproductive health services. It also involves the broadening of the package of services and improving the quality of services. It is found from the study that respondents are expecting better quality services from the health centres. They opined that proper and good facilities must be provided in such centers and staff must be trained in handling various health issues pertaining to women health. We need

to identify the role of various associations i.e., self-help groups and community based organisations in spreading awareness regarding health problems of women. The community health workers/nurses are playing pivotal role in giving health education and creating awareness in vulnerable rural communities. They need to motivate the family members for their involvement in betterment of women health condition and also encourage them to utilize the various services available in health centres under RCH programme.

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# GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

*Rekha Yeligar*

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## **Introduction**

Gender is a social factor. Gender inequalities are one of the most important barriers for social development. Gender equality implies women and men enjoying the same opportunities, rights and responsibilities within all areas of life. The status of women in India is strongly connected to family relations. Families usually follow hierarchical patterns, with elders having authority over the younger generation and men over women. Gender inequality refers to health, education, economic and political inequalities between men and women in India. This review-based paper considers peoples need to change their attitudes towards gender equality. Gender equality must be a part of the curriculum in education. Provide women and girls with equal access to education, health care and opportunities in political and economic decision-making. It is raising, empowering all women and girls, eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls especially, sexual violence. Empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial to accelerating sustainable development. Gender equality is ending all forms of discrimination against women

and girls. Women and girls continue to suffer in every part of the world. It is a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. To achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls is highly imperative, because women and girls constitute half of the world's population and therefore, half of its potential. Raising women's participation in the workforce can boost economic growth. People should treat all women and men fairly at work – respect and support human rights and adopt non-discrimination. Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers. Promote education, training and professional development for women.

### **Objectives of the study**

- \* To find out the status of gender equality in India.
- \* To analyze the challenges faced by women in society.
- \* To suggest some strategies for handling the challenges faced by women in India.

### **Methodology**

This theoretical research paper is concerned with the secondary data which were collected from various sources like books, journals as well as websites, have been explored by the researcher, and has been mentioned in the reference section.

### **Meaning of Gender**

Gender refers to the 'socially constructed roles, behavior, activities and attributes that a given society at a given time and place considers appropriate for men and women, and boys and girls and the relationships between them'.

### **What is gender inequality?**

Gender defines and differentiates what women and men, and girls and boys, are expected to be and to do (their roles, responsibilities,

rights and obligations). While there are very distinct biological differences between boys and girls and these can create different needs and capacities for each, these differences do not, in themselves, lead to or justify unequal social status or rights. The distinct roles and behaviors that are defined for boys and girls, and men and women in a society may give rise to gender inequalities, i.e., differences between men and women that systematically favor one group. Gender can be a key determinant of who does what, who has what, who decides, who has power, and even who gets an education or not. In many societies, boys are seen as the ones who should be educated, while girls are not.

### **Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Women's empowerment and equality is a fundamental human right and critical to achieve development objectives, including health. Women's increased political participation, control of resources including land, access to employment and education are crucial for promoting sustainable development. There are numerous pathways by which greater gender equality can lead to improvements in health and quality of life for women and their family members. Women with greater agency are more likely to have fewer children, more likely to access better health services and have better control over health resources, and less likely to suffer domestic violence. Their children are more likely to survive, receive better childcare at home and receive appropriate health care as per the requirement. At the same time, improved health outcomes for women can help to strengthen their own agency and empowerment. Healthy women are more able to actively participate in society and markets and take collective action to advance their own interests. They are likely to have greater bargaining power and control over resources within the household. Therefore, collaborative action between gender and health can help maximize the impact of gender policies on health and vice versa. Women face more barriers in the workplace than men, in general. Gender-related

barriers involve sexual harassment, unfair hiring practices, career progression, and unequal pay, where women are paid less than men are for performing the same tasks. Women struggle with what is termed as the ‘pregnancy penalty’. The main problem is that, it is difficult to measure, but some experts say that the possibility of having a baby can be enough for employers to push women back from their line.

Women’s Empowerment principles is about empowering women to participate fully in economic life across all sectors and throughout all levels of economic activity. It is essential to:

- \* Build strong economies
- \* Establish more stable and just societies
- \* Achieve internationally agreed goals for development, sustainability and human rights
- \* Improve quality of life for women, men, families and communities; and

### **Propel business operations and goals**

- \* Causes of gender inequality
- \* Religious influences (preference for boys)
- \* Most people still think that women are too weak to perform serious work and obtain top positions. Persistent notion that women are not equipped to perform serious tasks at work, and thereby, obtain top positions
- \* Rigid culture and traditions.
- \* Educational level and illiteracy.
- \* A lack of enough empowerment.
- \* Unequal pay for equal (and, even bigger) work, when compared with men.



- \* Poverty (makes women do low paid job, one of the reasons why they get involved in human trafficking and prostitution).
- \* Lack of medical attention & care.

### **Role of education**

It is said that education increases ‘people’s self-confidence and also enables them to find better jobs and they can work shoulder to shoulder with men’. People, then, engage in public debate and make demands to government for health care, social security and other entitlements. Particularly education empowers women to make choices, that improve their children’s health, their well-being, and chances of survival. Education informs others of preventing and containing the disease, and it is an essential element of efforts to reduce malnutrition. Furthermore, it empowers women to make choices that can improve their own welfare, including marrying beyond childhood and having fewer children.

Crucially, education can increase women’s awareness of their rights, boost their self-esteem, and provide them with the opportunity to assert their rights. Despite significant improvements in recent decades, education is not universally available and gender inequalities persist at a large scale. A major concern in many countries is not only the limited numbers of girls going to school, but also the limited educational pathways for those that step into the classroom. More specifically, there should be more efforts to address the lower participation and learning achievement of girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. It is a partnership of organizations committed to narrowing the gender gap in primary and secondary education. It also seeks to ensure that all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to free, quality education. In developed countries, women are still underrepresented in science, technologies, engineering and mathematics, etc.

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## Health care

The fundamental right to the highest attainable standard of health, including physical, mental and social well-being has been recognized in many global, regional and national declarations and charters. There is, now, substantial evidence that healthy populations are a foundation for sustainable social, economic and environmental development and for peace and security, and vice versa. However, despite many advances over the previous decades, large numbers of disadvantaged people still suffer ill health, with thousands dying every day from preventable causes. Women and children from underserved communities bear a particularly high burden of preventable disease and death. *“Feminism is not about making women strong. Women are already strong. It is about changing the way the world perceives that strength,”* said G.D. Anderson. Sadly, for many people, feminism has come to mean being ‘anti-men’ and feminists are considered ‘men-haters’. But people raising a cry for women empowerment and safety are not raising a cry against men. We are just raising a cry against the injustice and inequality that half the population of the world has been suffering since ages.

Feminism, Women Empowerment and Women Safety are about ensuring dignity, health and happiness of women and to assert their equality and human rights. In many cultures, gender equality and women’s rights do not seem to matter at all. In countries like India, this discrimination is much worse. Earlier, Indian women suffered abuse in the pretext of culture. Now, we are being abused in the name of loss of culture. And if we raise a cry for our empowerment and safety, accusing fingers find it very easy to lay the blame of all our suffering on our heads.

## Economic empowerment

Economic empowerment increases women’s agency, access to formal government programmes, mobility outside the home, economic

independence, and purchasing power. Policy makers are suggested to support job training to aid in entrance in the formal markets. One recommendation is to provide ‘more formal education opportunities for women’ that would allow for higher bargaining power in the home. They would have more access to higher wages outside home; and as a result, make it easier for women to get a job in the market. Strengthening women’s access to property inheritance and land rights is another method used to economically empower women. This would allow them better means of asset accumulation, capital, and bargaining power needed to address gender inequalities.

Often, women in developing and underdeveloped countries are legally restricted from their land on the sole basis of gender. Having a right to their land gives women bargaining power that they wouldn’t have, in normal circumstances; in turn, they gain more opportunities for economic independence and formal financial institutions. Employment can help create empowerment for women. Many scholars suggest that, when we discuss women’s empowerment, discussing the different barriers that underprivileged women face, which makes it more difficult for them to obtain empowerment in society, is important when examining the impact of race in connection to employment. Significantly examining how opportunities are structured by gender, race, and class can transpire social change.

Work opportunities and the work environment can create financial empowerment for women. Empowerment in the workplace can positively affect job satisfaction and performance, having equality in the workplace can greatly increase the sense of empowerment. However, women of color do not have the same accessibility and privileges in work settings. Promoting gender equality is seen as an encouragement to greater economic prosperity. Female economic activity is a common measure of gender equality in an economy.

A key issue towards ensuring gender equality in the workplace is respecting of maternity rights and reproductive rights of women. Gender discrimination often results in women obtaining low-wage jobs and being disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. A growing body of research documents ‘what works to economically empower women’, from providing access to formal financial services to training on agricultural and business management practices, though more research is needed across a variety of contexts to confirm the effectiveness of these interventions. Gender biases also exist in product and service provisions. The term “Women’s Tax”, also known as “Pink Tax”, refers to gendered pricing on products or services marketed to women, which are more expensive than similar products marketed to men. Gender-based price discrimination involves companies selling almost identical units of the same product or service at comparatively different prices, as determined by the target market. Although the “pink tax” of different goods and services is not uniform, overall women pay more for commodities that result in visual evidence of feminine body image.

### **Political empowerment**

Political empowerment supports creating policies that would best support gender equality and agency for women in both the public and private spheres. Popular methods that have been suggested are to create affirmative action policies that have a quota for the number of women in policy making and parliament positions. As of 2017, the global average of women who hold lower and single house parliament positions is 23.6 per cent. Further recommendations have been to increase women’s rights to vote, voice opinions, and the ability to run for office with a fair chance of being elected. Because women are typically associated with child care and domestic responsibilities at home, they have less time dedicated to enter the labour market and run their business. Policies that increase their bargaining power

in the household would include policies that account for cases of divorce, policies for better welfare for women, and policies that give women control over resources (such as property rights). However, participation is not limited to the realm of politics. It must ideally begin with the freedom and ability to make choices for oneself, and can extend to participation in the household, in schools. Some theorists believe that bargaining power and agency in the household must be achieved before one can move onto broader political participation.

## **Gender stereotypes**

Gender stereotypes arise from socially approved roles of women and men in private or public sphere, at home or workplace. In the household, women are typically seen as ‘mother figures’, which usually places them into a typical classification of being ‘supportive’ or ‘nurturing’. Women are expected take on the role of a mother and primary responsibilities for household needs. Their male counterparts are seen as being ‘assertive’ or ‘ambitious’ as men are usually seen in the workplace or as the primary breadwinner for family. Due to these views and expectations, women often face discrimination in the public sphere as well, such as the workplace. Women are stereotyped to be less productive at work because they are believed to focus more on family, when they get married or have children. Gender is a set of societal norms dictating the types of behaviours which are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for people based on their sex. Gender roles are usually centered on conceptions of femininity and masculinity, although there are exceptions and variations.

## **A New Paradigm for Women Empowerment**

### **Securing health of the mother and child**

The scheme aims at complete health of mother and child through pre, during and post-pregnancy stages by ensuring safe pregnancy,

through timely vaccination of mother and child, backed by adequate nutritional support, even extending benefits such as, sufficient number of maternity leaves for working women. Indian government has made policies to empower women such as maternity leave. Pradhan Manthri Surakshith Matritva Abhiyana, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Mission Indradhanush.

### **Social security & empowerment**

Again, through a host of programmes such as, building of toilets in schools and public spaces, giving priority in housing, ensuring smokeless kitchens through free gas cylinders, changing of passport rules in their favour, and the legislative initiative on the regressive Triple Talaq, the government has made sure that women empowerment no more remains a mere slogan. Policies in place for the same are Swachha Vidhyalaya Initiative, *Swachha Bharath* Mission, Triple Talaq Bill, Pradhan Manthri Avas Yojana, Ujjawala Yojana, Passport Rules Changed.

### **Financial security & empowerment**

Recognizing the financial need of New India's woman, government has ensured institutional credit to encourage entrepreneurship among women, financially securing future of girl children, accessing banking and financial institutions, while, encouraging rise of SHGs in rural areas and ensuring higher take-home salaries for working women. Indian Policies for the same are Pradhan Manthri Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India, Sukkanya Samridhhi Yojana, Pradhan Manthri Jan Dhan Yojana, Rshtriya Gramina Ajvika Mission, Take Home Salary of Women Employees Increased.

### **Securing future of girl child**

By way of a series of landmark initiatives, the government has attempted to change people's mindsets, encouraging a culture where the birth of a daughter is a matter of pride and girl child's education

becomes a priority, supported through scholarships, while making her future financially secure through opening up of bank accounts in her name. Policies in the same line are Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PRAGATI Scheme, Sukanya Samariddhi Yojana.

## **Women safety**

Recognizing the gravity of women safety today, the government has sought to introduce tough legislations against child rape and trafficking, while enabling them to file complaints on several platforms, including online modes, along with a phone-based application for instant security alerts – all of which are backed by a dedicated fund towards the cause of their safety. Here the government policies are Death Penalty to persons accused of heinous crime like rape, Anti Trafficking Bill, Provision of filling online Complaints and She Box, Nirbhaya Fund, Himmat App.

## **Safety Measures**

### **Girls education initiative**

The initiative works with the vision - “A world where all girls and boys are empowered through quality education to realize their full potential and contribute to transforming societies where gender equality becomes a reality”. ‘Right to education, rights in education and rights through education’. Six domains are monitored:

- \* Educational opportunities (gender parity indices across all level of education and different educational aspects).
- \* Gender norms, values, attitudes and practices.
- \* Institutions outside education or legislation forbidding gender-based discrimination.
- \* Laws and policies guaranteeing the right to education for girls and women, and gender-responsive planning and budgeting within the education systems.

- \* Educational institutions and the extent to which they are gender sensitive and responsive (resource distribution-finance and teaching profession; teaching and learning practices and learning environments).
- \* Outcomes of education (e.g. access to labor market, sexual and reproductive health rights and decisions, political participation, etc).

The greatest tool of women-empowerment is ‘Education’. Education of girls and women, so they become better aware of their rights and can make better choices. Education, to help them establish a career and become financially independent. Education, to help them know how they can protect themselves and protest against abuse. Education, to help them rise above social stigmas and dogmas. Education, to help them realize when they are being wronged and to protest against it.

### **Health care, safety and freedom from violence**

Now, the government has sought to foster women empowerment in a comprehensive programme that deals with five components of security: Health security of the mother and child, Social security, Financial security, Security of the future through educational and financial programmes through growing up years, and last but not the least, the physical safety of women.

### **Securing health of the mother and child**

Through a slew of programmes, the scheme aims at complete health of mother and child through pre, during and post-pregnancy stages by ensuring safe pregnancy through timely vaccination of mother and child backed by adequate nutritional support even extending benefits such as sufficient number of maternity leaves for working women.

- a. Taking into account differential impacts on women and men, provide safe working conditions and protection from exposure



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to hazardous materials and disclose potential risks, including to reproductive health.

- b. Establish a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of violence at work, including verbal and/or physical abuse, and eradicate sexual harassment.
- c. Strive to offer health insurance or other needed services – including survivors of domestic violence – and ensure equal access for all employees.
- d. Respect women and men workers’ rights to time off for medical care and counseling for themselves and their dependents.
- e. In consultation with employees, identify and address security issues, including the safety of women traveling to and from work and on company-related business.
- f. Train security staff and managers to recognize signs of violence against women and understand laws and company policies on human trafficking, labour and sexual exploitation.

### **Leadership promotes gender equality**

- a. Affirm high-level support and direct top-level policies for gender equality and human rights.
- b. Establish company-wide goals and targets for gender equality and include progress as a factor in managers’ performance reviews.
- c. Engage internal and external stakeholders in the development of company policies, programmes and implementation plans that advance equality.
- d. Ensure that all policies are gender-sensitive-identifying factors that impact women and men differently-and that corporate culture advances equality and inclusion.

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## **Equal opportunity, inclusion and non-discrimination**

- a. Pay equal remuneration, including benefits, for work of equal value and strive to pay a living wage to all women and men.
- b. Ensure that workplace policies and practices are free from gender-based discrimination.
- c. Implement gender-sensitive recruitment and retention practices and proactively recruit and appoint women to managerial and executive positions and to the corporate board of directors.
- d. Assure sufficient participation of women –30 per cent or greater –in decision-making and governance at all levels and across all business areas.
- e. Offer flexible work options, leave and re-entry opportunities to positions of equal pay and status.
- f. Support access to child and dependent care by providing services, resources and information to both women and men.

## **Conclusion**

Gender Equality refers to the extent to which women and men face the same opportunities and constraints within families, the workplace, and society at large. Where gender discrimination has been reduced, people are better able to fulfill their potential in life and make the most of their skills and capabilities. We all can see that crimes against women are increasing. And ensuring women's safety is becoming an important part of all women empowerment initiatives. The crimes against women are many. Eve-teasing is almost considered as a right by most men in India. Dowry deaths still take place. Minor girls are being yoked into matrimony at the cost of their health, happiness and dreams. And now, crimes like rape, acid attacks and honour-killings seem to be become a sort of fashion! And the easy way out, i.e., excuse is the diminishing value of our culture.

And the culture is getting spoiled, ostensibly, because women today wear short clothes, use mobile phones and go to pubs.

Nobody stops to think that our clothes and manners are ‘result’ of cultural change and a parcel of westernization, not the ‘cause’ of it. How ironical it is that in a country that worships girls as goddesses, female foeticide is still a prevalent norm in many regions. And even when girls are allowed to take birth, they are denied the right to live with dignity and pride and to choose their own way of life. People must bring new change, positive attitude towards girl child/women, promote girl’s quality education, Health care, Safety and Freedom from Violence, securing health of the Mother and Child, Leadership Promotes Gender Equality, Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Non-discrimination. Everyone has a certain responsibility to keep the dignity and respect towards women in society.

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# ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Shubhamangala Shenoy and Shreeprajna*

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## **Abstract**

Sustainable development is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising with the needs of the future generation. In a sense, it is the all-round development of human beings - economic, social, and environmental. We all agree that progress in achieving sustainable development goals has been abysmally slow. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are confronted with economic, environmental and social crises on a global scale. Advances in attaining gender equality have been equally sluggish. Is there a link between these two trends? The three pillars of sustainable development — economic, environment and social — are also relevant to discussions of gender equality. Building up the economic and social pillars of sustainability while neglecting the environment degrades the natural capital needed for growth. Focusing on economics and the environment without attention to social factors can lead to green growth for a few. Given gender gaps worldwide, these few tend to be mostly men. The present paper analyses the role of women as a key factor in achieving sustainable development with a special focus on gender inequality in India.

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## **Introduction**

Sustainable development is broadly defined as development which meets the requirements of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development should be a key principle of all policies and actions, which are broadly designed to create a society which is based on freedom, democracy and respect for fundamental rights, fostering equality of opportunity and solidarity within and between generations. Sustainable development depends on an equitable distribution of resources for today and for the future. It cannot be achieved without gender equality. Women's empowerment is a key factor for achieving sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by the UN General assembly in 2015, presents a vision of "The World We Want". The SDGs aim to transform development by taking on key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and care for our common planet.

Viewed in a broad spectrum, women have played a vital role in the global environmental movement. The World Commission on Environment and Development, in its report entitled *Our Common Future*, published in 1988, linked the environmental crisis to unsustainable development and financial practices that were worsening the North-South gap, with women as the majority of the world's poor and illiterate.

Women are affected by each of the 17 proposed SDGs, and women and girls can-and will-be the key to achieving each of these goals. Gender Equality (SDG 5) is a precondition and accelerator for progress in these and all other areas. The roots of gender discrimination must be cut, so that all women live free from gender-based violence and have equal opportunities to pursue well-being and shape decisions affecting their lives. Achieving gender equality has been integrated

in the 2030 Agenda, which was endorsed by all UN Member States in August 2015. The 2030 Agenda offers a real opportunity to drive lasting change for women’s rights and equality, and to bring transformative change in women’s and men’s lives. Gender equality, reducing inequalities and ensuring ‘no one left behind’ are considered as distinct but linked to the core principles of the SDGs.

### **Three good reasons**

First, gender equality is a moral imperative, whether you are in government, business, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or research institutions – it is simply the ‘right thing to do’.

Gender bias is still deeply embedded in cultures, economies, political and social institutions around the world. Women and girls face unacceptable levels of discrimination and abuse, which is not only wrong, but also, prevents them from playing a full part in society and decision-making.

There has been some progress – such as IIED’s own gender review and audit – but nowhere near enough. More organisations need to understand and address internal imbalances and proactively seek to do so, in delivering their business. Barbara Stocking, former chief executive of Oxfam GB, writes in the book: “Leadership from the top is essential but the values of gender equality have to permeate the whole organisation.”

Secondly, women are key managers of natural resources and powerful agents of change. Nidhi Tandon’s research with rural women in Liberia and Fatima Jibrell’s work in Somalia show how women are often more directly dependent on natural resources, with responsibility for the unpaid work of securing food, water, fuel and shelter for their household.

“Not just victims, women have been and can be central actors in pathways to sustainability and green transformation,” according to the contribution from Lyla Mehta and Melissa Leach.

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## **Women bring a different perspective**

Women are more vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change but also have different perspectives, concerns and ideas for change. Until these are taken on board, with women empowered to play a full part in decision-making at all levels, environmental sustainability will remain a distant goal.

Yet, women's empowerment must not mean simply adding to their burdens of responsibilities or building expectations of women as 'sustainability saviours'. Diane Elson, an adviser to UN Women, argues in her contribution that "the disproportionate responsibility that women bear for carrying out unpaid work is an important constraint on their capacity to realise their rights... Both women and men need time to care for their families and communities, and time free from such care."

**Women and Poverty:** The last few years have seen historic achievements in reducing the number of people who are poor, making the end of extreme poverty possible in the coming generation. That requires cutting the multiple roots of impoverishment. One of the deepest is gender discrimination, which imposes a disproportionate burden on women.

When women are poor, their rights are not protected. They face obstacles that may be extraordinarily difficult to overcome. This results in deprivation of their own lives and losses for the broader society and economy, as women's productivity is well known as one of the greatest generators of economic dynamism.

While both men and women suffer in poverty, gender discrimination means that women have far fewer resources to cope. They are likely to be the last to eat, the ones least likely to access healthcare, and routinely trapped in time-consuming, unpaid domestic tasks. They have more



limited options to work or build businesses. Adequate education may lie out of reach. Some end up forced into sexual exploitation as part of a basic struggle to survive.

While women at large have not yet achieved an equal political voice, women in poverty face extra marginalization. Their voices are rarely heard, for example, in decisions on managing an economy, or sharing benefits and costs. An increasing number of studies indicate that gender inequalities are extracting high economic costs and leading to social inequities and environmental degradation around the world. The findings of the existing body of gender research are briefly reviewed here. Much more in the way of statistics, facts and analysis is needed to investigate whether gender equity is the “missing link” of sustainable development.

**Women and Gender Equality:** Millennium Development Goal 3 is to promote gender equality and empower women. This MDG is critical for tackling poverty and improving prospects for women. But how can women break gender-based stereotypes to minimize discrimination and reduce gender based violence, when they are trapped in societies with socio-cultural practices which routinely discriminate them from having equal opportunities in education, health and livelihood? These women are invisible and the obstacles in their way prevent them from accessing the most basic human rights and needs.

Women make up 70 per cent of the world’s working hours and earn only 10 per cent of the world’s income and half of what men earn. This leads to greater poverty, slower economic growth and a lower standard of living. In developing countries, millions of women also die each year as a result of gender-based violence. This deep-rooted gender discrimination creates a bleak outlook for women in developing countries. For millions of girls living in poverty, it is often those closest to them who work against the child’s interests and their immediate environment is often dysfunctional and sometimes, downright harmful. So, what is the solution?

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## **Gender and Sustainable Development**

As indicated by both theory and evidence, the lack of progress on gender equality may be at the heart of the failure to advance on sustainable development. If women were in more productive and decision-making roles, we could be moving faster and more assuredly towards sustainability in the economic, social and environmental sense. Sustainable development is a political concept because it is about good governance, which will be hard to achieve until we get closer to gender parity. Research is needed to test the hypothesis that women are more risk-averse than men and that women leaders would be more apt to follow sustainable development pathways. Given the importance of gender to sustainability, these issues should feature more prominently in sustainable development discussions and be highlighted in a 2012 UN Conference on Sustainability Development. The World Bank believes that ‘putting resources into poor women’s hands while promoting gender equality in the household and in society results in large development payoffs’. It is, therefore, fundamental to nurture their self-confidence and empower girls and young women living in poverty to make informed choices about their own lives as well as those of their communities.

### **Contributions of women to sustainable development**

Women share the primary responsibility for nutrition, childcare and household management in almost all countries. They are also active in environmental management. In most developing countries, women play a major role as farmers, animal tenders, and water and fuel collectors.

Having their expertise, knowledge and perspective been overlooked for years, women are now demanding that their voices be heard. They recognize that an integrated approach to sustainable development is necessary since political, economic, social and environmental issues are closely interlinked.

Women took active part in the Rio Earth Summit process and succeeded in obtaining a chapter on women and sustainable development and over one hundred references and recommendations pertaining to women in the final agreement, Agenda 21.

In Rio, women were considered a “major group” whose involvement was necessary to achieve sustainable development. Today, there is a growing emphasis on “mainstreaming”- integrally incorporating women’s concerns and participation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development and environmental management programmes to ensure that women get the benefit. The United Nations system is in the process of mainstreaming a gender-perspective in its work.

**Women and management of Natural Resources:** Land, water, climate and biological diversity form the natural base of agriculture and are essential to rural development and sustainable livelihoods. The growing demand for food, water, fiber and energy is disrupting agro-ecosystems, eroding biodiversity and depleting land and water. Those impacts will be exacerbated by climate change.

Natural resources must be used in a way that meets today’s needs, while conserving them for future generations. That will require action to develop capacities, from global to farm level, for their sustainable management and regulation.

Women manage natural resources daily in their roles as farmers and household providers. Typically, they are responsible for growing subsistence crops, and often have unique knowledge of local crop species. To meet family needs, rural women and girls walk long distances to collect fuel wood and water. Despite their reliance on natural resources, women have less access to and control over them than men. Usually, it is the men who put land, water, plants and animals to commercial use, which is often more valued than women’s domestic uses.

Gender inequality is most evident in access to land. Custom prohibits women from owning land in many countries. Frequently, women have only use rights, mediated by men, and those rights are highly precarious. Landless rural women often depend on common property resources for fuel wood, fodder and food. In many countries, overuse of those resources poses a serious threat to rural livelihoods and food security.

Without secure land rights, farmers have limited access to credit - and little incentive - to invest in improved management and conservation practices. Women and men are more likely to make environmentally sound land management decisions when they have secure ownership and know they can benefit.

Improved water management, especially irrigation, is critical to higher agricultural productivity and conservation of the resource. Women farmers have limited access to irrigation networks or, when they do, to irrigation management decisions: membership of water users' associations is often linked to land ownership. Women's limited water entitlements force them to use subsistence agricultural practices that may lead to soil erosion, a major source of instability in watersheds.

Over generations, small-scale farmers have shaped a wide diversity of crop species and animal breeds. Commercialization of agriculture, driven partly by global trade in high-yielding crops and animals, is responsible for a rapid decline in agro biodiversity, which threatens not only local production but, ultimately, global food security.

To protect their natural resources, rural women and men must be empowered to participate in decisions that affect their needs and vulnerabilities. Addressing the gender dimensions of natural resources management will help policy makers formulate more effective interventions for their conservation and sustainable use.

Throughout history, men have looked at natural resources as commercial entities or income generating tools, while women have tended to see the environment as a resource support their basic needs. As an example, rural Indian women collect the dead branches which are cut by storm for fuel wood to use rather than cutting the live trees. Since African, Asian and Latin American women use the land to produce food for their family; they acquire the knowledge of the land/soil conditions, water, and other environmental features. Any changes in the environment on these areas, like deforestation, have the most effect on women of that area, and cause them to suffer until they can cope with these changes. An example of female predominance in the defense of natural forests comes from India in 1906. As forest clearing was expanding, conflict between loggers and government and peasant communities increased. To thwart resistance to the forest cleaning, the men were diverted from their villages to a fictional payment compensation site and loggers were sending to the forests. The women left in the villages; however, protested by physically hugging themselves to the trees to prevent their being cut down, giving rise to what is now called the *Chipko movement*, an environmentalist.

**Chipko Movement:** One of the first environmentalist movements which were inspired by women was the *Chipko movement* (Women tree-huggers in India). “Its name comes from a Hindi word meaning to stick” (as in glue). The movement was an act of defiance against the state government’s permission given to a corporation for commercial logging. Women of the village resisted, embracing trees to prevent their felling, to safeguard their lifestyles which were dependent on the forests. Deforestation could qualitatively change the lives of all village residents, but it was the women who agitated for saving the forests. Organized by a non-governmental organization that Chandi Prasad led, The *Chipko movement* adopted the slogan “ecology is

permanent economy.” The women embracing the trees did not tag their action as feminist activism; however, as a movement that demonstrated resistance against oppression, it had all the markings of such. It began when Maharaja of Jodhpur wanted to build a new palace in Rajasthan, which is in India’s Himalayan foothills. While the axe men were cutting the trees, martyr Amrita Devi hugged one of the trees. This is because, in Jodhpur, each child had a tree that could talk to it. The axe men ignored Devi and after axing her down, they cut down the tree.

**Green Movement:** Another movement, which is one of the biggest in women and environment history, is the Green Belt movement. Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai founded this movement on the World Environment Day in June 1977. The starting ceremony was very simple, a few women planted seven trees in Maathai’s backyard. By 2005, 30 million trees had been planted by participants in the Green Belt movement on public and private lands. The Green Belt movement aims to bring environmental restoration along with society’s economic growth. This movement led by Maathai focused on restoration of Kenya’s rapidly diminishing forests as well as empowering the rural women through environmental preservation. This conflict started because men wanted to cut the trees to use them for industrial purposes while women wanted to keep them since it was their food resource and deforestation was a matter of survival for local people.

### **Recommendations**

To enhance women’s participation in environmental management for sustainable development the following recommendations are proffered: Women should be encouraged to participate in committees on environmental protection projects, programs, and policies to address gender imbalances in decision making. Women’s access to land and other resources should be ensured and not undermined.

The government will have to come in, in this respect, to ensure gender equity, regarding access to and control of resources. Environmental education is required for every citizen for sustainable development. Environmental education will produce change in attitude of the people, as well as impart specific knowledge on the every citizen. Separation of plastic from municipal solid wastes and recycling of plastic will help to reduce the contribution of plastic to the solid waste problem, as well as eliminate the unsightly littering. 'Biodegradable plastic' could also be used (Pryde,1973). These will eventually decompose. Women education and access to education for girls should be seen as a policy priority. Educated women will contribute more significantly to bridging the gap between environment and development. Empowerment of women in sustainable human development and in relation to the protection of the environment must be recognized and sustained.

## **Conclusion**

Women's contribution to sustainable development must be recognized. Women have a strong role in education and socializing their children, including teaching them care and responsibility with regard to the use and protection of natural resources. More should be done to increase women's voice in environmental decision making and to enable women to seize opportunities in the 'green economy'. More capacity building programmes and training tailored to the needs of women are needed. In order to build women as catalyst for sustainable development, their role in family, community and society at large has to free from socio-cultural and religious traditions that prevent women participation. There is need for change of mindset, especially of the males who dominate the scene. There are, now, sufficient numbers of qualified women in every specialization and area of expertise - from engineers to architects to scientists - to compete with men in the market for green jobs. But the majority of green positions are expected

to be in the construction, energy and engineering fields, where women are minority workers. Similarly, thousands of green jobs are being created in agriculture, forestry, eco-tourism, and other resource-based sectors in poorer countries, but here women are a marginalized group. According to Sustain Labor, women are being excluded from the green economy owing to gender segregated employment patterns and the discrimination. Schemes are needed to recruit women for non-traditional jobs, train them in green job skills, and ensure equal pay and high labor standards.

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# EMPOWERING HIGH SCHOOL CHILDREN IN LIFE SKILL EDUCATION

*Hemita Keithbellakpam and K. Purnima*

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## **Abstract**

“Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future”. School children are considered most productive members of the society due to their physical and intellectual potentialities. Life skill education plays a vital role in helping them to make decisions, communicate effectively, take things in the right sense and develop coping and self-management skills to lead a healthy and productive life and contribute positively to the society, and hence the emergence of this study. The objectives of the study were: a. To compare knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills among the control and experimental groups of high school children, between the children of Government and Private schools and between boys and girls and b. To understand the impact of intervention on the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills. The hypotheses were: There exists a difference in the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between the Government and Private and

between the experimental and control group of children and between boys and girls. 264 each of Ninth standard children were selected for the intervention programme for control and experimental groups. Major findings showed that there was no significant difference found regarding knowledge and slight difference was found regarding attitude and practices, the overall mean scores of Private school children being slightly higher than the Government school children; the experimental group mean scores were significantly much higher than those of the control group regarding knowledge, attitude and practices; no significant difference was found regarding knowledge of life skills between boys and girls, while a slight difference was found with regard to attitude and practices. The intervention programme has helped promote knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills among the high school children.

## **Introduction**

According to UNESCO (2014), “Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future”.

This means, including and integrating key Sustainable Development issues into teaching and learning, for climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction and sustainable consumption. It promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decision in a collaborative way. It involves developing life skills including leadership, communication and management. By equipping high school children with these relevant capabilities, in addition to their environmental knowledge, they can excel in living lives, which not only further humanity, but the one that cares for and respects our planet’s resources too.

School children are considered the most productive members of the society due to their physical and intellectual potentialities. But it

is sad to recognize the fact that most of them are unable to utilize their potentials in an appropriate manner due to lack of guidance and motivation. In this connection, Life Skill Education plays a vital role in helping them make decisions, communicate effectively, take everything in the right sense and develop coping and self-management skills, to lead a healthy and productive life and contribute positively to the society.

Adolescence, a vital stage of growth and development, marks the period of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is characterized by rapid physiological changes and psychosocial maturation. Adolescence is also the stage when young people extend their relationships beyond parents and family and are intensely influenced by their peers and the outside world, in general. As adolescents mature cognitively, their mental processes become more analytical. They are now capable of abstract thinking, better articulation and of developing an independent ideology. These are truly the years of creativity, idealism, buoyancy and a spirit of adventure. But these are also the years of experimentation and risk-taking, of giving in to negative peer pressure, of taking uninformed decisions on crucial issues, especially relating to their bodies and their sexuality. Adolescence is, thus, a turning point in one's life, a period of increased potential but also one of greater vulnerability.

Life skills have been defined by WHO as “abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life”. The ten core life skills are, self-awareness, empathy, critical thinking, creative thinking, decision making, problem solving, effective communication, interpersonal relationship, coping with stress and emotions, as laid down by WHO, which are equally necessary to be taught to students to help their successful transition from childhood to adulthood by way of health development of social, intellectual and emotional skills. In this fast

moving environment in which students have to cope with varied stress, abuse and the like, accompanied by poor parenting, peer influences, home and school environment, academic pressure, societal influence and pressures, life skills are a crucial part of their lives.

Life skills include psychosocial competencies and interpersonal skills that help people make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathize with others, and cope with managing their lives in a healthy and productive manner. Essentially, there are two kinds of skills: those related to thinking termed as ‘thinking skills’; and skills related to dealing with people termed as ‘social skills’. While thinking skills relate to reflection at a personal level, social skills include interpersonal skills and do not necessarily depend on logical thinking. It is the combination of these two types of skills that are needed for achieving assertive behaviour and negotiating effectively. ‘Emotional skills’ can be perceived as a skill not only in making rational decisions but also in being able to make others agree to one’s point of view. To do that, coming to terms with oneself first, is important. Thus, self-management is an important skill, including managing/coping with feelings, emotions, stress and resisting peer and family pressure.

### **Need for the study**

Student stage is filled with excitement, new feelings, many unanswered questions and difficult choices. It is also a time for them to be educated, well mannered, well informed about their knowledge and skills. But in the real situation, most of the students are incapable to utilize their inner skills in an appropriate manner, due to lack of guidance, motivation and inappropriate environment. In this connection, life skill education plays a vital role in helping students make decisions, communicate effectively, take everything in the right sense and develop coping and self-management skills to lead a healthy and productive life and contribute positively to the society. Life skill

education helps in empowering the students to enter into a gracious and healthy relationship with each other in the society. Education for Sustainable Development is based on ideals and principles that underlie sustainability, such as intergenerational equity, gender equity, social tolerance, poverty alleviation, environmental preservation and restoration, natural resource conservation and justice and peace in the society. Hence, the research scholar felt an apt and crucial need to take up this study, with an aim to empower the high school children in Life Skill Education in Imphal City, since this is the crucial age of physical, mental, emotional and social transformation.

### **Aim of the study**

The present study aims at educating and empowering high school children studying in Government and Private Schools in Imphal East and Imphal West in Life Skill education.

### **Objectives of the study**

- \* To compare knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills among the control and experimental groups of high school children, between the children of Government and Private Schools and between boys and girls.
- \* To understand the impact of intervention on the knowledge, attitude and practice of the experimental group of high school children about life skills.

### **Hypotheses**

The following are the hypotheses formulated for the study:

- \* The intervention programme has helped promote knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills among the high school children.
- \* There is a difference in the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between the Government and Private high school children.

- \* There is a difference in the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between the experimental and control group of high school children.
- \* There is a difference in the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between boys and girls.

## **Sampling procedure**

### **Locale of the study**

Imphal City, in Imphal East and West, in the state of Manipur was chosen purposively as locale of the study since the research scholar belonged to Imphal City and was familiar with the local language and culture.

### **Selection of the respondents for the study**

A total of 1,140 high school children, consisting of both boys and girls, studying in Ninth standard, were selected based on the Purposive Sampling Technique. Out of the total of 1,140 high school children, 264 children, 112 boys and 152 girls were selected for the control and experimental groups for the pre and post- tests. The parents of the control and experimental groups of children were given Life Skill Home Level Indicator checklists.

### **Procedure for data collection**

The study was carried out in 9 phases:

#### **Phase I: Survey of the schools**

A survey of Government and Private schools in Imphal City was done, out of which five Government schools each from Imphal East and Imphal West and three private schools each from Imphal East and Imphal West were purposively selected for the basic study.

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## **Phase II: Identification of the Sample**

Boys and Girls studying at the high school level (9<sup>th</sup> Standard) in three Government and three Private schools were selected for conducting pre and post-tests.

## **Phase III: Development of the tool**

An appropriate tool to study the children's knowledge of life skills was developed. The tool was divided into two sections: knowledge questions, 26 in number, multiple choice questions using five-point scale, prepared by the research scholar, and attitude and practice scale comprising of 115 questions which were adopted from Life Skills Scale prepared by Dr. Vranda M.N, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work, from National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (copyright 2008). A life skill home level indicator checklist for the parents of experimental and control group children was also prepared by the research scholar comprising of 40 questions.

The above tool was appropriately validated, after which it was translated into Manipuri script to make it easier for the students to understand and follow. Standardization was done using Validity and Reliability.

## **Phase IV: Pilot study**

A pilot study was conducted on one hundred and fifty one (151) Ninth standard high school children from one government and one private school, consisting of both boys and girls selected randomly, to study the feasibility of the tool.

## **Phase V: Pre-test**

A total of 528 (264 control and 264 experimental) Ninth Standard students of the three Government and three Private schools taken for the pre and post-test were administered a tool to elicit information

about their existing knowledge, attitude and practices followed regarding life skills.

### **Phase VI: Development of the module**

After assessing the existing knowledge, attitude and practices followed by the children, the intervention module was used to educate them in gaining more knowledge, to develop positive attitude and better practices with regard to life skills. The module was adopted from the published standardized modules prepared by Dr. Vranda M.N.

A workshop on “Promotion of mental health and psychological well-being of adolescents using life skills approach” held at Department of Psychiatric Social Work, National Institute of Mental Health & Neuroscience under the leadership of Dr. Vranda M.N was attended by the research scholar. This aided her to conduct the intervention programme in a systematic and practical manner. The Research Scholar made use of both English and Manipuri dialects for the Intervention Education Programme.

### **Phase VII: Intervention Phase**

The developed educational module of the intervention program was implemented for an academic year in three government and three private schools through the above tool using appropriate techniques, audio-visual aids and teaching strategies. The following techniques were used by the research scholar to enhance life skills in the High School children: Brainstorming, storytelling, discussion, role play, games, situation analysis, videos regarding life skills. At the end of the intervention, the investigator had a group interaction with the experimental group of students and teachers, during which they gave their feedback about the programme.

### **Phase VIII: Post-test**

The developed tool was re-administered to the control and experimental group children, one month after the intervention was



completed to assess their knowledge, attitude and practices followed in life skills. A pre-and post-test data analysis was done to study the influence of intervention program in enhancing the knowledge, positive attitude and better practices of life skills among the children.

### **Phase IX: Statistical analysis**

Appropriate statistical analyses were applied to analyse the data based on the objectives and hypotheses formulated.

### **Major findings of the study**

Significantly higher percentages of children belonging to private schools had two and three siblings as compared to their Government schools' counterparts. The possible reason for the above observation could be educational qualification and occupation of parents.

A majority of both Government and private school children belonged to nuclear type of family, though the percentages of private school children were higher than that of Government school children. Interestingly, considerable percentages of families of both Government and Private school children belonged to joint families, though, those of Government school children were higher. This could affect the children's attitude and practice of life skills.

With regard to number of family members, while considerable percentages of Private school children belonged to four-member family, almost 50 per cent of Government school children belonged to families having more than six members.

Parents of Private school children were found to be more highly educated than those of the Government school children

As compared to the fathers of Government school children, considerable percentages of fathers of Private school children were into Government and Private Jobs and into businesses. This observation shows that educational qualification and occupation were interrelated.

Knowledge of life skills among the control group children, the overall mean scores of Government school boys being 7.36 and 7.32 for girls and 7.11 for Private school boys and 6.71 for girls, was significantly lower than that of the experimental group children, the overall mean scores for Government school boys being 25.85 and 25.86 for girls and 25.83 for boys of Private schools and 25.78 for girls, the t-value being non-significant for both schools.

Though the mean score of Government school children with regard to knowledge in pre-test was 7.14 as compared to 25.86 in post-test and 7.16 in pre-test for private school children as compared to 25.80 in the post-test, there was no difference found in the knowledge of life skills between Government and Private School children.

Regarding Attitude, where the pre-test was concerned, the private school children show a slightly better attitude regarding life skills with an overall mean score of 124.30 in the pre-test, showing significance at 5 per cent level, as compared to an overall mean score of 122.10 with regard to Government school children. The same was found in the post-test also, with an overall mean score of private school children being 311.01 as compared to the overall mean score of Government school children being 308.16, the t-value being significant at 1 per cent level.

Hypothesis 2 was formulated stating that “there is a difference in the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between Government and Private high school children”. There was no significant difference found regarding knowledge and a slight difference found regarding attitude and practices, the overall mean scores of Private school children being slightly higher than the Government school children. Hence, hypothesis was disproved with regard to knowledge and proved with regard to attitude and practice.

Hypothesis 3 was formulated stating that “there is a difference in the knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between experimental and control group of high school children”. As observed from the overall mean scores of experimental and control group children, the experimental group mean scores were definitely and significantly much higher than those of the control group regarding knowledge, attitude and practice, proving that Hypothesis is true.

Hypothesis 4 was formulated stating that “there is a difference in knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between boys and girls”. There was no significant difference found regarding knowledge of life skills between the boys and girls, while a slight difference was found regarding attitude and practice of life skills between boys and girls. Hence, the hypothesis was disproved regarding knowledge and proved regarding attitude and practice of life skills between boys and girls.

Hypothesis 1 was formulated stating that “the intervention programme has helped promote knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills among the high school children”. The findings clearly show that there is a significant difference between knowledge, attitude and practice of life skills between pre-test and post-test, experimental and control group, the post-test overall scores being significantly higher than the pre-test and control group scores. Hence, the hypothesis has been proved to be true and thus, accepted.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the results and discussions, the findings of the study may be concluded broadly as follows:

Studying the demographic profile of Imphal East and West, the average literacy of urban and rural population was considerably good, though urban was better than rural, the male literacy rate being better than female. The female literacy rate was found to be above 88 per cent

in the urban Imphal and above 50 per cent in rural Imphal and the male literacy rate was found to be above 90 per cent in urban Imphal and almost 90 per cent in rural Imphal. This was a positive factor for the attendance of children in private schools and some of the Government schools.

A significant difference was found in the number of siblings, the Private school children having lesser number of siblings as compared to the Government school counter parts. A similar interesting observation regarding a small family norm followed in the families of Private school children was noticed. A very significant reason for this observation was possibly because of the significantly higher educational qualification and occupation of the parents of the children studying in Private schools as compared to the Government school children. The small family culture has seeped into the Manipuri family set up, which has led to changes in the lifestyle and mode of behaviour of children.

The Government and Private school children who were selected for the Intervention programme were very interested, talented and had the zest to learn new things and extremely responsive towards the education imparted by the research scholar. The children took great interest in performing the various creative activities, during the process of intervention. The reciprocation between the research scholar and the experimental group of children was so good and effective, that such a programme should be conducted for all the school children. Hence, there is a need to organize ginger clubs to include more groups of children learning these very important life skills and keeping their participatory spirits going.

The mean scores of the children who had undergone intervention regarding knowledge, attitude and practise were significantly better than the mean scores of children who had not undergone intervention. This clearly reveals that the intervention programme had significant

impact with regard to better knowledge, positive attitude and better practises of life skills.

Life skill education as a subject is not very prevalently known in Manipur and hence, not been introduced in schools. This was observed by the investigator on the basis of her visit to The Board of Secondary Education, Manipur.

The mean scores of the children who had undergone intervention regarding knowledge, attitude and practice were significantly better than the mean scores of children who had not undergone intervention. This clearly reveals that the intervention programme had significant impact with regard to better knowledge, positive attitude and better practices of life skills.

The intervention programme imparted by the research scholar has given the children hands-on experience in taking active part in the various activities. The programme was a leisure time activity, which broke the mould of the classroom environment teaching and boosted the performance of children.

There is an urgent and fervent need to introduce life skills education as a part of the school syllabus, which has a vast potential for involving children in practical oriented life skill activities along with their formal education. This, in turn, will help the children promote the concept of life skills in their home and school environment for their holistic development.

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# ON COMMERCIALIZATION OF EDUCATION

*William George*

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## **Introduction**

The goal of quality education seems to be unattainable in India because, in order to achieve quality in education, one must have enough schools. Unless we have enough and well-equipped schools, we may fail in providing quality education. According to 2011 Census, the total number of villages in India are about 6,49,481. Among these, 13,511 villages are yet to get a government school. (Development, 2018). In these, 13,511 villages don't have education at all, then how is it possible to provide quality education. In this condition, the government should take initiatives to build schools. Unfortunately, our government is busy in building detention camps and huge statues. The money spent on building the detention camp at Matia in Assam is Rs. 46 Crores (Parashar, 2019) There are 6 more camps. In order to build the "Statue of Unity" in Gujarat, the government has spent Rs. 2,989 crores (Team, 2018). If this money had been spent on building the schools or reforming the education system, the country's future would have been built. Money that is spent on education sector



will never go in vain, rather the money spent on education is always an investment, because if the citizens of the country are provided with quality of education, it might lead to creating employment opportunities. Employment would have tackled some of the major problems of the country, such as, unemployment, poverty and terrorism. Unless the education system of the country is raised to a better level the growth of the country is just a dream.

### **Privatization of education in India**

The education sector was privatized in India, with the main objectives of providing education in remote areas and in aiding the government, to enhance the education sector. Unfortunately, in our country, the private schools are more in the cities than in the remote areas, which is totally against the objective of the privatization of education in India. Though the idea of transferring the education sector from public to private has advantages, yet, critically speaking, the very act of privatization of education has sown the seed for commercializing education. The process of privatizing the education sector has brought the inequality in the education system, where most of the rural schools are denied of private schools and quality of education. With the profit motive of the private schools, it has spread in and around the cities but as they are lacking in service motive, we can hardly see few private schools in rural areas that too, are run by religious groups for the purpose of providing service.

Privatization of education system has divided the education on the basis of class. The rich parents put their children in private schools and the poor parents put their children in government schools. Therefore, our society's notion is that private schools are for the rich and government schools for the poor. This system has brought in the idea of division between the rich and the poor and made the private education unavailable for the poor of the country.

Over the past decades, barring some states, the government schools also showed poor performance in terms of quality of education. There is also an utter lack of infrastructure facilities such as, desk, tables, stools, blackboards, drinking water, limited space with or without constructed classrooms, lack of playgrounds and teaching materials. This scenario paved the way for the private schools to commercialize the education.

### **Lack of basic facilities and infrastructures**

According to an article published in Times of India, over 21,977 Government schools in India are without toilets for girls, though, the provision under Right to Education Act 2009 provides for, every school building to have separate toilets for boys and girls. 28,713 schools are without toilets for boys and 21,977 government schools without girl's toilets. Over 36 per cent of the Indian Government schools are functioning without electricity, (India, 2019). Over 1,49,389 schools and anganwadis in the country have no drinking water facility (Subramanyam, 2018). In Odisha alone 32,677 Government schools have no playgrounds (Maharana, 2019), which hinders the students' physical development and denies recreation and sports in the school.

### **Shortage of teachers**

There are 92,275 Government schools in the country with single teacher, teaching both in primary and secondary level (Services, 2019). It is totally a blunder to have one teacher for the entire School, and in such conditions the government schools cannot provide a better education.

### **Ignorance of the English language**

English is a language widely spoken, but in our government schools, English is always a second option. Since the regional language becomes the medium of instruction, English language is not focused much. In modern days, communication in English is a skill required in most of

the workplaces. Keeping this point in mind, parents look for private schools where the medium of instruction is English. Therefore, the enrollment in the public schools is minimum.

### **Recruitment and dedication of the teachers**

When teachers are recruited in Public Schools, one of the major requirements other than qualification and skills is “money”, to bribe the officials. To get into a government job is not that easy for a poor candidate. Due to this many of the qualified and talented teachers who are unable to pay the bribe do not get into job, which results in poor teaching staffs. Unlike the private schools, the teachers at Government schools are hardly monitored and whether their work is done or not they get their pay. In some cases, the teachers are given other works than teaching, like preparing the mid-day meals for the children.

### **The environment of the school**

The environment of the school plays a major role in helping a child to study well. If the Schools have no electricity, proper toilets, blackboards and playgrounds, they will hardly attract the children to come to school, even if they come, they may fail in learning.

### **Education system of Finland**

Let us now analyse how another country, for example Finland, is able to provide quality education and understand ways and means adapted by the Finland Government to provide quality education. By introducing the education system of Finland, the aim is not to promote students to travel to Finland but rather to improvise our education system and to have an idea of how Finland is able to do the best in education field.

Among the top 20 best education systems in the world, Finland is ranked number one. The education system of Finland is totally

opposite to that of Indian education system. They let the children to enjoy their childhood, which they will never get back as they grow old. Their education is not centered around academics alone, but the students are taught how to live the life with society and with the nature. It provides humanitarian approach. To be more specific the differences are listed below.

### **Admission in the schools at the age of seven**

The children are not admitted in the schools till they attain the age of seven. The reasons behind this are, to be with the parents in their early childhood and experience the love and care from the parents. Another reason is, when they are enrolled in the schools after the age of six, the capacity to learn and understand is better. A study conducted by Stanford University has come out with the report that the children who are enrolled in the school after the age of 6 were able to perform better (INN, 2017).

### **In a day only 4 hours of classes**

In a day, the classes are just for four hours and in between each hour, there is fifteen minutes of break. In a week, it is just 20 hours of class, the idea here is to help the children relax their minds and not to stress them with lots of classes. If the children keep learning for about 7 to 8 hours a day, like the system in India, they may not concentrate much on the learning. William Webb, the founder of “The focus formula”, says an average person can focus on a particular thing for about 3-4 hours a day. This proves that the education system of Finland is grounded in the scientific facts and acts accordingly, it is more of what happens practically in the life of a student.

### **No homework**

In Finland, schools don't burden the students with homework, the students hardly do any homework, even if there is any homework

its basically of practical nature. Like for example, the homework for kids would be, climbing a tree and come back to school to share their experience of climbing the tree and the insects that they saw, which will make the children ecofriendly.

### **Developing intellectual aspect**

Finland's teaching involves more of developing the brains of the students. Whenever there is an activity, the children are put in a situation where they are made to use their brain, like thinking creatively or problem solving etc. which helps the children to feed their brain.

In this regard, the activities are like singing, doing art and going on a nature walk, which makes the learning more of play and fun. Unlike India, their childhood is made more colorful with both play and learning.

### **No grading system**

Till they reach 7<sup>th</sup> grade, no children will be graded, and all are treated equally and also when children are graded, a weak child may feel demotivated for his/her poor performance. After the 7<sup>th</sup> grade when they are graded, it is based on their relationship with their fellow classmates, their performance in the group activities and group discussion, basically the aspect of social interaction is considered.

### **High regards of teachers**

The position of the teachers in Finland is considered to that of a doctor. They are well paid and it is not that easy to become a teacher, only the qualified and who are really capable will be recruited.

### **Government's role**

In Finland, the education is totally sponsored by the government, whether the student is from a rich background or from a poor.

The students are treated equally by giving the same education to all. They don't have different syllabus like State board and central board (CBSE) of education, like in India and therefore, even the children of ministers are also put in the same school, where the poor children are also studying.

## **Conclusion**

The Finland's education system has made the education a fundamental right and not a privilege. The children are not denied of education whether they are poor, weak, or whether the parents are educated or not. All are given the opportunity to study and are given the same education. In India, when the parents want to put their children in a school, will go on an informal research asking their friends and neighbors the question of "which is the best school nearby?" In Finland, anybody moving to a new city would never ask the question "where the best school is?" because they have no difference in any of their school. They are all the same and all of them do their best.

The paper is critiquing both the government and private sector education. Both have pros and cons. But ultimately, when we look at the heart of this paper, it speaks of the opportunity that the government schools have facilitated, for the private schools to commercialize education. If government schools were able to provide quality education, then the private schools will not get into commercialization of education. On the other hand, private schools should not have commercialized education in the name of providing better education or quality education. One sector's poor performance has been taken as an advantage by the other sector. Most of the children who study in the government schools are from the poor background. Many come to school with an empty stomach and it is hard to think that students sit in the classroom to learn with empty stomach. When the stomach is empty the physical

and mental capacity to work is low. When the society's notion is negative towards the government schools, the government schools in Delhi, are doing better than the private schools and private school children are admitted in the government schools by their parents, when they realized that the government schools put up excellent results and performance. The Delhi government has invested much or focused on two sectors, one is education, and the other is health. This stands as an example that the government schools can do better than they are. Budget should be planned or allocated in these sectors which will lead to further developments.

Finland's education system has proved that the education is not a business but an effective tool to develop the nation. It stands tall as an example to other countries when it comes to best education system in the world. They have invested much on their education sector and the main point to be noted in the education system of Finland is that the government has invested in the right sector which will facilitate for the development of the citizens. If the citizens of the country are developed, automatically the country also develops. At last, as Brad Henry an American politician says, "No other investment yields as great return as the investment in education. An educated workforce is the foundation of every community and the future of every economy."

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# ECONOMIC GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LPG ERA

*Rosemary FN*

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## **Introduction**

India had its own struggle post-Independence grappling with economic crisis. A very well-known Economist Ms. Utsa Patnaik has estimated that the British, when they left India, they had drained out \$45 trillion wealth belonging to India. In 2018, it has been 70 years of Independence and yet, we are known all over the world as developing economy even today in 2020. But still 70 years is a lot of time for us to have an economy that gives each individual of our country, a standard living. It is no secret that India had and has many problems that has impacted the growth of economy that has deprived equal opportunities for every citizen, be it caste system, patriarchy, social problems, lack of inclusive quality education and lately, the ‘three monsters’, Privatization, Globalization and Liberalization which has done more harm than good. This paper specifically tries to understand the concept of decent work and the factors that has denied this decent work in India causing inequality.

## **Decent work**

Decent work is nothing but the aspirations of people in their working lives- their aspirations for working lives-their aspirations for opportunity and income; rights, voice and recognition; family stability and personal development; Ultimately these various dimensions of decent work underpin peace in communities and society (Fontaneau, 2011). Aspirations for working life describes for the need of every individual to be productive and to be productive, one needs to have ample opportunities in his or her community. When there are more opportunities in terms of employment, then there is an ensured income for individuals. Decent work is not just about earning and eating, it also emphasizes the need to exercise rights, right to vote, right to express opinions and also to voice out concerns. Decent work as per the International Labor Organization (ILO) is also recognizing the kind of people do not demean their work. Decent work is necessitated by a stable family and when there are opportunities for the overall development of the personality (Fontaneau, 2011).

Decent work fulfils the aspirations of people that every human being able to live a meaningful life with all their basic facilities acquired through the work that they are doing. Decent work will incorporate more access to opportunities for work which is productive, gives them fair income, security at work, social protection for their families. Decent work also give the workers opportunities to express their concerns, organize and participate in decisions which are going to affect their lives and expect equal opportunities at work and equal treatment for workers for both men and women. International Labor Organization states a. Job Creation, b. Rights at Work, c. Social Protection and Social Dialogue and d. gender equality as cross cutting objectives. Goal 8 of the Sustainable Growth is promoting decent work and Goal 8 of the 2030 agenda calls for sustained, inclusive, full and productive employment along with Decent work (Home, n.d.).

Decent work as per the Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC), decent work is the one that respects fundamental rights of human beings, rights of safe working condition, right to remuneration, seeks respect for the work that involves both physical and mental effort while the employer performs his/her duty. It should be understood that decent work involves, both formal and informal work (Encyclopedia, 2020). Like always in the Indian Society, we have not understood the value of informal work as we disregard the service considering them as a menial work, small work does not involve mental capability and thus, from the time of Independence, there have been policies, strategies to uplift the workers who work in construction sites, factories and industries, domestic workers etc. Even though the International Covenant talks about respect for the work, safe working conditions etc., much to the disappointment that is clearly not the ground reality in the Indian society. If there exists Caste System, there also exists Class System which defines the kinds of work and the kind of respect that is given to a particular community from a particular profession. We have been facing this issue right from the beginning. Even though there are constitutional safeguards, provisions and legislations in place, none of these seemed to benefit the poor. As they remain unorganized, their problems never seem to end. In most of the state government offices in Karnataka, we get to see the statement written in bold letters as *Kayakave Kailasa* which means “Work is Worship”. If work is considered divine, then why not it includes all kinds of work, be it of blue collar or white-collar work, menial or formal. There is a need to make people understand that all kinds of work have own dignity and worth.

Decent Work is also considered as a major human right by United Nations (UN). The UN states that decent work in itself is a human right. The statement was given by Mr. Kevin Cassidy who chaired

68<sup>th</sup> session of general assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 at ILO office for United Nations. The right to decent work is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which does not only have provisions to deal with decent but also on other aspects of decent work, such as favorable conditions of work, protection against unemployment, equal pay, social protection, right to form and join trade unions. The right to decent work is also supported by international instruments, such as Article 11 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Article 25, 26, 40, 52 and 54 of the International Convention on the Protection of the rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Statement, 2013). Despite all the international covenants, understanding and agreements, it is quite a different picture for the unorganized sector in India. Most of the unorganized sector comprises of informal jobs who earn very meagre income, which does not satisfy their basic needs let alone give them a good standard of living.

When we speak about various kinds of work, migrants play a very important role in development activities in our country. They are found at most of the construction sites and they keep wandering in search of job or keep moving wherever there is work. The nature of work prevents construction laborers to reside in a particular place. Most of the migrants' story is of the same sort. There is no unity among themselves so they cannot even ask for the benefits, minimum wage, provision for safe condition for work, etc. Their condition during the time of crisis, say for example, slowdown of economic growth will immensely impact them. India needs to address the problems faced by the migrant workers as they majorly contribute for the India's growth. When we think of economy, its benefits must reach to every layer of the population, petty or big job every one's

needs should be met. In an era of capitalism, it's a rat race to make money but at the same time, policy makers, government, economists must understand not everyone are healthy enough to participate in that rat race! Cannot measure everyone in the same parameter!

### **Inclusive character of decent work**

Inclusive institutions in inclusive economies make way for inclusive markets. Inclusive markets help choose occupations or career, according to one's interest, passion and talents and also the prevailing competitions would help people from inclusive economies to be efficient and thrive. When there are no inclusive economy systems like, Peru and Bolivia, people there are forced to work in silver and mercury mines irrespective of what skills, talents and abilities they possess.

An inclusive economic institution leads to two other important aspects in the society which are, technology and education. Technology and Education are two things which are important for sustained economic growth which enables people to have access to land and capital helping them to become more productive. It is the inclusive economies where many scientists have made many inventions because environment in those countries were favourable. An environment where the government in the country is stable, economy is stable which does not impose restrictions on its citizens. It is also seen that the status of the country, whether its citizens are rich, or poor depends on how effective the economic institutions are. A stable political institution is essential if economic institutions must survive (Fontaneau, 2011).

As per the economic experts, the status of economic growth and status of unemployment goes hand in hand. It is seen in most of those developing economies, which face unemployment issues. While it is also true that job opportunities do not grow as the economy grows and this is called as "Jobless Growth", one must understand a

growth is not only about increasing wealth, but the growth must serve people in terms of development to be taken place and bring down the poverty level that exists in the society. To reduce poverty, it is important to create jobs and incomes which also aids in development.

It has been noted by the annual reports on global employment by the International Labour Organization that the world is facing an “urgent challenge” of creating 600 million productive jobs in a decade’s time. Another report of Global Employment emphasizes, that the world faces an additional challenge of creating decent jobs for calculated 900 million workers living below poverty line in an under developing economies (Srivastava, 2016).

Even though most countries’ development policies are in lines of creating strategies for creating employment opportunities to help nation economically, yet it is still a debatable issue on the relationship between economic growth and status employment. Emphasis must be given to productive and remunerative employment generation. An economic growth or employment opportunities should not be of poverty perpetuating or poverty generating in nature. A combination of employment growth and productive growth will make wonders to economic growth in a society. For an economic growth to sustain, it is not only about employment but in general social peace, wellbeing, self-determined living and a healthy environment are important along with material progress (Srivastava, 2016).

When we think of economic opportunities in terms of creating employment opportunities, stimulating sustainable economic growth becomes very important. No countries have become rich overnight. People of these countries have taken right decisions on what to invest and what to implement. Some of these countries who are doing economically and serving their people, providing good standard of life must inspire us to work hard and prosper.

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## Sustainable growth

Let us understand how we can have economical sustainable growth. The governments must have effective policies and institutions in place. Political stability is related to economic growth and what kinds of policies and institution that it encourages matters. Fiscal policy, effective resource allocation, efficient regulatory system and most important, a sound public financial system. All of these factors play an important role. The institutions set up by the government must operate with transparency, accountability and determination. But what is happening in our country is all against the above-mentioned facts. We have got no policies that helps boost employment opportunities nor any policies related to economic growth (CIDA).

Infrastructure is another component which would help stimulate sustainable economic growth. It includes roads, both in rural and urban areas and all other forms of transport up to airports. Communication technology, in turn, would help establishment of enterprises and innovations. In all those countries where they have not improved in infrastructure by the government has been lagging behind in economic development and which encourages economic development. It holds so true for India too. There are 17 per cent of villages, which still do not have access to electricity and the government claims it has provided electricity to the whole of India with 100 per cent coverage (IOI, 2018). There are many villages with no concrete roads yet. There are towns and villages in India which do not have drinking facilities. These are basic things which are important for the economic growth (CIDA).

For a sustainable work force to happen, existence of skilled workers is another important aspect of growing economy. Skilled workers are possible if the government makes investments in people, in its education and skill training. A quality education not just in terms academics, but also about technical know-how, literacy and numeracy

among the working population are very important. Women are the backbone of any economy. They take care of families and happy families are very important for the happy society. They also have come out from the house contribute to the economy. They have been facing obstacles in their way up to success but still boosting their contribution in economy is very important and they need to be encouraged into every fields of the economic development. If economic development would mean setting up of factories and industries and establishing commercial spaces, then it would be ironical without recognizing the role of agriculture in economic development. Agriculture needs to be encouraged with advanced technologies to help farmers grow their crops. Of all three sectors of Industry, Service and Agriculture sectors needs to be balanced as all three sectors plays an important role in economic growth. But in recent decades, we get to see most of the green belts which are mostly agricultural spaces have been converted to industrial belts. The lands from the farmers are grabbed, encroached or made to sell them for cost far less than what it is valued for. Environment conservation is another aspect of sustainable economic growth. We need trees, we need good water, and we need flora and fauna and good air to breath. In our quest to own more, to acquire more, to make more convenience, we have been destroying environment causing lots of ecological imbalance which is detrimental for the economic growth (CIDA).

### **Economic growth and Inequality in India**

There has been a lot of economic progress which was observed after the 1990 economic reforms but what cannot be negated is the rise of inequality in India, despite India earning fairer per capita income. Of course, in the past five to six years per capita income has come down. The poor today, in India, are experiencing long time grave poverty. We get to see inequality across populations both in rural and as well urban areas in India. The rise of inequality has begun from 1983 onwards up



to 2012 and continuing. Down below is the statistics of the inequality in the form of graph:



Source: Chancel and Piketty (2017)

The above graph clearly indicates at least up to 1972, there was a stability in inequality that persisted those days. And, from 1980 to 1984, the inequality is only shooting up creating a bigger bridge between the rich and the poor. It is to be noted that India stood second next to Middle Eastern Countries measuring the income share of top 10 per cent (Dang, 2018).

As per the Oxfam Survey conducted between 2006 and 2015, an ordinary employee saw his/her income grow by 2 per cent a year but for a billionaire, it grew almost 6 times faster. In 2018, in every 2 days one billionaire was born! In the ever history of Indian Economy, 82 per cent of all the wealth generated in the economy went to the top 1 per cent. Miss. Nisha Agrawal, CEO Oxfam India, quotes that, “The billionaire is not a sign of thriving economy but a symptom of a failing economic system. Those working hard, growing food for the country, building infrastructure, working in

factories are struggling to fund their child's education, buy medicines for family members and manage two meals a day. The growing divide undermines democracy and promotes corruption and cronyism". As a part of recommendations, after reviewing the survey, Oxfam recommends government to promote inclusive growth by encouraging labor intensive sectors, imposing higher tax on very rich, implementing policies to tackle gender discrimination and taking stringent actions against those who evade tax. It has been pointed out that the so-called 1 per cent are evading an estimated \$200 billion in tax! (Today, Business today.in, 2019).

### **Uncontrolled liberalization**

It has been pointed out by the commentators of the Oxfam that "Liberalization" itself is responsible for the growth in inequality, not just in India but the whole of the world is facing growing income inequality. Neo-liberalism policies, that most of the economies follow these days, are the reasons for perpetuating these inequalities. Neo-liberalism is a set of economic policies which are widespread from the last 25 years or so. Neo means new, so new policies to control and exploit the masses in the name of liberalization. Under Neo-liberalization, the grounding principles are 'few get to decide the rules of the market', cutting public expenditure for social services like, say for example, health, education, maintenance of road etc, deregulation like, say for example, less regulation of the government in protecting the rights of the people, public safety etc., and privatizing banks and educational institutions and eliminating the concept of "Public Good" or "Community" and pressurizing the poor to take care of the health needs by themselves. The best part of the irony is institutions like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank are imposing Neo-liberalism (Martinez, 1997).

In an era of liberalization, inequality happens for the reason! They are made to happen so a few to benefit and it is mostly structural. The kind of neo liberal policies that governments brings in these days makes sure that there is no government support the farming sector and small-scale industries. Which in turn forces the peasant and other workers to migrate to bigger cities in search of job? Thus, causing more unemployment issues apart from those situations where unemployment is caused naturally (Patnaik, 2018). When people who migrate are forced to sell their lands or even houses for the lesser prices because of their vulnerability, they will be pushed into the long-term poverty with no source depend upon.

### **Privatization**

Privatization is another factor which is causing income inequality and unemployment. The government is privatizing the basic services such as education and health care by making them more expensive to afford (Patnaik, 2018). What kind of standard of life one can lead with no education and good health? Growing privatization of essential commodities including, water has made lives of many people from the underprivileged, poor a hell.

### **Globalization**

Globalization is another factor which began with huge promises that it would provide jobs for everyone who embraces it. But it did not work that way in reality. There were very few who got benefitted by globalization. It only encouraged consumerism, increased cost of living, enhanced imbalanced regional development. With globalization, greed of men to accumulate more thirst also has increased. In order to quench this thirst, came a series of people who migrated from those states which were less attractive than the cities where they migrated to.

India, from centuries, has been grappling with Caste System and it continues to have caste related issues. Caste system is another

important reason of inequality that exists in the country. When people get divided based on the caste and thus their professions are defined and ascribed to one to which ever caste gets born in to, it gets difficult for the so-called lower caste people to have access or benefit or economic growth. They have been denied right to education, right to remain clean, right to cover their body! And all the rights that exists for humanity. Most of these people who are underprivileged come under SCs and STs and other backward castes. They have been assigned menial jobs because they belong to lower caste, if by their hard work or help of other do try to climb the ladder of income growth they are looked down. These kinds of attitude must change if the benefits of economy should be reaching to all the citizens of the country. There are have been reformations, movements by people like Periyar, who familiarized Self-respect movement, Ambedkar, who called out his fellow beings to educate, organize and agitate have brought in some kind of unity but many belonging to the lower castes are still struggling. There have been jobs like scavenging, tanning, etc. and other kinds of menial jobs, which the higher caste would not want to put their hands in. Caste system is definitely another barrier for the economic growth and fairer chance good employment opportunities.

Oxfam has rated 152 countries on inequality and the top five countries with less or no inequality are: Rank 1. Sweden, Rank 2. Belgium, Rank 3. Denmark, Rank 4. Norway and Rank 5. Germany. How India can learn from these countries to improve its own ranking which stands pathetically lowest at 149 to understand what all factors the top five countries have given importance to. All five countries have emphasized on investing on health, education and social protection. Economic policies are labour intensive in all five countries which has helped them to reduce inequality. Tax collection method in these five countries is of progressive structure. India fares very badly in all of these factors. Education system is of age old we have not updated to the global competition, the government needs to think about investing in education but unfortunately it is not happening. In every budget,

allocation to the education is coming down. Health is another aspect which has turned in to a business hub. Most of the medicines and services needs to be subsidized for the poor unlike other countries but it is not happening. From past two to three years, there have been many deaths of infants taking place in states of north for lack of availability of services at the government hospitals. Had these parents of these children earned enough, they would have admitted their children to the private hospitals. Social protection is another factor which is important in reducing inequality but the present condition of the nation as such that whole state can be turned in to a detention centre. The anti-constitution and anti-people policies have been brought out these days which is only dividing and creating hate among people rather creating jobs for them.

## **Conclusion**

I conclude with some suggestions that the economic crisis is the one which needs an immediate attention and action, rather to decide who should be the citizen of the country, there is a need to bring change in the attitude of the people. We have been struggling with the same old problems for decades and they are only aggravating the situation in the country. New experiments in the economy are welcome but the pros and cons of every new policy must be weighed in terms of how much of the benefits are going to the poor and needy. The country has slowly moved from agrarian to a mixed economy with consumerism and LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization), we have made many vulnerable when earlier they were the producers especially the Farmers. I suggest farmers contribution should not be ignored when compared to industrialists they too contribute immensely to the economy. Many are giving up agriculture for several reasons which is actually a bad trend. Blue Collar workers, migrants, poor, homeless deserve same respect as others who are doing well. Only when we begin to think that all of us equal a real social change is possible.

Love and Peace happens only when there are no divisive politics. Care and Welfare should be only mantra of the government keeping aside religion politics and history politics.

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# LOSING THE ESSENCE OF HANDLOOM INDUSTRIES

*Deekshitba and Maria Janet*

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## **Abstract**

Karnataka follows a beautiful tradition and culture, which gives way to silk and traditional weaving. Karnataka is a largest producer of Mulberry silk in the country, which gives the share of 65 per cent. Handloom weaving has its prominence from 8th century, which produce *Illkal* sarees, Karnataka *Kasuti* sarees, Mysore silk sarees, and Udupi cotton sarees. Handloom weaving is the most pursued occupation in India, ranked after agriculture. However, handloom is losing its essence after the introduction of power looms because of updating of technology, less time consuming, less labor charges, and lack of marketing strategies. Studies show that a handloom weaver takes up to two days to weave one saree, but a power loom weaver can weave up-to three sarees in one day. Thus, there is a systematic paradigm shift from handloom to power loom. Retaining handloom weavers is important to highlight the traditional occupation, also since the quality, comfort, softness, durability of sarees suitable in all seasons are widely appreciated. The fabric is hand chosen with

high quality threads and the given artisans look to create a unique product. However, power loom fabric comes with the mix of cotton and synthetic material, which lacks in artisans look and traditional art. Awareness has to be created regarding the essence of handloom silk sarees and different designs to meet the competence in market. The main objective of this paper is to bring to fore the problems faced by the handloom workers and to suggest different approaches to compete in market and schemes available to them to retain the work.

## **Introduction**

Handloom industry plays a crucial role in Indian economy. This industry creates plenty of employment opportunities for the labour class and it helps in earning foreign exchange of the country and hence, amplifies the nation's economy. A 'rhythm of handlooms used to be heard in every village, there were both men and women weavers for whom weaving was a way of living'. Today, there are various problems hunting the handloom industry like, competition from power loom sector, availability of cheap alternatives, financial crisis, change in preferences of the customers, lack of marketing strategies, and non-availability of raw materials (Anu Varghese, 2015).

Handloom sector is a rule-based cottage sector industry. The uniqueness of the product and wealth of its rich tradition is the strength of this industry. The age-old handloom industry has passed on through several historical and political development during the Rig Vedic Period. Spinning and weaving became a highly advanced occupation. Mauryan Period marks the sustainability of costume design in India. The painted and printed fabrics in India surprised the Mughals. Until the 17th century, the finest quality of handloom cloth made up of silk was used as a cloth for the Emperor's family and nobles of the court and it was a major export item in the early British period (K. Ajitha, 2020).



Karnataka can be addressed as ‘mini-India’ due to its rich cultural diversities and languages. Handlooms in Karnataka have a glorious past, but due to various reasons, the art of handloom is losing its essence. Efforts are made to revive the famous handlooms. The power loom products are being sold as handloom products and there are only handful of handlooms, which use hand spin and hand dyed yarn. Under the ambit of Reservation of Articles for Production Act, 1985 for handloom sector, this act provides reservation of certain articles for exclusive production by handlooms and prohibits production of articles reserved for handlooms by other mechanised means. It holds the companies liable for punishment when an offense under this act has been committed. According to this act, 22 fabrics production are reserved exclusively for handloom industries. Due to the increase in power loom sector, the fabrics’ list was altered and brought down to 11 fabrics. There are various schemes provided by the Karnataka handloom development corporation to facilitate the weavers like:

- \* National handloom development programme
- \* Health insurance scheme
- \* Marketing of handloom products
- \* Kaimagga Vikas Yojana

### **Objectives of the study**

- \* To focus on the problems faced by handloom industry and provide sustainable strategies
- \* To highlight on the Handloom Reservation Act, 1985
- \* To highlight the problems of handloom industries, which would help further researchers to explore more into the topic

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## Strategies

- \* **Employment:** In spite of up gradation of technology, people are amused with the authentic handmade designs, hence, these aesthetically overwhelming designs need to be given more significance. This would increase employment opportunities for the handloom weavers and would eventually lead to the regain of cultural heritage of India.
- \* **Environment:** Due to the ambiguous nature of employment condition within handloom sector, the whole industry is shifting to power loom sectors. The environmental effects of which are, noise pollution caused due to vibration and requirement of more space. The operation of power loom is more challenging compared to handlooms whereas handlooms are environment friendly and easy to operate.
- \* **Economy:** Handloom industries is one of the largest economic activity providing employment to 6,500,000 people, who are majorly weavers.
- \* **Uniqueness:** To produce exceptional, attractive, unique and unusual products to compete with the market through designs, which has a ‘one of a kind’ of quality and texture.
- \* The fabrics and different yarns are brought which can be altered to weave complicated designs manually, which is not possible in power looms.
- \* The quality of fabric obtained by handloom weaving is definitely incomparable with that of power looms. The woven fabric dyeing and the final product is exclusively available through manual hard work of laborers and hence, seek national and international attention.

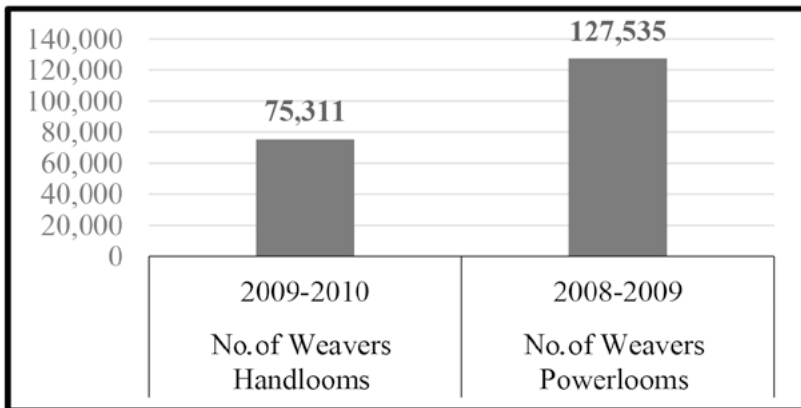
- \* Handlooms should be promoted by creating awareness of the advantages and importance of using the same. Regular and well-planned market strategy must be used to create awareness as well as exhibitions, ‘Mela’ needs to be put up more often to exhibit the talents of the handloom weavers.
- \* The handloom products can be sold through online portals of shopping, by collaborating with boutiques and approaching brands that may add value to the final product.
- \* Expanding handloom products’ production and sale beyond the frontiers of India and promoting these products under the ambit of ‘Make in India’ programme.

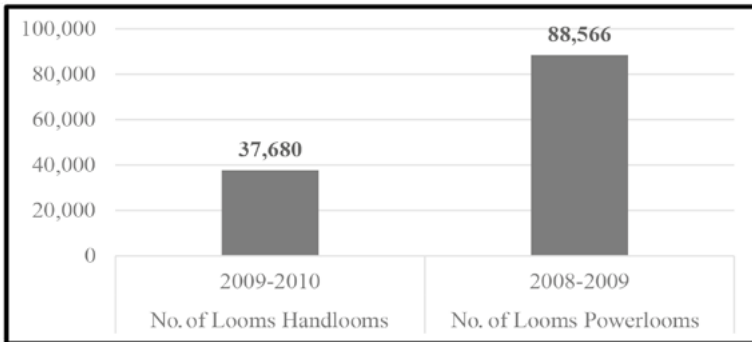
### **Review of literature**

Indian handloom industries have its prominence from period of pre-independence and hold a unique place in economy. The Government of India, post-independence has come up with policies to promote handloom industries. The handloom industries are characterized by a variety of weaves like saris, bed sheets, mats, dupattas, etc. However, the industries are facing downstream due to introduction of power looms (Sree Vyshnavi, 2017). The handloom industries are the largest source of rural employment, after agriculture, comprising of 50 per cent women. During 1971, at the mid of post-independence, there was a rise in production of handloom products due to expansion of market and large supply of cloth overseas. However, handloom industries are now facing many challenges and the number of industries has decreased due to competition from power loom industries. Since power loom industries have adopted new technology, low cost of production, less time-consuming leading to the government choosing power loom over handloom (Liton1, 2016).

In the past 100 years, the industries have undergone lot of changes in the form of materials used, refined methods and designs. The increasing changes in the trend of fashion have made the handloom industries bear the brunt of lack of technology, production and utility of market. Availability of material have to be addressed as immediate needs (Anumala, 2017). Handloom industries contribute nearly 15 per cent of the cloth production in the country and in the export earning of the country. According to the annual report of Ministry of textiles (2017-2018), currently, handloom sector is facing many problems, like competition from power loom sector, changing consumer preference and availability of cheaper imported fabrics. The Government should take proper actions to increase the scope of weaving activities to provide raw materials, production facilities and requirements (kumar, 2020). The impact of Government schemes on handloom sector is not effective because one-fourth of the weavers are not aware of the schemes provided by Government, both in central and state government. An immediate action is required to conduct campaign and awareness program, which would help the weavers, improve their standard of living and have sustainable growth. It is also important to tackle the bottleneck of the schemes provided by Government (Nikhil Kaushik, 2015).

**Chart 1: No. of Handloom and Power loom weavers as per census**



**Chart 2: No of Handlooms and Power looms as per the census**

As per the 2009-10 Handloom census and 2008-09 Power loom census, the number of weavers and looms in handloom have decreased. Chart 1 shows the decrease in the number of weavers in handlooms compared to the power looms. There is a huge difference between the numbers. There is 40 per cent reduction in the number of weavers in handlooms sector when compared to power looms. Similarly, Chart 2 shows the decrease in number of handlooms compared to the power looms. If Census Reports of 2019-20 are to be considered, there exists a huge difference in numbers between handlooms and power looms. Proper measures had to be taken by the Government in the past, to protect the rights and employment of handloom workers and to increase the handlooms and handloom weavers. Otherwise, the age-old traditional occupation will be extinct and such aesthetics and quality designs production will no longer be in existence.

### **Reservation policy of the handloom workers**

The most comprehensive policy of Independent India was the National Textile Policy of 1985. The Handloom Reservation of articles for Production Act was also passed in the same year to intensify the Reservation provided in 1950. The handloom industry is characterized by sizable unemployment and under employment, which arise due to factors like lack of organization of workers and weavers, coupled

with inadequate availability of inputs, including working capital and absence of reliable marketing strategies. Although measures are taken, the handloom workers continue to suffer. The technological constraints by handloom workers add to the disadvantages of the sector due to the competition by the power looms in the open market, thus seeking attention of the reservation of certain textiles for exclusive production by handloom, A Reservation Policy was adopted in 1950 to help the handloom sector to a considerable extent, however, during last few years the reservation orders issued under the Essential Commodities act has been challenged in various courts of law. The act aimed at protecting the livelihood of the handloom weavers and protecting the cultural heritage of handloom industries from power looms. Under the act, 22 textile articles were reserved exclusively for the production through handloom but these were reduced to 11 articles through amendments in 1996. The act came into force on 31 March 1986, but the power loom industry challenged Supreme Court to reconsider the act. The Supreme Court issued a stay order stating violation of Article 14 of Constitution; the case was cleared after seven years. By then the power loom, using the loopholes in the law, began to produce the items of handloom in a large quantity.

Since the number of FIR from handlooms' industry (656) were far lesser than power looms (72,553), the act was not implemented. After the Supreme Court judgment, it went to advisory committee, where power looms industry expressed fear of falling in the market as there were numerous varieties in the designs for handloom industry. During 1996, list of textiles was reduced to 11. The textile such as Kota Doria Saree shirting crape fabrics, tablecloth duster, Basra, Bukran cloth were deleted which gave flip to the power loom sector. Currently, even in the market, the 11 textiles, which were reserved for handloom, were sold by power looms in the name of handlooms.

The committee concluded that handloom industries are less modernized and are not globally computable or compatible. The main motive of Government was to modernize the handloom industry, but by shifting it to power looms, the purpose of reservation act made for handloom workers was not addressed. The purpose of the act turned out to convert handloom industries to power loom industries (Ministry of Law and Justice, 29 March 1985).

### **Suggestions**

Traditional hand woven items are at risk, are outdated and weaving abilities are decreasing. Sufficient specialized degree of assistance needs to be utilized to address the present difficulties.

By increasing the salary of weavers, Government should make a practical plan to support the offer of handloom fabric.

Like other Industries, the handloom business is additionally confronting firm challenge. The challenge, especially from the power loom segment, will increase in the coming days. To sustain in the market and furthermore to enter a new market, the handloom segments needs to have unmistakable and remedial strategies.

To set up the handloom business, the Government needs to rearrange its concentration, exercises, and projects to make a 'Data bank' in the handloom division in order to develop a solid information system for market insight.

The pending distributions (like sponsorships, refunds and so forth) to weavers and different labourers are to be completely paid, in order to motivate them to place in their maximum capacity.

Cost competitiveness of this industry, at present, is extremely poor. This influences the overall profit margins and offers (cost) of the item. Stricter measures are required to control cost through reception

of trend setting innovations, commitment of prepared and talented staff and so forth.

Specialized training should be given to the handloom workers for displaying of handloom items through financially well-informed dissemination channels.

Government ought to empower the state owned industries to buy handloom items. It must propose the government representatives to promote such pieces of clothing, made of handloom, irrespective of the cost.

## **Conclusion**

The present study uncovers the issues of handloom weavers. To build the extent of weaving activities, measures have to be taken to cease the declination of handlooms and the domination of power loom sectors on handloom sectors. To cease the declination of the handloom sectors, basic resources have to be provided like raw materials, finance, generation offices and different requirements. Both tiers of the government i.e. state government and central government, should consider prioritizing measures to be taken to stop the declination of handloom sectors. The handloom sectors are also an integral part of Indian economy, culture and heritage, and does an indispensable job in accomplishing the economic improvement, which is a positive aspect to the economy. Government contribution to the handloom weavers through finance related support can bring growth of the handloom sector and can become the primary occupation of many weavers who have stopped their handloom weaving due to various reasons like resource unavailability and financial crisis among others. The welfare schemes can reduce the competition between handloom weavers and power looms for their rights. Empowering the sector to acknowledge its maximum capacity, problems, which impede the improvement, must be expelled. The handloom weavers have to be



educated with the welfare schemes available, for them to utilize them whenever they face any crisis. As per the study done, the usage of handloom weaving has diminished and if the above strategies are in force, then there would a possibility of sustainable growth of the handloom weavers.

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# SDGs AND EDUCATION: IMPACT ON TRIBAL COMMUNITIES IN INDIA

*Elango Stanislaus and Nisargapriya T S*

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## **Abstract**

The paper tries to contextualise tribal communities in the context of SDGs. Sustainable Development Goals ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all (United Nation, 2019). In India, the tribal communities (Scheduled Tribes) are considered 'vulnerable' among the said population. They stand at the bottom of every aspect of human development. Their political participation, social life, financial system, and cultural life seem rusticated because of their presence at the bottom of the social ladder. As a result, most of them remain marginally educated, which again results in the cycle of unemployment and exclusion from production, at large. As per the 2011 Census, tribal communities constitute 8.6 per cent of the Indian population. The literacy rate among boys of Scheduled Tribes (ST) is 71.7 per cent, and among the girls is 63.1 per cent. So, there is a visible significant improvement in ST literacy from 1961 (8.54 per cent) to 2011 (63.1 per cent) (Kabita Kumari Sahu, 2014). SDGs suggest providing

a better environment and improved facility to reduce dropouts and increase enrolment. This paper will look at the relevance and significance of SDGs in the context of Indian Tribal communities.

## **Context**

“Education is the powerful weapon you can use to change the world” - Nelson Mandela

India houses the most significant tribal population in the world. “Indigenous and tribal people are called by national terms such as, native people, aboriginal peoples, first nations, Adivasi, Jana jati, hunter-gatherers, or hill tribes. Given the diversity of people, the final aim is at protecting; the Convention uses the inclusive terminology of “indigenous and tribal people” and ascribes the same set of rights to both groups. In Latin America, for example, the term “tribal” has been applied to specific afro-descendent communities” (C169 - Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) ILO, 1989).

## **Article – 342**

Provides for the specification of tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, which are deemed to be for the purposes of the Constitution the Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union Territory.

In pursuance of these provisions, the list of Scheduled Tribes is notified for each State or Union Territory and are valid only within the jurisdiction of that State or Union Territory and not outside.

The tribal communities are the original inhabitants of this country. Their life is deeply rooted in nature. Nature is source of all energy, life, inspiration, and a teacher for the tribal communities. The tribal communities across the globe have learned to synchronise their lives with the environment they are in. Respect for nature leads them to co-exist, cooperate, and synchronise community existence with the environment.

“The tribal had, therefore, a kind of community-oriented rights. The collective life emphasizes on communal ownership pattern and rights associated with such an outlook relating to resource like land, forest, water as knowledge, education and learning process” (Mishra, 2010).

The colonial era had brought many changes in the areas of social, cultural, political, economic, and cultural aspects of rigid Indian culture. It had positive changes like - 1) Social Inclusion, 2) Formal Education, 3) Women Empowerment, 4) Political and Administrative structures, 5) Infusing the concept of equality and so on. At the same time, the administrative structure had kept some of the communities out of the development paradigms.

The aborigines of India, the tribal communities, have been neglected under different Governments in India in all aspects, that includes access to primary health care, education, employment opportunities, property, forest and so on. The tribal communities have been self-reliant in all aspects of their lifestyle. Their life remained unadulterated until modernisation caught them and they fell into the vicious cycle of modernity. The 8.6 per cent of tribal population is struggling between the modernity melodrama and self-reliant tribal culture that has been their lifeguard for ages. They could not cope with the privileged communities as they are far ahead of all the other backward communities. These tribal communities have traits that are primitive, geographically isolated, the culture that is entirely distinct from different so-called mainstream cultures, away from contacts with other communities, and economically, politically, and educationally backward that makes them more vulnerable.

Demographic Profile of ST Population: Highlights from 2011 Census  
Tribal population constitutes 10.42 crore in India, which is 8.6 per cent of the country's total population. Scheduled Tribes are notified in 30 States/Union Territories (UTs) and the number of individual ethnic groups, etc. reported as Scheduled Tribes is 705. There have

been some changes in the List of Scheduled Tribes in States/UTs during the last decade. No community has been specified as Scheduled Tribe in the States of Haryana and Punjab, and Union Territories of Chandigarh, Delhi, and Puducherry.

At the same time, half of the Scheduled Tribe population is concentrated in the following five States: Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. However, more than two-third of the ST population is concentrated only in the seven States of the country, viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh. Nevertheless, 17 States and 01 UTs have higher percentage of ST population than country's average (8.6 per cent). The State of Mizoram and Union Territory of Lakshadweep have more than 90 per cent ST population: 94.4 per cent and 94.8 per cent respectively.

### The Urban-Rural Divide

Census Year	Population			Decadal Growth Rate		
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
1961	30,120,184	29,357,790	772,394			
1971	38,015,162	36,720,681	1,294,481	26.2	25.2	67.6
1981	51,628,638	48,427,604	3,201,034	35.8	31.9	147.3
1991	67,758,380	62,751,026	5,007,354	31.2	29.6	56.4
2001	84,326,978	77,339,335	6,987,643	24.5	23.2	39.5
2011	104,281,034	93,819,162	10,461,872	23.7	21.3	49.7
Source: Census of India 2011						

In 1961, the tribal population as per census was 3,01,20,184 and it grew up to 10,42,81,034 in 2011. There is a major jump in the tribal population from 1961 to 2011, however the percentage of growth has been nominal. The population growth between 2001 and 2011 was 23.7 per cent which is much lower than the average recorded between 1961 and 1971, where the recorded growth was 26.2 per cent.

There is a decline in the rural population growth (21.3 per cent) compared to urban growth (49.7 per cent). This is intricately connected with migration of the tribal communities to the urban centres. Lack of livelihood options at their hamlets have led to exodus of tribal population to the urban areas, which resulted in an increase in urban tribal population. As per the Tribal Health in India report by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, about 55 per cent of the tribal population live outside their original habitat. Between 2001 and 2011, 3.5 million tribals have left farming and migrated to neighbouring cities or towns in search of livelihood. However, they have been absorbed in the informal sectors like, construction, municipal works or household works. “Displacement and enforced migration has also led to an increasing number of Scheduled Tribes working as contract labourers in the construction industry and as domestic workers in major cities. Currently, one of every two tribal households relies on manual labour for survival,” (Mahapatra, n.d.).

### **Issues of Tribal Communities in India**

The SDGs aim at improving the quality of life of communities around the world in a sustainable manner. However, there is a need to understand the issues of the tribal communities in particular, as their life revolves around their culture, values and environment. Failing to understand the issues will lead to a major failure in fulfilling the SDGs. The experiences around the world, spell out the difficulties faced by these communities. India adopted industrialisation mode of development after independence, to boost its economy and the quality of life of its citizens. However, the tribal communities had to face the wrath of these development projects, be it industrial, large scale or small-scale irrigation projects, mining, hydro electrical or Thermal power plants. Nevertheless, sadly all these places have been the habitat of the tribal Communities.

“They constitute approximately 8.2 per cent of India’s approximately more than one billion population and remain largely a neglected group. Although the tribal population only makes up 8 per cent of the total population, more than 40 per cent of the development induced displaced are tribal people in India” (Singh Negi & Ganguly, 2011). Therefore, it is evident that the Tribal population is widely affected by the development projects across continents. The Development projects uproot and displace them from their land, livelihood and culture. Experiences recorded among the displaced tribal communities illustrate the pain of the community as they are denied access to the forests, the main source of their livelihood resulting in poor health, loss of employment, and pushed into an unknown and uncertain future.

### Tribal Education

Year	General Population			Scheduled Tribes		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1961	28.30	40.40	15.35	8.53	13.83	3.16
2011	73.30	80.90	64.60	59.00	68.50	49.40

Source: Office of the Registrar General India.

The table above by the Office of the Registrar General India clearly states, that in 1961, the literacy rate of general population was 28.30 per cent and it improved in 2011 to 73.30 per cent. However, the schedule tribe’s literacy ratio stood at 8.53 per cent in 1961 and the per cent saw an enormous increase by 2011 to 59.00 per cent. However, the difference between national literacy ratio versus schedule tribe’s literacy ratio stands at 14 per cent. The national literacy rate among females is 64.60 per cent compared to 49.40 per cent, which is 15 per cent lesser.

Gross Enrollment Ratio is almost proportionate to the tribal population in India but what is alarming is the dropout rate at the primary school level, which is 35.6 per cent, which is higher than the national average (27 per cent). The dropout rate of ST boys at primary school level is 37.2 per cent as against 28.7 per cent of their counterparts of all categories. The dropout rate of ST girls at primary school level is 33.9 per cent as against 25.1 per cent of their counterparts of all categories. The dropout rate of ST boys at upper primary school level is 54.7 per cent as against 40.3 per cent of their counterparts of all categories.

The dropout rate of ST girls at upper primary school level is 55.4 per cent as against 41 per cent of their counterparts of all categories (Statistics for School Education, 2010-2011). So, it is evident that there arises a need for special attention to the education of the tribals in India.

### **Issues/Problem of the Tribal Communities in India**

There are many critical issues and problems in the field of tribal education (Sahu, 2014)). They are as follows:

**Medium of language:** Language is one of the important constraints of tribal children's education, which prevents them access to education. We teach them in a language that is alien to them. As a result of this, we have a higher percentage of dropout rates at the primary school level. The teacher comes from a community that is unknown to them. Despite all the efforts, the students are not able to build a rapport with them, as they are not one among them. The scientists suggest that the learning should happen in their mother tongue.

**The Location of the Village:** The physical barriers create a hindrance for the children of a tribal village to attend the school in a neighbouring village. Most often, the tribal hamlets/ villages are situated in isolated areas. They are expected to navigate through the thick forest, valleys, and wild animals.



**Economic Condition:** The economic condition of tribal people is so poor that they do not desire to spare their children or their labour power and allow them to attend schools. 45.3 per cent of the tribal in rural areas and 24.1 per cent in the urban areas live below poverty line.

**Attitude of the parents:** As education does not yield any immediate economic return, the tribal parents prefer to engage their children in remunerative employment, which supplements their family income. The social structure has altered their thinking. The tribal communities are supposed to be the ones living in close connection with Mother Nature. But the crude Indian social structure never allows the downtrodden to come up in life. As a result of this, we find these communities sending their children to work in the field and factories. There is also a sharp rise in tribal children pushed into bonded labour and being trafficked.

**Teacher Related Problems:** In the remote tribal areas, the teacher absenteeism is a regular phenomenon, and this affects largely the quality of education. The government should make all the necessary arrangements for the teachers to commute to these isolated areas. It is a service and it needs to be awarded. Those who have no other option take up teaching jobs in the tribal regions. So more likely these teachers keep themselves away from these areas than visit the school.

**Lack of proper monitoring:** Proper monitoring is hindered by poor coordination between the Tribal Welfare Department and School Education Department.

These aforementioned problems affect the tribal students directly.

### **Sustainable Development Goals: Is this a way out?**

A noble move to bring equality in education across nations by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). However, in the context of tribal education, India puts forth larger questions like, poverty, illiteracy, social hierarchy and so on. UNDP recognises the

increase in enrolment rate in the developing countries. However, the UNDP team also recognises the disparity among communities which make things difficult for communities to make progress.

The tribal population in India lags behind other social groups on various social parameters, such as, child mortality, infant mortality, number of anaemic women, says the latest annual report of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Venkat, n.d.).

In the Indian context, SDGs need to go beyond the arithmetic calculations and statistical numbers. As per the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, there is progress in enrolment and at the same time, the dropout rate is also at an alarming rate. So there needs to be an overall development of tribal communities to achieve the SDG goals, as everything is interlinked. This is possible with the political will of the government, change of attitude of the public, active participation of Government and Non-governmental organisations and positive thinking and participation from the communities will definitely make all the changes.

### **Some of the suggestions for greater impact**

- \* Cordial Environment for the tribal children to study
- \* Appoint teachers from their own communities
- \* Let the children learn in their own language
- \* Curriculum-based on tribal culture
- \* Practice-based curriculum than theory based

### **As we do these things, let the following areas take care**

- \* Provide alternative career options for the displaced tribal communities
- \* Let those career options be based on their skill based

- \* Create a safer environment for the tribal women
- \* Create mechanism to eradicate exploitations
- \* Make the government responsible for rehabilitation of the Tribal communities

If these things are ensured, there is a chance that the tribal children will be able to climb the social ladder with the help of Education.

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# SDGs AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN INDIA - WHERE DO WE STAND NOW?

*Shabih Anwer*

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## **Introduction**

Religious minorities are a dramatically heterogeneous group in India as it has always stood at the crossroads of civilization with its long history of immigration and emigration. Multiple faiths have arisen and flourished, like Jains and Buddhists, the later have again returned to India after a long hiatus, while many came here and found a haven like the Zoroastrians, while from the very start Christianity and Islam have existed in India. Jews are not considered here, as native Jewish population is negligible at present. The Religious Minority population with its markedly heterogeneous identities, histories, present conditions and hopes and aspirations is difficult to imagine as one, but this is exactly what we are trying here with national consultation and regional consultation processes; to look at their standing in relation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Leave No One Behind (LNOB). This has been an exhaustive and inclusive pan-Indian consultation covering all the Religious Minorities Populations (RMPs) and the results are quite often on expected lines but also surprising thus, underlining its relevance.

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## **Leave no one behind**

The United Nations (UN) and its constituent technical agencies have been actively engaged in international development agenda ever since its inception in the 1940s. The convergence of the development agenda of the UN and its constituent agencies lead to the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000. This was the result of a two-year consultation process covering issues such as poverty eradication, environmental protection, human rights and protection of the vulnerable. The Declaration was based on the dignity of every individual; and hence, the right to freedom, equality, a basic standard of living. The new people-centered development agenda known as the 2030 Agenda, laid under the SDGs, the predecessor of the MDGs, adopted in 2015 includes 17 goals, 169 targets, and 232 indicators to measure compliance. Stuart and Samman (2017) argue that, though the SDGs are sufficiently ambitious to be genuinely transformational, it allows each country the scope to implement them as most relevant to their domestic context. A commitment central to the SDGs is to 'leave no one behind'. Stuart and Samman (2017) argues that the LNOB approach envisions to end extreme poverty (in all its forms), reduce inequalities, and address discriminatory barriers; the three predominant concepts critical to improving the welfare of societies, which could arise from geography or aspects of social identity.

The SDG indicators are the backbone of monitoring the progress of the SDGs towards the accomplishment of SDGs at the local, national, regional, and global levels. The indicator framework of the SDGs, as mentioned by UN (2015), asks member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven. UNDP (2017) reports that, these Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and the regional review stemming from the national SDG report from the member states,

thematic reviews by major groups and international organizations, global Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG (IAEG-SDGs) report, and Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) report on financing for development are then, presented at a High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) annually, enabling countries to report their progress on the SDGs and share information with other countries.

### **Leave no one behind – Voluntary National Review of India**

Preparation of VNRs is led by the state involves relevant ministries and government bodies along with key stakeholders from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia, research institutions, and the private sector. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog (Hindi for ‘Policy Commission’), the policy think tank of the Government of India (GoI) looks into the national development priorities, national security, economic development, etc. with cooperative federalism. India presented its first VNR in 2017, then in 2018 and is due to present its next VNR in 2020. The primary responsibility of CSOs is to contribute to the commitment central to the SDGs to ‘leave no one behind’ and reach the furthest left behind.

As reported by UNDP (2018), the framework for governments and stakeholders on which action is pledged to ‘leave no one behind’, proposes five intersecting factors, namely discrimination, geography, governance, socio-economic status, and shocks & fragility, to understand who is being left behind and why. This is an essential exercise in identifying and connecting the vulnerable population groups who are left behind as consequences of being hit by the above-mentioned factors and thus, becomes one of the most critical steps in achieving the SDGs and connecting the CSOs, which can and do play a vital role in it. This enables, reinforces and accelerates national progress to achieve the SDGs leaving no one behind.

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## **Leave no one behind – Voluntary National Review of Religious Minorities**

One of the vulnerable population groups identified for the LNOB VNR 2020 of India was ‘religious minorities’ along with women, children, elderly, persons with disability, LGBTQI, bonded labour and victims of human trafficking, refugees, Dalits, Adivasis, etc. One of the biggest challenges is data in advocating and formulating a rightful charter of demands for the needs of any population to the policymakers. This data, which is often scanty, patchy or poorly representative, is critical to the needs of the vulnerable groups, as they are often segregated, subaltern and poorly represented. The sensitive population groups like religious minorities, refugees, LGBTQI, persons with disability, bonded labour and victims of human trafficking, etc. often lag severely in terms of inclusive policies, in demanding their due state provisions and holding the state accountable to their rights, often due to lack of representative data. This data gap in terms of their status, as well as access to existing policies in the case of religious minorities, is critical to know and monitor the status of the population to allow greater access to their entitlements as these are very likely to be left out.

This paper is based on findings from the “LNOB VNR 2020 National Consultation of Religious Minorities”, and aims to examine the status, progress, and challenges of the religious minorities of India in achieving the SDGs. This, as reported by UNDP (2018), would add to the knowledge in the policy arena to implement the 2030 Agenda by enacting on the three mutually reinforcing “levers” required for the pledge, i.e., examine, empower, and enact. First, by ‘examining’ the disaggregated data and information on the status of SDGs of religious minorities. Second, by ‘empowering’ civic engagement by giving a direction for advocacy based on dependable and representative data, and third, by providing information to the stakeholders to ‘enact’ to

integrate, equity-focused SDG policies, interventions and budgets for the realization of SDGs in the country by leaving no one behind.

## **Methodology**

A National Consultation was held while involving CSOs working with RMPs. Around 55 participants from Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhists and Parsi communities joined representing about a dozen states. Community-wise discussions were held, covering 9 selected SDGs. For wider participation of experts, the holding of Regional Consultations was an additional effort. Consequently, 10 RCs were held in Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Kolkata, Jaipur, Indore, Nagpur, and Hyderabad. A questionnaire-based on 110 pertaining targets of 13 SDGs, having a direct bearing on the development of minorities as a vulnerable population, was provided for consideration. These consultations were joined by more than 200 experts, activists, community leaders and academicians in different states and cities. All inputs were collated and analyzed for assessing progress, challenges and success stories and for formulating recommendations. Efforts were made to involve different stakeholders' such as grassroots workers, functionaries of CSOs, academicians, community leaders, youth, women, etc. Gender balance was also strived and had 20 per cent of women participants in the NC and 28 per cent in the RCs.

## **Assessing vulnerability**

RMPs comprise a 19.03 per cent population of the country, i.e., one-fifth of all. Minorities' vulnerability is an acknowledged fact, as they are suffering from one or more of developmental deficiencies. In spite of the constitutional guarantees to religious minorities in India, several historical, social, political and economic reasons nurture expressed prejudice against them. However, these population groups are also publicly supported through affirmative action, though inadequately.



Chart-1 shows that all communities face vulnerability in terms of poverty and quality education. The perception of CSOs regarding the Muslim minority is that it is highly vulnerable due to the rampant poverty of its members and which perhaps is further aggravated by the equally vulnerable state of its education. Christians are seen to be less vulnerable to poverty, which may be linked to their better education.

The Buddhist group finds its vulnerability in terms of poverty slightly less significant than of Muslims. The strangest assessment comes from the Sikh group that this community is facing the highest vulnerability. It is quite contrary to the popular image of Sikhs as a prosperous lot. The stated reason for this situation is the dependence of a large number of Sikh families on agricultural loans. Another shocking response is from the so-considered affluent community of Parsi. The concerned group places its vulnerability higher than Buddhists. It was reported that a large aging population of the community becomes vulnerable in terms of functional poverty, due to inadequate regular income, though many households may have valuable houses in posh locations. Only Muslim and Buddhist groups scored about the vulnerability of Health and found it to be somewhere in the middle of the status, Muslims are marked as the most vulnerable section in this regard.

**Chart 1: Community-wise Assessment of Vulnerability**

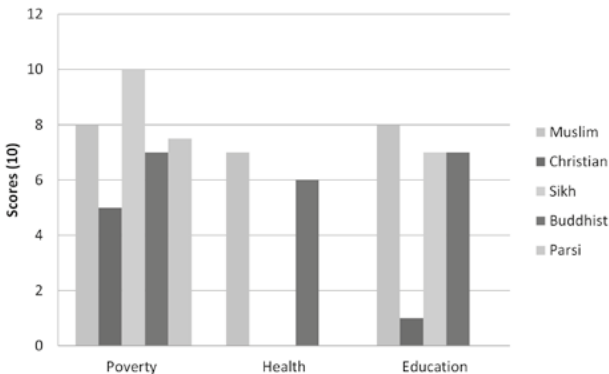
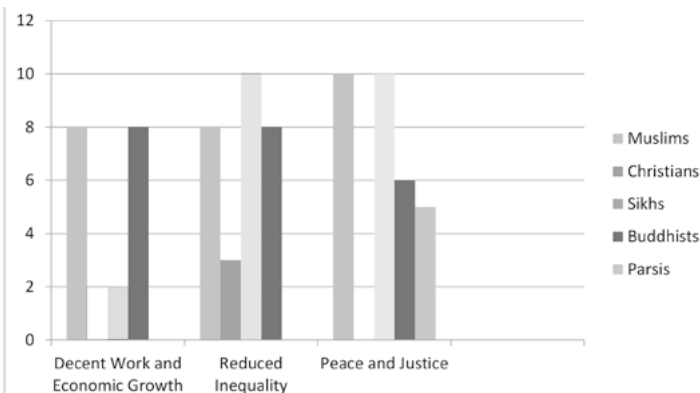


Chart 2 reveals perceptive vulnerabilities regarding economic well-being, inclusivity, and peace & justice. In terms of economic well-being, Muslim and Buddhist groups ranked the communities, highly vulnerable. The Sikhs seem comparatively less vulnerable than both of them. The Christian and Parsi groups did not respond to this aspect. The perceptions regarding reduced inequality from Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist groups find the respective communities to be highly vulnerable with Sikh giving the highest marks on the scale of vulnerability. The Christian group finds the respective community to be less vulnerable on the scale of Reduced Inequality. Muslims and Sikhs have the deepest feelings in terms of security and peace whereas, Buddhists and Parsi find themselves comparatively lesser vulnerable on the count of SDGs 16 than others.

The most common assessment of all minority groups, and both at the national and regional levels, has been that there is an utter paucity of disaggregated data to have any pragmatic view about different Religious Minorities Populations in the wake of implementation of SDGs in India. This inadequacy also hinders the identification of the furthest vulnerable sections from within these populations. Moreover, it is generally agreed that laws and policies are generally taken as discriminatory for the RMPs.

**Chart 2: Community-wise Assessment of Vulnerability**



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## Assessing SDGs-Wise Progress

The participants of the consultative process have assessed progress on given SDGs in the following way, which generally coincides with secondary data available in the public domain:

### Goal 1: Zero Poverty

Muslims have been found highly vulnerable being not adequately accommodated in PDS and other entitlements. About 25-50 per cent population is seen facing extreme poverty, which has not reduced during the last five years. 5-25 per cent of Christians are perceived living in poverty, which did not change during the past years. The Buddhist community has been stated to have an incidence of poverty in the range of 25-50 per cent of its people and its poverty has only worsened all these years. From among Sikhs, farmers, SCs/STs, and addicted people are viewed as facing acute poverty, which has been worsening over the years. The elderly Parsis have been facing functional poverty due to a lack of regular incomes.

### Goal 2: No Hunger

Muslims are generally seen facing hunger to a large extent with a view that it is on the rise. Christians do not face hunger at a notable degree but 25-50 per cent of them are suffering from malnutrition. 30 per cent of the Buddhist population has been said as facing hunger, with 50 per cent of Buddhist women suffering from malnutrition.

### Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Maternity mortality and child mortality rates are found decreasing among Muslims and may be between 5-25 per cent. Christians also see the said mortality rates as decreasing. The prevalence of alcoholism and drug abuse among Muslims has been taken as 15-25 per cent of the population whereas, Christians should have it in the range of 10-15 per cent. Buddhists

also find the said mortality rates as decreasing to some extent. 10-15 per cent of Buddhists may be addicted. Less than 5 per cent per cent of Muslims, Christians, and Buddhists are covered under health insurance. The Sikh population is vulnerable to mental health due to increasing anxieties. The RMPs have no due access to health schemes in the wake of inadequate entitlement registration.

#### Goal 4: Quality Education

Educational attainments, in the case of all religious minorities, are improving to some extent and at all levels of education. However, the Muslims' gap to other communities is still wide. Buddhists are also backward in educational attainments than Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jains. The minority scholarships and Christian missionary educational institutions have immensely assisted in this regard; however, the government schemes are facing renewal issues and inadequacy of coverage and funds. Religious Minorities are facing different bottlenecks in the recognition, affiliation and financial support to their educational institutions.

#### Goal 5: Gender Equality

Gender inequality within all religious minorities is seen decreasing, though discrimination in society against minority women is seen as increasing. Sexual assaults against Christian and Buddhist women are found on the rise.

#### Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

The per capita income among Muslims and Christians has only nominally increased. The employment situation of these communities has been found bleak. Muslims are generally engaged in the unorganized sector, which is presently in regression. Muslim and Christian youths could only nominally avail skill development training. Buddhists view that their per capita income has decreased during the past five years and only 2-5 per cent of their youths could avail government-

sponsored skill training. 15-20 per cent of Sikhs are found engaged in the low-paid unorganized sector, whereas agriculture remains the main occupation of Sikhs.

#### Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

Muslims, Christians and Buddhist view that inequalities against them have only nominally improved during the past five years. Their inclusion in policymaking has not improved during this period.

#### Goal 11: Housing

Muslims, Christians, and Buddhists are of the view that their access to housing schemes remains nominal. It is mainly due to inadequate registrations for public entitlements. Infrastructure in their localities has hardly improved.

#### Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, and Buddhists see that violence within the respective community has decreased but violence against them all from external sources is on the rise or at least not reducing. They also feel that institutions of justice and human rights have weakened during the past five years or at least compromised. They also think that their media portrayal is biased. These three communities except, Sikhs, view that mob lynching is a new form of violence against them.

### **Recommendations**

Specific recommendations that emerged from the undertaken consultative process were as follows:

UN-

1. India is well placed to catalyze the sustainable transformation of RMPs in India as a huge LNOB group through its moral, technical and financial support in programs suggested by CSOs towards making this LNOB group march in the process of human

development along with the other vulnerable groups. It has been acknowledged that the success of SDGs as such depends on the success of India in the implementation of SDGs and the Indian success critically rests on its success in making this LNOB group less vulnerable. Therefore, it is desired that India remains supportive in achieving SDGs in the context of RMPs.

#### Government of India-

2. The Government of India should adopt the inclusion of Religious Minorities Populations through the well-designed package for their intensive transformation as an LNOB group, as India's success on SDGs heavily depends on the progress of this one-fifth demographic entity. Due policies and fiscal provisions for the same, at par with SCs/STs, are required.
3. Recommendations of the Sachar Committee to establish the Equal Opportunity Commission, Diversity Index and Databank on Minorities should be implemented as soon as possible.
4. Recommendation of Justice Rangnath Misra Commission to reserve 15 per cent of the government jobs and educational opportunities for RMPs, with sub-quotas according to their demographic composition, should be implemented.
5. The Government should scrap the Presidential Order 1950, based on religious discrimination, to ensure reservation in government services for vulnerable SC/ST castes from within Muslim and Christian populations, like Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists.
6. The MoMA should be made a nodal ministry for strategic implementation on SDGs while taking Religious Minorities along, as a large LNOB group with due financial support.

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### NITI Aayog-

7. NITI Aayog should include people-oriented planning and implementation on SDGs along with its present stance of system reform and alignment of governmental policies and programs with SDGs and it should ensure availability of disaggregated data on the status of RMPs.
8. NITI Aayog should advise all states/UTs to include religious minorities as an LNOB group in their strategic planning under SDGs. Presently, only four states have mentioned it so; namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Telangana.
9. NITI Aayog is desired to consult with CSOs working for the development of Religious Minorities for devising policies and programs specific to these populations.
10. NITI Aayog should give due to space to RMPs in its monitoring and reporting processes.
11. NITI Aayog is desired to include so far uncovered Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) among Aspirational Districts.

### Ministry of Minority Affairs-

12. The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) should carry on its present schemes for the development and welfare of minorities with evermore efforts, innovation, and financial allocations. Funds and rules for minority scholarships should be made at par with similar programs for SCs/STs.
13. The MoMA should establish a cell for monitoring the progress of minorities on SDGs in liaison with NITI Aayog and CSO platforms.
14. The MoMA should help in the identification of most vulnerable sections within RMPs and devise specific LNOB schemes for them.

15. The MoMA should consider schemes like, in Telangana, for Residential Minority Schools in rented buildings in minority concentration localities by providing incentives to state governments and CSOs working for educational empowerment of minorities.
16. The MSDP program of the Ministry should be enhanced and its funds should be adequately increased.
17. The Ministry should work for the inclusion of various nomadic people pursuing any of the minority religion in its schemes or devise specific schemes for their development.
18. The MoMA is desired to undertake the digitalization of community properties of Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsi, and Jains similar to its scheme of Waqf properties. This will ensure better documentation and protection.
19. The MoMA should promote 18th December as National Minority Day for awareness regarding minority rights and involve CSOs in the celebrations.

#### Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation-

20. The MoSPI should include indicators of SDGs which could help Religious Minorities Populations as an LNOB group.
21. It should regularly collect, analyze and disseminate disaggregated data on RMPs.

#### Ministry of Law & Justice-

22. The Ministry of Law should consider exclusion of Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains from being taken as 'Hindus' under different acts. Muslim Personal Law and the Parsi Personal Law should be modified according to the tenets of Islam and Zoroastrianism respectively.



23. The Ministry should pursue the enactment of the pending Communal Violence Bill, which should also include mob lynching as a new form of violence against Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and other vulnerable populations.
24. The Ministry should work for amending respective religious properties acts appertained to Waqf, Churches, Gurudwaras, Buddha Vihars, Jain temples, etc for their protection and development. Their encroachment should be legally taken at par with the government properties.

#### National Commission for Minorities-

25. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) should pursue acquiring statutory status to play a more effective role in protecting the rights of religious minorities in the country.
26. It should regularly interact with the CSOs working for Religious Minorities Populations to have their suggestions and feedback regarding ground realities and take due measures for ensuring the enshrined rights of these communities.

#### National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions-

27. The NCMEI should advise the Government on issues related to the establishment, affiliation, and maintenance of minorities' educational institutions so that difficulties coming in the way of attaining quality education by these vulnerable populations could be minimized.
28. The NCMEI should hold annual conferences of CSOs working for educational empowerment of religious minorities to have their useful suggestions and feedback regarding ground realities.

#### Maulana Azad Education Foundation-

29. The corpus of the MAEF should be increased, at least doubled, for effectively taking up its current programs. It should also

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initiate the program for establishing model minority schools and colleges as has been suggested to the MoMA.

Media-

30. The media should be sensitized through CSOs platforms regarding LNOB and SDGs and their due coverage in the context of RMPs as a huge vulnerable group and the national interest.

## **Conclusion**

The importance of the consultation process cannot be overemphasized as it not only achieved its mandate but, exceeds it as it provides, often voice less, neglected, mostly downtrodden RMP who often find themselves forcibly silenced, a platform which is simultaneously national and international by its very design. The consultation has given us results and a base line of our current standing vis-a-vis SDGs and whether we have really left nobody behind? The answer often leaves a lot to be desired and is in a negative as far as total inclusion is concerned, yet it is a way forward in multiple ways. It gives us the current standing, which is often dismal yet gives us the baseline and has broken some notions about Sikhs and Parsi and providing a focus for our efforts. It brought to focus the rarely talked about Buddhist population of India and their being unfortunately at one with the RMPs in their deprivation and wants. The plight of the largest minority, the Muslims, remains a paradox with its simultaneous tumult and silence that for a community, which always seems to be in the focus should still want focus. The lessons are many but one of the most important is the need for assessment, reassessment and hearing the voices, which are going to be affected most by our action and lack thereof. This national consultation is just a start in the long arduous climb to the loft goals of SDGs and LNOB.

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# PEACE AND JUSTICE IN INDIAN CONTEXT

*Shujayathulla E*

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## **Introduction**

The idea of peace and justice could be approached either from peace perspective or from justice. However, to me both are two sides of the same coin. In my view, any attempt to portray one against the other or one over the other will necessarily derail both. When we take up the peace approach, it will necessarily lead to justice, because there cannot be peace without justice. In the same manner works of justice must ultimately lead to a peaceful society. This is the lesson we are learning from Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. I do recognise the fact that it is challenging and not easy. For the historically victimised communities, justice is a primary concern. However, in the absence of peace, the ultimate goal of justice is not realised. Today, the idea of reconciliation is also gaining momentum which emphasises the aspect of healing to live in sustainable peace.

In the context of many protests against CAA, NRC and NPR, citizenship issue has assumed much significance. Many groups, students, teachers, professors, CSOs and NGOs to express their

allegiance to the Constitution are reciting the Preamble of the Constitution. Thanks to the Prime Minister and his government for making people to get back to the spirit of the Constitution.

### **Preamble to the Constitution**

Concept of peace is not found in the Preamble. But Fraternity and Justice are core dimensions. Fraternity includes dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. Justice includes social, economic and political and equality is about equality of status and opportunities. These concepts give birth to non-discrimination clause. The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them Article 15 (1). Article 39A of Directive Principles of State Policy talks about equal justice and free legal aid for all. Article 51(a) states the duty of every citizen to promote harmony and spirit of brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women and to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture. Our constitution emphasises on inclusivity, diversity, dignity, liberty, plurality and unity. All these are indicators of peace and justice.

SDG 16 talks about peace and justice, which is very much important in the present global, national and regional context. Multiple forms of violence are reported on day-to-day basis in various newspapers, TV and media.

In this paper, I will try to articulate major threats in the country that hinders peace and propagate violence and conflict by design and ideology. I will also touch upon some major challenges, opportunities and interventions to promote peace and justice from the point of marginalized perspectives.

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**Peace and justice are interrelated concepts**

To begin with, I would argue that peace and justice are interrelated concepts. In the absence of one the other cannot be imagined. Peace without justice is not real peace. Justice without peace is not true justice. Peace and violation of human rights cannot coexist. There is a debate that justice is the fruit of peace. There is no disagreement with this statement. In my opinion, by adopting peaceful means we can reach justice. The best example is our freedom movement. We achieved our independence through non-violent and peaceful means.

Our country is built on the principles of Justice, Equality, Fraternity and Liberty. We can go to any extent to claim that India is a land of Communal/Religious Harmony. One would be surprised to know that India has more places of worship than schools or colleges<sup>1</sup>. Yet, we coexist and resonate with one another whenever we see disturbance of peace and injustice.

Our country is also known for unity in diversity, communal harmony, pluralistic values, and inclusive society. Diversity is the hall mark of India. The richness of India is not its wealth, but its cultures, religions, languages, ethnicity, etc. We are different and so, we are rich. However, attempts are being made to spread xenophobic narratives against the poor, especially, against the dalits, adivasis, women and minorities. However, there is still a large section of people who believe in co-existence, brotherhood and sharing and caring for one another. These aspects keep the communities together and help in establishing peace and justice in society. In the state elections 2019, Delhi voters have sent a message to our nation that hate mongering politics will never be victorious.

For any nation to prosper; peace, harmony and justice are very much important. If they are maintained well, then the countries will

flourish in terms of social and economic growth. Our constitution includes laws to ensure economic, political and social equality among the citizens to maintain harmony among the citizens. As individuals, each and every one of us has roles and responsibilities to nurture and maintain peace and justice in the country.

Gandhi understood the interconnectedness between peace and justice. When one of his followers in Satyagraha came to tell him the harrowing story of how his son had died in a Hindu mob fighting a Muslim mob, Gandhi told him, “Go and find an orphan child born of Muslim parents, adopt him as your own son, and bring him up to worship Allah but with the ideal of non-violence”<sup>22</sup>.

### **Dissent is a safety valve**

In a democracy, people agree to set of principles and abide by them. However, they have the right to agree and disagree. Supreme Court Justice Chandrachud said, “Dissent is the safety valve of democracy. If dissent is not allowed, then the pressure cooker may burst”<sup>23</sup>. However, the disagreements or differences of opinions should be sorted out through non-violent means. In a democracy, when there is difference of opinion, it can be sorted out through a dialogue and negotiation, rather than indulging in any form of violence. Democracy supports peace in pluralist societies by civilising conflict rather than suppressing it<sup>4</sup>.

Having said this, let me also state that conflicts are part and parcel of our life among individuals, groups and communities. At present when we observe and analyse the current situation of our society, we are witnessing constant turbulence and infringement of the rights of the marginalized, especially of the dalits, adivasis, women, children and minorities.

Disturbance of peace is nothing but breach of the peace (504 IPC). When people intentionally or unintentionally engage in

breach of peace, the system and state structures will step in and restore peace. Ironically, many times the law makers breach peace and often get away with it. In the recently published Global Peace Index indicator, India stands at 141 out of 163 countries<sup>5</sup>. This calls for serious introspection and action for building peace in the country.

The root causes for disturbance of peace is conflicts, injustice, materialism, economic exploitation, manufactured hate, moral policing prejudiced mind-set, religious/caste/communal tensions fuelled by imperialistic/extremist forces and the failure of law and order in effectively dealing with the culture of impunity. We are witnessing constant turbulence and infringement of the rights of the marginalized and the minority communities. All these result in hampering and tampering the peace in the society. Due to violence and injustice, a large number of vulnerable/marginalized and poor become casualties and they are denied of basic needs, such as food, water, shelter, healthcare, education, and security.

### **We live in a era of post-truth**

When it comes to justice, Plato once said, “The worst form of injustice is pretended justice”. In present times, truth has been replaced post-truth and truth has become one of the biggest casualties. Our leaders think that by repeating lies several times, it can become truth and people will believe it. Mob justice has been justified and endorsed by the anti-social elements. We fail to understand that there is no justice in instant justice. Newsrooms have turned as court rooms, and religio-cultural organizations have become powerful. They are engaged in promoting their divisive ideology in the name of justice. Those who are fighting for the rights of the poor are intimidated, threatened and silenced by the state. Ironically, survivors or the family members of the victims have been accused and arrested.

Everyday there are new challenges posed to our secular values, such as, atrocities on dalits, stripping right to life and liberty of



the Adivasis/tribals, false propaganda being disseminated against the Muslims and the Christians, etc. The ruling class/caste spew communal venom. Hate messages, hate crimes, VVIP hate speech, etc. are considered normal and are mainstreamed. Unfortunately, the silent majority has become speechless.

### **Indicators of sustainable development**

SDG 16 articulates 12 indicators to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, I have selected few targets for this paper:

1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere – According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 29,017 murders were reported in 2018, up by 1.3 per cent over 2017<sup>6</sup>. In India, the overall homicide rate decreased by 10 per cent over the period 2009 to 2015, from 3.8 to 3.4 per 100,000 population. This report was published by the Global Study on Homicide in 2019<sup>7</sup>. The report also states that, at the same time, the spatial variation in the homicide rate shifted noticeably, with some states in the north registering an increase in the homicide rate<sup>8</sup>.
2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children – Ministry of Women and Child Development's 2007 report, recorded 65 per cent of all children were beaten in school and 88.5 per cent at home. 48.37 per cent of children reported emotional abuse<sup>9</sup>. According to the UNICEF, between 27.1 and 69 million children are abused at home every year in India<sup>10</sup>. Trafficking - In 2016, a total of 8,137 cases of human trafficking were reported from across the country, a jump of 18 per cent over the 6,877 cases reported in 2015 as per data released recently by the National

Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). The motive behind over 7,670 cases were sexual exploitation and prostitution, while 162 cases were for child pornography<sup>11</sup>.

3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all – As per the latest reports, more than 43 lakh cases are pending in the 25 high courts in the country and over 8 lakh of these are over a decade old<sup>12</sup>. India has the highest number of pending court cases in the world<sup>13</sup>. More than 67 per cent of 4.33 lakh inmates lodged in 1,400 jails in the country are under trials (who were yet to be tried or given bail). 1,942 children also live in the prisons along with their mothers, according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) prison statistics-2016<sup>14</sup>. More than half of under trials are Dalits, Muslims and tribals<sup>15</sup>.
4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime – The NCRB report has recorded 51,158 cases (53,272 small arms) seized in 2015; Of which 32,564 were unlicensed and 1,241 were licensed. There were also 342,478 rounds of ammunition<sup>16</sup>.
5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms – The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 specifies the scope of punishable offences of corruption for public servants<sup>17</sup>. In 2015, the NCRB recorded 5,250 cases of corruption by state government officials and 617 cases of corruption by officials in India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)<sup>18</sup>. In a query sought by Ramprit Mandal, Member of Parliament from Bihar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman conceded that while the cash in circulation has increased in the system since demonetisation, she also said that the circulation of cash is linked with illicit activities<sup>19</sup>.

6. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels - There is a wide array of minority groups that are under-represented in various parts of the Indian society. For instance, the first national Lok Sabha (parliament) in 1951 had 22 women (4.5 per cent), and by the most recent national election in 2014, only 66 women (12.15 per cent) were Members of Parliamentarians (MPs). The number of women members in legislative assemblies (MLAs) in the State/Union Territories is, on average, only 9 percent<sup>20</sup>. Also, there are only 22 Muslim MPs (4.2 per cent) in the current Lok Sabha, even though they make up 10.5 per cent of the population<sup>21</sup>. As for public service jobs and education, Other Backward Classes (OBCs) account for only 12 per cent in the government jobs, even though they have been allocated 27 per cent of positions<sup>22</sup>. This number is much less than the actual number of OBCs nationally, which is estimated to be 41 per cent of the population<sup>23</sup>. And for Dalits who make up 16.6 per cent and Tribals 8.6 per cent of the population, “no more than 0.48 per cent of Scheduled Tribes and 0.73 per cent of Scheduled Caste households had a salaried government (both centre and state) job”, according to the 2011 Census<sup>24</sup>.
7. Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development<sup>25</sup> - Dalits constitute 16.6 per cent of countries population, however, they have been discriminated on social, economic and political grounds. According to the National Family Health Survey data, the average age at death for Dalit women was 39.5 years against 54.1 years for higher-caste women<sup>26</sup>. Muslims constitute only 14.2 per cent. They experience discrimination based on their religious values and practise. A study by Common Cause - Centre for the study of developing societies (CSDS), Lokneeti has revealed disturbing

prejudices of police personnel towards Muslims on the question of committing violence<sup>27</sup>. 1 in 3 justify mob violence in cow slaughter incidents<sup>28</sup>. Tribals constitute 8.6 per cent of countries population. They do experience economic injustice and displacement due to economic development. A total of 3,59,849 cases were reported against women in 2017. In comparison, in 2016, 3.38 lakh cases of crime were registered against women, while 3.2 lakh cases were recorded in 2015. The number of cases reported has increased<sup>29</sup>.

### **Opportunities to work for peace and justice**

Having discussed the nature of conflicts, atrocities, discriminatory practices, let me now point out at some of the opportunities to work for peace and justice.

1. NGOs, CSOs are initiating or adopting communities to work for peace and justice.
2. It is the duty of the police officer to hold peace committee meetings at District, Taluk and Police Station Limits to halt the conflicts and also post - conflict situations to maintain the law-and-order situation.
3. Courses are offered on peace building and conflict resolution, international relations and peace studies, non-violent communications, human rights and peace education by various institutions.
4. We could initiate peace clubs within the communities in urban and rural setup and also among students.
5. Skills and tools on peace building, conflict resolution, negotiations, non-violent methods etc. are also seen as critical dimensions of an effective leader.

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## Challenges

1. As the culture of individualism, materialism, relativism and consumerism is on the rise, creation and promotion of countercultural narratives will be a slow process, and will need innovative tools and creative methodologies appropriate to context and communities.
2. There are also international and well-designed actions and campaigns by self-proclaimed vigilante groups to create an atmosphere of intolerance and fear among the marginalised and minority communities.
3. Easy use of social media platform to spread rumours, fake news, single stories, stereotyped information etc. with ulterior motifs.
4. A new culture of instant or retributive justice is fast growing.

## Possible Interventions

1. Dialogue with students (schools & colleges) on diversity, secularism and constitution
2. Organize student legal camps or diversity exposure camps to youths
3. Promote inter-cultural/religious activities/feasts & Promote intergenerational exchange
4. Conduct workshops, organize seminar on peace, essay, street theatre and quiz competitions on non-violence, democracy, secularism, plurality etc.
5. Educate the youth on constitutional values
6. Document good practices, change narratives, on communal/religious harmony and disseminate the same
7. Prepare training modules on peace and circulate among different stakeholders.
8. Invite religious leaders from all the communities and request the leaders to speak positive things in various religions.

9. Organise peace rallies, prepare campaign materials, conduct peace meetings on a regular basis to promote the importance of peace
10. Sign a peace pledge

## **To conclude**

Peace and justice are mutually dependent concepts and deeper dimensions of peace will lead to justice and authentic justice will lead us to peaceful coexistence, respecting diversity, plurality, dignity of the individual and communities. Without peace and justice, no nation could prosper.

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# HOUSING AS AN ENGINE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## **Abstract**

Numerous literatures and debates on human development on one hand and sustainability on the other, share much in common. Human development is essentially what sustainability advocates want to advocate and without sustainability, human development is not possible in the true sense. If human development is about enabling people to lead long, healthy, educated and fulfilling lives, then sustainable human development is about ensuring that future generations can lead similar lives. But in some sense, adding 'sustainable' as a prefix is superfluous, since human development without being sustainable cannot be true human development. Housing is one of the basic requirements for human survival. Owning a house provides social and economic security as well as plays a status symbol in the society. There are several programmes implemented for human development in India. Rural housing programme is a veritable tool for fighting poverty and achieving economic prosperity, wellbeing, improving the quality of the life of people at the grassroots level, especially people living below the poverty line. Housing has an important impact on

health, education, drinking water, for it to improve quality of life in rural areas, particularly the weaker sections of the society, which includes women as well. In order to ensure a roof for people without one, there are many programmes initiated by Government of India. Karnataka is one of the foremost states to have taken up housing in a major way. The objectives of the paper are to examine the major rural housing schemes in Karnataka and its impact on human development, to study the performance of rural housing schemes in the study area and to suggest measures to improve housing programmes for human development.

## **Introduction**

Human development and Sustainable development are broad concepts catered in the development approach. The term ‘human development’ is defined as ‘an expansion of human capabilities, a widening of choices, an enhancement of freedom, and a fulfilment of human rights’. Sustainable development is development that caters to the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. There are many links between the human development approach and the 2030 Agenda. And it can be thought of as broad as – or broader than – the SDGs. The Human Development Index (HDI) provides an alternative single-number measure, capturing progress in three basic dimensions of human development: health, education and living standards. Many of the SDGs relate directly to the HDI. The UN Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) already mirrored the basic principles of human development – expanding human capabilities by addressing basic human deprivations. In this regard, the human development principles and framework can provide intellectual contributions to the 2030 development agenda and the implementation of SDGs. Likewise, human development measures can take advantage of the SDG indicators as they evolve over the next

15 years. It is a practical way in which the measurements of human development and sustainability can be linked with each other.

## **Review of Literature**

The present study is developed on the basis of different review of literatures. K.B. Saxena and Sanjay Kumar (2010) prepared a report titled “Right to Housing and Homestead Land in Rural Bihar Status, Issues and Challenges”. Shamsheer Singh, Madhura Swaminathan, and V. K. Ramachandran (2012) presented a paper titled “Housing Shortages in Rural India”. Kamalakshi. T and T. Gurubasappa. R (2013) wrote on “Housing Schemes In Karnataka: A Macro Level Analysis”. Nirmal Kumar (2014) offered his reflections on “Technological Solution for Sustainable Rural Housing by 2022”. Arjun Kumar (2014) studied “Estimating Rural Housing Shortage”. Dr. Mendhe H, Dr. Amarnath and Hanumanth N (2015) wrote on “Assessment of Housing Standards in the field practice area of a Medical College in Andhra Pradesh”. M.S. Siddiqui and R.Y. Mahore (2016) articulated their views on “Rural Housing Finance: Impediments and Way Forward”

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the study is as follows

- \* To examine the relationship between Human Development and Sustainable Development
- \* To study the performance of rural housing schemes in the study area.
- \* To suggest measures to improve housing programmes for human capital.

## Hypotheses

The following hypotheses have been framed in the present paper:

H<sub>1</sub> - Human Development is positively related with Sustainable Development

H<sub>2</sub> - Housing schemes causes multiplier effect

H<sub>3</sub> - Housing schemes enhances the status of the weaker sections of the society

## Methodology

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary data is mainly confined to interview schedules and questionnaires. Mandya district of Karnataka is purposively selected, keeping in view that this district comes under the different rural housing programmes considered for selection, like major rural housing programmes such as Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Rural Ashraya (RA) And Ambedkar Awas Yojana (AAY). For the purpose of analysis, Measures of Central Tendency which include Mean, Median and Mode have been used. For the purpose of testing hypotheses, specific tools like ANOVA, one-way test, Correlation, Paired Sample, T-test and Standard Deviation were used. Tables and graphs were also used for better representation.

## Rural Housing Programmes and Policies in India

For the development of housing in rural areas, Government of India has taken many initiatives. The rural housing schemes in India include - Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), PMAY (Pradhan Manthri Awas Yojana), Pradan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (2000-2001), Credit-cum-Subsidy Scheme, Dr. Ambedkar Housing Scheme, Innovation Scheme for Rural Housing and Habitat Development, Setting up of Rural Building Centre, Bharat Nirman Programme, Samagra Awaas Yojana, National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat, Two

Million Housing Programme, Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme, Rajiv Awas Yojana, Pradan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Gramin Awaas), State-run housing schemes. The Government of India also introduced policies which are related to housing. The National Housing Policy (NHP) 1970, National Housing Policy (NHP) 1986, National Housing Policy 1992, National Housing Policy 1998, National Rural Housing & Habitat Policy.

### **Housing Profile of Karnataka**

Housing situation in Karnataka State is in no way different from that of rest of India in terms of quantity and quality. Karnataka has housing problem with 4.38 per cent share in the total housing shortage of the country. However, as per census 2011, the housing shortage is 4.27 lakh houses against the overall shortage of 111.19 lakh. Roughly 7 per cent of the total families were facing housing shortage in the state in 2001 as against the national average of 7.5 per cent. Accordingly, financial allocation for the State during 2013-14 was Rs. 480.24 crore (including administrative cost), with a physical target for construction of 87,816 houses. Based on this, the Central allocation for the financial year 2014-15 was Rs. 518.68 crore with a target for construction of 94,995 houses.

**Table 1: Number of Households & Household Size Karnataka**

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
Total Households	10,401,918	13,357,027
Total Population	52,850,565	61,095,297
Households Size	5.1	4.6
Difference in Household Size	-0.5	

Note: Household size with 5.8 in Yadgir tops the list and the smallest Household size with 3.9 is reported in Kodagu district.

The above table shows the number of households and household size in Karnataka during 2001 and 2011 census. According to the data, total households were 1,04,01,918 in 2001, which increased to 1,33,57,027 according to 2011 census. The total population was 5,28,50,565 in 2001 and it increased to 6,10,95,297 in 2011. The household size, according to 2001 was 5.1 was 4.6 according to 2011 census. There is a cognizable difference in household size of -0.5

## Housing Schemes in Karnataka

To meet the growing demand of housing, the state government has been proactive in formulation of its housing policies.

### Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited (RGRHCL)

The Corporation was established on 20 April 2000 as a nodal agency to implement all the housing schemes sponsored by the Central and State Governments for economically and socially weaker sections of the society, both in rural and urban areas.

**Table 2: Scheme Wise Houses Completed and Sites Distributed**

Year	Houses Constructed under Social Housing Schemes					House Sites		
	Rural Ashraya/ Basava Vasathi Yojane	Rural Ambedkar	Urban Ashraya/ Vajpayee Urban Scheme	IAY	Total Rural Urban Total	Rural	Urban	Total
2000-01 To 2011-12	1,289,690	142,028	135,220	406,552*	1,990,575	80,625	55,286	167,717
2012- 13	48,422	3,692	685	95,311	148,110	22,992	16,983	39,975
2013-14		69,529 4,722	4,071	26,769	105,091	24,334	16,861	41,195
2014-15	126,439	5,938	8,985	108,493	249,855	13,737	16,270	30,007
2015-16	207,594	4,101	6,975	98,815	317,485	4,279	6,654	10,933
2016-17	185,073	3,313	9,678	104,098	302,162	8,140	2,929	11,069
2017-18**	70,716	2,222	6,098	61,628	140,664	3,671	801	4,472
Total	1,997,463	166,016	171,712	901,666	3,253,942	157,778	115,784	305,368

Source: Figures shown from 2000-01 to 2009-10 are cumulative. \*Figures shown are from 2004-05 onwards \*\*Figures shown are up to December -2015

**Table 3: Target and Achievement Under Different Housing Schemes**

Scheme		2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18*	Total		
Rural	Ashraya/ Basava Vasathi Yojane	Target	125,000	180,000	190,000	170,000	665,000	
		Completed	126,439	207,594	185,073	70,716	589,822	
	Ambedkar AwasYojana	Target	10,000	5,000	-	-	15,000	
		Completed	5,938	4,101	3,313	2,222	15,574	
	IAY	Target	100,000	100,000	100,000	115,000	415,000	
		Completed	108,493	98,815	104,098	61,628	373,034	
	Urban	Ashraya/ Vajpayee Scheme	Target	15,000	15,000	10,000	15,000	55,000
			Completed	8,985	6,975	9,678	6,098	31,736
Total		Target	250,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	1,150,000	
Completed		249,855	317,485	302,162	140,664	1,010,166		

Source: \*Figures are shown upto December – 2015.

Table 3 shows the target and achievement under different Housing Schemes during 2012 to 2015. Under the Ashraya/Basava Vasathi Yojane, target estimated was 125,000, against which 126,439 houses were completed during 2012-13 and the target was 170,000, against which 70,716 houses were completed during 2017-18. Whereas the total target, cumulative of 2015-2018 was 665,000, total completed houses stood at 589,822 during 2014-15. Under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana, the target was 10,000 houses of which 5,938 houses were completed during 2012-13. A total of 15,000 were targeted and houses completed were 2,222 in 2017-18. Total completed houses were 15,574 during 2014-15. Under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), target was 100,000 houses, against which 108,493 houses were completed during 2012-13. A total 115,000 houses were targeted, of which houses completed count up to 61,628 in the year 2017-18. The

total target set was 415,000 and total completed houses were 373,034 during 2014-15.

Following are schemes by Government of Karnataka: Rural Ashraya/ Basava Vasathi Yojane, Indira Awas Yojana (Pradhan Manthri Awas Yojana), Urban Ashraya/Vajpayee Housing Scheme, Special Housing Scheme, Infrastructure facility, Devraj Urs Housing Scheme, Nanna Mane (Affordable Housing for Low-income groups) and Rural Ambedkar Housing Scheme.

**Table 4: Respondents' perceptions**

S. No	Statement	SA	A	CS	DA	SD	Total
1	Perception on Health	182	58	38	18	4	300
2	Perception on Education	173	57	25	28	17	
3	Improvement in quality life	190	49	20	24	17	
4	Improvement in standard of living	183	63	36	15	3	
5	Employment Generation	165	80	15	30	10	
6	Improvement in housing Amenities	175	80	15	22	8	
7	Eradication of Poverty	188	56	35	17	4	

Source: Field Study

Note: SA - Strongly Agree, A - Agree, CA - Can't Say, DA - Disagree, SD - Strongly Disagree.

**Table 5: Basic amenities**

S. No	Statement	Yes	No	Total
1	Drinking Water Connectivity	300	0	300
2	Electrification	296	4	
3	Improvement in Sanitation	282	18	
4	Changes in Reading Habits	285	15	
5	Toilet Connectivity	291	9	
6	Drainage Connectivity	281	19	
7	Changes in Food Habit	288	12	
8	Improvement in Saving	280	20	
9	Improvement in Consumption	225	75	



## Testing of Hypotheses

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Human Development is not positively related with Sustainable Development.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** Human Development is positively related with Sustainable Development

**Table 6:** Housing programmes positively associated with human development

**ANOVA**

Sl.No	Particulars	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Different Housing Programmes	2	17.174	178.017	.001
2	Status of the Weaker Sections				
A	Consumption Level	2	93.285	650.124	.001
B	Perception on Education	2	37.924	4.71603	.001
C	Perception on Health	2	24.303	1.23603	.001
D	Perception on Income	2	21.982	1.89303	.001
E	Food Habit	2	24.511	1.00703	.001
F	Investment Generated	2	2.517	62.879	.001

Note: df-degree of freedom, F-test, Sig.-Level of Significance

The above table indicates that the housing programmes are positively associated with human development, which carries consumption, education, health, income, food habit and investment of the women beneficiaries. It reveals that housing programmes mean square is 17.174 and total F value is 178.017. The p value is 0.0001 which is less than 0.5. Selected status of weaker sections, pertaining to aspects like consumption, education, health, income, food habit and investment – the mean square is 93.285, 37.924, 24.303, 21.982, 24.511 and 2.517, respectively. The tested value of F is 650.124, 4.71603,

1.23603, 1.89303, 1.00703 and 62.879, respectively. Therefore, the enhanced status of the weaker sections of the societies' indicators consumption, education, health, income, food habit and investment of the beneficiaries is significant at 0.0001 which is lesser than 0.5. Hence, the housing programmes, generally, enhances the status of the weaker sections of the society among the beneficiaries and it has more significance in the study area.

**Table 7: Paired Samples Statistics**

Sl.No.	Particulars	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
1	Different Housing Programmes	1.90	300	.667	.039
2	Human Development	7.2367	300	1.63592	.09445

#### Paired Samples Correlations

Particulars	N	Correlation	Sig.
Different Housing Programmes & human development	300	.914	.000

The paired sample test revealed that the tested value of correlation is 0.914. Further, it is clear that, there is an improvement in the enhanced status of the weaker sections among the beneficiaries due to rural housing programmes. Thus, it indicates that 'Housing programmes are positively associated with Human Development'. Therefore, the results indicate that the null hypothesis be rejected, and acceptance of the alternative hypothesis is suggested.

### Findings

The study observed the following findings:

- \* Out of the total respondents, majority of the respondents belong to female category 260 (80 per cent), implying the housing schemes are sanctioned only for women in the study area.

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- \* Maximum number of houses are constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana, succeeded by Rural Ashraya Scheme and Ambedkar Awas Yojana
  - \* Out of the total respondents in the study area, 291 (97 per cent) of the respondents have sanitation facility in their constructed house.
  - \* Of the total respondents, 292 respondents have electricity in their houses and only 8 respondents have no electricity in their houses.
  - \* Out of the total respondents, 225 (75 per cent) of the respondents opined that, their consumption has improved quality wise after owning the house
  - \* Out of the total respondents, 160 (53.33 per cent) respondents said that their children's primary education has improved, while 124 (41.33 per cent) respondents said that secondary education has improved and the dropout in both primary and secondary level was only 6 (2 per cent) and 10 (3.33 per cent), respectively.
  - \* It is noticeable that 182 (60.66 per cent) of respondents agreed that housing programmes are necessary for health improvement.
  - \* With regard to income generation, out of the total respondents, 258 (86 per cent) of the respondents have agreed that their income has been generated.
  - \* It is observed that, out of the total respondents, 266 (88.66 per cent) respondents have experienced that the housing programmes have resulted in poverty reduction.
  - \* It is found that out of the total respondents 296 (98.66 per cent) have experienced positive changes in the reading habits of their children.

## Suggestions

- \* The selection of beneficiaries in the study area revealed that members were selected from gram sabha meetings, elected members, some influential persons, etc. Selecting of beneficiaries should be transparent in nature.
- \* It is observed that the allocation of amount takes more time due to some technical problems. The finance allocation should be provided as early as possible.
- \* It is observed from the field study, the houses are constructed with old technology. Hence, while constructing the houses, proper technology should be adopted.
- \* All houses should have Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojana (RSBY) cards and it should be a continuous process. BPL card itself (attested) should be a proof of insurance on the lines of Rajasthan, for any claims.
- \* There is also a need of appropriate technology which should be environment friendly as well as efficient in rural areas.
- \* The census of below poverty line must be conducted every five years. It will be helpful for proper allocations and categorizing true beneficiaries, who could get benefits.
- \* All selected beneficiaries must be encouraged and supported to use energy resources, like biogas and solar facility.
- \* There is also a need of public private partnership in improvement of adequate quality houses and there must be strengthening of PRIs to ensure & achieve the objectives of rural housing programmes.
- \* While sanctioning of amount or grant by government to beneficiaries, the releasing of amount should be increased which fulfills the high cost of materials.

- \* Issuing of MGNREGA job cards should be given by banks only, for easy financial transaction.

## Conclusion

Owning a house provides social and economic security as well as plays a status symbol in the society. Housing and improvement in the quality of life are the ultimate objectives of social sector planning. Main objectives of the housing schemes are to provide housing facilities to the poorer sections of society by constructing low cost houses for the poorest of the poor. In the present study, an attempt has been made to study the kind of housing facility being provided to the selected beneficiaries from SC, ST, OBC, OC communities. Housing schemes positively impact on development of rural community, especially women.

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# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*Hema S Kodad*

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## **Abstract**

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of seventeen goals set forth by the United Nations to ensure a sustainable future for the present and upcoming generations. Climate action is one of the seventeen sustainable development goals and assumes a great significance. Climate change is touching our lives in a huge way. It warrants attention like never before and any negligence could spell doom for human existence.

The present paper aims to study the 'National Action Plan on Climate Change' released in 2008 by the then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Manmohan Singh to achieve the targets set by the United Nations against the Sustainable Development Goal 13 of Climate action – 'to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'.

## **Introduction**

Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals declared by the United Nations, the thirteenth SDG pertains to Climate Action and urges

the member states to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. With alarming changes in the world climate, increase in global temperatures, rising sea levels, erratic climatic changes and occurrence of natural disasters, climate action assumes huge significance. A lack of action on this front could lead to disastrous consequences for the humankind.

In order to address this extremely pressing issue, India has adopted the National Action Plan on Climate Change in 2008.

### **The contents of the plan**

The contents of the plan as presented in the policy document released by the ‘Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change’ are presented in brief as follows:

The plan was launched in June 2008 by the then Prime Minister of India, Mr. Manmohan Singh through the Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change.

The plan document is divided into six parts namely:

- \* Overview
- \* Principles
- \* Approach
- \* Eight National Missions
- \* Implementation of Missions
- \* Technical Document

#### **1. Overview**

The overview of the plan document provides an insight into the looming threat of climate change and its impact globally and nationally. It further reaffirms India’s commitment to combat climate change while pursuing its economic goals.



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## 2. Principles

The following are the guiding principles of the plan:

- \* Protecting the poor and vulnerable sections of society through an inclusive and sustainable development strategy, sensitive to climate change.
- \* Achieving national growth objectives through a qualitative change in direction that enhances ecological sustainability, leading to further mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.
- \* Devising efficient and cost-effective strategies for end use - Demand Side Management.
- \* Deploying appropriate technologies for both adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gases emissions extensively at an accelerated pace.
- \* Engineering new and innovative forms of market, regulatory and voluntary mechanisms to promote sustainable development.
- \* Effecting implementation of programmes through unique linkages, including partnering with civil society and local government institutions and through public- private- partnership.
- \* Welcoming international cooperation for research, development, sharing and transfer of technologies enabled by additional funding and a global IPR regime that facilitates technology transfer to developing countries under the UNFCCC.

## 3. Approach

The plan presents directions and measures to achieve the much-needed economic development for India without compromising its commitment to combat climate change.

#### **4. The way forward - eight national missions**

The core of each plan is presented in eight national missions as follows:

##### **National Solar Mission**

The mission aims to enhance the use of solar energy and to promote research in the same field to make it more accessible.

##### **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**

The existing efforts of the government through ‘The Energy Conservation Act of 2001’ and a government machinery of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) at the Central Government level and designated agencies in each state has been boosted with the introduction of 4 new initiatives: A market-based mechanism to enhance cost effectiveness of improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive large industries and facilities, through certification of energy savings that could be traded.

- a. Accelerating the shift to energy efficient appliances in designated sectors through innovative measures to make the products more affordable.
- b. Creation of mechanisms that would help finance demand side management programmes in all sectors by capturing future energy savings.
- c. Developing fiscal instruments to promote energy efficiency

##### **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat**

The mission envisages planned urban spaces to further promote energy efficiency and renewal of the same with the help of the following three initiatives:

- a. ‘The Energy Conservation Building Code’, already in existence and has been further strengthened.

- b. Recycling of material and Urban Waste Management which includes research programmes for the same.
- c. Better urban planning and modal shift to public transport along with measures to prepare the community for disaster management.

### **National Water Mission**

The National Water Mission aims for a 20 per cent increase in efficiency of water use with the help of regulatory mechanisms aided with new technology such as, sprinklers, drip irrigation, low temperature desalinization, rainwater harvesting etc.,

### **National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem**

The mission seeks to safeguard the unique ecosystem of the Himalayan Mountains in coordination with the countries sharing the mountainous region. The plan aims, on one hand to involve experts such as climatologists and glaciologists, and on the other, it aims at community involvement to ensure the effective implementation of the mission.

### **National Mission for a Green India**

With an initial corpus of Rs. 6,000 crores earmarked under the ‘Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority’ (CAMPA), the plan seeks mandatory afforestation of 6 million hectares of degraded forest land and an increase of the forest cover from 23 per cent to 33 per cent overall.

### **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**

The mission aims to develop new technology while integrating it with traditional knowledge in order to make Indian agriculture more resilient to climate change. It also seeks to devise new strategies, such as credit and insurance schemes, for adoption of the newly developed

practices. Apart from these efforts on the domestic front, it also seeks to lead international efforts towards a Green Revolution.

## **National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change**

The goal of this mission is research on various facets of climate change viz., the challenges of climate change, the socio-economic impacts of climate change, technology development to combat climate change etc. The mission also seeks to set up dedicated academic units in the Universities and other academic and scientific research institutions of the nation. Further, it provides for a ‘Climate Science Research Fund’ to support research in this area.

### **5. Implementation of missions**

The implementation of these missions has been assigned to the respective ministries. Detailed plans of implementation had to be submitted by December 2008 to the Prime Minister’s Council on Climate Change which has been accorded the responsibility of periodic monitoring and evaluation of the progress. The annual progress of the missions is also to be made available to the public through national portals, media engagement, civil society involvement, curricula reform and recognition/awards.

For smooth implementation of the plan, ‘An Advisory Council on Climate Change’, chaired by the Prime Minister has been created.

### **6. Technical document**

The technical document elaborates on the background to India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change, some Current Programmes on Adaptation and Mitigation, the eight National Missions, other initiatives and international cooperation.

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## **Review of the National Action Plan on Climate Change**

More than 10 years have passed since the adoption of NAPCC by the Government of India. The success or failure of the plan has been critically assessed by various agencies and individuals. Some of the reviews have been presented here:

### **Report by PRS Legislative Research**

The report by Ms. Roshani Sinha, published by PRS Legislative Research provides a review of the implementation of the NAPCC. The review report is presented in brief in this section. The report provides a brief on the performance of the NAPCC submitted in December 2018 by ‘The Committee on Estimates’, chaired by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

### **National Solar Mission**

The committee noted that the budget of Rs. 6,00,000 crore may be difficult to achieve since the government’s outlay for the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period is just Rs. 13,690 crores. The committee also recommended a revised document with a fresh analysis of the financial support.

### **National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency**

The committee observed delayed approvals leading to underutilisation and reduced allocation of funds. The budgetary allocation of Rs. 914 crores for the period from 2010 – 11 to 2016 – 17 was reduced to Rs. 259 crores, out of which only Rs. 208 crores were spent.

### **National Water Mission**

The committee has recommended a review of the techniques and methods of data collection since the existing methods are outdated and unreliable.

### **National Mission on Sustainable Habitat**

Schemes such as ‘Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation’, and the ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ have been found

operational in order to achieve the objectives of this mission with a target of reduction of greenhouse gases up to 270 million tonnes by 2031. The Committee also recommended a comprehensive and integrated plan, catering to the needs of the rural habitats along with the urban habitats.

### **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**

The committee observed that the mission fails to address the problem of income insecurity of farmers and recommended that steps be taken to include these problems in the mission (Sinha, 2018).

Saran (2020), in an article entitled 'India's Climate Change Policy: Creating a better future', has applauded the progress of the missions such as, the achievement of 21 percent of power from renewable sources, steps to reduce coal based thermal power by imposition of cess of Rs. 400 a tonne, the formation of State Action Plans on Climate Change by 32 states.

Rattani et al (2018), in an article entitled 'India's National Action Plan on Climate Change needs desperate repair', has stated that the NAPCC needs desperate repair. The entire plan has been termed as an exercise to secure international approval. Though the entire plan was drawn very fast, the missions were approved only after a period of six years. With the change in Government in 2014, there has been a change in the structure of the institutional mechanisms which has only led to further loss of functionality. The monitoring system and the budgetary sanctions have also been found to be lacking.

An article in India Today Web Desk (2018) entitled '8 government missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)' designed to heal India reviews the progress of the eight missions under NAPCC, which is presented in brief:

## **1. National Solar Mission**

The mission has achieved its target of 20-gigawatt cumulative solar capacity four years in advance in 2018 against the targeted year of 2022.

## **2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**

The mission is said to be making progress by approval ‘in principle’ by the PM’s Council on Climate Change.

## **3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat**

This has been approved by the PM in 2011 and is backed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

## **4. National Water Mission**

This mission is backed by the National Water Policy, the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

## **5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem**

This has been approved by the Union Cabinet in 2014.

## **6. National Mission for a Green India**

This mission has been approved by the Union Cabinet in 2014 and is backed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

## **7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture**

This mission has been approved by the Union Cabinet in 2010 and includes the National Bamboo Mission.

## **8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change**

The mission is driven by the Department of Science and Technology and a positive development is the government’s approval for establishing Karnataka’s first climate change lab.

Rastogi (2011), in an article entitled, 'Winds of change: India's emerging climate strategy', has expressed the inadequacy of the NAPCC with no major shift in the approach to the multilateral negotiations. The response to the plan on a global level also has been stated to be lukewarm as it doesn't reflect India's commitment to climate change.

## Conclusion

While some of the reviews have applauded the work done by the NAPCC, others have expressed dissatisfaction on various levels. The lacunae in the implementation of the plan needs to be addressed to ensure the implementation of the various missions of these plans in the spirit and principle exactly in the way the plan was envisaged

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# CLIMATE ACTION: INDIA'S GROWTH EMERGENCY

*Nimmy Sosa James and Celine Elizabeth George*

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## **Abstract**

Climate change related risks will increasingly affect the Indian subcontinent, including water level rise, cyclonic activity and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. Rising sea levels would submerge low-lying islands and coastal lands and contaminate coastal freshwater reserves. Melting Himalayan glaciers would scale back downstream water system in many of India's important rivers within the season, impacting millions. A warmer atmosphere will spread tropical diseases and pests to new areas. The recent years of natural disaster that hit across the nation is just one of the many red flags that it is high time for our country to be a major contributor in the climate actions movement that is taking place throughout the globe. All the promises and policies should not be confined within documents and should come out as live actions for the rescue of the vulnerable sections and for the future generations.

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## Introduction

Global climate is the average climate of the whole planet. And the reason the scientists are having growing concerned is that the texture of the Earth is changing. The planet is warming up fast - faster than any time scientists know about from the studies of Earth's history. So, what is climate? It is the condition of temperature, rainfall, wind and other accompanying conditions over a bigger region and an extended time than weather. Climate change is increasing the frequency, and intensity of utmost weather events like heat waves, droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, aggravating water management problems, reducing agricultural production and food security, increasing health risks, damaging critical infrastructure and interrupting the provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, education, energy and transport.

From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased by 0.85 degree centigrade. Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, and sea levels has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the worldwide average water level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded. Global emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> have increased by almost 50 per cent since 1990. Emissions grew more quickly between 2000 to 2010 than in each of the three previous decades.

The Thirteenth Sustainable Development Goal Climate Action implied stepped up efforts to scale back greenhouse emissions and to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced impacts, including integrating global climate change measures into national policies, strategies and plans, improving education, awareness and raising human, and institutional capacity with reference to global climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

## Climate Action in India

India's global climate change is probably going to form rainfall erratic, cause rising seas, and make extreme weather events like droughts, floods and warmth waves frequent, in consistence with the latest report of the United Nations body to assess climate science, the Inter-governmental Panel for Global Climate Change (IPCC). Communities and livelihoods nationwide have already been suffering from global climate change.

In the last few years, the effects of climate change are becoming more evident in India. Increased landslides and flooding are projected to possess an impression upon states, like Assam. The spontaneous water level rises have already submerged several low-lying islands within delicate geographical areas such as the Sundarbans, displacing thousands of individuals.

There is a sudden reduction in freshwater availability, disturbance of morphological processes, and a higher intensity of flooding. India's GDP could decline by up to 9 per cent due to shifting growing seasons for major crops such as rice, production of which could fall by 40 per cent. Ecological disasters, like the 1998 coral bleaching event, that killed 70 per cent of corals within the reef ecosystems off Lakshadweep and therefore, the Andaman's, and was brought on by elevated ocean temperatures tied to global warming, are also expected to become increasingly common. Thereby, pressing the need for Climate Action.

Yet, India, where one in every seven persons on the earth lives, has no national study on the impact of global climate change, although about 600 million people are at risk from its effects. This is set to change hopefully towards the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. Mr. N.H. Ravindranath, the scientist who is tasked with preparing the first national study on the impacts of climate change in India,

is currently heading a study that will assess the impact of climate change across regions and sectors.

India is one among the few countries that is determined to meet its Nationally Determined Commitments stated during Paris Agreement in 2015. During his speech at the Climate Action Summit in New York, Prime Minister Mr. Modi announced broader plan for India's climate actions, including an enormous scale-up of renewable energy. India has a growing 'energy-need' with large developmental needs. India is third largest GHG emitter, but its per capita emissions are only at a third of the worldwide average. With a view toward meeting India's future needs, Prime Minister Modi discussed several concrete measures which will deepen India's action on global climate change.

### **Some of the Major Climate Action Plans**

**Improved Focus on Renewable Energy:** India is committed to achieving 175 GW by 2022. India further commits to extend its renewable energy capacity to 450 GW. Achieving 450 GW of renewable energy capacity would be quite five times the country's current renewable capacity at around 81 GW. India's total installed electricity capacity of 360 GW from all sources (including coal-fired power plants), proves an enormous increase in renewable energy capacity.

**Sustainable Mobility:** Greener, smarter cars should be part of a much broader mobility revolution that puts alternative modes to the forefront, including public transport, cycling, and walking. Key approaches include dedicated lanes for public transport, managing parking more efficiently through the use of digital platforms, and designing safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists.

Although largely unused, public procurement can be an effective and relatively straightforward way to advance sustainable mobility. Mobility products and services commissioned by governments are

often worth millions of rupees, giving them significant influence and bargaining power over companies competing for their business. Therefore, by setting more stringent requirements on performance, cost, environmental impact, and other important dimensions, public clients can give the private sector new incentives to innovate.

**Water Conservation:** Water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and rejuvenation of water bodies is critical to India. We have launched a Jal Shakti Abhiyan (water mission) to achieve these measures. To ensure complementarities in domestic action on water, the government also established a new Jal Shakti ministry to work on all water related issues, ranging from supplying clean drinking water, inter-state and international shared water resources and disputes, to river cleaning projects.

**Coalition Towards a Resilient Future:** India is additionally keen on fostering international cooperation to fight global climate change. Prime Minister highlighted that India, alongside France, found the International Solar Alliance (ISA). 80 countries have signed ISA's framework agreement. ISA promotes and facilitates cooperation on solar among developing countries. Along the lines of ISA, Prime Minister Modi announced establishing, the International Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

**Low Carbon Footprint:** India and Sweden, along with other partners, are going to launch the "Industry Transition Group." The group will develop low-carbon pathways with the aim of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 in hard-to-abate industries, like steel and cement. India is committed to end single-use plastic completely by 2022 and hopes that this may function an example for other countries to follow.

## **Carbon and its Effects**

Carbon dioxide is not normally considered a pollutant because it is a normal constituent of air. However, more than  $\text{CO}_2$  is taken into account a pollutant because it results in adverse effects on the environment. The higher concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  within the atmosphere extends the temperature of the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide permits the short wavelength visible radiations to pass through it but traps the longer wavelength infrared radiations (heat waves) reflected by the earth's surface. This trapping of heat waves causes excessive heating of earth's atmosphere. This heating effect on Earth produced during this way is named as the Atmospheric phenomenon of Greenhouse Effects. The greenhouse effect is one of the prominent after-effects that climate change has resulted in our atmosphere. According to an estimate, the average temperature of Earth has increased up to  $1^\circ$  Celsius in the past half-century. It is expected that if the global climate temperature rises by  $3.60^\circ\text{C}$ , then the ice glaciers in the polar region would begin to melt. This would result in the immense rise of sea level to around 100 m and hence, lead to flooding of low-lying land in the coastal region. The recent glacier break in Uttarakhand is an indication of this phenomenon.

## **Greenhouse Effects**

The greenhouse effect is one among the prominent after-effects that global climate change. The ice glaciers within the polar region would begin to melt. This will result in the immense rise of water level to around 100m and hence cause flooding of low-lying land within the coastal region.

## **Main Gases which ends up in Greenhouse Effects**

**Water Vapour:** It is the foremost abundant greenhouse emission. Increase of water vapor leads to the increase of clouds and precipitation.

**Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>):** The atmosphere features a really low amount of the CO<sub>2</sub> presence, but it is an important content of the atmosphere, mostly released through natural action like, respiration and volcano eruption and through human activities like, deforestation, land use changes and burning fossil fuels. Human beings have increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by a third since the Economic Revolution began. This is often one among the foremost significant force in global climate change.

**Methane:** This is one of the hydrocarbon gases that is produced mainly through natural sources and human activities, such as the decomposition of waste in landfills, agriculture, and particularly in cultivation of crops like rice, wheat etc and manure process related with domestic livestock. Methane is additionally one among the foremost active greenhouse emission and one among the less abundant gases within the atmosphere.

**Nitrous oxide:** This is one among the powerful greenhouse emissions produced by soil cultivation activities and practices, especially the utilization of economic and organic, fuel combustion, aqua fortis production and biomass burning.

**Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs):** These are one among the foremost commonly used greenhouse emission in products like refrigerants, aerosol propellants, air conditioners, etc. which are highly controlled by international agreements because it highly destructive to the earth's ozonosphere.

### **The Working of Greenhouse Effect**

Energy from the sun consists of shortwave radiation (30 per cent), visible light and long wave radiation. Some solar radiation (22 per cent of all the incoming shortwave radiation) is reelected back into space by gases like ozone in the upper atmosphere (stratosphere). The Earth's land surface and ocean absorb the rest of the incoming

radiation and become warmer. Land and darker vegetation absorb more and ocean, ice sheet and lighter surfaces reflect more than they absorb.

The greenhouse gases in the atmosphere absorb and thus, trap some of the radiation. Some of the absorbed energy, in the form of long wave radiation or heat, is retransmitted and thus, lost into space. The Earth's surface absorbs additional heat reflected back by the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Overall, about 31 per cent of the incoming radiation is reflected from the outer atmosphere and the Earth's surface and the Earth absorbs 69 per cent.

### **Projected Impacts of Climate Change**

**Agriculture:** Indian agriculture is directly dependant on climate change and weather. The climate changes in temperature, rainfall and carbon dioxide concentration are expected to significantly impact the crop growth and production in the country. A warmer atmosphere will aggressively push the hydrologic cycle, which alters rainfall, since it holds more moisture and it will push for more evaporation leading to dry lakes and other water bodies.

Besides, climate change results in longer growing season and warmer temperatures could lead to longer periods of crop growth and yield. But, there could be adverse impacts like reduced water availability and more frequent extreme heat. These conditions would make agricultural activities more vulnerable, as most of the agriculturalists are dependent on water. It is predicted that India could experience a 40 per cent decline in agricultural productivity around 2060s.

Food security in dry areas, where agricultural land is subjected to secondary salinisation and erosion, will further be affected due to decreasing crop yields and livestock productivity.



**Water Resources:** Impact on water resources are mainly due to projected increase in temperature, which would increase evaporation, and changes in precipitation patterns, which will affect run-off and, thus, water availability. In India, where the rising population continues to be a major concern, there is always a need for water for drinking and other important purposes. But, there is a decline in per capita annual freshwater availability along with the growth of population from 1951 to 2050. With the rising population, there will be an increase in demand for water which can reduce the recharge time of the water tables.

The amount of water required for agriculture has increased proportionally over several decades, since thousands of hectares were brought under cultivation. Indian agriculture alone consumes about 80-85 per cent of the nation's water resources. Other factors, like changes in and cover and land degradation, also affect the hydrology of an area or river basin and thus affect water availability.

**Human Health:** The impact of climate change has been considerably enough to threaten human health, both directly and indirectly, through increasing temperatures, rising sea levels, water and food supply impacts, extreme weather events like floods, droughts, earthquakes, etc., susceptible shelter and population migration. Direct effect of environmental circumstances may ease the diffusion of vector-borne diseases, cardiovascular diseases, respiratory allergies and malnutrition, etc. Indirect effects of climate change, such as mental health problems and involuntary migration are also important. Children, the elderly and communities are living in poverty among the most susceptible of the damaging effects due to climate change.

**Biodiversity:** Biodiversity is the diversity of life on Earth, which is spread across forests, lakes, rivers, land etc. Biodiversity provides many essential goods and services, such as food, and fibre production, clean water and water flow control and storage and cycling of carbon, nitrogen and other nutrients.

Due to heavy deforestation that is happening all over the world, it is threatening the habitat of flora and fauna of the ecosystem. All it results is, in the depletion of various forest based resources such as timber and non-timber products

**Coastal System:** Coastal areas are most likely to be exposed to the increasing risk in future because of rapid climate change-related aspects, such as an accelerated rise in sea level of 0.2-0.6 meters or more by 2100, further rise in sea surface temperature of 1° Celsius to 3° Celsius, larger extreme wave and storm surges, altered precipitation and ocean acidification.

### Suggestions

- \* Swap old incandescent light bulbs for the new compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). They use only 25 per cent as much electricity to give the same light. And they last ten times longer. Swapping old incandescent light bulbs for new compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), as the latter consumes only 25 per cent as much electricity to emit the same amount of light.
- \* Turn off lights, TVs, computers when you do not need them. Turning off lights, TVs, computers and other electronic gadgets when not in use.
- \* Unplug any electronic gadget you can operate, with a remote, as such devices use power even when they are in “off” mode. To unplug any electronic gadget that can be operated with the help of a ‘remote’, as such devices tend to consume power even in power ‘off’ mode.
- \* When you travel, try to carpool as much as you can or use public transport. Carpooling or using public transport to commute or travel can be a good habit.
- \* Stay out of the drive through! When you go to a fast food restaurant, park your car and walk inside rather than sitting in a

line of cars with the engines running and polluting. Stay out of the drive through! When visiting a restaurant, prefer dining in rather than spending time in the car, with engines running and thereby, polluting.

- \* Bikes are a great form of green transportation. Sometimes, in a big city with lots of traffic, they are even faster than cars.
- \* Buy reusable shopping bags. Increasing the usage of reusable bags.
- \* Recycle everything you can. Recycling as much as possible.
- \* Carry your drinking water in a reusable bottle rather than buying bottled water. Carrying own drinking water in a reusable bottle, instead of purchasing plastic bottled water.
- \* Buy products that use less packaging material. Buying products that use minimum packaging materials

## **Acknowledgement**

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# REIMAGINING 2030 AGENDA OF SDGs

*Joseph Xavier*

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## **Introduction**

There is a prevalent view that realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires strong economic reforms supported and sponsored by the global community. While the need for economic reform is crucial, economic reforms alone will not help the developing countries to reach the targets set by 2030 agenda. One among the proponents of economic reforms is Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, US economist. Prof Sachs has to his credit two major works – The End of Poverty, 2005 and The Age of Sustainable development, 2015.

In a global conference organized by Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, Rome, the global Jesuit social arm of the Society of Jesus, Sachs lucidly presented his ideas on how those chained by the cycle of poverty and deprivation and living in the developing countries can be facilitated to be part of sustainable development. Sachs said that the future of survival is a matter of choice, and a matter of ethics. A society that was not built on ethical principles will continue to perpetuate a broken humanity.

The author was asked to respond to the presentation of Sachs. The original paper presented in Rome, titled ‘Walking with the Poor and the Excluded’, from a Jesuit perspective is suitably modified for this book. The response is also premised on insights drawn from ‘Poor Economics’ by the Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo and field visit by the author for a research on community mobilisation. The study on community mobilization is published in two volumes as – Development as Community-led Journey: Learnings from Community Mobilisation Processes and Development Anchored in Community Intelligence: A Handbook for Community Mobilisation.

### **The Rich Countries must help the Poor Countries**

Sustainable goals call for universal action to build ‘The Future that we want’. The fundamental questions are what we want to change and how do we make these changes happen. Sachs argues that to honour the pledge made by world leaders – Leave No One Behind<sup>1</sup> what we lack is practical wisdom. To abolish poverty, meet human needs, end the violence of social exclusion, ensure the global peace, and protect the planet, Sachs propagates ‘aid economics’. He proposes that the global community, especially the rich countries, must help the poor. He contends that unless these poor countries are helped to break the iron grip of poverty, development is not possible, and SDGs will remain as unfulfilled promises.

He argues that there are no magic bullets and what is required is a ‘big push’ through aid economics. Basing his arguments on the data provided by IMF, he calculates the financial gap as US \$350 billion per year and this could be generated through additional tax revenues @ 0.3 per cent of global GDP. For Sachs, this is possible, practical and ethical and for him, it is a matter of paying back to the poor what is theirs. This argument looks sensible and gives me a lot of hope. However, it raises some critical questions.

## **Is it all about Economics?**

While I agree with the principles and ethics of aid economics, my reflections go beyond economic perspective. I find it extremely difficult to contain this discussion within economic parameters. Is walking with the poor and the excluded all about economics? In 1975, the Jesuits articulated the intrinsic relationship between faith and justice as inseparable dimensions. The promotion of justice was declared a central part of the Society's mission and a concrete response to an unjustly suffering humanity. The call was to rebuild the broken relationship with oneself, with the other, God and environment (GC 34). In 2016, Fr. Arturo Sosa, the General of the Society of Jesus, in his letter on the Universal Apostolic Preferences<sup>2</sup> nuanced this understanding to present context and said, "We are called to walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice".

The idea of walking with the poor is a powerful image as it views the development of the poor in a multi-dimensional perspective than looking at it only from economic perspective and worse still, from aid economics viewpoint. The ministry of reconciliation demands conversion, at the individual and collective level, that sees the world from the eyes of the excluded. It cannot be merely reduced to making an offer or financial support through taxes. No doubt, the poor need resources to address their basic needs. However, the poor cannot be reduced to economic measurements and terminologies. Walking with the poor cannot be just an economic agenda; it is political, socio-cultural and spiritual. It is about healing a broken world.

## **Walking with the Poor is Political**

The era of distinguishing and critiquing political parties based on their ideology is a bygone scenario. Ideological differences between right, centre and left are thin. All dominant political parties are

fundamentally seen to be upholding anti-poor ideology and favouring neo-liberal agenda, though they might vary in degree on some specific agenda. In this muddled scenario, out of desperation, people mandate different political parties to govern a country on a round robin basis, every time with a sense of hope and soon to realise that things do not change.

The poor are losing hope not just in political parties and governments but in governance. There is a virtual collapse of public institutions, service sectors, bureaucracy and judiciary. Human rights and civil society spaces are targeted, demonised and decimated. Space for freedom of expression is shrinking and voices against the ruling junta is scuttled and termed as anti-nationals. Majoritarian politics, which portrays the minority as the 'other' and enemy is thriving. The rulers consciously promote conflicts by dividing the citizens based on religion, caste, creed, language etc. There is a nexus between the governments and corporations in exploiting natural resources and depriving people of their sustenance and livelihood. If governments are condemned for corruption, most of the corporations are known for loot and there is an unholy alliance between the two. Looted money is thrown back to the poor as doles to garner votes during elections. There is a huge disconnect between GDP growth and development of the poor. Despite reduction in poverty, inequality is on the increase. In other words, accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few is fast growing. Every day new millionaires are popping up. To maintain the status quo and to scuttle the radical voices of the poor, the Governments are investing in fudging data and engage in disseminating false propaganda. This is efficiently done by capturing media, especially social media. The oligarchies have found their strategy to continue to remain in power through control over media and technology.



Politics is participation. While we should hold the governments accountable to honour their commitment to SDGs, the real political question is how the poor could become participants of the SDG processes and outcomes. From being receivers of aid, the poor must become active players in the planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of SDG goals and indicators. Only then aid economics will be sustainable.

### **Walking with the Poor is Socio-Cultural**

In 2015, Amartya Sen and Jean Drèze wrote in a book – *An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradictions* that India is ‘stinking’, comparing evidences among South Asian countries. Despite higher level of GDP growth in India, sanitation was a major concern. Poor sanitation facilities led many to open defecation. However, in Bangladesh despite poor GDP mark, the people had much better sanitation facilities compared to India.

United Nation, in collaboration with NITI Aayog, the Policy Commission of India, prepared baseline report in 2018 on SDG India Index. One of the claims made in this report is that the government has built millions of toilets, with financial assistance from World Bank, which have improved the sanitation of the poor and consequently health status (SDGs 6 and 3). In November 2019, I had visited a few villages in Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh, the biggest state in India in terms of population, with over 40 per cent of people living in poverty. I found a newly constructed small rooms adjacent to many houses. In the wall, it was written ‘*Ijjat Ghar*’ which means dignity house. Those houses were uniformly numbered. I inquired with the villagers what those small rooms were. They told me that those were toilets and were built by the government under *Swachh Bharat* (Clean India) scheme. Out of curiosity I asked them, “Don’t people use them?” The villagers said that they are used to store fodder for

animals. They also told me, “How could we defecate close to our house?”

This is the cultural mindset of the people, which the Nobel Laureate Abhijit brings out with evidences in his book *The Poor Economics*. My point is that mere data on aid and constructions of toilets are good but not good enough, unless the logical end is realised. When caste, religious, ethnic, patriarchal prejudices etc are deep rooted in a society, aid economics alone will not lead the communities into sustainable development. There is a need for comprehensive approach.

Beyond structural perspectives, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, the Noble Laurates argue why policies fail from another valid standpoint. In their book on *Poor Economics*, they highlight three ‘Is’ problem: ideology, ignorance, inertia. They argue that this problem plagues many efforts to supposedly help the poor and gives us an idea of why policies fail and why aid does not have the effect it should (Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, 2011).

### **Walking with the Poor is Spiritual**

In October 2019, delivering a lecture titled ‘Between Encounters and Dreams’ at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB), Balkrishna Doshi<sup>3</sup> said, “Today, we have become materialistic and technologically oriented. Technology has taken over our spiritual content – the intangible one – where there was reverence, inquiry and an attitude to do things. We think it is progress, but we are forgetting that progress is connected to something higher and not just restricted to material progress”. He decries, “One of the essentials we had was the gift of intuition, thinking about reverence, togetherness, humility and concern for others... I don’t think they are there anymore”.

Often, the poor are equated only as the needy and vulnerable. Yes, they are. But they also have something to contribute to the world. Love for the nature, concern for the needy, reverence to the divine,

sense of detachment of materialistic world etc., are very much part of their being and living. Many of them believe in future sustenance, not because they have their barrels full, but believe that God, nature and neighbours will provide. They would go to the extent of feeding the hungry of today not knowing whether they would have their food for tomorrow. Despite being economically poor, their spiritual strength, resilience and ability to live with minimum are dimensions that need to be part of sustainable development discourse. The poor could very much tell us the 'Future we want'. As much as the poor need resources of the rich, the rich and the wealthy nations have much to learn from the poor. From a merely materialistic outlook, sustainable goals must be driven by radical love for the poor and vulnerable and the spiritual quest of salvaging the entire humanity. The rich and wealthy are in need of change.

### **The Call today**

The Jesuits and partners are called to understand the poor and walk with them in their 'complexities, vulnerabilities and richness'. We need to be neither admirers of the poor nor have pity on them. The question is how we accompany the poor so that they could make informed decisions, access new opportunities and technological benefits and hold the governments accountable and be the subjects of their destiny.

In building a sustainable and humane world, we need to recognise that global North as well as South have unique gifts to offer. It cannot be a one-way track of the rich 'giving' to the poor. There has to be a space for dialogue between the local and global. The global and local, states and citizens and rich and poor must listen to one another. To walk with the poor, the sustainable development goals must be tweaked to embrace a multi-dimensional approach in planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring where the poor are active participants of the processes. A bottom-up approach is necessary for sustainable development.

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**End notes**

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2. <https://jesuits.global/en/documents/send/8-uap-docs/63-universal-apostolic-preferences>.
3. Balkrishna Doshi is the architect of IIMB and at the age of 92 works on affordable housing in India.

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## ABOUT THE ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS

**Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru, (ISI-B)** was established in 1963 to contribute to nation building from a bottom-up and rights-based approach, through context-based social interventions and empowering actions. Over the last 56 years, ISI-B has been engaged in interdisciplinary action research and training of leaders among the dalit, adivasi, minority, migrant, OBC, women and other marginalized communities. It intentionally links social activism, academic discourse and practical praxis, leading to grassroots advocacy and policy changes, in partnership with like-minded organizations.

**Website: [www.isibangalore.com](http://www.isibangalore.com)**

**St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Mangaluru** was established in 1880. Despite its status as a minority institution, the college has imparted high quality education to all sections of society regardless of caste, color or creed. The motto of the college, “Lucet et Ardet” which means “shine to enkindle” has inspired countless students to become men and women for and with others and thus bring light and joy into the lives of people. It is for this reason that Jesuit education has become a touchstone for evolving new paradigms in higher education.

**Website: <http://stalloysiuscollege.co.in/>**

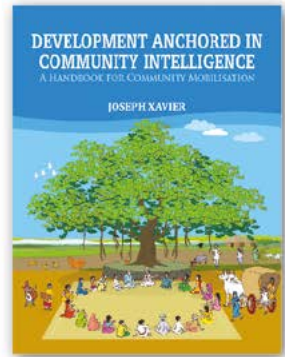
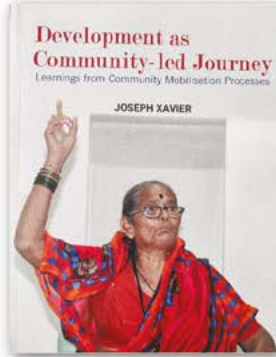
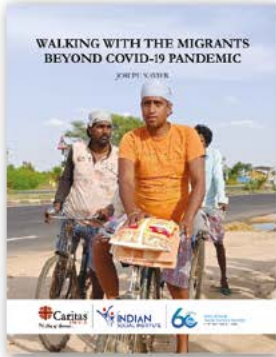
**Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, (ISI-D)** was established in 1951 in response to the challenges of nation-building and a new emerging social order in independent India. Over the last 69 years, ISI-D has committed itself in bringing social transformation through research, training and action, publication and advocacy works aimed at integral development of the marginalized communities, particularly the dalits, adivasis, women, minorities, unorganized and landless labourers in partnership with academicians, people’s movements, human rights organizations and ecological movements nationally and internationally.

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Currently, he serves as Director of Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru. He holds Masters in Human Rights and Ph.D in Human Rights and Criminology. From 2001-2007, he has worked as Secretary for Jesuits in Social Action in South Asia. From 2012-2015, he has served as the Executive Director of ISI-Delhi and Editor of 'Social Action', a quarterly journal, and as Deputy International Director of Jesuit Refugee Service, Rome from 2017-19. He has authored 7 books, published over 20 articles in reputed journals and conducted half a dozen evaluation studies. One of the founders of *Lok Manch*, which works on People's access to Entitlements and developed a model on Migrant Assistance and Information Network. Conducts workshops on research methodology, strategic planning and organisational development process. He was the Chief Editor of 'Policy of Dalit Empowerment in the Catholic Church in India: An Ethical Imperative to Build Inclusive Communities'. His recent publications include, 'Walking with the Migrants Beyond Covid-19 Pandemic', 'Development as Community-led Journey' and 'Development Anchored in Community Intelligence' – A Handbook for social work practitioners.



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