

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDIA- A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH.

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ABSTRACT

Because environmentally responsible economic growth requires a complete transformation of the existing systems of economic production, sustainable development has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges facing the modern society in which we currently reside. India, which is the second most populated nation in the world and has a high degree of poverty, must walk a tightrope to balance the demand for fast economic expansion without compromising the integrity of the natural systems. India, which is a member state of the United Nations, has committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which may be thought of as a set of guidelines for achieving sustainable development. This research paper focuses on the need of Sustainable Development Goals, the success that India has accomplished in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the problems that are connected with attaining those goals.

keywords: Sustainable, Development, Goals

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were significantly influenced by India's contributions. As a result, it should not come as a surprise that the country's national development objectives are reflected in the SDGs. As a consequence of this, India has been successfully committed to accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) long before they were officially formulated as goals. According to statements made by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, "These goals reflect our evolving understanding of the social, economic, and environmental linkages that define our lives." The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are closely aligned with India's development motto, "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" (Collective Effort, Inclusive Development), as well as the accompanying national initiatives. India, which is one of the nations that has volunteered to take part in the VNRs at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017, expresses its appreciation for the emphasis placed on "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world." The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an extensive exercise aimed at assisting countries in working toward a unified agenda for development. They also target the core cause of poverty. In addition to focusing on economic growth, the development of infrastructure, and the industrialization of the nation, the government's battle against poverty has shifted its primary attention to the social inclusion of the poor and the empowerment of the poor. A number of significant programs have been put into place in order to fulfill these goals and satisfy the economic, social, and cultural ambitions of a populace that is very varied. This evaluation outlines the preliminary actions that have been done to further India's development plan and, by extension, the Sustainable Development Goals. Given that India's government is organized along federal lines, the primary emphasis has been on developing systems for monitoring and reporting as well as creating

the framework for shared understanding and cooperation. The responsibilities for leading the activities of implementing ministries, departments, and agencies at the national and state levels have been delegated to a number of different organisations that have been given these responsibilities. The National Institution for Transforming India, often known as NITI Aayog, would be in charge of providing overall coordination and leadership. The Prime Minister will serve as the institution's head. The statistics system and institutions in India collect data and report on it based on predetermined criteria in a variety of fields. Indicators for India's national SDGs are presently being developed in order to more accurately reflect the country's context and need. Indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level are being developed concurrently with those at subnational levels, which will be measured using the statistical system. This VNR focuses on the progress that has been achieved toward reaching Goals, and while reporting on the many aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The High-Level Political Forum has settled on these Goals as the primary areas of attention for the current year. The Sustainable Development Goals are designed in such a way that success made toward one global goal may often lead to progress toward other global goals as well. In point of fact, one set of Sustainable Development Goals acts as an effective tool for the achievement of another set of SDGs. For instance, SDG 8 ("decent work and economic growth") is perhaps the most effective method of accomplishing SDG 1 ("No poverty"). As a consequence of this, the success in SDGs that are described in this report also symbolizes, to some degree, progress in reaching certain other SDGs.

India's Philosophy of 'One World' and Global Partnership for the SDGs

India's civilizational ideals emphasize the need of working together. All of the relevant parties have expressed gratitude to the nation for the role it has played in determining the course of economic growth on a global scale. India is aware that the promotion of global wellness needs the institutionalization of the notion of 'one world' via partnerships based on solidarity, equality, and sharing in order to achieve its goals. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference that took place in Paris in 2015, the Prime Minister of India launched the International Solar Alliance in accordance with this philosophical outlook. The goal of the Alliance is to reduce the cost of solar energy by promoting collaboration among its member nations, which now number 121. The standardization of solar technology and an increase in research and development are going to be the means by which this goal will be achieved. Additionally, India has provided platforms for the facilitation of meaningful dialogue among nations. These platforms include the India-Africa Forum Summit and the BRICS Summit. In addition to the deepening of bilateral contacts, one of the most significant priorities has been to place a greater emphasis on the establishment of norms within multilateral organizations and to fortify the United Nations. In conclusion, India maintains a vital role in the development cooperation taking place in its immediate and extended neighbors.

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

India's Parliament conducted numerous forums, including the South Asian Speakers' Summit in February 2017, with the purpose of reinforcing the country's commitment to the national development plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The forum's topics included the eradication of poverty, gender equality, climate change, and the mobilization of resources for the SDGs. The Speakers' Research Initiative was established so that members of parliament might get information on the Sustainable Development Goals. NITI Aayog is steadfast in its dedication to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a timely way, and the organization is also working to build an ongoing communication process that spans the whole

of the nation, in both an official and an informal capacity. This procedure has resulted in the generation of a significant amount of insights and inputs for the VNR. In addition, NITI Aayog is eager to encourage states and union territories to contribute, among other things, any new information or excellent practices from a variety of disciplines in order to accelerate the implementation of SDGs throughout the nation. For example, all fifty states and the District of Columbia sent representatives to a national workshop on exemplary policies and procedures for the social sector. NITI Aayog has also created a book that compiles such exemplary policies and procedures from each of the states in the nation. This compilation has been sent to each of the states as well as to all of the ministries and departments that make up the central government. Civil society organizations that have been working on Sustainable Development Goal-related problems at all levels, from the local to the national level, have been playing an essential part in this process. They have collaborated with the government in order to give suggestions, raise awareness, and provide feedback, and they have done so individually as well as in coalitions. Their activities include the ones listed below:

- Preparing information, education, and communication materials on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as organizing workshops to build capacity and awareness campaigns;
- Assisting individual governments in incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into their own planning and implementation processes;
- Drawing attention to problems pertaining to climate justice and sustainable energy management in order to formulate essential policies
- Taking action at the state and national levels; and Conducting research and documentation on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as its significance to the rights and
- the rights of a variety of disadvantaged groups within the population.

Corporate sector organizations, including industry groups, have consulted and taken action on environmental sustainability, creative climate action, and equitable development plans. They have collaborated with business, government, and civil society to create creative solutions and strategies. NITI Aayog defined the 17 Goals and 169 goals to Nodal Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and important government activities. To improve SDG knowledge, comprehension, and implementation, the mapping findings were shared with Central Ministries and posted on the NITI Aayog website. Most state governments have mapped SDGs and objectives to ministries and programs. To discuss SDG initiatives, sub-national chief secretaries have been consulted periodically. The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has almost finished updating national statistics to match SDG indicators. To create an SDG indicator monitoring framework, the Ministry convened multiple debates and a national workshop. MoSPI released a proposed national indicator list for public comment after thorough talks. It's encouraging that MoSPI got a lot of feedback from stakeholders across. These inputs will finish the progress indicators. The NITI Aayog also produced a proposed Three-Year Action Agenda for 2017-18–2019-20. The Action Agenda tackles national issues and accelerates growth. A 15-year vision and 7-year plan are also being developed. These papers are being developed with sub-national governments' input, following the nation's federal tradition. This VNR highlights some of India's SDG-related programs. The PMJDY, the world's biggest financial inclusion program, is notable. The PMJDY has enabled Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) of INR 1.6 trillion (USD 25 billion at INR 64 per USD) to 329 million beneficiaries. This boosts government program efficiency. State governments are developing 15-year vision and strategy roadmaps. Most state governments have used national development and 2030 agenda strategic lessons to their local situations and goals. State Planning and Development agencies provide SDG implementation information and help. Rural Panchayati

Raj Institutions (PRIs) and urban local bodies (ULBs) are powerful local administrations in India. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is helping village-level PRIs plan and execute development projects after the 14th Finance Commission devolved significant funds to them. The SDG-based national development agenda underpins PRI capacity building and planning.

Genesis and Adoption of Sustainable Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for 2015 served as the foundation for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were a set of eight development objectives that were established in the year 2000 with aims to be reached by the year 2015. The Millennium Development objectives (MDGs) are, in point of fact, the first effort made on a worldwide scale to create quantifiable objectives and targets on critical difficulties that the world is now confronting. Significant political and economic shifts have place all around the globe during the period of time spanning from the year 2000 to 2015. In 2012, steps were taken to begin the process of creating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the intention of continuing the momentum produced by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and moving the global development agenda forward. Based mostly on the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012 to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit, which took place in 1992. This document is named The Future we Want. To make it easier to conduct in-depth consultations throughout the process of developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a novel and constituency-based system of representation was put into place. In light of this, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established in 2013 an Open Working Group (OWG) consisting of thirty individuals with the purpose of formulating a proposal about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally contributing to the OWG was India. The OWG had a total of thirteen sessions between March 2013 and July 2014, and the UNGA approved the OWG's final report during its 69th session, which took place in September 2014. These sessions took place between March 2013 and July 2014. At the special United Nations Summit that was held in New York from September 25 to September 27, 2015, the world's leaders officially accepted the Resolution that was named "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," which enunciates 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated goals. The Prime Minister of India was also present at the Summit of the United Nations.

Constituents of SDGs

Interconnectedness: When developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we kept in mind the rising awareness that challenges linked to development are no longer confined by the borders of individual nations but are, rather, rapidly taking on a more global character. What occurs in one nation has an effect on what happens in another country, whether it is poverty or the damage of the environment. All of these problems are starting to cross national boundaries in their nature. Therefore, the fundamental philosophy behind the Sustainable Development Goals is based on the interconnectedness of the problems that are faced globally.

Approach that takes into account several dimensions, including 17 goals and 169 targets: There are 17 Sustainable Development objectives (SDGs), and they are equally distributed and balanced among the three pillars of sustainable development. There are 6 primarily social objectives (Goals 1 to 6), 5 economic goals (Goals 7 to 11), and 4 environmental goals (Goals 12 to 15). The SDGs are spread out across 169 targets.

The factors that make it possible for progress to be made are the focus of a distinct objective (objective 16), which is titled "Peaceful Societies and Effective Institutions." The provision of economic, technical, and organizational assistance to developing nations is the focus of Goal 17, which is a separate objective within the overall set of Sustainable Development Goals.

Methods of Putting It Into Practice: One of the most important aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the fact that they place a significant emphasis on the methods by which they will be accomplished. This includes the collection of monetary resources, the development of human resources and the dissemination of environmentally friendly technology, as well as data and institutions. As a result, individual 'means of implementation' goals have been included into each of the Goals.

Review and Monitoring: Both reviewing and monitoring have been given a high importance in the Sustainable Development objectives (SDGs) in order to keep tabs on how far we've come toward achieving our various developmental objectives and targets. The resolution passed by the United Nations emphasizes how critical it is to do follow-up on a national, regional, and even a global scale. In order to evaluate how well the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being met, a Global Indicator Framework consisting of 243 indicators has been established. In addition, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development has just come into existence at the international level. In addition to providing further direction, it plays a crucial part in the worldwide follow-up and evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a part of its follow-up and review processes, nations are urged to undertake frequent evaluations of progress at the national and sub-national levels as part of the Voluntary National Review. These evaluations are to be carried out voluntarily, under the direction of state authorities, and by both industrialized and developing nations. As a result, we refer to them as Voluntary National Reviews, or VNRs for short. The objective of the voluntary national reviews (VNRs), which is to promote the sharing of experiences, including achievements, problems, and lessons learned, with the goal of expediting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is to facilitate the sharing of these experiences. 2017 was the year when India handed in its VNR.

SDGs and India

In Many Ways, the SDGs Reflect India's Development Goals: It has previously been noted that the Prime Minister of India traveled to New York City in 2015 to participate in the United Nations Summit that was held there to endorse the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The fact that a significant portion of India's development strategy is reflected in the SDGs is one of the most important takeaways from the remarks made by our Prime Minister. This is a reflection of the fact that various developmental programs had already been started in India prior to the formulation and adoption of the SDGs.

Participation of India in the Establishment of Objectives and Objectives: India, in its capacity as a member of the Open Working Group (OWG), which was established for the purpose of formulating a proposal on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), vigorously fought for the issues that were faced by developing nations. The government of India placed a strong focus on the priorities that should be met in order to pull a large number of people out of poverty via quick and inclusive economic development. In addition, it has been emphasized that even if a significant amount of work has already been done for the development of infrastructure, bringing progress to all areas of society continues to be a significant problem. All of the developing nations throughout the globe continue to struggle with these difficulties. The Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) were positioned as an agenda for development by India. In spite of the fact that concerns pertaining to the elimination of poverty and development via inclusive economic growth are at the forefront of the development agenda, extra resources and activities aimed at capabilitybuilding are necessary in order to tackle these monumental undertakings. Because of this, India has placed a strong emphasis on international collaboration as a way of facilitating development. India has also advocated that appropriate means of implementation, such as increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the transfer of technology on favorable terms, be made available in order to assist developing nations.

Need for Sustainable Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The MDGs were focused on eradicating poverty and hunger, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, as well as improving access to primary education, improving maternal health, ensuring gender equality, and ensuring environmental sustainability. In addition, the MDGs aimed to improve gender equality and ensure that environmental sustainability was achieved. In addition to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and TB, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were very successful in making elementary education available to everyone, increasing access to good water and sanitation, and universalizing primary education. However, it was determined that the eight MDGs were not adequate to cope with the issues that were presented by climate change. As a result, the objectives were broadened, and greater focus was placed on the concept of sustainable development. The Millennium Development objectives (MDGs) were developed by a top-down method, while the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were developed through a collaborative process in which individuals and representatives of civil society collaborated in formulating the objectives. The reliance on Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the case of the MDGs, which is when poor countries received aid from rich donor countries, has been eliminated. Instead, the SDGs focus on countries improving their own capabilities to generate revenue, as fund flows under the MDGs did not materialize as expected. Hunger and poverty have been divided into two distinct targets within the SDGs due to the fact that nutritional difficulties are not exclusively tied to poverty.⁸ The attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may go a long way toward ensuring that economic growth is both sustainable and inclusive for a nation like India, which has a number of developmental hurdles in the form of its vast population, pervasive poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and lackluster socioeconomic indicators. India, which is home to one sixth of the world's population, not only has a significant interest but also a significant duty in maintaining the prosperity of the world's people and the people who live on it.

Progress in Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by India

In order to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is necessary for the policies, plans, and schemes of the government to be in line with those objectives. The initiative cannot be led just by the government and must also have cooperation from the business sector in order to be successful. While the Sustainable Development Goals need to be accomplished by the year 2030, the Indian government is diligently keeping an eye on the indicators that fall under each objective and goal. NITI Aayog is the agency that is responsible for supervising the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It does this through raising awareness among stakeholders, increasing capacity, assuring and monitoring progress toward SDGs and objectives via programs and schemes developed in conjunction with states and union territories, academic institutions, civil society organizations, and multilateral agencies. The Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2.0 (SDGII 2.0) was developed by the Government of India. It is comprised

of 100 different indicators and covers 54 different objectives spread over 16 different goals, with the exception of Goal 17, which is qualitative in nature. This index provides a ranking of states and UTs based on how well they have accomplished their objectives and aims. The overall score, which may vary from 0 to 100, indicates whether or not the state or territory has succeeded in accomplishing the objectives and associated targets. A score of 100 indicates that the state or territory has already accomplished all of the goals that were set for the year 2030. NITI Aayog's SDG India Index & Dashboard 2019-20 study, which is based on SDGII 2.0, found that India's composite score increased from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019, indicating that the country has made progress toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This improvement in score was driven by five specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 15 (life on land), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), where India has scored between 65 and 99. The achievement of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, which works toward the goal of eradicating public urination and feces, is largely responsible for the progress made toward achieving SDG 6. The progress made toward SDG 7 may be attributed to the widespread availability of LPG and increased energy connections. a better rural road network and increased use of information and communication technologies (ICT). India's total score was below 50, and the nation scored the lowest on Sustainable Development Goal 2 (eradicating hunger) and Sustainable Development Goal 5 (achieving gender equality).⁹ Both Kerala and Chandigarh remained in first place for their respective categories, states and UTs, maintaining a total score of 70 in each case. After just three states in 2018 (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu) had a score between 65 and 99, this group of high scorers expanded to include five additional states in 2019 (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Sikkim, and Goa). Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha were the three states that improved their overall score the most from 2018 to 2019, while Uttar Pradesh was the state that improved the least. The state of Uttar Pradesh improved its total score from 42 in 2018 to 55 in 2019, thanks in large part to a leap of 40 points in the category measuring progress toward the objective of "affordable and clean energy." In addition to this, it did very well in the goal 6 category, which was clean water and sanitation, as well as the goal 9 category, which was industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Because of the significant increase in the number of goals it was able to accomplish, Odisha's total score went up by seven points. Sikkim achieved a satisfactory level of success in achieving goals 7, 9, and 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goals by India

In order to achieve the SDGs, India will need to overcome a number of obstacles. One of the most significant obstacles is the lack of adequate infrastructure, which hinders growth. Because the financial markets, despite their vitality, are not yet fully established, particularly in terms of the debt market, it is difficult to get financing for the development of infrastructure and this process is wholly dependent on the banking industry. A credit shortage has occurred in the private sector as a direct effect of the NPA crisis that has befallen the Indian banking industry. As a consequence of low levels of research and development as well as an insufficient amount of innovation, India is falling behind other countries and is unable to adopt and adapt environmentally friendly industrial techniques or agricultural practices that are climate change resilient. Indicators of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are moving at a snail's pace since India has a high degree of poverty, as well as insufficient access to sanitation, basic healthcare, and education.

Conclusion

There are still five states in India that were unable to raise their ranking, despite the fact that other Indian states have shown success across a variety of measures in 2019. There has also been an alarming lack of progress in specific objectives, such as Sustainable Development target 5 (SDG 5), which focuses on gender equality. With the exception of Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir, all states score below 50 on this target. With only 35 out of a possible 100 points, India gets the lowest total score for Sustainable Development Goal 2: Ending Hunger. India has not yet attained its intended score of 100 in any of the objectives, and with the bulk of the total SDG scores sitting in the range of 50 to 75, it is obvious that India has to considerably improve its progress in achieving SDGs in this decade. In order to do so, India must improve its success in achieving SDGs in this decade. The impending global recession, which is being driven by the epidemic of Covid 19, makes it even more difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since the creation of money is being impeded and government resources are increasingly constricted. There is still considerable time before the deadline of 2030, and India's objectives may be accomplished with the aid of creative initiatives that are driven by the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, including the business sector.

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