



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: TRANSITION TOWARDS INDIA'S PROGRESS
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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ABSTRACT

In the broadest sense, sustainability refers to the ability to maintain or support a process continuously over time. In business and policy contexts, sustainability seeks to prevent the depletion of natural or physical resources, so that they will remain available for the long term. The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are part of a transformative agenda - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by 193 Member States at the UN General Assembly Summit in September 2015, and which came into effect on 1 January 2016. At the core of this global agenda for 2030 is the principle of universality: 'Leave No One Behind'. Development in all its dimensions must include all people, everywhere, and should be built through the participation of everyone, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. This comprehensive agenda recognises that it is no longer sufficient just to focus on economic growth, but on fairer and more equal societies, and a safer and more prosperous planet.

KEY WORDS: sustainable development, concept, goals, India Progressing.

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by United Nations member states to address the world's most pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. These goals aim to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development, and ensure a better future for all. The SDGs cover a wide range of areas, including poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, gender equality, climate action, and more. By 2030, countries are committed to achieving these goals through targeted actions, policies, and international cooperation. The SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable development, guiding efforts to create a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world for present and



Of many factors that have contributed to this success, social capital, which refers to the networks, relationships, and norms that facilitate cooperation and collective action, has played a crucial role in achieving the SDGs in India. It enabled communities to come together, share resources, and work towards common goals. Social capital facilitated the implementation of development programs, enhanced community participation, and promoted inclusive decision-making processes. It also helped in mobilising resources, fostering partnerships, and promoting social cohesion, which are essential for sustainable development. By leveraging social capital, India has and can further harness the collective efforts of individuals, communities, and organisations to address various challenges and achieve the SDGs effectively.¹

OBJECTIVES

1. To know the concept of sustainable development
2. To observe the sustainable achievement goals in India

METHODOLOGY

The study embodied a literature reviews as well as a descriptive investigation to achieve its objectives. It comprehensively analyses the effectiveness and obstacles of sustainable development India. And is founded on secondary data derived from numerous publications of government papers by the Government of Public reports from India and other countries both in India and private sector organizations. The methodology for locating, selecting, going over and summarizing significant literature and research studies for the review is described in the report. Data have been taken from online papers, journals, and other sources.

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The concept of ‘Sustainable Development’ was formulated in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development, popularly known as the Brundtland Commission. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1983. In the eighties of the 20th century, world leaders became acutely aware that the environment was fast deteriorating due to over exploitation of nature by human beings. In his ‘Chairman’s Foreword’ Gro Harlem Brundtland



The present decade [the eighties] has been marked by a retreat from social concerns. Scientists bring to our attention urgent and compelling problems of survival: a warming globe, threats to the Earth's ozone layer, deserts consuming agricultural land

The report entitled Our Common Future (United Nations, 1987) makes a scathing criticism of our social and political practices which had negatively impacted on planet Earth. Some of these are as follows:

- Infant mortality is declining. Human life expectancy is increasing. But the number of hungry people in the world is increasing. (Art 5&6).
- Increase in desertification, widespread destruction of forests, acid rain, burning of fossil fuel causing global warming (Art.7).
- A major cause and effect of global environmental problems is poverty (Art.8).
- The arms race has led to a rise in global military expenditures (Art.20).

The Brundtland report concluded that there was growing realization among national governments and multilateral institutions that 'it is impossible to separate economic developmental issues from environmental issues; many forms of development erode the environmental resources upon which they must be based, and environmental degradation can undermine economic development' (Art.8).

The Brundtland Commission had three objectives: 1) to re-examine the environment and development issues and formulate a 'realistic proposal' to solve these issues ;2) propose new forms and co-operation on these issues; 3) to 'raise the level of understanding and commitment of a wide spectrum of people, businesses, governments voluntary organizations, and institutes.'²

INDIA PROGRESSING TOWARDS ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Vasudhaiva kutumbakam, the world is one family (Upanishads) In Values of India, they imagine a world where no one is left behind modern India. Realizing hopes resurgent full of aspirations pursuing modern India vision of collective effort and inclusive growth for all hoping



economy booming millions of jobs will be added and the numbers of those living in poverty hoping will be halved. India is constantly innovating to include most citizens in its relative economic prosperity the country pioneered self-help groups that brought thousands of women into the banking system these accounts are used to support social security systems like job security, pension, insurance, etc.

India's poor run-in sustainable development

The past record indicates that we have been not very successful in setting relevant indicators to measure outcomes. Quality education has not successfully been defined. India's myopic definition of "safe" drinking water (with hand pumps and tube wells considered as safe as piped water supply) means that official data suggests 86% of Indians have access to safe drinking water and, as a result, we are "on track" for the MDG goal on drinking water.

Indigenization practices and sustainable development goals in India

The greatest threats to sustainable development on earth are population growth and urbanization, energy use and global warming, excessive waste generation and the subsequent pollution of soil, air, and water, transportation in cities, and limited supply of resources. Many of them are interrelated. The 3 pillars of sustainable development are Social, Environmental, Economic.

Social Development:

The ability of a community to develop processes and structures which not only meet the needs of its current members but also support the ability of future generations to maintain a healthy community, quality of life, education, equal opportunities, Law and ethics, environmental law, public involvement in social development. Social workers work as change agents with individuals and institutions, community organization, policy analysis, social planning, and administration. Working according to the Indian constitution with the cultural aspects for the development of the society for the social development. Working for the rights and equality of every citizen.

Environmental Development

Sustainable development aims at promoting the kind of development that minimizes environmental problems and meets the needs of the present generation without compromising



the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. For example, before our ancestors were Planting sacred trees across the city and roads. - banyan tree peepal tree, neem tree, tamarind jackfruit tree, mango tree, etc. What did we plant on the sides of the road? - Now we plant ornament plants – Gul Mohar, copper pod, fancy flower tress, etc.

Economic Development

Sustainable development in India encompasses a variety of development schemes in social, cleantech (clean energy, clean water, and sustainable agriculture), and human resources segments, having caught the attention of both Central and State governments and also public and private sectors. Sustainable development aims at creating sustainable improvements in the quality of life of all people. (ii) Increase in economic growth: Sustainable development aims at increasing economic growth through meeting basic needs i.e., raising the standard of living. The benefits of Sustainable Economic Development impact more than just those in poverty.

Responsibility of Social workers in sustainable development

Social workers facilitate and foster partnerships within communities and between various partners, at local, national, and international levels, to translate UN SDGs in various ways (social, economic, and ecological) and design together with new knowledge of sustainable solutions for the implementation action. Social Workers are often involved in teaching people about resources and how to develop particular skills such as budgeting, the caring discipline of children, effective communication, the meaning of a medical diagnosis, and the prevention of violence.³

GOAL 1 - END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE -ASSESSMENT

Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere implies attention to both completely eliminating extreme poverty while attending to other key socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental dimensions of poverty, and monitoring progress in social protection and inequality. The intricate nature of poverty with various social, economic and environmental components makes an independent assessment of this goal difficult. Many issues relating to poverty are covered under various goals like food security (Goal 2), access to healthcare (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), water (Goal 6), and energy (Goal 7) for all. Additionally, Goals 9 and 11 aim for infrastructure development that can enable capital formation and generate job opportunities.



CHALLENGE

Poverty in India is mainly due to lack of proper government policies and the exploitation of the financially weaker section by the richer class. The main outcome of poverty is hunger. Hunger's seriousness can be understood easily from the fact that every year, 5.8 million children die from hunger related-causes around the world. (That is, 16,000 children die each day) 6 Estimates by NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research) show that 80 million households in India are in income levels of Rs. 45,000– 90,000 per year. These numbers also are more or less in line with the latest World Bank's estimates of the "below-the-poverty-line" households that may total about 456 million individuals.

SOLUTION

Various measures which should be taken to reduce poverty in India are: 1. Changing Strategy of Economic Growth 2. Agricultural Growth and Poverty Alleviation 3. Speedy Development of Infrastructure 4. Accelerating Human Resource Development 5. Growth of Non-Farm Employment 6. Access to Assets 7. Public Distribution System 8. Direct Attack on Poverty 9. Economic Growth. ⁴

GOAL -2- END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE- ASSESSMENT

Food security is influenced by a number of factors, including those that determine food availability—domestic food production and the capacity to import food—as well as determinants of food access, including the distribution of food among various segments of the population. The financial requirement for India to meet its costs for food security is around INR 46 lakh crores (USD 729 billion) from 2015-24. This cost includes the financial requirements for providing access to safe and nutritious food for all. It also includes investments in irrigation, soil and water conservation, wasteland regeneration and rain-fed farming. Of the finances required for ensuring food security from 2015-24, the financial gap that India is estimated to face is of the order of INR 18.5 lakh crores (USD 293 billion) for access and distribution costs of food and for financing sustainable agricultural production systems.⁵

CHALLENGES



Challenges with Food Security in India has been a major cause of concern for the authorities over the past many years. In this article, we shall discuss at length the present status of food security in the country along with the challenges related to food security. In recent times when the world was fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, food security was in an alarming situation across India. With situations like lockdown, many families lost their income which ultimately led to challenging situations for the availability of food for all.

SOLUTION

Food security is ensured in India on the basis of the two components, i.e., Buffer Stock and Public Distribution System (PDS).

1. **Buffer Stock.** It is the stock of food grains like wheat and rice procured by the government through Food Corporation of India (FCI).
2. **Public Distribution System.** The food procured by the FCI is distributed through government regulated ration shops called Fair Price Shops (FPS) among the poorer sections of the society.⁵

GOAL 3- ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES -ASSESSMENT

Goal 3 includes health and well-being for all, which depends on health status of the population, health infrastructure, access to health insurance, etc. It also includes to achieve this goal, India would need to increase its Health Index, which includes health status of population, quality of healthcare institutions and financial instruments for access to healthcare (insurance, etc.), to 0.9. As of 2011, India's Health Index was 0.702.

CHALLENGES

Women around the world continue to **lack access to sexual and reproductive health care**; thousands of new cases of HIV/AIDS continue to occur each day, billions of people are left without access to essential medicines, millions of adults and children will suffer from undernourishment

SOLUTION



Over the last 15 years, the number of childhood deaths has been cut in half. This proves that it is possible to win the fight against almost every disease. Still, we are spending an astonishing amount of money and resources on treating illnesses that are surprisingly easy to prevent. The new goal for worldwide Good Health promotes healthy lifestyles, preventive measures and modern, efficient healthcare for everyone.⁶

GOAL 4 - ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL-ASSESSMENT

Goal 4 calls for universal access to all levels of education and skill development, starting from pre-primary education, early childhood care and development, primary and secondary education, all the way to tertiary education, and skill development. With respect to expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP, in 2012, India spent 3.8 per cent, while South Africa spent 6.2 per cent, Japan spent 3.8 per cent and Germany spent 5 per cent (in 2011) (World Bank, 2007). While India has achieved near-universal enrolment in primary and secondary education (Pratham Education Foundation, 2014), the learning levels of children are low. For example, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2014 indicates that of all the students in rural India enrolled in Standard VIII in 2014, about 25 per cent could not read a Standard II level text.

CHALLENGES

In India Millions of children face significant barriers to receiving the quality education they deserve—from overcrowded classrooms to undertrained teachers; from lack of access for students with disabilities to gender inequity; from the massive impact of pandemic-related school closures to lack of family support for education.

SOLUTION

It not only equips students with knowledge and skills but also helps in shaping their character and values. **A quality education system focuses on providing students with a well-rounded curriculum, experienced teachers, and a conducive learning environment.**⁷

GOAL 5 - ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS-ASSESSMENT



The goal calls for ending achieving gender equality by ending all forms of discrimination against women, and empowering women in all spheres of life. In India, discriminatory attitudes towards women have existed for many generations. This is visible in a multitude of indicators: India's child (aged 0-6) sex ratio as of 2011 is 914 females per 1000 males, declining from 927 in 2001 (Times of India, 2011).⁸ India, on the other hand, ranks 114 out of 142 countries. In fact, the trends observed in the Global Gender Gap Reports indicate that the year of gender equality in the workplace is at least 8 decades away (World Economic Forum, 2014).

CHALLENGES : The risks, violations and vulnerabilities girls face just because they are girls. Most of these risks are directly linked to the economic, political, social and cultural disadvantages girls deal with in their daily lives. This becomes acute during crisis and disasters. With the prevalence of gender discrimination, and social norms and practices, girls become exposed to the possibility of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child domestic work, poor education and health, sexual abuse, exploitation and violence. Many of these manifestations will not change unless girls are valued more.

SOLUTION

To conclude the gender inequality essay, we need to get rid of the old-age traditions and mentality. We must teach everyone, especially the boys all about equality and respect. It requires quite a lot of work but it is possible. We can work together and achieve equal respect and opportunities for all genders alike⁹.

GOAL 6: ENSURE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL ASSESSMENT

Goal 6 deals with all aspects of water availability, access and use. The targets within this goal are closely linked to one another and also to other goals. For example, universal provision of drinking water (Target 6.1) and sanitation coverage (Target 6.3) can only be achieved if existing water bodies are sustainably used (Goal 12) and the quality of water in these bodies is kept at an acceptable standard (Target 6.3). Maintenance of water quality is in turn dependent on the way industry, agriculture and other sectors use and dispose of water. Industrial effluents and sewage are major sources of water pollution, but are also consequences of uncontrolled



industrialisation and urbanisation. Goals 9 and 11 (on industrialisation and urbanisation respectively) must address these concerns.

CHALLENGE

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all. **Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being.** Billions of people will lack access to these basic services in 2030 unless progress quadruples.

SOLUTION

Civil society organizations should work to keep governments accountable, invest in water research and development, and promote the inclusion of women, youth and indigenous communities in water resources governance.

Generating awareness of these roles and turning them into action will lead to win-win results and increased sustainability and integrity for both human and ecological systems.¹⁰

GOAL 7- ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL- ASSESSMENT

For ensuring access to energy in the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario, that is, a fossil fuel dominant energy mix, India would require finances of the order of INR 28 lakh crores as capital investment in production capacity. India may opt for two other scenarios.¹⁰ If India moderately increases the share of renewable energy and reduces the fossil fuel component from the current 60 per cent to 50 per cent, the financial requirement increases to INR 34 lakh crores of capital investment in production capacity.

CHALLENGE

Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy is **widely acknowledged as the cornerstone for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).** In the context of India, considerable progress has been made in recent years towards addressing this crucial aspect of sustainable development.

SOLUTION



Universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services requires **expanding access to electricity and clean cooking fuels and technologies, as well as improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy.** ¹¹

GOAL 8- PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL- ASSESSMENT

India registered a GDP growth rate of 7.17 per cent in 2014 over the previous year (Statistical). Prospects in terms of the growth rate look promising; the World Bank has predicted a growth rate of 8 per cent for India by 2017 (Press Trust of India, 2015). Target 8.1 calls for a sustained per capita economic growth at a level that is appropriate given national circumstances. Economic growth rate is controlled by a large number of factors not limited to the business cycle, investment, demographic changes, income equality, productivity of the workforce etc.

CHALLENGE

In India, poverty and income inequality are pressing issues. The country is home to a significant population living below the poverty line, with a wide gap between the rich and the poor. This divide presents challenges to social cohesion and inclusive growth.

SOLUTION

Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services. ¹²

GOAL 9- BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION - ASSESSMENT

Infrastructure projects are complex, capital intensive, and have long gestation periods that involve multiple and often unique risks to project financiers. Due to its non-recourse or limited recourse financing characteristic (i.e., lenders can only be repaid from the revenues generated by the project), and the scale and complexity, infrastructure financing requires a complex and varied mix of financial and contractual arrangements amongst multiple parties including the project sponsors, commercial banks, domestic and international financial institutions, and



government agencies. India's overall infrastructure needs will require financial investments of the order of INR 119 lakh crores (USD 1900 billion).

CHALLENGE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Sustainable Development Goal 9 addresses three important aspects of sustainable development: infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.

SOLUTION

Universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services requires expanding access to electricity and clean cooking fuels and technologies, as well as improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy.¹³

GOAL 10- REDUCED INEQUALITY

A financial assessment of Goal 10 has not been attempted in this study because of the close link of the targets under Goal 10 with the targets in remaining goals. Inequality is multi-faceted in nature. There is inequality in income; but there is also inequality in educational attainment, health status, employment, access to food, access to water, access to social security and in general access to opportunities and choices.

CHALLENGES

Problems and challenges like poverty, climate change, migration or economic crises are never just confined to one country or region. Even the richest countries still have communities living in abject poverty. The oldest democracies still wrestle with racism, homophobia and transphobia, and religious intolerance. Global inequality affects us all, no matter who we are or where we are from.

SOLUTION

Reducing inequality requires transformative change. Greater efforts are needed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and invest more in health, education, social protection and decent jobs especially for young people, migrants and refugees and other vulnerable communities.¹⁴

GOAL 11- MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE - ASSESSMENT



Goal 11 calls for the sustainable development of cities and human settlements. Urbanisation in India has been on the rise. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4 per cent. This count increased to 28.53 per cent according to 2001 census, and crossing 30 per cent as per 2011 census, standing at 31.16 per cent. People migrate to cities in the hopes of finding better economic opportunities, access to a larger range of public amenities and services, and prospects of a better life than in rural areas.

CHALLENGES

Inequality and the levels of urban energy consumption and pollution are some of the challenges. Cities occupy just 3 per cent of the Earth's land, but account for 60-80 per cent of energy consumption and 75 per cent of carbon emissions.

Many cities are also more vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters due to their high concentration of people and location so building urban resilience is crucial to avoid human, social and economic losses.

SOLUTION

Develop a vision for your building, street, and neighbourhood, and act on that vision. The better the conditions you create in your community, the greater the effect on quality of life. Efforts must focus on implementing inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development policies and practices that prioritize access to basic services, affordable housing, efficient transportation and green spaces for all.¹⁵

GOAL 12- ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS -ASSESSMENT

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is a pre-requisite for the world's development to remain within the safe limits of growth and planetary boundaries. It is fundamental in order to achieve sustainable development. [All facts from Planning Commission Report (Planning Commission, GoI, 2014)] India emitted 1,728 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent of GHGs, making it the sixth largest emitter in the world.

CHALLENGES



Sustainable Development Goal 12 encourages **more sustainable consumption and production patterns** through various measures, including specific policies and international agreements on the management of materials that are toxic to the environment.

SOLUTIONS

Three core elements of sustainable development are **economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection**. It is crucial to harmonize them. Sustainable economic growth, achieving sustainable livelihood, living in harmony with nature and appropriate technology are important for sustainable development.¹⁶

INDIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMPARE WITH OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS

India scored 61.9 out of 100 points while its seven neighbours-China (73.9), Bhutan (69.3), Maldives (67.6), Sri Lanka (66.9), Nepal (65.9), Myanmar (64.6), and Bangladesh (63.5) got more points than India. Sweden has the highest score of 84.7 in Sustainable Development. The report attributes India's decline in Sustainable Development to the challenges of **eradicating hunger and hindering food security goals**. In addition, gender equality, building resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialization, and the absence of innovation are some of the reasons why India's ranking has slipped.¹⁷

The government should ensure education and employment for girls and women to reduce gender inequality in society. Environmental regulations for the protection of the environment should not be relaxed but should be enforced strictly and seriously so that the health of the people as well as the health of the earth and the environment is maintained.¹⁸

SUGGESTIONS TO ACHIEVE CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Make wise use of recycling bins.

Recycling is the simplest and most popular way for people to support sustainability. It was made as simple as possible by placing containers throughout the campus. Even though they may not always go out of their way to discover recycling bins, students are more likely to



recycle if one is close by. Recycling campaigns on college campuses frequently have a significant impact and are quite effective.

If you want to install the recycle bins in the college, then

- Find extra bins by working with the facilities staff of the school.
- Clearly mark containers with accepted recyclables.
- Bins should be placed in campus areas with significant traffic.
- Create a group of volunteers to organize weekly collections of recyclables, weighing each bag to measure success.

Don't waste food.

Students have to be aware of what would happen if food waste was a sustainability issue. Methane and other greenhouse gases, particularly those produced by the breakdown of food in garbage, have an impact on both air quality and public health. When we throw away food, we also throw away the water, soil, and energy used to grow it, as well as all the energy used to process, package, and transport it from markets to our homes.

Digital is also an option.

It will save you a lot of paper by switching to digital instead of paper notebooks, books, folders, and handouts. Most of Coimbatore college of engineering and technology make use of the available technologies to cut back on paper use. To make sure that people are actively reducing their paper waste, you can even set printing budget limits.

Water Stations around the campus.

Reusable water bottles prevent unnecessary plastic from ending up in landfills. The availability of numerous, conveniently accessible refill stations encourages students to switch to reusable bottles. Your carbon footprint can be reduced by almost 70% with the aid of refill stations.



Plant trees around you.

Our daily lives are stimulated and made healthier and more energised by nature. In addition to making cities more attractive and liveable, the incorporation of trees into urban liability offers residents of urban areas a variety of advantages. A healthy urban forest requires adequate design, upkeep, awareness, resource allocation, and community involvement, all of which require ongoing commitment. Universities have a big obligation to make this strategy work because it helps to disseminate awareness in the minds of future generations.

As you can see, the majority of the best civil engineering colleges in Coimbatore or universities actively practise planting and gardening to maintain a clean environment and add greenery to the ambiance.

Use cycles:

Stay fit and healthy, and also keep your environment healthy. Having a car simply contributes to pollution. One of the most environmentally friendly ways to get around is via bicycle, which only uses energy from your legs.¹⁹

INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by United Nations member states to address the world's most pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. These goals aim to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development, and ensure a better future for all. The SDGs cover a wide range of areas, including poverty alleviation, education, healthcare, gender equality, climate action, and more. By 2030, countries are committed to achieving these goals through targeted actions, policies, and international cooperation. The SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for sustainable development, guiding efforts to create a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world for present and future generations. Of many factors that have contributed to this success, social capital, which refers to the networks, relationships, and norms that facilitate cooperation and collective action, has played a crucial role in achieving the SDGs in India. It enabled communities to come together, share resources, and work towards common goals. Social capital facilitated the implementation of development programs, enhanced community



participation, and promoted inclusive decision-making processes. It also helped in mobilising resources, fostering partnerships, and promoting social cohesion, which are essential for sustainable development. By leveraging social capital, India has and can further harness the collective efforts of individuals, communities, and organisations to address various challenges and achieve the SDGs effectively.²⁰

CONCLUSION

Sustainable development is imperative to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It requires integrating economic, social, and environmental considerations into all decision-making processes. Practicing sustainability starts with individuals adopting eco-friendly habits like saving resources, reducing waste, and using public transport.

With concerted effort across all levels of society, we can overcome the challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, inequality and more. Sustainable development provides an essential framework and solutions to build an equitable world that thrives within planetary boundaries. The time to act is now if we are to secure a sustainable future for both present and future generations.

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