An Overview on Initiatives and Challenges of Sustainable Development Goals in India

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Abstract

The world economies have made commendable efforts to attain the goals of sustainable development. This is in comparison to the earlier steps taken by the government for the growth and development of their respective economies. The endeavor for growth and excellence has produced imbalance in the economic development among countries, exhausted some of the natural resources and has thus changed the ecological balance. The effect of this is being experienced in the form of global warming and climate change. Since this intimidated the presence of human life on earth, a course of action that could be guarantee of safe environment for next upcoming generation has become the need of the hour. Sustainable development is a term coined to ensure that development takes place in such a way that natural resources are sustained and passed on to the future generations unimpaired. This paper will make you understand the challenges faced by India in achieving sustainable development goals and it offers suggestion to conquer them.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable, Development, Economies, Environment

INTRODUCTION

A brighter and more sustainable future for everyone is framed by the sustainable development goals (SDGs). To further the success of the Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly held its 70th session on September 25, 2015, and in order to do so, it adopted the document "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," which contains 17 sustainable development goals and 169 associated targets.

On January 1st, 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) went into force. A set of global objectives, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) incorporate the social, economic, and environmental facets of progress. Furthermore, because everyone is interconnected and indivisible, the SDGs are universal (i.e., they apply to all nations, developed, developing, and least developed); comprehensive and participatory methods to bring everyone together are necessary to ensure that no one is left behind. Up to 2030, it is up to the individual nations to assess and track their own national progress towards the objectives. According to the research, India's ranking dropped to 120th place out of 165 nations in 2021. Additionally, India dropped from 115th rank in 2019 to 117th place in 2020.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Griggs(2013) discusses how a sole emphasis on eradicating poverty without taking environmental concerns into account is untenable in the anthropogenic period.**Pradhan(2017)**discovered that the indicators do not operate independently of one another and exhibit both positive and negative correlations, which they referred to

as trade offs and synergies, respectively.**M Prabhakar (2019**) Defining indicators, monitoring and ownership, assessing progress, and funding SDGs have all been mentioned as obstacles in India's implementation of the SDGs.**Dhar (2019)**focused on eradicating violence against women and empowering women economically within the context of the SDGs. There haven't been many studies on the SDGs, and there aren't many that have specifically looked at the necessity, present state, or progress of the SDGs in India. This essay seeks to fill that gap.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

1. To get an overview on Sustainable Development Goals in India.
2. To study the role of various renowned organization contribution in implementing SDGs in India.
3. To study the measures and challenges while achieving SDGs in India.
4. To study the extent of different SDGs goal achievement parameters in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study of an overview on SDGs in India is descriptive in nature and the required study data is collected from various published study and report of organization like NITI Aayog reports on SDGs, publication of MOSPIs.

India's involvement in goal-setting and target-setting

India, a member of the Open Working Group (OWG) entrusted with creating a proposal on the SDGs, has vehemently advocated for the concerns of developing nations. India made a point of highlighting the significance of rapid and inclusive economic growth in lifting a sizable percentage of the poor out of poverty. Additionally, it has been noted that while much has been achieved in terms of infrastructural development, it is still very difficult to bring progress to all facets of life. These problems still exist in all emerging nations worldwide. According to India, a development strategy must include the SDGs. Although eliminating poverty and promoting development via inclusive economic growth remain the top development priorities, these significant obstacles will need for more funding and capacity-building initiatives.India has therefore placed a high priority on international cooperation for development, as well as practical means of implementation like enhanced Official Development Assistance (ODA) and technology transfer under advantageous conditions to assist developing nations.

Measures taken for implementing SDGs in India

NITI Aayog

The responsibility for directing the national implementation of the SDGs has fallen to the NITI Aayog. As part of the implementation phase, the NITI Aayog has finished mapping all SDGs, Central Ministries, and Centrally-sponsored initiatives. Additionally, the NITI Aaayog has spoken with other national and regional stakeholders, including states and union territories. Governments must collaborate across policy boundaries and establish ambitious, interrelated economic, social, and environmental goals that go beyond passing political trends in order to implement the 2030 Agenda's integrated nature. The strategic visioning, prioritizing, and execution techniques are being used by the Indian government. Achieving sustainable development objectives is a top priority for the Indian government.

In an effort to achieve the SDGs, the government has started a number of national welfare and development initiatives. The administration is dedicated to achieving "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas" in the spirit of the sustainable development objectives' tagline, "Leaving No One Behind." The SDG India Index, a study on India's advancement towards the sustainable development objectives of the UN, is published by the NITI Aayog. In order to assess SDG attainment across states and uncover both successes and investment needs, the research first formalised how the SDGs might be measured using already-available public data on India's sustainable development.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is one of the key players in the SDGs' implementation. Monitoring progress and assessing the degree to which objectives have been attained requires the use of indicators. According on the 169 SDG objectives and the Global Indicators Framework, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of India has developed 306 national indicators.

For gauging India's most important developmental goals, 62 priority indicators have been devised in addition to the 306 indicators. To fill data gaps for SDG indicators, the MoSPI has undertaken many efforts. The Ministry regularly convenes meetings with line Ministries/Departments and their appropriate Custodian Agencies. A Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on support for data, indicators, and statistics for tracking the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India has been signed by MoSPI, NITI Aayog, and the United Nations, represented by the UNRCO in New Delhi, India. The main objective of the MoU is to cooperate on issues related to statistical monitoring of SDG Goals and Targets, including the application of new technologies, capacity building to monitor SDG-related results, and any other potential difficulties.

In order to work together on creating a methodology for SDG global indicators in the Indian context as well as identifying data gaps in SDG monitoring, MoSPI has established six theme-based Sectoral Committees on SDGs, with members from relevant data source Ministries, UN Agencies/development partners, research institutions, and others. These groups' comments have been highly helpful in enhancing the SDG monitoring framework.

Monitoring and evaluation

Review and monitoring have been given a lot of importance in the SDGs in order to track the development objectives and targets. The importance of follow-up on a local, regional, and international scale is emphasised in the United Nations Resolution. A Global Indicator Framework containing 247 indicators has been designed for assessing the SDGs' development. On a worldwide scale, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) has also been founded. It provides further guidance and is crucial to the worldwide evaluation and reporting of the SDGs.

Voluntary National Review

As part of their follow-up and review procedures, nations are advised to undertake frequent national and subnational evaluations of progress. It is advised that both rich

and developing nations take part in these evaluations, which will be state-led and voluntary. These are hence known as Voluntary National Reviews. (VNRs). The goal is to facilitate experience sharing so that the 2030 Agenda may be implemented more quickly. This includes discussing successes, challenges, and lessons gained.

Progress in terms of goals

Goal 1: No poverty

Goal 1 aims to end poverty in all of its manifestations globally by 2030. This calls for increasing incomes above the declared poverty level but also taking into account the many social and economic situations that women, children, and other vulnerable groups are facing. Setting up social safety nets, ensuring that underprivileged groups have access to financial resources, making direct investments in vulnerable areas, and developing disaster mitigation strategies are all part of that.

Goal 2: Zero hunger

The second goal is to end all types of hunger, malnutrition, and the structural causes that cause it. These goals include reducing stunting in children under five by 40% and childhood wasting by 5%, as set forth by the World Health Organization. Malnutrition is widespread in India. India is home to 24% of the world's malnourished, 30% of the world's young children who are stunted, and 21% of the world's young children who are wasting.

Goal 3: Good health and well being

Lowering the rates of maternal, neonatal, and under-5 mortality is the first step towards achieving the third sustainable development objective, guaranteeing excellent health and well-being. It requires putting an end to significant outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases and communicable diseases, as well as dramatically reducing the prevalence of non-communicable diseases. (NCDs).

Additionally, it covers the prevention of substance abuse, injuries and fatalities on the road, as well as deaths from poor hygiene and air and water pollution. To create a system that can do all of this, nations must achieve universal health coverage, which includes access to affordable drugs and immunisations as well as reproductive health care.

Goal 4:Quality education

A solid foundation for long-term development is provided by high-quality education, which fosters social mobility, economic prosperity, and intercommunal harmony. SDG 4 aims to address the issue that many nations still struggle to provide children with free, high-quality primary and secondary education. High levels of unified reading and numeracy competency are required as well as equal access to all educational levels for all genders, aptitude levels, and social groupings. It also entails making sure that both children and adults have the necessary abilities and skills to compete in the job market, which goes beyond childhood. Finally, kids who receive a quality education become better citizens.

Goal 5: Gender equality

Without major social reforms, India does not appear to be on pace to achieve its own national goals for gender equality by 2030. The country has so far mostly fallen short of these goals. When procedures like sex-selective abortion and infanticide help to deepen gender differences, discrimination starts at birth. India as a whole has a six percentage point difference between the number of girls and boys born, with states like Kerala and Odisha having natural female birth rates of 959 and 948 per 1000 boys, respectively. Only 831 girls are born and registered in Haryana for every 1000 men, creating a ten percentage point gender difference.

Goal 6 : Clean water and Sanitation

People are healthier and more productive when they have access to clean water and sanitation. Water shortage, poor water quality, and poor water hygiene have a severe influence on low-income households' food security, livelihood options, and educational possibilities around the world. SDG 6 assures that everyone has access to clean water and sanitation, and it represents the fact that it is receiving more attention in the global political arena.

Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

Energy is essential to sustaining the development engine, and its significance for the advancement of civilization cannot be emphasised. Almost every significant worldwide challenge and opportunity that has anything to do with starting a business, increasing food production, or raising incomes revolve around it. A possibility exists for sustainable energy to alter lives, economies, and the environment. SDG 7 aims to promote modern, sustainable energy for all while increasing energy efficiency and the utilisation of renewable energy sources.

Goal 8: Decent work and Economic Growth

By boosting productivity and encouraging technological innovation, SDG 8 aims to support long-term economic growth. Achieving this aim will require comprehensive efforts to end forced labor, slavery, and human trafficking as well as the promotion of policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation. The objective is to decrease informal employment and the gender wage gap by 2030, as well as to achieve full and productive employment as well as decent work for both women and men, as well as to create a safe and secure working environment for both men and women.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 9 contains a number of goals, one of which is to build high-quality, dependable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, promote economic growth and human well-being, and encourage the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure with a focus on equitable and affordable access for all. For the long-term success of many nations, infrastructure investment in sectors like transportation, irrigation, energy, and others is essential.All nations that have so far attained high income status have through a crucial stage in their economic development during which industrial expansion has occurred. A robust, sustainable, and inclusive industrial sector and infrastructure network, despite the fact that India is an outlier in terms of its reliance on the services sector for growth, may nonetheless support the creation of high-quality employment and the fair distribution of economic benefits.

Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

There are significant and growing income and wealth disparities worldwide. According to age, gender, disability, religion, and economic or other status, SDG 10 aims to reduce income gaps within and between countries. Along with being a hindrance to growth, inequality also robs a person of opportunities, which exacerbates extreme poverty. When it comes to tackling economic imbalances, the SDGs primarily demand that the growth rate of the poorest 40% of the population match or exceed the national average per capita growth rate. The NITI Aayog's self-reported inequality statistics, which examines rural and urban regions separately, shows that India appears to be spreading economic benefits equally across socioeconomic strata.

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

Urbanization has resulted in the creation of new opportunities and occupations and has also decreased poverty. Cities are crucial to the growth of nations because they provide individuals the chance to thrive economically and socially. Urban areas may manage the challenges of increasing urbanization, such as the need to provide basic services, energy, and housing while lowering greenhouse gas emissions, by optimising resource utilisation and putting an emphasis on reducing pollution and poverty.

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

SDG 12 aims to ensure that production and consumption patterns are sustainable. Use of services and related products that meet needs and enhance quality of life while minimising the use of natural resources and toxic materials, as well as the emission of waste and pollutants over the course of the service or product's life cycle, is known as responsible consumption.SDG 12 states that by 2030, nations shall create plans to effectively and sustainably manage and use all natural resources. This includes managing chemical and e-waste environmental impacts, reporting on company sustainability, and doing away with market inefficiencies that spur the use of damaging resources, including fossil fuel subsidies.

Goal 13: Climate action

SDG 13 calls for prompt action to combat climate change and its effects. All people's lives are at danger as a result of the world's increasing sea levels, severe weather patterns, and rising greenhouse gas concentrations, especially those who reside in coastal regions. A strong strategy for addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as quick action, are needed in light of the increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Increased resilience and adaptation to climate-related risks are key components of Goal 13 as well as their integration into national strategies. It focuses on both effect reduction and early warning. It emphasises the significance of global commitment and collaboration in this area.

Goal 14: Life below water

Over 70% of the surface of the world is covered by rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans, all of which are crucial to the maintenance of life. Global mechanisms that maintain the planet's habitability for people are governed by the temperature, chemistry, currents, and life of the world's oceans. Governments are obligated by Goal 14 to sustainably protect and use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. Its main objectives are to

lessen marine pollution, stop destructive fishing practices, manage and conserve marine and coastal ecosystems sustainably, all while advancing scientific understanding, research, and technology transfer to enhance marine health.

Goal 15: Life on land

The goal is to maintain, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, as well as sustainable forest management, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation, while also incorporating ecosystems and biodiversity into national and municipal planning. It also aims to encourage the fair and equal distribution of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources, as well as to prevent poaching and trafficking of protected flora and wildlife. In other ways, India has made significant headway in protecting and rehabilitating natural regions.

Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions

Peace, stability, and good government supported by the principles of justice, equality, and the rule of law are necessary for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda seeks to abolish all forms of violence and dramatically reduce their occurrence while working with communities, governments, and other organisations to prevent conflict and instability. Important steps in this process include advancing the rule of law and human rights, reducing the supply of illegal weapons, and increasing the engagement of developing countries in global governance institutions. Goal 16 also emphasises the formation of institutions that are open and responsible, as well as the prevention of abuse, exploitation, human trafficking, and corruption.

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

The ultimate objective is to create partnerships between governmental entities, commercial entities, nonprofit organizations, and civil society in order to fully realise sustainable development goals. Goal 17 lays forth requirements for nations to fully deploy internal resources for sustainable development through greater taxation and reduced debt payments, as well as drawing resources from outside through enhanced remittance policies, increased ODA and FDI, and investment promotion regimes. Specifically by promoting the use of ICTs (Information and communication technologies) across national and international markets, it uses North-South cooperation to preferentially share the knowledge and resources that poorer nations need to get on their feet.

India's challenges in achieving the SDGs

Defining Indicators

One of India's main challenges is coming up with acceptable measures to properly track the progress of the SDGs. India's past demonstrates that it has had difficulty creating appropriate metrics for gauging outcomes. The concept of "safe" drinking water has become murky due to the prevalence of hand pumps and tube wells, but according to official statistics, 86 percent of Indians have access to safe drinking water, putting them "on track" to fulfil the MDG target for access to clean water. However, the incidence of waterborne illnesses and deaths from diarrhoea are rather high in India.

Financing SDGs

Despite its greatest efforts to alleviate poverty, India has the largest number of people living below the international poverty line. 30% of the population, according to a 2013 World Bank estimate, subsisted on less than $1.90 a day. According to the United Nations MDG 2014 report, one-third of the 1.2 billion people who were extremely poor resided in India alone in 2010 despite the country's strong economic growth. Between 2015 and 2030, there will still be a $2.5 trillion annual funding gap if current public and private investment levels in SDG-related businesses in developing nations are maintained. Closing this gap will need increased private sector investment, notably in infrastructure, food security, and climate change mitigation.

Conclusion

Since the SDGs were approved in September 2015, India has demonstrated a strong commitment to the global goals. India's commitment may be seen in its efforts to electrify rural homes, guarantee that girls attend and remain in school, provide housing and sanitation for everyone, and more. It can also be seen in its efforts to provide young people with the skills they need to compete in the global labour market. India has also made important strides in using data effectively for policymaking and tracking programme progress versus goals.

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