

10. Sustainable Development Goals Favors Better Quality of Life

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Figure 10.1: Sustainable Development Goals

Abstract:

In the 21st century, our human society recognized the value of sustainable development. In this recent technology advancement, sustainable development has become a topic of debate. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) is development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their

own needs. A primary objective is to meet basic human needs and desires, such as food, water, clothing, shelter and healthcare which remain inaccessible to many in society. The important aspects of sustainable development are equality between countries, religions and genders to ensure a fair distribution of resources. Sustainable development favors for better quality of life. Sustainable development was first adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty and protect our environment. The development must balance society, economy and environment. Overall sustainable development can be achieved through a balance between all these pillars.

The main challenges to sustainable development are poverty and unemployment, climate change and water conflicts. At present, India is witnessing major environmental degradation at alarming rates. High pressure is developed upon the land and natural resources to support overpopulation. In this book chapter we focus on strategies for sustainable development that is necessary for survival of our present generation. Also, this chapter explores all the SDG'S, ways to solve those problems and then summing up with a conclusion.

Keywords:

Sustainable Development, Climate change, Environment, Sustainable Development Goals, Lifestyle, Development activity

10.1 Introduction:

In the 21st century, sustainability refers to the capacity of biosphere and human existence together. In order to achieve sustainable development¹⁻⁸, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of development process which cannot be in isolation from it. Eradicating disparities in living standards in different parts of the world is essential to achieve sustainable development and meet the needs of majority of people. Sustainable development (SD) has emerged as a pervasive development paradigm, serving as the buzzword for international aid agencies, the specialized language of development planners, the focal point of conferences and scholarly articles, and the rallying cry for both development and environmental advocates. One of the central principles of sustainable development is living within the limits of consumption of natural resources. The UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 resolve to promote the 3 pillars of SD, namely Economy, Society and Environment. To achieve SD, these pillars need to come together. The economic, social and environmental sectors are all critically important and interdependent. A healthy prosperous society relies on a healthy environment to provide food and resources, safe drinking water and clean air for the people. In the past few years, overall development of humanity has led to the increasingly unfavorable climate changes and natural disasters, but also wars and socioeconomic instability. Through their action, humans have negatively impacted on the environment, endangering the survival of the Earth and the future generations. These conditions have indicated changes in the behavior aiming towards more efficient management of all resources that will allow less pressure and environmental impact. The concept of sustainable development can be classified into three categories: Environmental, Social and economic sustainability. There is need to balance these pillars to attain sustainable development⁹⁻¹⁵.

10.2 Different Goals and Their Importance:

Goal 1 No poverty- eliminating poverty in all its manifestations continues to stand as one of the most significant hurdles confronting humanity. Despite a reduction of over 50% in the count of individuals in extreme poverty from 1990 to 2015, a considerable number still contend with fundamental human necessities. As of 2015, about 736 million people still lived on less than US\$1.90 a day; many lack food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid growth in countries such as China and India have lifted millions out of poverty, progress has been inconsistent. Gender disparities persist, with women facing higher poverty rates due to limited access to employment, education, and property ownership. Despite some advancement, regions like south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where 80% of extreme poverty exists, have seen limited progress. Emerging challenges like climate change, conflicts, and food insecurity further underscore the need for intensified efforts to alleviate poverty. The sustainable development represents a resolute commitment to completing the mission initiated and eradicating poverty in all its forms by 2030. This endeavor entails targeting the most vulnerable populations, enhancing access to essential resources and services, and providing support to communities affected by conflict and climate related disasters. Ending poverty isn't just a charitable endeavor; it's a matter of justice and essential for unlocking the full potential of humanity. Shockingly, almost half of the world's population still lives in poverty, facing daily struggles due to inadequate access to food and clean water, resulting in thousands of deaths each day. By working together, we can ensure that everyone has enough to eat, eradicate diseases, and provide opportunities for prosperity and fulfillment to people worldwide. It's about creating a world where everyone can thrive and lead meaningful lives.

Goal 2 Zero hunger- over the past twenty years, significant strides have been made in reducing the number of undernourished individuals, largely due to rapid economic development and enhanced agricultural output many previously famine – stricken regions, particularly in central and east Asia, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, have successfully addressed extreme hunger, now capable of fulfilling their nutritional requirements. Regrettably, severe hunger and malnutrition continue to impede development in numerous nations as of 2017, an estimated 821 million individuals suffer from chronic undernourishment, frequently stemming from factors such as environmental deterioration, drought, and the decline of biodiversity. Additionally, more than 90 million children under the age of five are dangerously underweight. Evidence suggests that undernourishment and severe food insecurity are on the rise across nearly all regions of Africa, as well as in south America. This SDG target the eradication of all hunger and malnutrition by 2030, ensuring that everyone, particularly children, has access to an adequate and nourishing diet throughout the year. Achieving this goal entails advocating for sustainable farming practices, providing assistance to small- scale farmers, and ensuring equitable access to land, technology, and markets. Furthermore, it necessitates global collaboration to facilitate investments infrastructure and technology aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity.

Ensuring food security requires a multifaceted approach. It involves not only providing access to safe and nutritious food, especially for vulnerable groups such as children but also transforming food system to foster inclusive and sustainability. Investments are needed in both rural and urban areas, as well as in social protection programs, to ensure that impoverished individuals can access food and enhances their livelihoods. By revitalizing

food systems, we can create a more equitable and environmentally sustainable world. This entails promoting sustainable farming practices, minimizing food wastage, and ensuring fair distribution throughout the food supply chain. Through comprehensive efforts to address food security, we can strive towards a future where everyone has reliable access to nourishing food and the opportunity to prosper.

Goal 3 Quality education- by 2030 we have to ensure that each and every child has completely free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education which leads to relevant and effective learning outcome, they should be accessed with quality early childhood development, care and primary education, also ensuring equal and affordable access of quality technical and vocational education. The attendance rate of the primary schools should be more. This development may be difficult because of high level of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. The major goal is to ensure that all girls and boys are having free primary and secondary education.

Goal 4 Good health and well-being – scientist have made a a lot of progress against several major causes of death and diseases. death rate, infant, maternal mortality rate has also declined. The death rate of people suffering with HIV and malaria has also halved. Ensuring good health is important for sustainable development, this agenda acknowledges various challenges such as widening economic and social disparities, rapid urbanization, climate threats have raised infectious disease like HIV, and some noncommunicable diseases.

Promoting the well-being of all individuals demands a dedicated effort, yet the rewards far exceed the investment. Healthy populations serve as the cornerstone of thriving economies. Nations globally are encouraged to swiftly and decisively address health concerns by proactively identifying and mitigating potential challenges.

This is particularly crucial for protecting vulnerable groups and individuals living in areas heavily affected by disease. By prioritizing this, we can enhance healthcare systems and build resilience to health challenges. Immunization stands out as one of the most successful and efficient health measures globally. Nevertheless, the concerning drop-in childhood vaccination rates- the most significant decline seen in approximately three decades- is exposing millions of children to preventable but potentially devastating diseases.

Goal 5 Gender Equality- gender based discrimination has kept women and girls subordinate in workplaces, politics, and homes. In some nations, this discrimination persists in laws, such as restrictions on women in certain professions, while in others, economic obstacles like the gender pay gap hinder full equality. Putting an end to gender- based discrimination requires comprehensive legal frameworks that supports, enforce, and oversee gender equality across all aspects of life.

This involves ensuring equal access to employment and economic advantages, including laws against workplace discrimination and mechanisms to address violations. It also means implementing legislation to combat violence against women, such as addressing sexual harassment and criminalizing marital rape. Furthermore, it entails granting equal rights and protections within marriages and families, such as the right to initiate divorce and be recognized as the head off the household, alongside establishing specialized family courts to protect these rights. Additionally, achieving gender equality requires equality in

overarching legal frameworks like constitutions, as well as equal opportunities for women to run for and hold public office. Despite some progress, the pace of legal reform remains slow. Estimates suggest that it will take approximately 21 years to achieve universal laws against violence against women and a significant 286 years to achieve gender equality in legal framework if current rates of change continue. It can be done by recognizing and valuing unpaid worker as well as ensuring full participation in public life, ensuring equal economic resources, promote women's empowerment through technology, despite progress on some issues, recent backslides in other areas-such as on reproductive rights and women economic empowerment has put gender equality further out of reach. Without seriously, increased investments and communities, including to gender data availability.

Goal 6 Clean water and sanitation-goal 6 aims to ensure that everyone has access to clean water and proper toilets. These are super important for keeping people healthy and taking care of our planet it's not just about having clean water to drink and good toilets; it's also about making sure our water stays clean and doesn't run out. Having better water and toilets help with other important stuff too, like making sure kids can learn well, stay healthy and everyone gets treated fairly. Lots of people get sick or even die because they don't have clean water or good toilets. Kids under 5 are especially at risk. Every year, thousands of young kinds die from diseases they get because they don't have clean water or good toilets. Even though we've made progress, there are still billions of people who don't have clean water or proper toilets. We need to work together to change that.

The global water and sanitation crisis is not insurmountable. many nations have demonstrated significant progress in just a short span of time. By taking decisive actions to advance towards then targets stein sustainable development goal immediate benefits can be realized for the most vulnerable population, while also generating cost saving and economic opportunities across various sectors. For instance, investing in basic drinking water infrastructure in rural areas can yield substantial returns, with each dollar invested resulting in nearly seven dollars saved in healthcare expenses and increase productivity. Additionally, many of the solutions available are both affordable and efficient, capable of swift development. To expedite progress, a concerted efforts is necessary. This entails bolstering political commitment, expanding the adoption of existing technologies, fostering partnership, enhancing capacities within countries, and optimizing financial resources.

Goal 7 Affordable energy and clean energy- access to affordable and clean energy is vital for sustainable development. In developing countries, it ensures that schools have the necessary energy and climate control for children to attend comfortably, making education more accessible. Moreover, it creates job opportunities by providing business with the necessary tools to operate, and it enhances healthcare by enabling medical facilities to perform procedures and store medicines effectively. This can lead to a reduction in energy poverty, a significant issue for many countries, particularly affecting the poorest individuals. Factors such as high energy costs, limited incomes and inefficient housing contributes to people being unable to maintain adequate temperature in their homes or afford gas and electricity expenses, leading to increased domestic accidents during harsh weather conditions. However, achieving sustainable development goals7 is essential for everyone, not just those in developing countries, as CO2 emissions impact the entire planet, not just the regions where they originate.

Energy standards and objectives vary widely across nations, reflecting their unique economic statuses and geographic circumstances. Developed countries like Germany and China have set ambitious renewable energy targets, whereas developing nations, such as those in Africa, prioritize basic energy access over renewable sources.

For instance, Ghana tackled electricity supply shortages by emphasizing efficiency measures rather than renewable energy integration. On the other hand, China has surpassed its solar panel targets and now holds a substantial share of the global clean energy market. Despite these disparities, most countries recognize the importance of energy efficiency and reducing overall consumption, underscoring a shared global commitment to sustainable energy practices.

Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth- it aims to foster an economy that's both inclusive and sustainable, while ensuring full and meaningful employment for everyone. In relation to children. To eradicate the most severe form of child labor, including the recruitment and deployment of child soldiers, and to eliminate all forms of child labor by 2025. Child labor occurs when children are either too young to work or engaged in activities that can harm their physical, mental, social or educational development. It's a complex issue, often linked to poverty, and it perpetuates social inequality and discrimination. Presently, approximately 152 million children are involved in child labor, with almost half of them, around 72 million, engaged in hazardous work. While there has been some progress over the decade to two years, with 94 million less people engage in child labor. The covid 19 pandemic threatens to reverse these gains and increase the risk of more children being forced into hazardous work. Over the past 15 years, more than 75000 children have been documented as subjected to this worst form of child labor. The global youth unemployment rate currently stands at 14 %, which is three times higher than the adult rate. Without urgent investments in education and skills training, the growing population of young people, expected to reach nearly 2 billion by 2030, will be ill equipped for the job market. Efforts are needed to create more secure and safe opportunities for young people and to address inequalities in the labor market.

Preserving the environment is crucial for fostering sustainable economic development, as the natural world plays a vital role in supporting economic activities. It directly contributes by providing essential resources like water, timber and minerals needed for production, as well as through ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water purification, and flood management. Natural disaster can severely disrupt economic activities, resulting in significant financial losses and pushing many households into poverty. Therefore, safeguarding ecosystems and addressing climate change can have a profoundly positive impact on a country's economy and employment sectors.

Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure- Investing in infrastructure and innovation is crucial for driving economic growth and development, with over half of the global population now residing in urban areas, the importance of mass transportation and renewable energy is increasing, alongside the growth of new industries and advancements in information and communication technologies. Technological progress is key to addressing both economic and environmental challenges, such as creating new jobs opportunities and improving energy efficiency. Supporting sustainable industries and allocating resources to scientific research and innovation are important steps towards

facilitating sustainable development. However, despite progress, more than 4 billion people still lack access to the internet, with 90% of them living in developing countries. Closing this digital divide is essential to ensure equal access to information and knowledge, and to foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

Goal 10 Reduced inequality- Inequality poses a substantial threat to long term social and economic progress, hindering poverty alleviation efforts and diminishing individuals' sense of fulfillment and self-worth. While the incomes of the bottom 40% of the population had been experiencing faster growth compared to the national average in numerous countries, there are early signs suggesting that the Covid 19 pandemic might have disrupted this positive trajectory, although definitive evidence is still forthcoming. Persistent inequality exists globally, spanning across various factors such as income, gender, age, disability, race, class, ethnicity, religion, and opportunities. These inequalities pose significant threats to both social and economic development, impeding efforts to alleviate poverty and undermining individuals' sense of fulfillment and self-esteem. Moreover, such disparities can contribute to the proliferation of crime, diseases, and environmental degradation. Achieving sustainable development and improving conditions for everyone on the planet is unattainable if individuals are denied access to opportunities for better life.

Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities- It emphasizes the need for urban areas to provide accessible and affordable housing, efficient public transportation, and ample green spaces. Moreover, the goal aim to enhance city's ability to withstand natural disasters and safeguard vulnerable populations while also mitigating economic losses. The agenda for sustainable development and its goals are crucial due to the evolving challenges posed by the rapid expansion of cities worldwide. Urban area is growing faster in size than in population.

Between 2000 and 2014, city spaces expanded 1,28 times quicker than their population, resulting in sprawl and decreased density. Consequently, some urban residents lack essential infrastructure such as public transportation. Moreover, environmental concerns are exacerbated in expanding urban regions. Urban areas experience poorer air quality, with cities contributing to 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, cities face heightened vulnerability to climate change impacts, particularly those located along coastlines, which are susceptible to natural disaster induced by climate change.

Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production- A nation demonstrates sustainability when it can uphold its standard of living without exhausting its natural resources or causing environmental harm through pollution or inadequate waste management. A nation wouldn't be deemed sustainable if its primary source of income relies on depleting nonrenewable natural resources like oil, gas, and coal. Once these resources are exhausted, the country's economy becomes unsustainable. On the other hand, if the country depends on sources such as sustainable timber and fishing and get energy from renewable sources such as wind or solar, it can be predicted that the country will generate a lot of income in future.

Goal 13 Climate change- Every country is facing big problems because of climate change. The gases we release into the air are causing the earth to get hotter. This is leading to lasting changes in our weather, which could be really bad if we don't do something about it.

Every year, disasters caused by climate changes are costing countries lot of money and hurting many people. Between 1998 to 2017, disasters like floods and storms caused by climate change killed 1.3 million people and injured 4.4 billion. To help countries deal with this we need to give them money- about\$100 billion every year to help them adapt to climate change and use cleaner energy. This will also help with other important goals, like making sure everyone has enough food and clean water. We need to make sure that countries are prepared for disasters and take care of nature better.

Goal 14 Life below water- The oceans are super important for life on earth. They help control the planet's temperature, the way chemicals move around, and they're home to lots of different creatures. But we're not treating them well. Many people rely on the oceans for their jobs, but we're using up fish faster than they can reproduce. Also, the oceans are soaking up a lot of the carbon dioxide we produce, which is making them more acidic and harming sea life. Additionally, there is a ton of garbage, especially plastics, floating around the oceans. To fix this, we need to take better care of the oceans. We should stop polluting them and find ways to use ocean resources without harming them It's important for countries to work together to make rules and laws to protect the oceans.

Goal 15 Peace, justice and strong institutions- it aims to make sure that everyone can live in peace and have access to fair treatment and justice. It's about creating societies where everyone feels included and where institutions work effectively and responsibly. This is crucial for children too because when there's peace, stability, and laws are followed, It creates a safer environment for them to grow up in. Imagine a world where every child is safe and protected, where they don't have to worry about violence at home, in school, in their neighborhood, or even online. Unfortunately, that's not the reality for many children around the world. Violence comes in different forms- it could be someone hurting them physically, saying hurtful things that makes them feel bad. This kind of violence not only hurts them in moment but also affect their health, happiness and ability to reach their full potential in life. So, it's really important that government create systems to keep children safe, like making sure they have official records when they're born, and putting laws and services in place to protect them from harm.

Goal 16 Partnerships for the goals-this goal focuses on strengthening partnerships worldwide to achieve sustainable development. The 2030 agenda is a global call to action, urging all countries, both developed and developing to work together to ensure that nobody is left behind in the journey toward progress. This requires collaboration among governments, businesses, and civil society. However, not all countries are starting from the same position, and many low- and middle-income countries are struggling with a heavy burden of debt. The covid-19 pandemic has only worsened this situation, leading to a significant increase in external debt levels for developing nations. Factors such as rising inflation, higher interest rates, and limited financial resources have made it even more challenging for these countries to address their competing priorities. This highlights the urgent need for international support in the form of debt relief and financial assistance to help these nations overcome these challenges and move forward on their path to develop.

Goal 17 Life on land-Human life relies on both the land and the oceans for survival. Plants are crucial for our food, with agriculture being a major source of income for many. Forests are vital for the planet, providing homes for countless species and helping keep our air and

water clean. However, each year we lose large areas of forests and dry lands, which particularly affects poorer communities. Despite efforts to protect some land, many species are still under threat, with thousands being illegally traded. This not only harms biodiversity but also contributes to conflict and corruption. We urgently need to do more to protect natural habitats and the variety of life they support. This is essential for ensuring there enough food and water for everyone, tackling climate change, and promoting peace and security globally.

10.3 Conclusion:

Any developmental activities like dams' construction, making highways etc., can damage and disturb the ecosystems. They are constructed by clearing large areas of forests. Forests are important for maintaining renewable resources, checking the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and maintaining the level of oxygen in the atmosphere. Hence the environment impacts must be studied carefully with the economic growth. Sustainable development is a vision and a way of thinking and acting so that we can secure the resources and environment for our future generation. There are numerous challenges to achieve sustainable development. Today the major challenges that our country faces comprising rising population and urban lifestyle which pose serious environmental and social problems. Efforts must be taken by offering to give proper quality education and ethics are required to make sustainable development a reality. Sustainable development should provide a solution in terms of meeting basic human needs, integrating environmental development and protection, In summary, sustainable development goals represents a comprehensive framework aimed at addressing various global challenges at achieve a more equitable, prosperous and environmentally sustainable world. Each goal address specific issue which is crucial for overcoming obstacles such as poverty, climate change, environmental degradation and promoting peace worldwide.

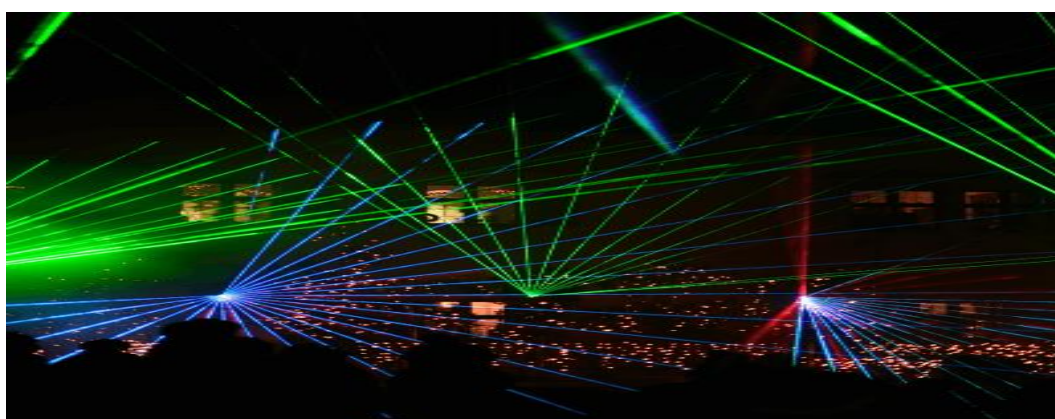


Figure 10.2: Future Sustainable Development Goals

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