



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 - Challenges for India

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Abstract

Sustainable Development Goals are a set of global goals that aim to tackle pressing environmental and socio economic challenges before 2030. India is one of the most diverse and populous nations in the world, and as such, it faces unique challenges and opportunities when pursuing these ambitious goals. This paper examines India's challenges in achieving its SDGs. It highlights key concerns and offers insights on potential strategies to achieve success.

This paper provides an overview of all 17 SDGs. It emphasizes their inter connectedness and relevance to India's current development. The paper then focuses on the challenges India faces in such areas as poverty reduction, access to healthcare, education, equality of gender, adoption of clean energy, and sustainability. The challenges of India are discussed in the context of its socio-cultural economic and political system.

This research focuses on identifying the barriers that prevent India from achieving its SDGs. This includes disparities in income, insufficient infrastructure, gaps and in healthcare, education disparities, as well as environmental degradation. The paper also stresses the importance of regional differences in development, and inclusive policies to ensure that no one is left behind.

This paper highlights notable initiatives and innovative solutions that can help India meet the challenges of SDGs. These include successful social-entrepreneurship models, public-private partnership, and technological solutions which have the ability to accelerate progress towards the SDGs.

The research document concludes with a call to action for India to address the many challenges it faces as they strive towards the SDGs. The paper calls for an integrated and holistic approach that recognizes the interconnectedness between the goals, and requires multi-stakeholder cooperation. The paper also advocates data-driven systems of monitoring and evaluation to monitor progress and promote accountability.

Key Words: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Poverty Reduction, Access to Healthcare, Education, Equality of Gender, Adoption of Clean Energy, and Sustainability.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development is the new buzzword in the international community. In the quest for excellence and growth, countries have been unable to develop at the same pace. Some natural resources are depleted and the eco-system has changed. This threatens human existence on Earth, so a plan of action to ensure the safety of future generations is needed. The term sustainable development was coined in order to make sure that the development occurs so that resources can be sustained and handed down to future generations without any damage. 17 Sustainable Development Goals were developed to create a world that is more prosperous, equal and secure by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted as part of the Sustainable Development Agenda by 193 member states at the UN General Assembly Summit held in September 2015. India signed this summit, and it is committed to the Agenda 2030. (Lee, 2021)

This paper attempts to explain the difficulties India faces in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. This paper also tries to offer some solutions to the problems.

2. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs as they are now known, have replaced the Millennium Development Goals. As far as MDGs in India are concerned, there have been significant improvements in areas such as basic universal education and gender equality. There was slow improvement in health indicators related mortality, morbidity and environmental factors that contribute to poor health. The SDGs have a broader scope. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 1	End Poverty in all its forms everywhere.
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*

Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Table 1: Source, UN website

3. MEASURES TAKEN FOR IMPLEMENTING SDGs IN INDIA

India has implemented several measures in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The measures taken by India are meant to address various environmental and socio-economic challenges, and ensure sustainable development throughout the country. India has taken some important measures.

National Institution for Transforming India: NITI Aayog is the policy-think tank of the Indian government. It has played a key role in aligning state and national policies to the SDGs. The SDG India Index tracks and ranks progress made by states and union territory towards achieving SDGs. (Ayog, 2022)

India's Integrated Policy Frame: The country has included the principles of sustainability in its sectoral and national policies. This includes the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the National Water Policy.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: The Clean India Mission is a nationwide campaign that focuses on sanitation and clean water access, directly aligning with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: The initiative provides affordable housing for all citizens and contributes to SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

National Rural Employment Act (MGNREGA): MGNREGA ensures rural employment, income security and aligns with SDGs 1 and 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth).

Digital India: The program is aimed at providing digital infrastructure and promoting digital literacy, in support of SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

Ayushman Bharat: Ayushman is a healthcare initiative that aims to achieve universal coverage of health care, in line with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

National Solar Mission (NSM): India actively promotes renewable energy sources in order to fight climate change and reach SDG 7(Affordable, Clean Energy).

National Biodiversity Action Plan: India developed a comprehensive conservation plan for biodiversity that contributes to SDG 15 - Life on Land.

National Clean Air Programme: India launched its NCAP to combat air pollution and improve the air quality. It aligns with SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Skill India: The initiative provides skill development, vocational training and employment opportunities to improve employability. It addresses SDG 4 Quality Education and SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth.

National Policy for Women: India introduced policies and programmes to promote gender equity, in line with SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Forest and Wildlife Conservation: Forest and Wildlife Conservation Contributes to SDG 15: Life on Land.

Clean Ganga Mission: The initiative is aimed at cleaning and revitalizing the Ganges River and contributes to SDG 6. (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Initiatives for Waste Management: There are a number of programs and policies in place that promote waste management and recycle, which supports SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Smart Cities Mission (Smart Cities): India has developed smart cities that are focused on sustainable development and urban infrastructure. This is a contribution to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

India has taken these measures to demonstrate its commitment to the SDGs and address a variety of challenges in development. These measures demonstrate that the Indian government recognizes the importance of sustainable growth for its citizens' well-being and the health of the environment. (UN, 2020)

NITI Aayog is India's leading government research organization. He was given responsibility for planning to achieve the SDGs. Countries were also encouraged to develop their own plans, including those that were only partially supported. The measurement and implementation performance of the programs is also linked to the creation of indicators useful for achieving the SDGs.

Swachh Bharat and other major government projects such as Make in India and Skill India (or Advanced India) support a significant number of these SDGs. Local and state governments play an important role in these projects. The state legislature pays particular attention to the organization, planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. (Chaturvedi, 2021)

4. UNITED NATIONS SUPPORT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN INDIA

The United Nations in India is supporting Indian media, civil society associations and research organizations to participate in discussions at the global meeting of the Funds for Progress in Addis Ababa and the General Assembly in New York.



The Unified Countries Nation Group in India upholds NITI Aayog in its endeavors to address the interconnections between the SDGs, guarantee that nobody is abandoned and support sufficient funding to accomplish SDG 9. The Unified Countries, as a team with NITI Aayog, has upheld interviews on SDGs including state legislatures, focal services, common society associations and the scholarly community. (Rajasekhar, 2023)

5. SUPPORT FOR STATE LEGISLATURES

UN India upholds the five state legislatures of Assam, Chhattisgarh Gujarat, Haryana and Odisha in limiting the Feasible Improvement Objectives to address key advancement challenges at the state level.

6. INDIA'S DIFFICULTIES IN ACCOMPLISHING ECONOMICAL IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES

India has recognized four areas of worry in accomplishing SDG 12. The following are the four regions recognized as areas of worry for India in accomplishing SDG 12.

6.1 Explaining Indicators

India faces a significant test in recognizing markers that will empower it to screen progress towards the Economic Improvement Objectives. Before, India has not set satisfactory execution markers. Official information shows that 86% of Indians approach "safe drinking water" and are "on target" to accomplish the Thousand years Advancement Objective on safe drinking water. Loose bowels and water-borne illnesses are normal in India.

6.2 Supporting the Economic Advancement Objectives

In spite of all endeavours, a great many people in India live underneath the worldwide destitution line. As indicated by a 2013 World Bank report, 30% of India's populace lived beneath the destitution line of \$1.90 every day. In 2010, in spite off's serious areas of strength for India development and the 2014 UN MDG report, 33% of the world's 1.2 billion very destitute individuals lived in India alone. Current degrees of public and confidential interest in SDG-related areas in agricultural nations are lacking to close the normal supporting hole of \$2.5 trillion every year somewhere in the range of 2015 and 2030. The best way to close this hole is through confidential area venture, especially in the space of foundation, food and environmental change. (Édochie, 2022)

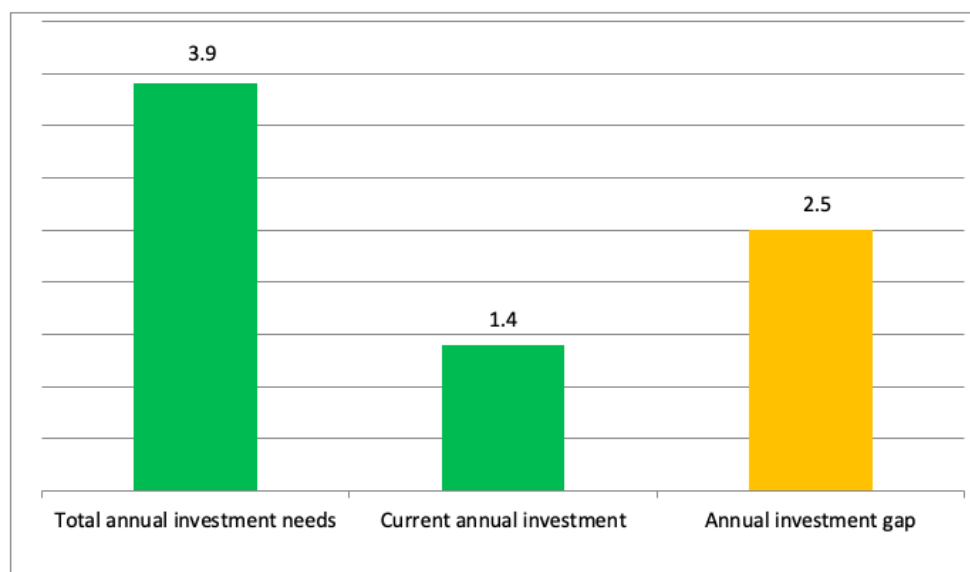


Figure 1: Gap in funding SDGs in developing countries, Source: nctad.org

According to a new report, the cost of achieving SDGs by 2030 in India is estimated at US\$ 14.44 billion. There is likely to be significant funding gaps in India due to the cuts made in India's social sector.

6.3 Ownership and Monitoring

The third major challenge to implementing SDGs is ownership. Though NITI Aayog will be expected to lead the way in monitoring the SDGs' progress, some of its members are hesitant to accept this massive task.

6.4 Measuring Progress

The final challenge is to determine how SDGs are being achieved or measured. Indian officials have admitted that the lack of data availability (especially at sub national levels), issues with periodicity and insufficient coverage of administrative data make accurate measurement of progress impossible.

7. HOW TO DEAL WITH CHALLENGES

The above challenges can be addressed by creating a unique model of implementation, monitoring, measurement and reporting SDG-related actions. India's CSO is a well-established organization that provides statistical data. However, the statistics are often general in nature and don't match with specific needs. India could not accurately measure the MDGs because it lacked data. It is therefore crucial to develop indicators that will allow us to accurately assess progress on the SDGs, and simultaneously a data system which can help in this process. (India, 2015)

The Ibrahim Index of African Governance can be used as the base for a separate index to measure the progress of SDGs.

7.1 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)

The Ibrahim List of African Administration estimates the nature of administration in all African nations consistently. Sent off in 2007, IIAG has turned into the most extensive evaluation of administration in Africa. IIAG has created roundabout markers to quantify administration that can't be estimated straightforwardly. It utilizes a great many information and pointers. IIAG doesn't gather information straightforwardly, but instead gathers data from outside sources. The IIAG information is refreshed yearly as reasonable enhancements are recognized. The consequences of these gatherings will then, at that point, be distributed. The IIAG dataset will be refreshed as new information or a fortified IIAG structure opens up. In 2016, the IIAG included 95 markers given by 34 information suppliers.

8. THE TECHNIQUES USED TO DEVELOP IIAG

There are some techniques that can be used to develop IIAG in India

8.1 Clustered Indicators

On occasion, indicators measuring the same governance concept can be found in multiple sources. These measures can be combined to improve accuracy and reduce double-counting.

8.2 Handling Missing Data

The IIAG contains many indicators that have some missing data over time. This can affect the aggregate score of a country, so estimates for missing data are calculated using a statistical procedure called imputation. In this case, missing data outside of the series is substituted by an already existing point. If data are missing within the time series they will be replaced by numbers that are incrementally higher (or lower) than their neighboring data.

8.3 Normalisation

Standardising all the data is important, as the 35 data providers who provide the IIAG data present the information on different scales. The raw data of each indicator is transformed using the min/max normalisation process. The process is used to publish all scores in the same units, within the same range of 0-100. 100 represents the highest possible score.

8.4 Data Aggregation

Data aggregation is transparent, easy and reproducible. The structure of the Index is used to calculate a simple average, which then yields the overall governance scores.

India can profit from these four strategies. The Indian authoritative framework is exceptionally regulatory and has two states. One at the focal level and one at the state level. The outcome is a duplication. The accessible information likewise has a few holes and normalization mistakes. This can be addressed by making an Indian Manageability List utilizing the above procedures. The IISD could be made for a considerable length of time, from 2015 to 2030. The information can be explored and refreshed yearly for a time of 15 years in accordance with the most recent turns of events. The furthest down the line information will be accessible. (ToI, 2021)

9. FINANCING SDGs

Fortifying the country's scholastic foundation can assist with tackling the issue of supporting the Manageable Improvement Objectives. India, a center of advanced education in the district, is glad to be home to a few globally famous foundations like IITs and IIMs. They have an advanced foundation for leading exploration. This pool of assets can be utilized to configuration, create and gauge maintainability markers.

Questions have been raised about decreasing ozone depleting substance emanations in non-industrial nations like India for two reasons. To begin with, their per capita outflows were lower. Furthermore, it implied risking the country's turn of events. Outflows exchanging has created between nations all over the planet. Organizations can radiate any measure of carbon dioxide inside a specific cutoff. For this reason, they were allowed discharges credits. If an organization had any desire to cross the boundary, it could procure credits from another organization. The selling organization is in this manner compensated for decreasing its discharges, while the purchasing organization is punished for surpassing the CO₂ emanations limit. The public authority can punish organizations that have bigger carbon impressions and power them to subsidize programs for maintainable advancement objectives in agricultural nations.

10. IMPLEMENTING SDGs IS A RESPONSIBILITY

NITI Ayog has expressed its uncertainty about how it will succeed at this difficult task. It is time for the Indian Government to decentralise this work. It is impossible to achieve this without the involvement of society. It is almost impossible to have a society that knows how to utilize its resources in an environmentally sound way. The changing social, cultural, technical, and political conditions are likely to exert pressure on natural resources. There is also the risk of misuse and overuse. A political system in which those that will suffer from the decisions made are those making them would be ideal. It is necessary to develop a new system to ensure that groups directly involved in the issue are included. (Ayog, NITI Ayog has expressed its uncertainty about how it will succeed at this difficult task. It is time for the Indian Government to decentralise this work. It is impossible to achieve this without the involvement of society. It is almost impossible to have , 2021)

11. CONCLUSION

India has the second-largest population in the entire world. India's efforts to achieve the SDGs are important for the entire world. India's success in achieving the SDGs would be a sign that a large part of the globe has also achieved them. India must develop efficient methods to implement, monitor and measure the progress made in achieving SDGs. India's biggest challenge seems to be developing suitable indicators. The Ibrahim Index can be used to develop an Indian Index for Sustainable Development.

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