



## CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEXT TO INDIA

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**ABSTRACT:** The one of the most urgent and buzzing word from the perspective of environment is 'sustainable development'. Sustainable development signifies a balance development of environmental protection and that of the economy. But the biggest dilemma of present world is the challenges for faster economic growth, which is directly linked to climate change. The increasing demand of food, energy and mineral resources lead to huge consumption of natural resources and introduction of different technologies which leads to exponential rise in Carbon dioxide .As we know, every action of now will determine the climate of next 15-20 year. So, my purpose of this study is to focus on the major challenges to sustainable development narrowing scope to India.

In the global context some major challenges to sustainable development are eradicating the extent of poverty, promoting sustainable consumption and production, managing the planet's natural resource base for the benefit of the all sections of society. There are some serious challenges in context to particularly India are-defining indicator, financing sustainable development goals (SDGs), monitoring and ownership, measuring progress etc. A number of measures are initiated by the Government of India for maintaining sustainable development like-agenda 30, SDGs and MDGs, NITI AAYOG, schemes like -make in India, digital India, Jan dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan etc. But sustainable development requires everyone's effort to involve in achieving for a historic change in the global level to deliver inclusive growth, climate change and reduction of the risk of climate change. India is the one of the fastest growing economy of the world. But here, growth is not sustainable, it is competitive in nature. Sustainable development maintains complementary relation between human development and economic growth. So, for sustainable development there must be a positive relation between social, economic and environmental development.

**KEY WORDS: SDGs, NITI AAYOG, ECONOMIC GROWTH, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.**

### I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is a term used to ensure how development takes place in such a way that natural resources are conserved and passed to the future generations. At present the whole world is very serious about the phrase 'Sustainable Development'. It is so, because sustainable development is not a local issue; it is a global issue and its effects are experienced by the whole earth. Though the world is gradually developing in general perspective and accordingly different countries are competing with each other in this process but that development lacks in sustainability because it encourages negative externality to environment. So there arises a dilemma between environment and sustainable development, which stands as a biggest challenge for sustainable development in India.

The word 'sustainability' is not only related to environment but it also is related to economic and social security. For a country like India , where huge amount of natural resources for economic growth is available in the same way where the social evils are found everywhere, in such a situation the sustainable development is not at all a smooth task. As India is not only have to increase growth level but also ensure social security in the form of poverty alleviation, provision of literacy campaign, provision of good health mission, safe drinking facility, sanitation and so on considering the Environment.

For India sustainable development can be identified as more of a necessity than an option or choice. Being multidisciplinary in nature, it also requires the knowledge of scientific, economic and social sides of problems and their solution and how they interact with sustainable development. Developing countries with potential natural resources and existence of undesirable social evils, Sustainable development will not only ensure conservations of natural resources but also it will enhance human development by implementing various policies to increase equality in income, health services and educational level. So, sustainable development in this situation calls for all countries both industrialized and developing and that cooperation must be based on the foundation on right to development and need for equitable distribution of burden.

## II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

There are a number of literatures, which deals with sustainable development challenges in context to India. Most of the literatures give more or less same results. They state that challenges to sustainable development are global in character, which includes extreme poverty, unemployment, climate change, conflict, building peaceful and inclusive societies etc. Their discussions are based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Their findings state that there is a huge gap between the required finance and actual finance for sustainable development goals and the international cooperation is the major way to deal with the complex problem like sustainable development.

At first one of the most prominent economists /demographer Prof. Malthus in his theory of population clearly stated the need of sustainable development in case of food consumption and population growth with the remark that population growth should be checked timely, otherwise we have a world with misery, mice and moral constraints in due course of time. Keeping that in mind United Nations defines sustainable development as "Development that meets the needs of present generations, without compromising future generations to meet their own needs". The all pervasive nature of neoclassical economics have also come to the conclusions throughout thinking on sustainable development, with a broad acceptance that intra-generational and inter-generational equities can be achieved within the confines of economic growth. Singh Sita Ram (2005), in his book, viewed issues related to sustainable development and poverty alleviations. Poverty is multi-dimensional global phenomenon and global poverty is the greatest challenge to sustainable development.

Though sustainable development is a global concept, but every country has own challenge in attaining sustainable development. So, taking into consideration the global challenges if we try to deal with that way, the results may not be that much useful to particular country. So, for the sake of that reason we can set up such policies which deal with the local, regional, national and international challenges taking all into account.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objective of this paper is to study the extent of sustainable development and its challenges in the developing countries like India.

Sustainable development is our ideal vision for the future. To get rid of all the problems that the inhabitants of the world tackle today one solution is the sustainable development. Conservation of natural resources, gender equality and equal distributions of the wealth can be achievable goals if the sustainable development is sustained. These are the sub-objectives of my study.

Besides, we know that the word 'sustainable' does not only deals with the problem of environment. But the scope of sustainable development covers much more than environment. It is helpful in promoting social development by eradicating the extent of poverty, bringing gender equality, providing employment, promoting human development, efficient use of natural resources etc. If sustainable development goals are achieved then there will be no problem in the world and the world can be a place with peace and harmony. So, the study of the challenges to sustainable development is of great importance to enhance sustainable development smoothly.

## III. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

At present NITI AAYOG (National Institution for Transforming India) is the main vehicle which is liable for different sustainable development goal in India. From the depth study of the various literature the various challenges which are global in nature and which are only concentrated to developing countries like India are identified separately. The gap between the public expenditure and targets or the estimated gap between required and actual finance can also be taken as the indicator to depict the picture of the extent of sustainable development in India. It is found that over the last 15 years there is a shortfall of INR 533 lakh crores found in Indian budget to achieve sustainable development goals in India.

#### IV. DISCUSSIONS

One of the important steps adopted by India to overcome various problems is the post 2015 agenda. The post 2015 UN development agenda is a unique participatory exercise that has led to the design of a sustainable development framework consisting which addressed to the key concerns of humanity and 169 interlinked targets within these goals, which reflect the complex and inter-related nature of social, economic and ecological parameters. So in September 2015, the post 2015 UN development agenda, comprising of 17 sustainable development goals is adopted reforming the millennium development goals (MDGs).

The goals of sustainable development are-

1. End of poverty from everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure health and lives and promote well-being for all ages.
4. Ensure healthy and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for learning.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation.
7. Ensure access of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and economic growth, full employment and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and faster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, same resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable production and consumption pattern.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its action.
14. Conserve and sustainably use Oceans, Seas and Marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forest, combat desertification, reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provide just for all and build effective and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation of global partnership for sustainable development.

Being a developing country with the fastest growing economy India has been facing several challenges from time to time. India has not only to maintain growth but also it has to tackle the growth with other country. So at present stage of development, sustainable development is the most urgent need to conserve the resources of the earth for future generations otherwise the existence of life of future generations will be very difficult in the mere future. The day by day increase of pollution of air brings different unseen diseases. Example- the capital city of India i.e. Delhi is now facing the risk of pollution in the air. Again another effect of unsustainable development is the rapid climate change and global warming, which causes a significant threat on human life. So the state, central government and various institutions vows to unite to deal with such problems that arise from unsustainability. For the long run such development is not at all favorable. Accordingly different conferences, different technologies, goals and policies are adopted by different countries and India too is doing the same.

India is following a holistic approach towards its 2015 sustainable development goals. The union minister for finance and current affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the economic survey 2018-19, which states that India continues to target economic growth and maintain it by introducing and

implementing various policies and measures related to sustainable development, climate change, social efficiency and air pollution. The survey also comprises that in adoption of 2030 global agenda, countries are moving forward a world free from poverty, gender inequality and economic inequality, which helps in ensuring a healthy planet for future generations. India's sustainable goal index ranges from 42 and 69 for states and 57 and 68 for union territory.

Kerala and Himachal Pradesh is the front runner among states and Chandigarh and Pondicherry are the front runners among union territories.

## V. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The main challenges to sustainable development which are global in character includes- poverty and exclusions, unemployment, climate change, conflict and humanitarian aid, building peaceful and inclusive society, building strong institutions and supporting rule of law.

The main challenges for the sustainable development of India are categorized as-

(i) Defining indicator: In India there is a scarcity of indicators to measure the outcomes from sustainable development. For example- according to some official data 86% of Indian have safe drinking water facility. But the number of patients suffering from water prone diseases and deaths due to diarrhea clearly indicate, this is not the case. It means safe drinking water was not provided at all.

(ii) Financing sustainable development goals: In case of Financing the sustainable development goals in India, the union government has stated that unless states devote a significant portion of their resources on the social sector, there is likely to be a significant funding gap. High growth and redistribution is not sufficient. According to United Nations MDG 2014 report, despite high economic growth in 2010, the 1/3 of worlds extreme poor live in India alone. From this we can assume that domestic revenues aside, private finance could be a crucial source of financing SDGs.

(iii) Monitoring and ownership: The one of the most important challenge to maintain sustainability is with respect to ownership. Present reports state that NITI AAYOG plays a significant role in tracking progress. However the members at the AAYOG expressed reservations on being able to take this. Moreover, if states are expected to play the lead role, it will require ownership not only nationally, but also at the state and local level.

(iv) Measuring the progress: Last but not the least one of the crucial challenge to sustainable development in India is measuring the progress of achievement. Because of the in availability of the data, sometimes the government's own decisions, periodicity issues and incomplete coverage of administrative data pulls the measuring of measuring sustainable development to virtually impossible.

For India, Sustainable Development Goals needed to be target for the development and environment into a single set of target. But fault lies in the global conferences where there is no balance between environment and development goals. For development without the fruit sustainability we have to suffer from negative externality. Natural resources are found to be decline and undress stressed situation in many country, some 10% of countries wildlife get threatened with existence, agricultural biodiversity has declined over 90% in many regions, half over the available water bodies polluted and is not useful even for agricultural purposes, 2/3 of the lands are degraded to various levels of sub-optimal productivity, in several cities in India air pollution is playing dangerous role, there is the excessive modern waste are generated in the form of electronic and chemical waste. The most sorrowful news is that India has already used its resources as twice the biological capacity and it is also found that for some decades bio-capacity has declining rapidly.

India has continuously playing in implementation of sustainable development goals as its national development goals are focused in terms of sustainable development goals. The revolutionary phrase "SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKASH" or "COLLECTIVE EFFORT, INCLUSIVE GROWTH" introduced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is considered as the main slogan for India's national development agenda. With the inclusion of social and empowerment of the poor, the targets like economic growth, infrastructural development, industrialization and the war against poverty are fundamentally focused.

## VI. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS:

The Government of India, under the prime minister ship of Narendra Modi, is working hard for making sustainable propaganda in India. One of his significant steps is implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, in which it is committed to achieve these goals by 2030. Again, another work is privatization. Without the support of private organization and institutions government cannot alone meet the goals and revenue gap. Again the government now a day's adopted various supplies policies like education and vocational programs, to drop the literacy rates up and making awareness among people for environmental surrounding. The various policies taken by the present government of India includes- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Make in India, Digital India, Jan Dhan Yojana, band of tobacco and plastic, poverty alleviation program, promotion of gender equality and solution to the climate change. The NITI AAYOG, with the prime minister as its chairperson always vowed to provide necessary cooperation and leadership. To wide up black money and corruption the government is taking necessary steps in time to time. In the 11<sup>th</sup> five year plan the term inclusive growth is given due emphasis. Inclusive growth helps in bridging the gap social, economic and environmental to create sound sustainability. Accordingly, UNDP with other UN agencies, developing factors including private sector and civil society are working extensively to support and assist countries, who are taking a step towards sustainable and inclusive growth strategies. So, inclusive growth can be regarded as a big push for sustainable development.

Sustainable Development recognizes the need to look beyond the narrow economic progress and consider the current and future aspect of economic change by eradicating social evils in the form of mass poverty and unemployment. The recent agenda is a package of social, economic and environmental inter-linkage. The implementation of that package comprising of 17 SDGs and 169 associated targets requires the governments support to strengthen coordination and as well as mobilization of resources i.e. private, public, national, international. The achievement of such multidimensional and interconnected goals requires individuals and institutions full support and participation to bring together the very best results from those goals and targets in order to achieve this shared vision of prosperity for all.

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