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RESEARCH ARTICLE

WORLD PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS-2030

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development has become a buzzword today. In a broader way, all the countries are under one roof and all the people are living in one family. Each country is facing different kinds of problems. In order to eradicate the problems faced by the countries, the United Nations (UN) decided to combat these issues by joining hands together for mutual help and cooperation. It thus, gave a call to all its member nations to overcome seventeen threats or challenges faced by the countries across the globe. These goals were adopted by 193 countries in 2015. A total of 17 Sustainable Development Goals were mentioned in the Agenda. It is popularly known as the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. Its major motto was to achieve victory over the 17 problems faced by the countries also ensuring that no country is left behind in achieving these goals. By 2030, these goals are expected to be achieved, requiring great compassion and good decision-making. The paper is based on secondary data. The study has been conducted to understand the extent to which global goals are achieved and the drawbacks behind not achieving the targets. It is observed that some of the goals are achieved in some member countries and not in others. The reasons found are the occurrence of the Covid pandemic and also a failure of the Government to frame necessary policies for proper implementation of the goals.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development Goals provide global scope for peace and prosperity of people, not only for today or tomorrow but for the future as well. It is not available overnight. The Government, people and the businesses of that country must join their hands together to successfully fulfil these global goals. It takes a lot of financial as well as civilian resources for the achievement of these goals. There should be prosperity and progress for all the people irrespective of gender, caste, creed, race or any other norm. This Agenda is not as simple as we quote. In fact, a whole lot of energy is required in all terms to make this dream project to come true. But, nothing is impossible. The only thing required is strong determination and willingness to achieve the best for mankind. In this piece of research work, we would like to throw the limelight on the targets and their success during the years since their implementation. And we have tried to trace out what are the areas of improvement. By understanding where we are left behind, we can analyze how to overcome these issues. The SDGs reports are published by the United Nations annually. And they provide us with the data on the progress of these goals. With the help of that report, we can realize the current status of the global goals. The world has faced many natural and manmade problems like flood, famine, earthquake, typhoons and COVID. COVID was one of the major challenges faced by the world during recent past years. It has become one of the primary causes for failure of target goal. Countries had to spend money on providing medical facilities and other essential amenities to save its human resource. By keeping this fact in our mind, the progress goals are contemplated over.

Objectives of the study: This paper intends to study the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals-2030 and its current progress. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To study 17 SDGs formulated by the United Nations Organization and world economies.
- To study how the SDGs are helpful in achieving Global peace and success for all.
- To study the current scenario of member countries in achieving the set global goals.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

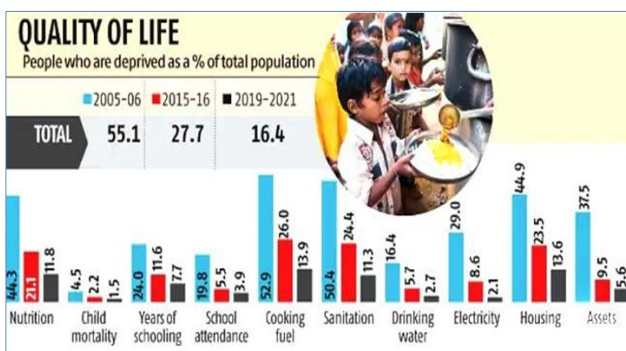
The paper is based on secondary research and the data is collected through different mainstream sources available from blogs, journal articles, and newspapers. I have referred to the website of the United Nations for the information and the references are mentioned below.

Poverty is one of the major issues faced by almost every country in the world. Ending poverty is the most challenging task for these countries. SDGs ensure that poverty is to be taken more care along with building economic growth. Not only this, but, fulfilling the social needs as well like, education, hunger, AIDS, gender inequality, health, social protection, creating job opportunities etc. well, these SDGs are not legally bound to any Government of any of the country but, the Government are expected to take the responsibility of combating these global issues by joining their hands in achieving these global goals. Let us list these SDGs first, starting with

Sl. No.	Goals/Objectives	Sl. No.	Goals/Objectives
1	No Poverty	10	Reduced Inequalities
2	Zero hunger	11	Sustainable Cities and Communities
3	Good health and Well Being	12	Responsible Consumption and Production
4	Quality Education	13	Climate Action
5	Gender Equality	14	Life below water
6	Clean water and Sanitation	15	Life on land
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	16	Peace, justice and strong institutions
8	Decent Works and EconomicGrowth	17	Partnerships for the goals
9	Industry, innovation and Infrastructure		

Let us discuss these global issues one by one and also find out their status quo as of 2023.

Poverty: The people who are surviving below 2.15 dollars per person per day at purchasing power parity at 2017 are considered to be in extreme poverty. This number has slightly improved in the recent decade. As of 2022, 670 million people are expected to still living in extreme poverty. Covid 19 was proved to be the most brutal time period and a barrier to achieving these global goals. The Lockdowns and immediate medical emergencies, and health issues have taken away the entire economic and financial well-being of the people of the world. There is a strong need to formulate strategies in overcoming poverty for societal well-being and for the sustainable development of the economy of the nations. The following graph shows how poverty in different economies affected quality of life all over the world.



Source: Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2022

Hunger: The second prime goal is to make the world hunger-free. Though we live in such a fanatic world, there are still groups of people who live in chronic hunger. These conditions are due to many reasons like the Pandemic, Climatic change, the widening gap between rich and poor, continuous rise in prices of commodities, and declining food production.



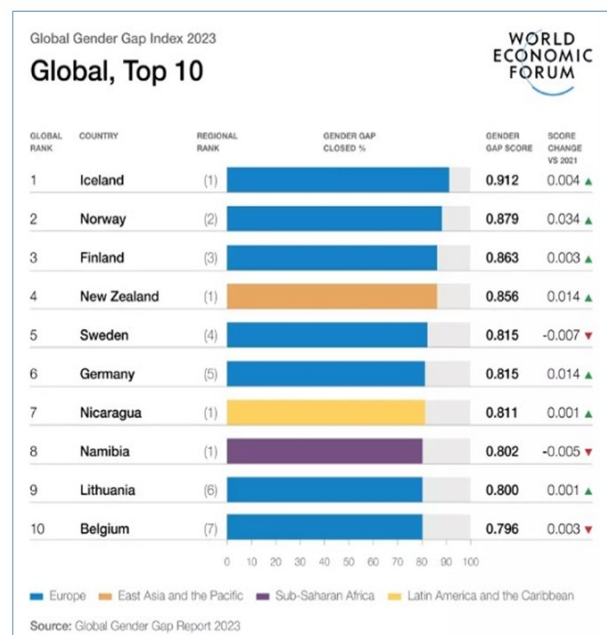
Source: Hunger index list, 2023

As per the statistics of 2022, 9.2% of the world's population is in a state of chronic hunger whereas, 2.4 billion people face moderate to severe hunger. The hunger is a barrier to the achievement of SDGs. Good and nutritious food will help the children maintain their health, children are the future of the nation, and they can build a strong nation only if there is good health. So, the Government have to ensure that no kid remains hungry.

At least, they are getting the basic nutrition required to survive. Not only the Government but it is the corporate social responsibility of the businessmen to take care of such issues. As per the hunger index, 2023 coming days are really critical looking into the global development.

Good health and Well-being: Good health and well being of the people of the nation is of utmost importance. It is a matter of joy to know that the people's health is improving in recent years. HIV AIDS related deaths are decreasing by 52% since 2010. But, the situation is still the same even amidst these improvements. Due to COVID 19 pandemic, this became a turning point because the number of people living in extreme poverty increase pandemic has created a havoc in the health of the people. The childhood Vaccinations are declining and the deaths due to tuberculosis and malaria have increased. There is a strong need to provide proper treatment and medications and vaccines to slow down the death rate due to these epidemics. Government have to take actions in promoting the good health care of its people and the people also must take due care of maintaining clean environment, clean water and sanitation, keeping the body clean, having safe sex, vaccination of their children etc. to avoid deaths due to transmissible diseases.

Quality education: Education is the key to achieve all other goals. If the person is well educated, then he can overcome other issues like, gender inequality, economic crisis, unemployment, Poverty and to empower the people to build more peaceful societies. Government have to take efforts to provide the basic school infrastructure and allow all the children of the society to get primary education leaving none behind. The dropout rates are increasing, low level of knowledge of information and communication technology skills is also a barrier. There are still countries in Africa and Arabia where the women and girls are getting limited access to education. There is a strong urge to the government to take necessary steps to realize this important need and provide access to education for all.



Gender Equality: Irrespective of gender, the people as a whole are held responsible for the economic and social well-being of the society. We have witnessed the exploitation of women at national and global levels. It feels devastating to know the fact that, this is still continuing in this 20th century as well. Sexual violence, unequal division of work whether paid or domestic, early child marriages, uncontrolled child births, female infanticide and so on. Though there is improvement in some of the areas like a decrease in child marriages, female Genital Mutilation and they have been placed in some political and other fields of work place than ever before. The government is not/least responsible for these issues. More responsibility relies on the people or the society to realize the importance of gender equality and to provide women the same priority as they deserve in society.

Clean water and Sanitation: Food, water and shelter are the most basic needs of human beings for survival. The growing population has resulted in an increasing demand for water for human consumption. But, we are experiencing severe water scarcity for at least one month in a year. The reason for water scarcity is a rise in global temperature, increasing industrialization, deforestation, destruction of water reservoirs etc. Proper sanitation facilities will help in providing clean water for drinking which is clean and safe for drinking. There are many diseases associated with water which makes it a more important resource for human good health and well-being. There is a necessity to create awareness about the importance of water and its proper utilization. Women, children, youth and every citizen are to be taken due care of water and sanitization. Organizing campaigns on World Water Day and world toilet day will inspire people to take due action on water protection and hygiene issues.

Affordable and clean energy: Clean and affordable energy here refers to electricity. Since, most of the appliances and other devices are running on electricity, providing electricity for all is a challenging task. Severe dependency on electricity makes it difficult to fulfil the requirements of electricity due to which alternative energy source is needed to fulfil the demand. So, solar energy, CNG, Petrol and diesel are utilized. These forms of energy are non-renewable in nature and will last long within short-term period. So, the government has to invest more on generating renewable energy. It is the equal responsibility of all stakeholders like businessmen to maintain and protect eco system, employers can reduce the transportation by using less energy intensive modes like mobile phones, trains over buses and air travel, and investors can invest by promoting less energy-using technology.

Decent work and economic growth: Many countries are facing unemployment and underemployment problems. Decent work here means, getting equal opportunities to work for a fair income, a secure workplace, social protection of family, and social integration. To achieve this challenging task, the governments have to bring about a revolution in the financial system which will pave the way for economic development in turn.

Industries, innovation and infrastructure: The progress of any country is analyzed by the growth in industries, innovative technologies and great infrastructure facilities. Development in industry, infrastructure- transport, irrigation, energy, and innovation in Communication and technology are crucial in the achievement of SDGs 2030. Though we can see there is a drastic change in usage of mobile broadband and internet network facilities which has fostered the growth in the economy.

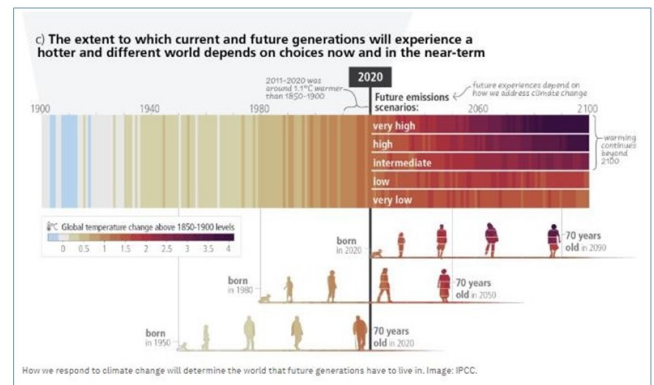
Reduce inequalities: The main reason for inequalities among and between countries is due to unequal resource distribution, lack of education and skill development, sexual discrimination, regionalism, non-cooperation for trade and financial systems, and religious issues. As discussed above, sustainable development is achieved when all the inequalities are reduced. Due to inter-dependency, one factor influences the other and hence, harmony and peace within and between countries are of due importance.

Sustainable cities and Communities: The world's population reached 8 billion on 2022. As per the data, approximately 1.1 Billion people reside in slums and this data is expected to increase rapidly in the next 30 years. The rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer, this gap is increasing year by year which has become the reason for increasing slums. Due to increasing transportation facilities, resilient consumption of energy, high concentration of people, and increased technology-based factories, industries have led to a rise in the price of products which has made it difficult for these poor people to improve their livelihood.

Responsible Consumption and Production: Every human being has to consume the available resources and energy effectively and efficiently. Due to overpopulation, the consumption of resources is recording more than they are actually available. The increased dependency on vehicles, and electronic machines, wastage of food, misutilization of financial resources, continuous deforestation, and

increased urbanization have devastated the natural environment and increased pollution is ruining the human lifecycle. Governments have to regulate the consumption and usage of these resources and promote for recycling and reusing the products.

Climate Action: The ozone layer depletion due to greenhouse gas emission, rising temperature, increasing pollution, rising sea levels, increased use of plastic, wildfires, natural disasters, droughts, famines, flood, hurricanes can cause a serious damage to the human kind in many ways. Many countries by signing in Paris Agreement have taken action on these regards.



Source: World Economic Forum, 2023

Life below water: There is an abundant resource hidden under the water life. Food, medicinal plants, biofuels are available underneath water. Many people residing on coastal areas practice fishing as their primary occupation and source of their living. Continuous discharge of waste products into rivers, ocean and seas will destroy the water life. This in turn will affect climatic change which will lead to nothing more than destruction. For success of achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030, the whole humankind must take it as a personal responsibility to protect, preserve and prevent the wastage of our valuable resources.

Life on Land: Conservation of land resources includes proper restoration of terrestrial living biodiversity. It covers terrestrial ecosystems, forests, deserts etc. They are contributing to almost 50% of global GDP. The impact of deforestation and climate change has been ruining the life on land. Therefore, the recently adopted Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has paved the way to protect our natural resources better than ever before.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: Finding peace and harmony is as costly as finding diamonds and pearls. Increasing terrorism, wars, civil exploitation, criminal offences, sexual violence, and torture of humans are proof of, how threatening the situation in the globe is! The recent attack on Ukraine is the best example in this regard. People are fighting for pieces of land, religion, and racism, fulfilling the selfish needs of dominant gangs (like the Taliban). The exploitation of the dominating terrorist team has completely destroyed the lives of common people in a country like Iran and Iraq. The situation of people in Syria and South Korea will bring tears to their cheeks. The government along with society need to take necessary steps in combating these issues. They need to create one earth for all by spreading love, peace and harmony all over the world.

Partnerships for the Goals: There is a concept of Synergy which means the total effect is greater than the sum of individual elements i.e. "2+2=5". One country has abundant resources and is lacking in the other. It can share the abundant resource with any other country which can fill the scarcity of another resource in turn. The countries have to form a friendly partnership in sharing their best with other nations for the welfare of global citizens. India is the best example for adopting this strategy. This is a Win-Win situation for both the participating countries.

CONCLUSION

As per the report of SDGs, out of 17 SDGs were broken into 169 targets out of which, only 12% of the targets are reached whereas, 50% of them are still weak and insufficient. These results are due to emergence of COVID Pandemic and Russian invasion on Ukraine. The change in climatic condition, loss of biodiversity and pollution are the other. There is a serious urge to eradicate poverty and hunger, provide education for all, protecting the life on land and water is necessary, taking actions on bringing peace, industrialization and clean water and health is utmost important. It is a global issue which is to be solved by each and every person living in the planet earth. Because, there is one planet for humans to live on, so make it safe home for all to live.

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