

Sustainable Development Goals Contributing to Women Emancipation in India

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ABSTRACT:

The environment is an important part of our day-to-day life and it fulfils our basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. In our environment, we can find natural resources, biotic and abiotic things. For parochial interest, human beings are gradually destroying the environment and fulfilling present needs, but more and more natural resources are exhausted, which are not abundantly found in the world. Day by day, due to the population explosion, there is a danger to the environment. Basically, there are two types of energy resources, renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. Renewable sources can be recycled and abundantly found, such as solar energy, wind energy, hydropower energy, and non-renewable sources of energy are fossil fuels, such as coal, natural gas, nuclear energy, etc. Non-renewable sources of energy are found in a limited way. Through coal, thermal energy is produced, but it is harmful to the environment and exhaustible. Here the role of women is also increasing a lot. There was a time, that women were facing many problems to make food. They made their life dependent on forest wood. As far every country focused on sustainable policies, different type LPG gases has been using to make the women free from collecting woods and making food. Therefore, the government of India has initiated the *International Solar Alliance* with 121 countries to produce green energy through solar panels. The present research may show, what are the policies that has been taken by government of India for gender emancipation.

KEYWORDS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, END OF POVERTY, POSHAN ABHIYAAN, ZERO HUNGER

INTRODUCTION:

We are in the twenty-first century, but still there exists the typologies of developed, developing and under-developed countries. A country can reach to the developed position, when its social, economic and political factors have risen and it maintains a harmonious balance. Instances are there where both developed and developing countries face the problems of poverty, unemployment, hunger, gender inequality and other alarming issues. No doubt governments are taking different types of policies to eradicate the above alarming issues, still there lies a gap to reach the desired goals in the policies. It is also seen that, due to lack of education, awareness, it is hard on the part of general people to bring and implement such policies for their benefits. It is observed that, when researcher is doing ground level research, they find the gap between theory and practice, due to development, culture and gender inequality. The present research may explore the gender inequality and role of women in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations. Now women are taking pioneering role to eradicate the present problems, still there are low outcomes because of gender in equality. At the ground or rural level, the role of women is much reduced in comparison to their male counterparts. The United Nations has taken 17 SDGs, that would be

achieved by 2030. In every goal, women have to play a major role to achieve it and different policies of government supplement, particularly women or girl child, to eradicate the alarming issues and to mitigate it.

Women play a major role in both developmental and environmental factors. Both the factors are necessities for the growth of a country and for this not only the contribution of the male members, but also the females have to equally contribute to achieve the 17 SDGs of United Nations. It is also important to note here that women participation in political sphere is necessary, through which women empowerment can be possible. Therefore, if full participation of women must be ventured for the success of the SDGs. This article is basically designed to explain the role of women in SDGs and the policies that is made for women to make a position in the society. Basically, all forms of poverty, unemployment, discrimination is not only a threat to basic human rights, but also an alarming issue for the success of SDGs. In this way, if the problems may continue then un-sustained may occur. Hence, for the SDGs real success, focus must be laid upon the welfare and development of women in a holistic manner.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

According to Brundtland Commission Report, “Sustainable development is that development, which meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of the future generation needs”. Here, it can be rightly said that development should be done in such a way, it will be sustained for future generations also. There are three factors, such as social, economic and environmental factors are necessary for maintaining the sustainable development. If we may look into the history, we can find that there was no popularity of the word sustainable development. The reason behind here is that the growth of population was very limited and human beings did not know, how to utilize the natural resources. In this process when the word ‘development’ came in the name of over selfish motive, the word sustainable development came more popularity. Then human being thought the importance of sustainable development, because, if the non-renewable resources continuously consumed day by day, then, it will be vanished one day. Therefore, “in September 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and 169 targets were intended to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their needs and healthy environment” (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/sustainable-development-goals>). Operationally, there were 8 Millennium Development Goals before coming to the sustainable development goals, but no country can perform effectively. The sustainable development goal is also known as Global Goal and every agenda is made for 15 years.

(1) <https://www.who.int/health-topics/sustainable-development-goals>, accs-06.05.2022

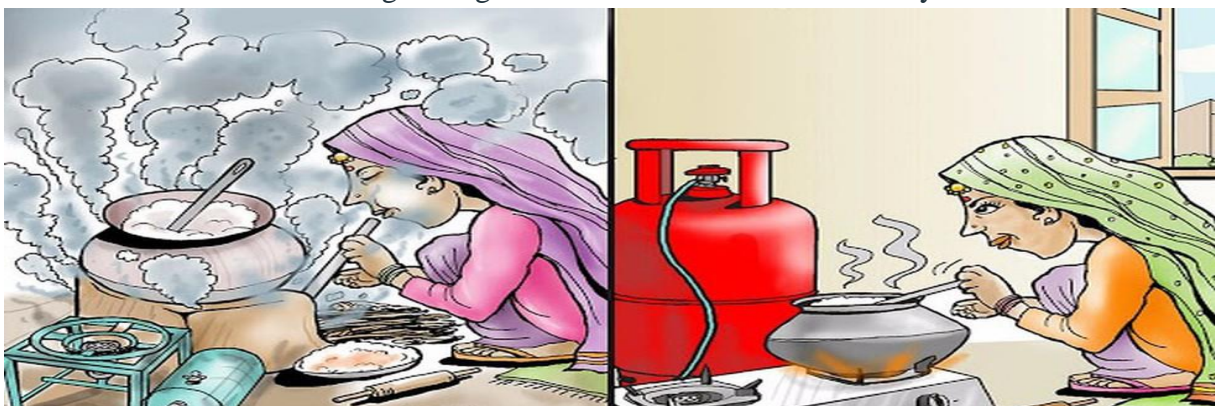
(1) SDG:1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Poverty is the main obstacle to run an administration of a country. It chokes the very foundation of a country. It is one of the greatest challenges in front of a country to eradicate all its form. It is known that when human beings do not get any food, shelter and cloth for surviving in the earth, then only face only the problem of poverty. According to World Bank data, that all “people living extreme poverty may decrease from 10 percent in 2015 out of 11 percent in 2013. It is shown that the number of people living in extreme poverty has decreased from more than 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015” (<https://www.jointsdgfund.org/>). Although the rate of poverty is decreasing still people are facing problems to meet their basic needs. Every country has kept a target that by 2030, it may end poverty

through whole country, but people are not free from their basic problem such as lack of adequate food, clean drinking water and sanitation. World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said that, “*if we are going to end poverty by 2030, we need much more investment, particularly binding in human capital to help promote the inclusive growth it will take to reach the remaining poor. For their sake we can not fail*”. This goal can only be achieved by eradicating gender-based discrimination. It makes over the world inequality, through which women becomes poorer day by day and does not get their rights in society. Every day women brings somethings contributions to family. She understands the value of family. Basically, in rural area it is seen that in rural area one poor girl may marry twice in childhood. Therefore, they face the problem of life threatening risk from very childhood and burden of family life, so that then cannot get chance to study in class room. The present article basically explains about the policies, which is made particularly for women in India, for achieving 17 goals of sustainable development by 2030. In India, the ‘think -tank’ institution such as NITI Aayog has been implanting a number of policies for women to eradicate poverty such as UJJAWALA, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan etc.

(i) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Food is necessary to live in this earth. For sustaining our bodies, we can make our food in two ways such as- collecting from natural resources and making at home through fire. Fire food can also be produced in two ways such as using the clean energy and another way collecting woods from forest. Wood making food is dangerous for health of women and children. Therefore, government of India has made a scheme, known as Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, comes under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. This scheme may provide clean energy through LPG Gas cylinders with a limited cost to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories. It was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. According to WHO report, that “every year 5 Lakh death cases come due to the unclean cooking fuels. This type of environmental pollutions brings diseases in human bodies, such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and lung cancer. It is seen that women faces many problems because of these diseases. According to experts, having an open fire in the kitchen is just like burning 400 cigarettes an hour” (<https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/pradhan-mantri-ujjwala-yojana>). Generally, we see that in a family one mother or girl child plays a major role. She gives more efforts to run one family and also gets many tortures from indoor and outdoor of society. From this scheme, basically women of rural areas easily make food using LPG cylinder. Operationally which foods, she used to give time half hour, now it is made in 10 minutes through using clean sources of fuels without any harm to environment.



Source- (<https://www.google.com/search?q=PRADHAN+MANTRI+UJJWALA+YOJAN>)

According to “Wood Mackenzie, by 2030, it is observed that India may overtake China as the world’s largest residential sector market. In his report, he said that LPG demand in residential sector will continue to see sustainable development growth at a cumulative annual growth rate of 3.3 percent, reaching 34 million tonnes (MT) in 2030” (The Economics Times, Oct 06, 2022). Whatever data has been provided by WHO on air pollution, still it is very dangerous path of every country in the world. Some countries are taking step to tackle the air pollution issues but on the other hand the underdeveloped countries are in very dangerous position to tackle these issues. It is seen that, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala scheme has provided approximately 37 million (WHO report) free LPG connection to the poor women, who comes under the BPL categories to switch the clean energy.

(2) Poshan Abhiyaan

Government of India is making different type of policies for women, children for their well-being in the society. Poshan Abhiyaan is also known as National Nutrition Mission (NNM), which came in an auspicious occasion of International Women’s Day, on March 8, 2018 by government of India, particularly with an aim for tackling the malnutrition problem which is prevailing a huge number in India. It is such type of flagship programmes by government of India, to improve the nutritional conditions of pregnant women, children and lactating mothers. It is seen that in rural area the women during their pregnancy time does not get healthy food due to their poor conditions. It directly makes effect to the children. Now when Poshan Abhiyaan came into force in India, in Anganwadi centre every month, is providing health nutrition food. Actually, the scheme has been targeted for three years from covering the prevailing malnutrition situation around the country, but due to its impact and prospect, the government has been taken different types of programmes such as Supplementary Nutrition Programme and Umbrella -Mission-POSHAN 2.0. Now different states are taking different steps to popularize to this scheme and providing different new food to the children and pregnancy women. NITI Aayog plays a very important role here. Every six month, it presents a report on the successful implementation of this scheme to PMO. Basically, this scheme focused on “the social behavioural changes and communication and also gives importance on the theme of antenatal care, optimal breastfeeding, complementary feeding, anaemia, growth monitoring girl and right age of marriage” (NITI Aayog, accs-2022,12). No doubt different types of policies are made for women for their well-health, still due to lack of education and awareness programmes, they do not come forward to take and enjoy the policies. In a joint sitting of both the house of parliament, “president Ram Nath Kovind explained that in our country the child mortality rate has been decreased due to government initiatives. Again, said that government has been taking different initiatives for protecting the health of infants and pregnant women” (The Economics Times, 2021; Jan 29). President Kovind again said that, because of Poshan scheme the “rate of child mortality has decreased from 130 per lakh in 2014 to 113 and also it is seen that under 5 child mortality rates has reduced to 36 for the first time, which is a less than the world average rate of 39” (*ibid*). In India, every state is talking different type of initiative to tackle malnutrition and among them Odisha is a state that has been taken considerable steps to tackle malnutrition and also progressing in the field of Poshan scheme. According to “International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) report shows that Odisha rate in declining in childhood stunting between 2005-06 and 2015-16 was three times that of similarly poor states like Bihar” (The Economics Times, Sep 26,2020). All these reports show that now the rate of malnutrition has decreased because of government initiatives. It is observed that, due to lack of education, the illiterate women do not know, which food is

necessary for their health during pregnancy time and because of lack of awareness programme, they could not understand the value nutrition food.

(3) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

When one child is taking birth, his /he care is necessary for good health and also in the part of mother should take hygienic food. Under nutrition is the main obstacles which effects the majority of in India. According physical science report, generally it is seen that an undernourished woman gives to one of the low weight babies. Operationally, it is evaluated that, because of economic and social factors, the pregnancy women also work to earn money to the family and from childhood, the women girl's child work at industries as their body is not feat to work still, they are bound because of family conditions. "Now from 01.01.2017, different types of materiality Benefit Programme has been implemented all over the district of the country. The government of India has been implanted a policy to tackle the undernourished of the women during pregnancy time such as 'Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana'. Under this scheme a cash incentive of 5000/- is directly deposited to the Bank or Post office Account of the Pregnant women and Lactating Mothers, for the first living child of the family subject to fulfilling specific conditions relating to Maternal and child health. This scheme comes under the ministry of Women and Child Development and under the platform of Anganwadi Services Scheme of Umbrella" (PMMVY Report).

(ii) Zero Hunger

There are three important factors such as social, economic and environment factors, which are most important elements to understand the meaning of sustainable development. If one factor may get affected then totally divested to the whole system. Like that, in a society, economic is the best pillar to run one human society. Economy makes two class in a society, such as rich and poor. Rich person can easily enjoy their life without any needs but on the other hand, due to lack of economy standard faced many problems of hunger and malnutrition. This article basically explained about the different type of policies, which is made for women to achieve 17 sustainable development goals. India is the second largest populous country of the world, which has been "enjoyed steady economic growth and has achieved self-sufficiency in grain production in recent years. Still, it is not free from the food insecurity, high level of poverty and malnutrition persist. Partly, 21.25 percent of the population lives on less than US\$1.90 a day and the problems of social exclusion and inequality is high" (World Food Programme, accs-2022,14). Many targets had been made in MDGs to achieve all targets still, it could not bring eye-catching success. "Unfortunately, extreme hunger and malnutrition remains a huge barrier to development in many countries. It is calculated that 765 million people are estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2014" (Joint SDG Fund, accs-2022,14). It is observed that women prepared approximately 90 of meals in households in the world. No doubt she makes foods but eat less. The reason behind here is that, she always tries to the run the admiration of a family without any obstacle and so to say she earned very less amount, so that not in a position to handle the sudden crisis. Nourishment not only provides us good food but also serves as a good quality of health. It is seen that in a poor household, due to lack of nourishment, the women get less care taker of health and does not get sufficient physical needs during pregnancy. Gender inequalities also bring many problems such as not adequate education, insufficient to earn money and inadequate health care. Different government has been undertaken different policies to eradicate hunger particularly for women. Now United Nations Women act is giving importance on the role of women in the food security as the most valuable part of productions. Presently this organisation is giving

necessary training to women in agricultural production and also bringing awareness in nutrition food. The sustainable development goals have kept a target that by 2030, it may end all forms of hunger and malnutrition and explained that how people and especially children can access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round. It also gives importance on the “sustainable agricultural practices, improving the livelihood and capacities of small-scale farmers, allowing equal access to land, technology and markets” (<https://www.jointsdgdffund.org/sustainable-development-goals/goal-2-zero-hunger>). Global Hunger Index has been designed as a tool through which countries hunger rank is calculated in every year. According to “Global Hunger Index report 2021, India rank is 101st out of 116 countries and its score is 27.5, that has a level of hunger which is very serious. Since 2000, India has been made a substantial progress, but there are still areas of concern, particularly regarding child nutrition. If we may see the 20 years report, it is seen that, the India’s GHI score has decreased from a 2000 GHI score of 38.8 points which is considerably alarming as compare to the report of 2021 GHI score of 27.5 as considered serious. It is considered that proportion of undernourished in the population and the under-five child mortality rates are now at relatively low levels. In the same case, child stunting has been decreased from 54.2 percent in 1998-1999 to 34.7 percent in 2016-2018 and it is also still considered very high” (<https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html>). Different policies have been made for women for the development their growth and sustainability.

(i) National Food Security Act, 2013

Food, shelter and cloth are the three basic needs of human being, which he or she uses in day to live. Food is the basic needs to survive in this world and also maintains health capability. In, India it is seen that due to lack of nutrition food, die many people. The rate of mortality rate is high in the case of women and child. In a news of Odisha, Koraput district, where many infant children died due to lack of sufficient food. Government has been made different new policies for eradication of food scarcity. Government of India has made one policy, known as “National Food Security Act, 2013, passed by parliament and came into effective on 10th September 2013 and kept an objective that by providing food and nutritional security through which people can get quality of food at affordable prices to people. The Act has kept an ambition that up to 75% of the rural populations and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Those people may come under this category, can get 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month at subsidies prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains. It is seen that under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), basically it is chosen for poorest people, who continue to receive 35 Kgs of food grains per household per month” (NFSA,2013). This Act has also been made for the nutritional support to women and children. No doubt the pregnant women and lactating women has been provided meal still they would also be entitled for the benefit of not less than Rs.6000 and those children may come under the age of up to 14 would be given nutritious meals for their nutritional standard. Different types policies have been made for their improvement of women health still due to lack of awareness, the poor women and children are not aware of those policies.

(ii) National Food Security Act in Odisha

The National Food Security Act has kept an ambition that every people should be provided food and nutritional security and also live a life of dignity. It was passed in the Gazette of India in 10th September 2013. Under the section 16 of this Act, every state government has been permitted to establish a State Food Commission for the successful implementation of this act. However, “under the section 18 of this

Act, every state government has been considered to exercise the powers and perform the function of the state food commission” (OFC, accs-2022,23). Regarding this provision, the Odisha government has also established an Odisha Food Commission in 2015 for successful implementation of National Food Security Act and also giving importance on that how nobody can stay hungry. In this Odisha government has also decided to constitute the “exclusive commission and Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare” (*ibid*). The Food Commission of Odisha has undertaken four policies for eradication of hunger and also gives importance that how as women, particularly in rural area can stay a health life such as - Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Mid-Day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) & Maternity Benefit Programme.

(1) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)

The National Food Security Act has been working successfully since 2013 and also gives advice by Central government to state government for taking necessary steps for eradication of hunger. The NFSA covers the “Targeted Public Distribution System and under the system the 75% of rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidies food grains. Government of India fixed the ceiling on number of beneficiaries under NFSA, 2013 at 82.17% of the rural population and 55.77% of the urban population for Odisha. Accordingly, the ceiling for TPDS beneficiaries of Odisha has been fixed at 3,26,41,800 under NFSA” (<http://odishafoodcommission.nic.in/tpdstargeted-public-distributed-system/>). The Government of Odisha under the TPDS decided that all the “eligible households (PHH- Priority households & AAY-Antyodaya Anna Yojana), who have been issued new Ration Card, shall be entitled to receive 35Kg of food grains per household and whereas the PHH categories are entitle to receive 5kg of food grains with a subsidies prices of Rs.3/2/1 per Kg for Rice/Wheat/Coarse grains” (*ibid*). The government of Odisha has decided that 2.5 Litres of Kerosene, will be provided to the people who comes under the BPL category under the public distribution system. Through this scheme “44 Lakh people of BPL category can get benefit” (orissadiary.com).

(2) Mid-Day Meal

For living a healthy life, the government of India has been undertaking different policies. Some policies are made for people with free of cost enjoying and other policies are with a minimum cost of only one to five rupees only. Nutrition food is necessary for children for their good health. Keeping on the mind, government of India has made one policy known as Mid-day meal for schooling children, can take a free of cost at school till 8 class. Since 1925, the Mid-day meal programme has been launched for the “disadvantage children in Madras Municipal Cooperation. In the middle part of 1980s, this scheme has been introduced in the three states such as Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and also UT of Pondicherry, have been provided cooking food to the children who studied at the primary stage” (<http://odishafoodcommission.nic.in/mdm-mid-day-meal/>). For the improvement of nutritional “levels among the children, the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education was launched as a centrally sponsored scheme on 15th august 1995, initially in 2408 blocks in the country” (*ibid*). In Odisha Mid-day meal started in 1995 to provide nutrition food to the government primary school and non-added primary school. It is also such type of scheme which encourages or motivates the children to come school. In village area, the children do not get one meal per day. Therefore, this scheme brought new changes in the life of people. Through, this scheme also the women child can develop and make attraction to come school.

(3) Maternity Benefit Programme

Different types of policies have been made for pregnant women for their good health and also lives a life of humanity. In rural area it is seen that, due to lack of sanitation and awareness among the pregnant women, face many problems. No doubt government has been bringing many policies, still it is not reaching to the people. For the eradication of the issues of maternal and infant undernutrition, the government of Odisha has launched one scheme known as ‘Mamata scheme’ in 2011 particularly for the pregnant women and lactating women. The scheme has been made keeping a target that the pregnant women and lactating women of above 19 ages would be improved their nutrition and also promote health seeking behaviour. Under this scheme there is a “conditional cash transfer maternity benefit scheme where 5000/- is transferred to the bank account of mother” (*ibid*). There is no such type of limit for the pregnancies/live births to take these beneficiaries, particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) communities. The main objective of this scheme is to “provide partial wage compensations for pregnant/nursing mothers. Through only they can take rest adequately during their pregnancy and after delivery, increase utilisation of health services, especially antenatal care and also improved mother and child care practices, especially exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feedings of infants” (*ibid*). Therefore, we can rightly said that the development programme and awareness programme is necessary for women to enjoy all this policies and come forward to take all this policies for that awareness programme is necessary.

(4) Integrated Child Development Scheme

The Integrated Child Development Scheme is one of the world’s largest and most unequable scheme for the nutrition and childcare service. It was launched on 2 October 1975 by the government of India. It is a scheme which is implemented by the state across the country through which children can get benefits. The main objectives of this scheme were to “improve the health and nutritional condition of children below the age of 6 years and along with pregnant women and lactating mothers” (Mohapatra, 2021). The government of Odisha has approved an “Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) of around Rs 2,548.37 crore for integrated child development services for 2021-22. Operationally, under the APIP programme, Rs 2,341 crore has been sanctioned for Anganwadi services including supplementary nutrition and uniform medicine kits for children, Rs 7.42 crore for care of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-14 years and Rs 199.52 crore for Poshan programme” (The New Times Of India, 2021).

CONCLUSION:

Man is a social animal. He lives in the society. Therefore, without society, he or she may be beast or ghost. Here the role of women is the first important. The success and failure of a family depends on the women. If we may look into the ancient history, it is found that, women were exploited and hamulated in the society. They were not given any importance to them. To make food, they used to struggle hard to collect woods from forest. With the advanced of science and technology, this types of hard work of women were reduced. Now from taking birth of child to death government of India has been brought many policies. But now it is also seen that, these policies are not working in proper way. The reason behind is that the women are not aware about all policies. Now government of India has made a target that it would make the country zero emission by 2050. Therefore, taking different green energy project.

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