

An Analysis of Indian Economy in the Context of Fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals

Kamble Shamrao Rambhau

Assistant Professor, M. A. Economics, NET, M.Phil., Department of Economics, Saraswati Mandir Night College of Commerce and Arts, 1359, Shukrawar Peth, Bajirao Road, Pune 411 002, Maharashtra,

Abstract

The concept of economic development, due to the excessive use of available resources, can create many problems for future generations. For this, the United Nations has introduced the concept of sustainable development since 2015. In the concept of sustainable development, nature should be used for human development in such a way that there is no harm to the environment and a balance can be created between nature and economic development. In 2015, the United Nations has set 17 Sustainable Development Goals to help the countries of the United Nations achieve inclusive, people-centered, and holistic development together. An agenda has been set up to 2030 to achieve these goals. Among the goals set in 2015, this study has been conducted to review the facts regarding achieving them at the global level and what are the facts regarding India in this regard. Some reports and other literature are taken into consideration, it can be seen that poverty in India has reduced significantly from the first goal of sustainable development, namely poverty eradication. For example, in 1993, 48 percent of the population in India was below the poverty line, which has come down to 22.9 percent in 2011 and 12.9 percent by the end of 2021. Similarly, positive changes have been seen due to the efforts made in fulfilling other goals.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations, Indian Economy, Fulfilment of SDG, etc.

Introduction

In 2015, the United Nations set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure that the process of economic development should be completed without destroying the environment and that natural resources should be available to future generations. In the following period, the world experienced a terrible Covid crisis, due to which developing and poor nations globally faced many difficulties in fulfilling the SDGs. In fact, some problems like poverty and hunger have also increased. This study has reviewed the progress India has made in fulfilling the SDGs. Secondary sources of data collection have been considered for this study. Also, studies by scholars like Krishna Kumar P.K. Anand (2023), Mnagesh Bhole, Reetuja Deshpande (2024), Sharyn Bangera (2020), etc. have been reviewed. Accordingly, India has started moving towards fulfilling some of the goals set by the United Nations.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

2. To study the profile of India as per the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary sources. The efforts made by the Government of India to fulfilment of SDGs in and the various policies implemented have been reviewed in this study. For this, various government reports, published and unpublished literature, as well as websites of United Nations and various government departments, etc. have been considered for this study.

Discussion and Findings (Data Analysis)

After analysing the information obtained from the secondary sources selected for the study, including government reports and websites of United Nations and various government institutions, the following conclusions have been seen.

Poverty

Are the basic needs of the people being met? Also, the efforts made by the Indian government in terms of how many people in the country have access to basic services have increased the proportion of the population using basic services in India, which was 14.1 percent. In 2015, this proportion was 57.77 percent, and in 2022, this proportion has increased to 78.4 percent. The government has been spending a lot on essential education for the last many years. In 2000, the proportion of such expenditure was 16.7 percent. In 2015, this proportion of expenditure has increased to 16.33 percent. In 2021, the proportion of expenditure on essential education services has decreased to 14.6 percent. From this, it is evident from the said statistics that the Indian government is reducing the expenditure on essential education services. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Zero Hunger

The proportion of the population suffering from hunger in the country was 18.3 percent in 2001. When the Sustainable Development Goals were set in 2015, the proportion of the population suffering from hunger in India was 12.2 percent. However, due to the efforts made by the Indian government since then, this has been reduced. By the end of 2022, this proportion has reduced to 13.7 percent. Malnutrition is also considered in this regard. In 2001, 197.4 million people in India were malnourished. In 2022, the number of malnourished people in the country decreased somewhat to 194.6 million. In the past twenty years, the proportion of malnourished people in India has not decreased much. The proportion of children under the age of five in the country who are stunted was 50 percent in 2000, but this has decreased to 31.7 percent in 2022. However, the government has been able to achieve success in this regard. The number of children who are moderately or severely overweight in India was 3655.8 thousand in 2000, 2743.9 thousand in 2015, but it has increased since then. In 2022, such a population was 3181.9 thousand. This means that it has been increasing since 2015. The role of agriculture is very important in food security. The share of agriculture in total government expenditure was 7.7 percent. In the later period, it has been reduced. In 2022, the share of agriculture in total government expenditure has decreased to 7.5 percent compared to 2001, and the share of agricultural value in India's total GDP

was 21.2 percent in 2001. In 2022, this ratio has decreased to 16.1 percent. .
(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Good Health and Well-being

The government's efforts towards better health of the people of the country have brought about some positive changes in India as follows. In 2000, the maternal mortality rate was 384.4 per lakh live births, in which the government of India has achieved success and in 2020, the government has succeeded in reducing this rate to 102.7. When analysed on the availability of skilled workers in places where children are born, the rate of such births was 42.5 percent in 2000, while in 2021 this rate increased to 89.4 percent. Also, in 2000, the number of child deaths in India was 1871770, in 2015 this figure came down to half, while in 2022, the government of India has succeeded in reducing the number of child deaths in India to 586618. The under-five mortality rate was 91.7 per 1000 live births in 2000, 43.6 in 2015 and 29.1 in 2022. The infant mortality rate has also decreased from 66.4 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 25.5 in 2022. In 2015, the rate was 36.5 per 1000 live births. In India, the neonatal mortality rate was 44.7 per 1000 live births in 2000, but it has decreased to 26 in 2015 and to 18.1 in 2022. The number of people in need of government intervention against neglected tropical diseases in India was 837,413,970 in 2010, but this has decreased in the recent past and this number has decreased to 656,757,347 in 2022. The mortality rate of people aged 30 to 70 from the four major non-communicable diseases, namely cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or acute respiratory diseases, was 325.1 percent in 2000, this rate has come down to 22.60 percent in 2015 and 21.90 percent in 2019. In India, the adolescent birth rate, i.e., the age group 15-19, was 51.0 per 1000 women in 2000, it was 11.1 percent in 2015 and it has come down to 11.3 per 1000 women in 2020. The proportion of the target population covered by 3 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) was 58.0 percent in 2000 and has increased since then, from 87 percent in 2015 to 93.0 percent in 2022. The proportion of the population receiving the measles-containing second dose vaccine was 27.0 percent in 2011, which increased to 69 percent in 2015 and to 90.0 percent in 2022. In India, there were 6.77 doctors per 10,000 populations in 2018, which later increased to about 7.3 doctors per 10,000 populations by the end of 2020. This appears to be satisfactory from the point of view of the health of the people of India. .
(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Quality Education

The participation rate in pre-primary or primary education in India was 85.19 percent in 2020. This has been increasing and increased to 94.4 percent in 2022. The percentage of primary schools in India with computer facilities for educational and curricular purposes was only 10.2 percent in 2016 and this has increased to 29.80 percent in 2023. It is essential to have basic facilities in schools. In view of this, the percentage of schools with drinking water facilities was 83.94 percent in 2016 and this percentage increased to 97.9 percent in 2022. The percentage of schools with electricity in India was only 45.40 percent in 2023 and this percentage increased to 89.20 percent in 2023. The percentage of schools in India with internet facilities for educational purposes was 6.36 percent in 2019, and has increased over the years. In 2023, this percentage has increased to 38.90 percent. Although this is increasing, it is clear that the percentage of teachers is still low. According to gender, the percentage of schools with basic

sanitation facilities in schools was 93.3 percent in 2016, while this percentage has increased to 98.1 percent in 2023. The percentage of teachers who received the minimum training required for teaching during the pre-service or in-service period was 69.83 percent in 2017, while this percentage has increased to 91.8 percent in 2023. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Gender Equality

If there is a legal framework in place regarding employment and financial benefits, this encourages gender equality. If we give a score of 0-100 in this regard, in 2018 we had 30 points, while in 2022 India's score in this regard was 40. Although this is increasing, the rate is still below 50%. The proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who reported being married before the age of 18 was 23.3 percent, and the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who reported being married before the age of 15 was 4.8 percent. The proportion of women candidates for the lower or upper house of parliament was 9.0 percent in 2000, 11.97 percent in 2015, and 14.7 percent in 2024. Although this has increased somewhat, it is still far below what is needed. The proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care was 65.6 percent in 2021. As part of women's empowerment, the share of women in ownership or right to agricultural land was 14.3 percent in 2012, which decreased to 8.33 percent in 2015 and to 9.2 percent in 2020. The proportion of women and men aged 15 years and above who were aware of the laws related to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education in India was 74.0 percent in 2022. The proportion of women and men aged 15 years and above who were fully informed about contraceptive services was found to be 100 percent in 2022. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Clean Water and Sanitation

The proportion of people in India with basic hand washing facilities was 59.3 percent in 2010. It increased from 61.83 percent in 2015 to 76.3 percent in 2022. The proportion of people with basic facilities for safe disposal of human excreta and using safe and adequate sanitation services in India was 6.1 percent in 2000, 36.95 percent in 2015, and 52.1 percent in 2022. The proportion of treated domestic wastewater flow has decreased from 26.55 percent in 2020 to 20.7 percent in 2022. The proportion of river water with good water quality has decreased from 36.7 percent in 2017 to 10.0 percent in 2023. The percentage of water resources with good quality was 36.7 percent in 2017 and has decreased to 10.0 percent in 2023, which is a matter of concern. Out of the total freshwater resources in India, freshwater withdrawal was 66.49 percent in 2015 and this percentage has been found to be 66.5 percent in 2021. The level of implementation of integrated water resources management has increased from 45.0 percent in 2020 to 75.0 percent in 2023. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Affordable and Clean Energy

The percentage of the population with access to electricity in India was 60.3 percent in 2000, 88 percent in 2015 and this percentage has increased to 99.2 percent in 2022. The percentage of the population that depends on clean fuels and technologies for their basic needs or their primary life in India has increased from 47.4 percent in 2015 to 74.5 percent in 2022. The share of renewable energy in final energy

consumption was 46.9 percent in 2000. It is a matter of concern that this ratio has decreased from 33.39 percent in 2015 to 34.9 percent in 2021. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Decent Jobs and Economic Growth

The annual growth rate of gross domestic product has increased from 2.0 percent in 2000 to 6.7 percent in 2015 and 6.5 percent in 2022. The number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults in India has increased from 19.5 in 2015 to 24.6 in 2022. The number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults has increased from 13.42 in 2015 to 14.3 in 2022. The overall unemployment rate has increased from 2.7 percent in 2000 to 4.2 percent in 2023. The proportion of youth not in education, employment or training in India has decreased from 26.86 percent in 2012 to 25.8 percent in 2022. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

The number of passengers in India by air transport decreased from 19034351177.0 passenger kilometres in 2017 to 179651970192.5 passenger kilometres in 2022. The share of small enterprises with loans or credit lines decreased from 28.0% in 2014 to 10.4% in 2022. Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion increased from 2035.74 million tonnes in 2015 to 2,279.0 million tonnes in 2021. Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP decreased from 0.69 percent in 2015 to 0.6% of GDP in 2020. The density of full-time researchers per 100,000 populations was 215.18 in 2015 to 260.4 in 2020. The share of medium and high technology industries in total value added increased from 42.55 percent in 2015 to 41.9% in 2021. The proportion of the population using at least 4G mobile networks increased from 4 percent in 2015 to 98.7 percent in 2022. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Reduced Inequalities

The proportion of people living on less than 50 percent of the median income in India was 5.2 percent in 1993. In 2015, this proportion was 5.7 percent, and in 2021, it increased to 8.4 percent. Therefore, instead of reducing, economic inequality is increasing. The share of non-performing loans in total loans was 5.88 percent in 2015, but in 2022, its proportion decreased to 4.8 percent. The amount received for development was \$ 9790.15 million in 2015, but in 2022, this amount reached \$ 33746 million. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Sustainable Cities and Communities

The proportion of urban population living in slums in India decreased from 50.40 percent in 2014 to 41.4 percent in 2022. . (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Responsible Consumption and Production

Per capita generation of hazardous waste decreased from 6.8 kg in 2000 to 5.89 kg in 2015 to 6.2 percent in 2019. In 2016, 90.26 percent of hazardous waste was disposed of, while in 2019, 94.7 percent of hazardous waste was disposed of. We have not yet succeeded in 100 percent hazardous waste

disposal. The share of fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) in total GDP increased from 1.5% in 2010 to 2.1% in 2022.

Life below Water

The share of national ocean science expenditure in the total research and development budget has decreased from 0.3% in 2013 to 0.011% in 2021.

(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Life on Land

The proportion of forests is very important in environmental development. In this regard, in India, the proportion of land covered by forests in 2015 was 23.82 percent, which has increased to 24.3 percent in 2020. Although this has increased, this proportion is much less than the requirement.

(<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/ind>)

Conclusion

The Sustainable Development Goals were set in 2015. During this period, India has achieved some success in poverty eradication, but the expenditure on essential education services has been decreasing. The population using essential services has increased. When the Sustainable Development Goals were set in 2015, the proportion of the population suffering from hunger in India was 12.2 percent. However, this has been reduced due to the efforts made by the Indian government since then. This proportion has been reduced to 13.7 percent by the end of 2022. The share of agriculture in total government expenditure was 7.7 percent. This has been reduced in the subsequent period. In 2022, the share of agriculture in total government expenditure has decreased to 7.5 percent compared to 2001. The maternal mortality rate has decreased. The infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in India have decreased since 2015. The mortality rate of people aged 30 to 70 from non-communicable diseases was 325.1 percent in 2000, in 2015 this rate has come down to 22.60 percent and in 2019 this rate has come down to 21.90 percent. In terms of education, the participation rate in pre-primary or primary education in India has increased to 94.4 percent in 2022. Also, the use of computers and internet for education in Indian schools is increasing. Also, the level of basic facilities in schools and teacher training is increasing. That is, there is an increase in quality education. The percentage of women getting married before the age of 15 is decreasing in India. The percentage of women in the House of Parliament is increasing. However, as part of women empowerment, the share of women in ownership or right holders of agricultural land was 14.3 percent in 2012, this percentage decreased to 8.33 percent in 2015 and this percentage decreased to 9.2 percent in 2020. The number of people with access to basic amenities is increasing, and the number of people with sewage facilities in India is also increasing gradually. In terms of energy, the government has succeeded in providing electricity to 99.2 percent of the people in India. The proportion of the population dependent on clean fuels and technology is increasing in India. The growth rate of the Indian economy is increasing. Also, the number of ATMs and banks available per one lakh population is also increasing. The passenger kilometers of air transport are increasing, while the carbon dioxide emission rate from fuel combustion is increasing. The proportion of people living on less than average income is increasing in India, which means that economic inequality is increasing. The

proportion of the urban population living in slums in India was 50.40 percent in 2014 and came down to 41.4 percent in 2022. The amount of hazardous waste generated per capita is decreasing. We have not yet succeeded in disposing of 100 percent hazardous waste. The share of national ocean science expenditure in total research and development funding has declined from 0.3% in 2013 to 0.011% in 2021. In India, the forest cover has increased from 23.82% in 2015 to 24.3% in 2020. Despite the increase, this is still far below the requirement.

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