Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596
An International Multidisciplinary Peer-Reviewed E-Journal
www.vidhyayanaejournal.org
Indexed in: Crossref, ROAD & Google Scholar

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Sustainable Development Goals 2030: "Bridging Gaps, Building Futures for Viksit Bharat@2047"

Mrs. Ummu Aimen

Ph.D., Research Scholar,

The New College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Rtn. Jc. Sherly Jesuraj

M.Sc., B.Ed., MPhil., (Mathematics)

Educator /Trainer/ Certified Coach, International Vedic Maths Trainer, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India.

Srikanth Salihundam

MBA (HR& MARKETING)

Educator/ Soft skills trainer/ Certified Trainer in TTT and Corporate trainer and Facilitator From Protouch accredited by CPD Standards & HRCI Certified POSH TTT from SKILLDECK

Vidhyayana - ISSN 2454-8596
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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched by the United Nations in 2015, represent a comprehensive and ambitious agenda designed to promote peace, prosperity, and sustainability for people and the planet alike. This framework encompasses 17 interconnected goals that address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. Each goal is accompanied by specific targets and indicators to measure progress and ensure accountability among nations. As India forges ahead on its developmental path, its vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 becomes increasingly relevant. This initiative aims to transform the nation into a prosperous and developed society by the 100th anniversary of its independence, fostering inclusive growth and improving the overall quality of life for all citizens. The SDGs serve as a strategic guide in this endeavor, providing a roadmap that aligns with India's aspirations for sustainable development. However, despite the alignment of the Viksit Bharat vision with the SDGs, there are significant gaps and challenges that must be addressed to ensure meaningful progress. These gaps include disparities in wealth distribution, inadequate access to quality education and healthcare, environmental degradation, and the need for a more robust and integrated approach to governance and policy implementation. To tackle these challenges, this article critically analyzes the existing barriers to the advancement of the SDGs in India. It delves into the socio-economic and political factors that contribute to these obstacles, highlighting the urgent need for policy reforms and collaborative efforts across sectors. Furthermore, it outlines strategic formulations aimed at overcoming these impediments, such as enhancing public-private partnerships, investing in sustainable technologies, and fostering community engagement in decision-making processes. The article concludes by proposing a detailed and actionable roadmap that outlines the steps necessary to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. This roadmap emphasizes the importance of holistic development, equitable resource distribution, and the integration of sustainable practices into all facets of the economy and society. By embracing this comprehensive approach, India can take significant strides toward achieving the SDGs and ensuring a prosperous future for all its citizens.

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Introduction

In 2015, the United Nations introduced a forward-looking agenda composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at addressing some of the most significant global challenges that humanity faces, with a target for achievement by 2030. These goals encompass a wide range of critical issues, including the eradication of poverty in all its forms, the promotion of equality, the mitigation of climate change and its effects, as well as the advancement of peace and justice. For a vast and diverse nation like India, which is home to over 1.3 billion citizens, the pursuit of these objectives is not only vital but also a cornerstone for promoting equitable and sustainable development. India has sincerely committed itself to the principles of the 2030 Agenda, harmonizing the SDGs within its national development strategy. This commitment is exemplified through a variety of innovative policies and programs launched by the Indian government, which are focused on improving access to quality education, enhancing healthcare, fostering gender equality, and encouraging inclusive economic growth. Additionally, India has set forth initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices, advancing clean energy solutions, and developing essential infrastructure all of which contribute significantly to the overarching objective of realizing the SDGs.As India looks toward the future, envisioning itself as a developed nation referred to as Viksit Bharat by the year 2047, it has articulated a vision that seeks not only economic prosperity but also social equity and environmental sustainability. This initiative, known as Viksit Bharat@2047, represents a collective aspiration to address developmental disparities and to ensure that growth is inclusive and sustainable across all sectors of society. To actualize the goals of Viksit Bharat, it is imperative that there be a concerted effort from all corners of Indian society, including government, private sectors, civil society, and engaged citizens. This endeavor entails fostering innovation, investing in human resources, and embracing sustainable development practices that will safeguard the environment for future generations. Through this commitment, India seeks to exemplify how a developing nation can successfully navigate its challenges while contributing positively to the global sustainable development agenda. Such a path not only enhances national growth but also resonates with the shared aspirations of humanity for a better and more equitable world.

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Background

The SDGs present a dynamic framework of 17 interlinked goals, acting as a "blueprint for a better and more sustainable future for all." They encompass critical issues such as poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation, and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace and justice, and partnerships for the goals.

India has made remarkable strides in many areas but faces challenges that must be addressed to achieve the full potential of these goals. Overcoming these hurdles is essential for India to meet the SDGs by 2030 and lay the groundwork for becoming a developed nation by 2047. The SDGs succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and encompass 17 goals with 169 targets spanning a broad spectrum of sustainable development issues.

Goals Overview

The 17 goals encompass vital targets focusing on areas such as:

- No Poverty
- Zero hunger
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Clean water and sanitation
- Affordable and clean energy

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India's Progress on SDGs

Achievements So Far: Leveraging data from the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index, we celebrate significant progress. Notable advancements include increased renewable energy capacity, enhanced sanitation coverage through the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and reduced maternal mortality rates.

Government Initiatives: Key initiatives driving change include:

- *Ayushman Bharat for health care*

- *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao for gender equality*

- *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana addressing housing needs*

Viksit Bharat@2047 Vision

The Viksit Bharat@2047 vision inspires a nation where every citizen enjoys access to quality healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. It champions an inclusive society that upholds gender equality and social justice while prioritizing environmental sustainability. This vision aligns seamlessly with the SDGs, charting a bold roadmap for India's journey toward development.

Viksit Bharat@2047: A Vision for India's Future

Viksit Bharat@2047 aims to transform our nation through a robust framework built on three key pillars:

1. **Economic Prosperity:** In our quest for a thriving future, it is imperative to champion sustainable economic growth that not only stimulates job creation across diverse sectors but also fosters essential infrastructure development. This balanced approach will lay the groundwork for a robust economy that can withstand challenges and adapt to changing circumstances. By prioritizing industries that offer both high employment potential and environmental benefits, we can ensure long-term prosperity that benefits all citizens.

2. Social Equity: Ensuring that all individuals have access to opportunities is fundamental to our progress. We must vigorously advocate for inclusive development strategies that actively seek to reduce inequalities rooted in socio-economic, geographical, and ethnic disparities. Through policies that promote social justice, such as equitable access to resources and decision-making processes, we can guarantee that no individual or community is marginalized or left behind in our collective journey toward advancement.

Environmental Sustainability: The urgency of protecting our planet cannot be overstated. It is non-negotiable that we embrace practices that combat climate change, safeguard our natural resources, and promote biodiversity. By investing in renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture, and conservation efforts, we can secure a healthier planet for future generations. This proactive stance is essential to mitigate the adverse effects of environmental degradation we face today.To realize these ambitious objectives, a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach is indispensable. We must engage various entities, including government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and, importantly, our vibrant youth. Their fresh ideas, innovative thinking, and unyielding energy are vital for driving this monumental transformation.

Bridging the Gaps

Achieving our Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the transformative vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 requires a dedicated effort to address critical gaps across multiple sectors:

1. Healthcare:

Challenges: Access to quality healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas, presents a significant hurdle. Insufficient infrastructure, combined with a shortage of trained medical professionals, exacerbates this issue.

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Strategies: Strengthening primary healthcare systems through increased funding and support will improve access to essential services. Boosting investments in healthcare infrastructure, promoting the use of telemedicine, and expanding health insurance coverage are critical steps toward making quality healthcare universally accessible, thereby transforming health outcomes for all.

2. Education:

Challenges: Significant disparities in access to education, high dropout rates, and insufficient infrastructure continue to hinder educational progress, with the digital divide further exacerbating these issues.

Strategies: We must ensure universal access to education, enhance teacher training programs, leverage technology to expand digital learning opportunities, and enforce inclusive education policies that cater to all demographics. By taking these measures, we can create an equitable educational landscape that empowers every learner.

3. Agriculture:

Challenges: Farmers encounter various obstacles, including limited access to modern agricultural technology, market opportunities, and the looming threat of climate change on productivity.

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***Strategies*:** Advocating for sustainable agricultural practices, developing programs to improve access to contemporary farming technology, enhancing irrigation systems, and connecting farmers to markets will empower them. These strategies are vital for securing food production and improving the livelihoods of rural communities.

4.Gender Equality:

Challenges: Persistent gender disparities in education, employment, and public representation, alongside rampant violence and discrimination, continue to undermine true equality.

Strategies: It is essential to implement gender-sensitive policies, promote women's participation in the workforce, ensure equal pay for equal work, and strengthen legal protections against gender-based violence. These initiatives will collectively advance gender equality, fostering a society where everyone can thrive.

5.Urban Development:

Challenges: Rapid urbanization poses several challenges, including inadequate housing, poor public services, and environmental degradation in cities.

Strategies: Implementing sustainable urban planning principles, improving public transportation systems, ensuring affordable housing, and providing essential services such as sanitation, water, and waste management are crucial for creating livable urban environments that support community well-being.

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Building a Sustainable Future

Achieving a sustainable future for India is a collective responsibility that requires unified efforts from all stakeholders. Here's how we can collaboratively make a meaningful difference:

1. Government Initiatives:

The government plays a pivotal role in shaping inclusive policies that drive sustainable development. Initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (financial inclusion), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (cleanliness drive), and Atal Innovation Mission (supporting innovation) represent significant strides in this direction. However, it is equally important to strengthen international partnerships, leverage advanced technology for enhanced transparency in governance, and take proactive measures to facilitate public participation in policy-making.

2. Private Sector Involvement:

The private sector is crucial for economic growth and innovation. Businesses can make substantial contributions by embracing corporate social responsibility initiatives, adopting sustainable practices, and investing in green technologies. Collaboration between private industry and government to develop sustainable infrastructure and create new job opportunities will be essential for achieving the SDGs while supporting economic stability.

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3. Civil Society Engagement:

Civil society organizations play a vital role in advocating for marginalized communities and fostering greater awareness about sustainable development. By engaging local communities in meaningful dialogue and promoting volunteerism, these organizations empower citizens, driving grassroots movements that can lead to significant changes and improvements across various sectors.

4. Youth Empowerment:

The youth represent our most dynamic resource and are essential catalysts for change. By investing in their education, skill development, and entrepreneurial ventures, we can harness their potential to build a sustainable future. It is crucial to encourage their active participation in governance and provide platforms for dialogue, enabling them to voice their ideas and concerns, which will enrich our collective decision-making processes.

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5. Environmental Sustainability:

Addressing critical environmental issues such as air quality deterioration, pollution, and biodiversity loss must be at the forefront of our development agenda. A holistic approach to environmental sustainability that integrates these concerns within economic and social frameworks is fundamental to our long-term success.

Together, let us seize the opportunity to transform our nation into a shining model of sustainability and inclusiveness. Viksit Bharat@2047 awaits us—a future built on shared goals, respect for the environment, and commitment to social equity.

Category

Metrics

Current 2024

Target by 2030

Target by 2047

Health Care(Universal)

Health Coverage

55%

80%

100%

Infant Mortality Rate Births

Less than 5 per 1,000 live births

30 per 1,000 live births

15 per 1,000 live births

Less than 5per 1,000 live births

Education

Literacy Rate

75%

90%

100%

Primary Education Enrolment

85%

100%

Sustained

100%

Economic Growth

GDP Growth Rate

6%

8%

10%

Economic Growth

Unemployment Rate

7%

4%

2%

Gender Equality

Women's Labour Force Participation

25%

40%

50%

Gender Pay Gap

Both

20%

10%

0

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Environmental Sustainability

Renewable Energy Capacity

25%

50%

75%

Environmental Sustainability

CO2 Emissions Reduction

Baseline

30%Reduction

50%Reduction

Table to represent the key statistics and targets for "Sustainable Development Goals 2030: Bridging Gaps, Building Futures for Viksit Bharat@2047". This table captures the essential metrics and targets for various categories like healthcare, education, economic growth gender equality, and environmental sustainability, reflecting India's journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047

Conclusion

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and realizing the ambitious vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 is an incredibly challenging yet crucial undertaking that necessitates the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved in society. This includes government bodies, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the active participation of citizens, particularly the youth.

A key aspect of this endeavor is addressing the significant gaps that currently exist in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, gender equality, and urban development. For instance, improving healthcare systems involves not only enhancing infrastructure and access to medical services but also ensuring that healthcare is affordable and of high quality for all. In the field of education, initiatives must focus on making quality education accessible to every child, promoting digital literacy, and fostering skills that align with future job markets.

In agriculture, it is essential to adopt sustainable practices that increase productivity while preserving the environment. This could involve promoting organic farming, improving irrigation techniques, and providing farmers with access to market information and technology. Gender equality requires comprehensive strategies to empower women and marginalized communities, ensuring their active participation in all societal aspects and decision-making processes.

Urban development must prioritize sustainable practices that enhance the quality of life in cities while preserving the environment. This includes developing efficient public transportation systems, improving waste management, and creating green spaces that promote a healthy urban ecosystem.

As we move closer to the year 2047, let us wholeheartedly commit ourselves to the principles of sustainability, inclusivity, and equity. It is vital that we foster a spirit of cooperation among the public and private sectors, civil society, and local communities. By channeling our collective resources, innovation, and ingenuity, we can create an inclusive society where every Indian citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

Together, we can work towards transforming the vision of Viksit Bharat into a tangible reality—a future characterized by social cohesion, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability that benefits current and future generations.

Vande Mataram!

Bharat Mata Ki jai!!

Vasudeva Kudumbakam!!!

Disclaimer:

"The authors declare no competing interests related to 'Title of the Paper."

I Ummu Aimen and my team have read and understood the rules to submit my Research Paper. We have worked on the Research Paper, gathered information and Notes, and compiled it. We accept the Committee's acceptance and Rejection of our Research Paperwork and we will not interrupt the final decision of the same.

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Vernacular Publications:

- "SDG Bharat" (SDG India) - A series of articles published in various regional languages across India, highlighting local efforts and progress towards achieving SDGs. (2020)
- "Sustainable Development Goals: A Vernacular Perspective" - Articles and reports published in regional newspapers and magazines discussing SDGs in the context of local cultures and languages. (periodical publications)

Magazines and Journals:

- "Inspiring India Magazine" by UNDP India - This magazine showcases inspiring stories of change and voices from across India towards creating a sustainable future. (first published in 2022. The second edition was released on March 23, 2023.)
- "Vision IAS Current Affairs" - Monthly magazine that covers various topics including SDGs and their progress in India. (monthly magazine has been published since 2017.)
- "Clear IAS" - An online platform that provides comprehensive articles and updates on SDGs, including the SDG India Index. (4th Publication, published on July 14, 2024)

Journals:

- "India's Sustainable Development Goal Journey: Progress and Pathways" - Published by SpringerLink, this journal provides a comprehensive assessment of India's progress towards SDGs. (first published online on August 28, 2024 as part of the book series "Studies in Systems, Decision and Control" by SpringerLink)
- "Studies in Systems, Decision and Control" - This journal includes chapters on India's SDG journey and the challenges faced. (The publication dates for individual volumes vary, but the series has been active from 2014 to 2024)

IJEEKS (International Journal of Emerging Knowledge Studies):

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