

# Sustainable Development Goals towards achieving Child Development

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**Abstract:** Various issues related to children have been raised with their goals and targets in Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2015 but still some issues were silent in MDGs such as reducing inequality, ending violence against children and combating child poverty. There are 472 million children in India under the age of 18 years. This constitutes 39% of the total population in the country (Census 2011) From last so many years many countries are implementing various programmes, schemes and projects through income supports, social insurance policies, childcare, education and health policies. But less investment in child development is done on a fundamental aspect of social and economic development. Hence, sustainable development Goals 2030 has recognized and addressed those issues right from the introductory text for children, youth and future generations. SDGs were framed keeping in mind the following key features such as:

- 5 Ps are people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships
- SDGs are “integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable.
- SDGs are “unprecedented in scope and significance.

Sustainable development should be in all aspect related to social, economic and environmental development. This has to be achieved through protection of child rights and child development at individual, group and community levels. SDGs focuses on child friendly and healthy environment for children to live. Nine goals of SDG are directly or indirectly targeting the development of children. The current paper tries to map out the concerns of children in India and a means by which child investment can be strategized with a view to long term social progress through governmental schemes and policies for child development.

**Keywords:** Sustainable development, Sustainable development goals, child development, poverty, malnutrition, equitable quality education

People are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, Rio+20 promised to strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and committed to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, in particular the children of the world, youth and future generations of the world without distinction of any kind such as age, sex, disability, culture, race, ethnicity, origin, migratory status, religion, economic or other status.

-- Proposal for Sustainable Development Goals: Outcome of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, para 4

## Introduction

SDG targets for child development are related to poverty, health, education and more for all stakeholders prioritizing the needs of children today and of future generations, are at the forefront of SDG responses.

The SDGs sets out 169 targets, under 17 Goals, to be achieved in 11 years. Out of 17 SDGs, nine goals are covering the issues related to children rights and their development. Following are the nine goals related to child rights and child development:

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

These above nine goals are directly or indirectly targeting the development of children. The SDGs provide an opportunity for the development of a global child monitoring framework, and a means by which child investment can be strategized with a view to long-term social progress and environmental sustainability for all countries, to the benefit of the children across the world.

**Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms** covers the reduction of poverty in terms of rise in income of family and standard of living which needs social transformation towards economic development. Data from recent studies indicate that poverty plays a vital role in children's development affecting its social, economical and environmental needs.

India is home to over 30% of almost 385 million children living in extreme poverty, the highest in south Asia, according to a new report by World Bank Group and Unicef, - 'Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children.' It said children are more than twice as likely as adults to live in extreme poverty.

Poverty and the problems arising from it, often hit the children in the worst manner as below because they are the most vulnerable.

- Have poor physical health
- High infant mortality
- Malnutrition
- Experience mental health problems
- Have low sense of well-being
- Lack of education
- Underachieve at school
- Child labour
- Child marriage
- Have employment difficulties in adult life
- Experience social deprivation
- Feel unsafe
- Experience stigma and bullying at school.
- HIV / AIDS

Most of these children have parents who work, but at low wages and have unstable employment leaving their families struggling to make ends meet. Poverty can impede children's ability to learn and contribute to social, emotional, and behavioral problems. Children living in such under-resourced households with lack of adequate social protection, and constant risk of family separation often expose them to high levels of stress, affecting their development.

Government of India has been implementing various flagship programs for poverty eradication which are directly targeting the poor families such as:

- ❖ National Social Assistance Programmes
- ❖ National Rural / Urban livelihood Mission
- ❖ Indira Gandhi Awas Yojana
- ❖ National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes

**Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture** focus on food insecurity which leads to malnutrition, under-nutrition, deficiency of essential mineral and vitamins; overweight or obesity among children etc. affecting the physical and mental development of children. This puts them at risk of poor brain development, weak learning, low immunity, increased infections and, in many cases, death.

Following are the facts and figures related to child hunger, food security and nutrition.

- 19.8 million children below age 6 in India are undernourished (ICDS 2015)
- Only 9.6% of children between 6-23 months in the country receive an adequate diet (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 38% (1 in 3) of children between 0-5 years are stunted in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 21% (1 in 5) of the children in the country suffer from wasting (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 36% of children under 5 years of age are underweight in India (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 58% of children between 6 months – 5 years were found to be anaemic in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- India has the highest number of low birth weight babies per year at an estimated 7.4 million.
- Only 25 per cent of newborns were put to the breast within one hour of birth.
- Less than half of children (46 per cent) under six months of age are exclusively breastfed.
- Only 20 per cent children age 6-23 months are fed appropriately according to all three recommended practices for infant and young child feeding.
- 70 per cent children age 6- 59 months are anaemic. Children of mothers who are severely anaemic are seven times as likely to be severely anaemic as children of mothers who are not anaemic.
- Only half (51 per cent) of households use adequately iodized salt.
- Only one third (33 per cent) Indian children receive any service from an anganwadicentre; less than 25 per cent receive supplementary foods through ICDS; and only 18 per cent have their weights measured in an AWC. (Source NFHS 3, 2005-2006)

India accounts for more than 3 out of every 10 stunted children in the world. Undernutrition is substantially higher in rural than in urban areas. Short birth intervals are associated with higher levels of undernutrition. The percentage of children who are severely underweight is almost five times higher among children whose mothers have no education than among children whose mothers have 12 or more years of schooling. Under nutrition is more common for children of mothers who are undernourished themselves

(i.e. body mass index below 18.5) than for children whose mothers are not undernourished. Children from scheduled tribes have the poorest nutritional status on almost every measure and the high prevalence of wasting in this group (28 per cent) is of particular concern.

The data states that children under the age of five years are affected by micronutrient deficiencies. While every fifth child under the age five is vitamin A deficient, one in every third baby has vitamin B12 deficiency and two out of every five children are anemic. Malnutrition caused 69% of deaths of children below the age of five in India, according to a UNICEF report, The State of the World's Children 2019, UNICEF said that every second child in that age group is affected by some form of malnutrition.

Overweight and obesity increasingly begin in childhood with a growing threat of non-communicable diseases like diabetes (10%) in school-aged children and adolescents.

Urban India is moving into an unhealthy food snacking environment, which is influencing children's food choices and this is spreading to rural areas. Food consumption patterns in India reveal that child diets are largely starved of proteins and micronutrients and are influenced by household (adult) food choices.

Over the decades, despite growing incomes, protein-based calories remain low and unchanged, and the calorific share of fruits and vegetables has declined. The report said globally 77% of processed food sales are controlled by just 100 large firms.

Regarding the situation globally, the UNICEF's report said at least one in three children under five years of age — or 200 million — is either undernourished or overweight.

Ministry of women and child development, Govt. of India has launched many schemes to end hunger and by providing nutritious foods to children are:

- ❖ Integrated Child Development Schemes (ICDS)
- ❖ National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA),
- ❖ National Health Mission (NHM)
- ❖ Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme
- ❖ Annapurna Scheme
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) – ‘SABLA’
- ❖ POSHAN Abhiyaan
- ❖ National Nutrition Mission
- ❖ AnaemiaMukt Bharat programme

### Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being

Health is a core dimension of the SDGs; goal 3 aims to “ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages”. Health-related indicators especially related to children directly pertaining to health services, health outcomes, and environmental, occupational, behavioral, or metabolic risks with well-established causal connections to health.

It has been found that Indigenous children perform poorly on many health and well-being indicators in spite of various measures from government. Since the creation of the MDGs, there have been historic achievements in reducing child mortality and improving maternal health. Since 1990, there has been an over 50 percent decline in preventable child deaths globally. Maternal mortality also fell by 45 percent worldwide. Despite this incredible progress, more than 6 million children still die before their fifth birthday every year. Every day hundreds of women die during pregnancy or from childbirth related complications, and, in developing regions, only 56% of births in rural areas are attended by skilled professionals.

Following are the facts and figures related to children's health in India.

- An estimated 12.7 lakhs children die every year before completing 5 years of age.
- 19.8 million children below age 6 in India are undernourished (ICDS 2015)
- Only 9.6% of children between 6-23 months in the country receive an adequate diet (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 38% (1 in 3) of children between 0-5 years are stunted in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 21% (1 in 5) of the children in the country suffer from wasting (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 36% of children under 5 years of age are underweight in India (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 58% of children between 6 months – 5 years were found to be anaemic in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- Total Immunisation coverage in the country stood at 62% in 2015-16 (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- 21% of the births in the country were home births (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- Only 21% of mothers (1 in 5) received full antenatal care in the country (NFHS 4, 2015-16)
- More than 50% of the pregnant women aged 15-49 years were found to be anaemic (NFHS 4, 2015-16)

Considering the current needs of children in India Goal 3 aims to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births. The goal also ensures universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

The UN supports India in achieving the goal of the recently adopted National Health Policy 2017 in line with SDG-3 to “attain the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence”.

For the achievement of SDG Goal 3 focus has been given on the preventive health care and provision of healthcare infrastructure and human resources through various schemes and programme are implemented such as:

- ❖ The National Rural Drinking water Programme

- ❖ Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- ❖ Provision of Health care infrastructure (PHC/CC) and Hunam Resource
- ❖ National Rural Health Mission
- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A)
- RashtriyaBalSwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK)
- RashtriyaKishorSwasthyaKaryakram (RKSK)
- Janani ShishuSurakshaKaryakaram
- Pulse Polio
- PradhanMantriSwasthyaSurakshaYojana (PMSSY)

#### Goal 4: Ensure inclusive education and equitable quality education for all

As per the UNICEF reports an estimated 8.1 million children are out of school and majority of those are belonging to the disadvantaged groups.

Below are the facts and figures related to children education in India:

- 1 in 4 children of school-going age is out of school in our country – 99 million children in total have dropped out of school (Census 2011)
- Out of every 100 children, only 32 children finish their school education age-appropriately (District Information System for Education (DISE) 2014-15)
- Only 2% of the schools offer complete school education from Class 1 to Class 12 (District Information System for Education (DISE) 2014-15)
- There are 10.13 million child labourers between 5-14 years in India (Census 2011)
- India has 33 million working children between the ages of 5-18 years. In parts of the country, more than half the child population is engaged in labour (Census 2011)

School dropout rates are high in India. Despite achieving close to universal enrolment at primary level, 27% children drop out between Class 1 and 5, 41% before reaching Class 8, and 49% before reaching Class 10. The figures are higher for children from Scheduled Castes (27%, 43%, and 56% respectively) and Scheduled Tribes (36%, 55%, and 71%). It has been noted that wide gender disparities exist in education. For every 100 boys enrolled in secondary education, there are 81 girls enrolled. Less than half (47%) of Class 5 students can read Class 2 text. Children's attendance rate in rural primary schools has shown a decline from 73% in 2007 to 71% in 2012. As per RTE norms, there should be one teacher for every thirty students at primary level and one teacher for every thirty-five students at upper primary level. However, 41% of primary schools have a pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of more than 30 and 31% of upper primary schools have a PTR more than 35. While the male literacy rate of India stands at 82.14%, the female literacy rate is only 65.46%, with Rajasthan having the lowest female literacy at 52.66%.

About 80% of regular teachers and 72% of contractual teachers are professionally qualified. Of the 1.3 million schools across India, only 72% of elementary schools have a separate girls' toilet, while only 85% of these toilets are functional. Significant challenges still remain to keep schools safe considering rising civil unrest and the wide prevalence of corporal punishment across the country. Goal 4 ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. All girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education. Goal 4 strives to eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations. The goal targets at building upgrading education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all. By 2020, it aims at substantially expansion of globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries. By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and Small Island developing States.

Following are some of the government schemes and programs project to promote the quality education for children.

- ❖ Right to Education Act
- ❖ SamagraShiksha
- ❖ Mid day Meals
- ❖ Schemes for infrastructure development of Private Aided/ unaided Minority institutes (IDMI)
- ❖ Strengthening for providing quality Education in Madrassas (SPQEM)
- ❖ RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan
- ❖ Girls Hostel Scheme
- ❖ National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education
- ❖ Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage
- ❖ Scheme of Vocational Education
- ❖ National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme
- ❖ Scheme for construction and running of Girls' Hostel for students of secondary and higher secondary schools
- ❖ Scholarship schemes for Minority students
- ❖ National Scholarships

#### Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all Women and Girls:

Gender inequality has deterred education for girls in India for a long time. In 2017, 32 percent of girls were not enrolled in school in comparison to 28 percent of boys. A male's education in India is more valued, therefore; it is often seen as unnecessary to

financially support a girl's education due to these binding gender roles. In impoverished villages where schools are inaccessible and not encouraged, gender roles lead to a third of girls in India marrying off their educational futures. As high as 47 percent of the girls in India are subject to marriage by 18 years of age (District Information System for Education (DISE) 3). This leads to early pregnancies, which makes it impossible to attend school as they must shoulder the stigma and the additional workload. Some regions also don't permit pregnant girls to attend school, which puts education even further from their grasp.

In 2009, the Right to Education Act (RTE), mandated that it is the right of every child to obtain a minimum amount of education. The program was supposed to make it compulsory for children ages 6 to 14 to access educational opportunities as more provisions were enacted. This was a step in the right direction, but more must be done to actively close the gender gap and retrain society to value girls' education. The Right to Education Act in India seems to have improved the country's ranking when looking at the growth in literacy rates. In 2001, literacy rates were 64.8 percent; however, this had increased to 74.04 percent by 2011. As of 2001, around 54 percent of girls were literate; however, after the RTE, the percentage had increased to more than 65 by 2011.

Every year, 23 million girls in India drop out of school after they begin menstruating due to lack of sanitary napkin dispensers and overall hygiene awareness in schools. Lack of reproductive education leaves 71 percent of girls unaware of what takes place in their bodies during menstruation. Many girls even believe that what is happening is "unclean" and shameful. Even with awareness, lack of sanitary pads in rural areas force girls to use cloths that sometimes cause infections; only two to three women use sanitary pads. At least 47 percent of schools lack toilets, forcing girls to rid their bodily waste onto the streets, which is morally degrading to them. This is another reason they drop out of school, to avoid this shame. RTE included adding toilets to schools to solve this problem, but it wasn't enough. Therefore, the Department of School Education and Literacy under Ministry of HRD implemented a program named, Swachh Vidyalaya, which would add \$4,582.91 worth of toilets to schools.

Below are the facts and figures related to gender equality and women empowerment:

- 42% of married women in India were married as children (District Information System for Education (DISE) 3)
- 1 in every 3 child brides in the world is a girl in India (UNICEF)
- India has more than 45 lakh girls under 15 years of age who are married with children. Out of these, 70% of the girls have 2 children (Census 2011)
- As many as 70% of married women in India between 15 and 49 years of age are victims of beatings or rape.
- According to UNICEF, foetal sex determination by unethical medical professionals has today grown into a 1,000 crore industry in India.
- Following the 2011 census, a number of activists raised concerns that up to 8 million female foetuses had been aborted in the previous decade.
- According to the National Crime Record Bureau's 2014 report, 39.8% of rape victims in India are girls under the age of 18.
- And despite an improving child sex ratio, India still ranks an abysmal 127th out of 146 in the United Nation's Gender Inequality Index.

Goal 5 of SDG aims to End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation. Goal strives towards Elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Empowerment requires a more comprehensive approach. This includes efforts to improve women's and girl child towards access to resources such as financial power, inheritance and land property and their capacity to use them without discrimination and gender-based violence, gender-aware justice systems, and government mechanisms to improve gender equality.

Various government programs for ensuring gender equality are listed as follows:

- ❖ Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- ❖ Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- The National programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL)
- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme
- ❖ The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
- ❖ Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY)
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG)
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)
- ❖ Child line
- ❖ Ujjawala

### Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive economic growth

Goal 8 promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This indicator affects the children in jobless households and youth of the country. India's rate of unemployment doubled in the past two years, according to the State of India's Environment (SoE). This has particularly affected young graduates.

According to the report, the unemployment rate has gone up from 4 per cent to 7.6 in the last two years (May 2017-April 2019). The unemployment rate in April 2019 was the highest in two years. The rate for rural areas in this month was also the highest in this period.

SoE in figures was released by Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on World Environment Day. The data for it has been provided by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), New Delhi.

Young Indians (aged 15-24 years) constitute nearly a fifth of India's total population, according to the country's 2011 Census. By 2020, they are predicted to make up a third of the country's population.

The report notes that the youth (between 20-24 years), who constitute around 40 per cent of India's labour force, have an unemployment rate of 32 per cent.

The unemployment rate among the educated is even worse. The rate among people with at least a graduate degree was 13.17 per cent in September-December 2018, up from 10.39 per cent in May-August 2017.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2017-18 released by National Sample Survey Office too shows that unemployment rate increased with education level.

According to SoE in Figures, 2017, a major cause for high unemployment rates in India is the lack of skills required for jobs that are available. This is worrying because India is a young country — home to 20 per cent of the world's young population — and a major portion of this young workforce, though educated, is unskilled.

Official figures validate this. The Union Ministry Of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship says 4.69 per cent of India's total workforce is formally skilled, as against 52 per cent in the United States, 68 per cent in the United Kingdom, 75 per cent in Germany, 80 per cent in Japan and 96 per cent in South Korea.

Youth unemployment is a global challenge affecting young people around the world. Children's without parental care, child with disability and special children's have to be developed with special skills and self-confidence to enter the job market, gain decent work and transition to a self-sufficient life as an adult.

Government of India has introduced following special programmes and policies to increase the employment opportunities amongst youth and families:

- ❖ Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):
- ❖ JawaharRozgarYojana/Jawahar Gram SamridhiYojana:
- ❖ SampoornaGraminRozgarYojana (SGRY):
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005:
- ❖ National Rural Livelihood Mission: Ajeevika (2011)
- ❖ DeenDayalUpadhyayaGrammenKaushalyaYojana
- ❖ PradhanMantriKaushalVikasYojna
- ❖ National Career Service(NCS)

#### **Goal 11: Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable:**

This is the indicator related to lifestyle and to sustain the present path of development.

Every child has the right to grow up in an environment where they feel safe and secure, have access to basic services and clean air and water, can play, learn and grow and where their voice is heard and matters. SDG Goal 11 stipulate that a sustainable city must provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport and create green and public spaces for all which, directly affects the health and environment of children.

For the first time in history, the majority of the global population lives in urban centres, large, medium and small. Of the 4 billion people living in urban areas today, nearly a third of them are children. It is estimated that by 2050, almost 70 per cent of the world's children will live in urban areas, many of them in slums.

Cities can present great opportunities and hope for a better life. They generate over 80 per cent of global GDP and are increasingly considered engines to achieve development. They are among the world's strongest sources of growth and innovation, diversity and connectivity and can potentially provide great opportunities for children to live, learn and thrive.

They can also harbour great inequalities. While cities may offer greater access to basic services like schools and hospitals, overcrowding and high admission costs can leave the poorest urban children unable to access them.

Other challenges that affect the urban poor, particularly those living in slums, include overcrowding and inadequate sanitation systems – which facilitate the transmission of disease – lack of affordable and safe housing, poor access to transportation and increased outdoor air pollution. The figures show that every day, around 150 children go missing in India – kidnapping and abduction is the largest crime against children in our country (National Crime Record Bureau 2016). Over the last 10 years, crimes against children has increased 5 times over (National Crime Record Bureau Data Series)

The demographic shift to urban areas and linked challenges and opportunities is causing us to rethink our cities, and to reconsider our collective roles and responsibilities, as well as those of our leaders. The New Urban Agenda launched at the Habitat III conference in October 2016 sets out the pillars of these new goals, targets, roles and responsibilities.

By 2030, SDG ensures access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, green and public spaces with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, and children, persons with disabilities and older persons

A Child Friendly City could be one of the initiative towards making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable where a local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights. It is a city/community where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programmes and decisions. It is, as a result, a city that is fit for all. In other words, it is a city or community where the local government holds itself accountable to its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child by translating these rights into practical, meaningful and measurable results for children.

#### **Goal 12: Ensure sustainable production and consumption**

Our planet is under massive strain. Should the global population push the figure of 9.6 billion by 2050, we will need three Earths to sustain current lifestyles for everyone. Each year, an estimated one-third of all food produced – equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around USD 1 trillion – ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices. More than one billion people still do not have access to fresh water. Less than 3% of the world's water is fresh

(drinkable), of which 2.5% is frozen in Antarctica, the Arctic and glaciers. Humanity must therefore rely on 0.5% for all man's ecosystem's and fresh water needs. Despite technological advances that have promoted energy efficiency gains, energy use in OECD countries will increase a further 35% by 2020.

Sustainable consumption and production aims at "doing more and better with less," increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation, and pollution, while increasing the quality of life. Sustainable development will be achieved not only by growing our economies, but minimising waste in the process of doing so. Growth that contaminates the environment sets development back.

It is required to create just one awareness of environmental issues among children's. Sustainable consumption and production promotes social and economic development through ecosystems, raises efficiency and ensure sustainable use of resources, reduces resources degradation, pollution and waste for all.

Children could be sensitized and promoted for behavioral changes and life style in harmony with nature for substantial reduction of waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

Many policies and rules are been initiated by Govt. of India such as:

- ❖ National Mission for enhanced Energy Efficiency
- ❖ National water Policy/Mission
- ❖ National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture.
- ❖ Bio-diversity Act
- ❖ Management and Handling of Hazardous waste

Government of India has introduced special subject on environmental in schools, where practical knowledge and information is imparted to the children.

### **Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,**

Up to 25% of the world's adult population report that they experienced physical violence as children. Following are the facts and figures of violation of children's rights revealed through various sources:

- There are 10.13 million child labourers between 5-14 years in India (Census 2011)
- India has 33 million working children between the ages of 5-18 years. In parts of the country, more than half the child population is engaged in labour (Census 2011)
- Every day, around 150 children go missing in India – kidnapping and abduction is the largest crime against children in our country (National Crime Record Bureau 2016)
- Over the last 10 years, crimes against children has increased 5 times over (National Crime Record Bureau Data Series). For details and more information,
- Fear of failure in examinations in the second highest cause of suicides in children (Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India ADSI 2014)

Legal rules and regulation are enacted by government to control the violence against children in India as follows:

- Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO)
- Juvenile Justice Act
- Protection of Children Right Acts
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
- Child Labour Act
- Immoral Traffic Prevention Act

### **Challenges towards achieving the SDGs**

**Resources:** lack and limited resources in terms of finance, technology and human resources etc is one of the limitations to achieve the goals.

**People Participation:** low level of people participation in implementation of programme and developmental schemes leads to delay in achievement of the SDGs.

**Inefficiency in stakeholders:** every stakeholder who is involved in implementation of policies, programmes, schemes and projects should work effectively to achieve the SDGs.

**Policy making:** while drafting guidelines related to policies, schemes and projects should be framed from grassroot level instead of top to bottom implementation.

**Data Management:** Data related to human development are not been captured and documented.

**Research and Documentation:** Department of Research and Documentation should successfully play the important role towards achieving SDGs.

### **Suggestion:**

Awareness about policies, schemes and project among the every individual should be created so that the important of SDGs will be promoted to achieve it. Different types of IEC material should be used to create awareness to attain the goals. The power of emerging

media and advanced communication can be used effectively to help children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, reach their highest potential.

To control violence against children, early childhood development, migration and gender strict legal laws and policy should be implemented. Focus should be on peaceful society.

Exhibitions, Melas should be organized among schools to impart knowledge and information on sustainable environment and climatic change.

Effective participation of people in implementation of programmes and policies will make it easy to achieve the SDGs. And this can be attained through decentralizing planning from grassroots level i.e. through village.

Stakeholders who are involved in implementation of schemes and policy at village level should be provided with all resources which also includes capacity building and training. Stakeholders are primary teachers, elected representatives, health workers, aanganwadi workers etc.

Data related to human development index should be kept available with every panchayats and municipal councils related to children. An active public-private partnership must be initiated to reformulate policies for providing universal access to high-quality, educational content for young learners.

#### Conclusion:

Sustainable development Goals related to eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, and achieving universal primary education, combating disease, gender equality, environmental sustainability etc will improve the quality of children to grow them more stronger, intelligent and smarter.

To achieve these goals requires accountability from stakeholders by performance and commitments to pursue the global environmental sustainability and development for present and future well-being of children.

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