

Sustainable Development and its major policies in India

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Abstract:

Public policy is a plan of a government to provide services, facilities and security to the common people for a longer period of time. In general laws and policies are meant to bring development and overcome the difficulties in the society. The Millennium development goals which was given by General Secretary of UNO, Kofi Anan in 2000 in his report “We the peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century” focused on world developments to bring changes in the 21st century and shape it as advanced and fast moving century which continued 2015 with its full paced until Sustainable Development has not entered. The sustainable development goals has replaced the concept of Millennium development goals because of its positive support of environment protection and taking care of future generation. The largest democracy in the world also accepted the 17 goals of sustainable development in its domestic policies and plans to meet the needs of the future generation, which can be seen in several schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. Niti Aayog, the successor of Planning Commission has taken up the charge to deals with all the progress of the States and Union territories related with developments and assigned them the ranks according to the progress report. This paper will deals with Laws, policies and development and

then major focus on Sustainable Development as general and India as a specific with the overall development, obstacles and solutions.

Keywords: Law, Policies, Sustainable Development, Schemes of India, Solution.

The word development was taken from French word *developpement* which means unrolling. In the present world, development is considered as progression, growth and improvement. In the 20th Century the world leaders were focusing on development of the nations and economic progression which led a lot of discussion in this concept and idea which was later taken the form of Millennium Development Goals. MDGs are comprised of 8 goals:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality ad empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/ AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development.

The Millennium Development Goals result was not satisfactory. The growth results in all the nations were not even, it was more in developed nations and less in developing and lesser in under developed. Even though, it does not give equal ray of hope to all nations but some progression can be seen in the African Continent. Sub Saharan region was seen

with saving of 2/3rd lives which is pretty high in graphic. 8.8 to 17.3 million of the lives were saved due to faster progress on child mortality: 8.7 million saved due to proper treatment and precautions for HIV/ AIDS, 3.1 million lives were saved due to taking care of TB disease and half of the million due to improvement in maternal mortality.

Sustainable development is the current goal of the international organisation by realizing the threat of the environment and need to protection of the eco system. In January 2015, the United Nation General Assembly started to negotiate with the future development goals. The process started to cover its shed in the sustainable development goal that wand its achievement in 2030 with 17 SDGs goals, at the UN Sustainable Summit in September 2015. The SDGs is a combination of 17 goals which consists of:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduce Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life below Water
15. Life on Land

16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

17. Partnership

Schemes of India: India is one of the members of the united Nation Organisation which has taken its membership in 1945. As a member, it has also accepted the sustainable development goals in its country and started working on it to make the world free from scarcity of natural resources and providing facilities to use the natural resources to the upcoming generation. It has come up with several plans, schemes, projects and initiative to deal with each sustainable goals of the UN.

1. No Poverty:

Poverty is a major illness of the country. Most of the people are out of basic necessities of life. Millions of people are under poverty line. The government of India initiated several yojana to alleviate poverty since its inception such as Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana, National Old Age Pension Scheme, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, National Family Benefit Scheme, National Maternity Benefit Scheme, and Annapurna, Integrated Rural development Program, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana and MNREGA.

- (a) Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana was launched in 1999 to improve the quality life of the rural people and bring them out from poverty by providing employment in the gram areas. UN's Global Multidimensional Index 2018 stated that almost 217 million people have come out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16. In just 10 years the country poverty rate comes down from 55% to 28%.

2. Zero Hunger:

Hunger is a rudimentary ground of all the crimes in the society. A hungry person does not know the difference between right and wrong. He can only see food and understand the method of getting food. To make country free from hunger, starvation and food crisis, the government has brought numerous schemes. Some are

POSHAN Abhiyan: The Government of India started Poshan Abhiyaan, commonly known as the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), in 2018 with the purpose of addressing the widespread malnutrition problem in India. The mission's main goals are to lower the rate of under nutrition and improve the nutritional status of children in the nation. By 2022, the multi-ministerial campaign hopes to eradicate malnutrition from the nation. The main programme for improving the nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers in India is called Poshan Abhiyaan. The mission makes use of technology and departmental and module convergence. The acronym "Poshan" refers for "Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition" and appears in the program's name. The programme has particular goals for lowering low birth weight, anaemia, stunting, and under nutrition. The National Nutrition Mission's goal is to reduce stunting from 38.4% to 25% by 2022, as stated in "Mission 25 by 2020."

3. Good Health and Well Being:

Ayushman Bharat: Ayushman Bharat is a National Health Protection Scheme which was launched in 2018 with aims to cover over 10 corer poor and vulnerable families providing coverage up to 5lakhs rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. Ayushamn Bharath has been merged with centrally ongoing schemes- Rashtriya Swasthay

Bima Yojana and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme and also has adopted two continuum care approach components such as Health and Wellness Centre and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya. Till now, 33087273 cards have been issued, 2208231 people have been benefitted from this scheme. 478 government and 532 private hospitals have been empanelled under this scheme.

4. Quality Education:

Education is a fundamental right of every human being. The article 21(A) of the constitution states that every child who is between the ages of 6 to 14 yrs will get free and compulsory education. To provide free and compulsory education, there are so many schemes initiated by government. Among them are:

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan: Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is a flagship scheme of the government to provide quality, primary and compulsory education to all children who comes under 6-14 years of age. This scheme came into discussion through the 86th Amendment Act 2002 and become the fundamental right under article 21(A), a fundamental duty under article 51(A) and a directive principle of state policy under article 45. In 2012-13, the number students from drop out of school had declined to 2.9 million, down from 32 million in 2001. Now 95% students are under the schools in private and public and assuring the primary education and bright future.

Gender Equality:

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme was launched by the Indian government in 2015 to address issues with gender inequality and women's empowerment in the nation. The phrase "Save the girl child, educate the girl kid" is the meaning behind the name Beti

Bachao, Beti Padhao. The programme aims to increase the effectiveness of welfare services for girls and educate the public about gender bias. With an initial investment of Rs. 100 crore (about \$13.5 million), it was launched. During the last 6 years the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has improved by 16 points from 918 in 2014-15 to 934 in 2019-20. Gross Enrolment Ratio of girls in the schools at secondary level has improved from 77.45 to 81.32.

5. Clean water and Sanitation:

In the collaboration of USAID, the Indian Government has started three major programmes; those are Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and Jal Jeevan to improve the quality of life and health in the urban areas by providing clean and pure water to save from the diseases caused by contaminated water. It has helped 178000 people to have safe drinking water in the year 2020. Swajal scheme comes under National Rural Drinking water Programme to facilitate and accessibility of the rural people to have safe and clean water. The government also has come up with the concept of meeting the challenges of outhouse toilet by announcing of making toilets inside the house and this scheme covered all over India throughout and they succeed to provide in house toilet to 93.3% population of India.

6. Affordable and Clean Energy:

The Indian government has set a goal to provide affordable and renewable energy to all by targeting 175 GW by 2022 with the investment of \$ 100bn and another \$ 50bn investment goal of 40GW by 2022 for small energy grids and rooftop solar. The government has planned to electrify more than 18000 villages

with solar and clean energy. 48 solar cities have been chosen to develop energy conservation and increase capacities from renewable sources.

7. Decent Work and Economic Growth:

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was announced to bounce back economic stability in the country by give economic relief to the small scale industry and poor people who were affected by Corona virus and revive the confidence to again jump into the business and have confidence in them by allocating Rs 20 lac crores in 2020. This also includes ongoing Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana worth of 1.70 lac crore to tackle the economic difficulties caused by pandemic and virus.

The government of India has also taken initiatives for start up companies with the announcement of Rs 945 crore total investment which will divide over the next 4years and cover almost 3600 start ups in the country under the scheme name “Start up India Seed Fund scheme” in 2021 which will provide financial assistance to the newly established companies to set their feet up in the globalization world on the basis of creativity, proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialisation.

8. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:

The Government has announced Rs 10 lac crore to enhance infrascture sector in 2022-23, under which 134,015 crore is allocated to National Highways Authority of India, 60,000 crore to the road transport, 76,549 crore to housing and urban affairs, 84,587 crore to telecommunications to create telecom infrastructure and 234,640 crore to railways sector. Infrastructure for Resilient Island States is a part of the

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to have connection and cooperation with small vulnerable climate island states like Fiji, Jamaica and Mauritius. PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is a digital platform to connect with 16 ministries to plan, communicate, cooperate and implement.

9. Reduce Inequality:

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is an initiative of Indian government to reduce inequality in the large scale by providing economic services such as remittance, credit, insurance, pension, savings and deposit to poor and vulnerable section of society. Through this scheme, the beneficiary has to open the bank account in any nearest bank with zero balance and have availability of loan up to 5000 after completion of 6 months, insure your family with a life cover of Rs 30000 and Rs 2 lac if death has happened. Under this 79% accounts and 77.5% deposits has been done.

10. Sustainable Cities and Communities:

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation is an initiative to provide basic amenities such as sewage network, water supply, housing and quality air, to the urban areas to improve the standard of life. Other schemes such as swachh bharat and housing for all 2022 are also the part of it. It has provided 105 lakh household water tap connections and 78 lakh sewer/ septage connections, 88 lakh streetlights have been replaced with energy-efficient LED lights leading to energy savings of 193 crore units. As per The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), 84.6 lakh tons carbon footprint have been reduced through various initiatives under the AMRUT Scheme.

11. Responsible Consumption and Production:

Life style Material Foot print is a measurement of consumption of resources through our life style. The average lifestyle material footprint of India is around 8,400 kg per capita per year. According to UNEP 2021 report, 50 kg food is wasted per year by per person. With the report of CPCB, India generates 26,000 tonnes of plastic a day and over 10,000 tonnes of plastic waste remain uncollected. The recycling rate of India is about 30% in 2019 and it can be improved by implementing National Recycling Policy.

12. Climate Action:

The government has launched National Action plan on Climate Change on 2008 with eight missions.

1. National Solar Mission
2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
4. National Water Mission
5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
6. National Mission for a Green India
7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

13. Life below water:

According to India's fifth National Report to the Convention of Biological Diversity(2014), the country has a 7,517km long coastline that supports and gives over 250 million people a source of income. India is the world's second largest producer of fish. The Sagarmal project, often referred to as the blue revolution by the Indian government, aims to enhance the condition of India's ports and coastlines. The

government has launched a national plan for the conservation of aquatic habitats in an effort to protect marine ecosystems. India places a lot of emphasis on protecting the marine and coastal biosphere.

14. Life on Land:

India today has a 21% forest cover, and 5% of its total land area is made up of protected areas. India is one of the world's 17 mega bio diverse nations. Despite occupying only 2.4% of the planet's surface, it is home to 7-8% of the world's biodiversity, which includes many species that are found nowhere else in the world. The main initiative for the national programme on the integrated development of wildlife habitats. Two distinct programmes, project tiger and project elephant are being undertaken to conserve two of the country's most majestic species of animals.

15. Peace, Justice and strong Institution

Peace, justice and strong institution is the sixteen numbers of goals of sustainable development. To achieve this goal, the government of India had already adopted rule of law to give equality to all in Jan, 1950 with the enforcement of constitution. The World Justice Project has ranked India in 69th out of 128 countries to provide fair and impartial judgement and bring justice in the society. The government of India has also supported E-governance which means minimum government and maximum governance to bring transparency, accountability, responsibility, effectiveness, and qualitative service to the common people.

16. Partnership:

India's efforts to create networks both within the region and with the rest of the globe have made it a significant player

in this new global alliance. A key component of this has been south-south cooperation, as well as India's participation and leadership in organisations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS and its New Development Bank, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and UN agencies and programmes around the world. India will host G20 in 2023 in New Delhi to have strong cooperation at the world level.

Conclusion:

The Indian government initiatives towards sustainable development are tremendous. They have come up with lots of schemes, plans, goals and programs. These all schemes are contributing in the development of the country as well as protection of the environment but unfortunately somewhere these are lacking to implement the same as have been framed. The gap between theory and practice is very vast and it is a major obstacle to succeed in this field. The NITI Aayog is an official body to investigate the progress of the country in the sustainable development. According to NITI Aayog SDG India Index & Dashboard, the country's overall SDG score has been improved by 6 scales. It is 66 in 2020-21 which are 6 points higher than 2019-2020. Kerala has progressed to its position at the top with a score of 75 which followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pardesh. Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam are the least rankings states and Mizoram and Haryana position is improving with passing of the days. In order to succeed for the implementation of the programme, the government should focus on mental awakening of the citizen by providing general

awareness in the form of advertisement, poster, hoarding and banner.

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