SDGs an Opportunity for India to Become Self Sufficient and Eliminate All Kind of Social Problems from the Society

Dr. Sumanta Bhattacharya[1], Rajendra Shende[2], Bhavneet Kaur Sachdev[3]

[1]Research Scholar at MAKAUT, Kolkata, West Bengal, India
[2]Advisor on Sustainable Development, Chairman TERRE Policy Centre, UNEP
[3]Political Science Hons, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, West Bengal, India

ABSTRACT

Sustainable development goals can be achieved to its fullest term when each and every citizen participate and work for it. Over population and lack of education are the two main loopholes in the Indian society, which have failed them in many ways to achieve a sustainable living followed by social standards of a society where caste system and gender based discrimination is prominent. However there have been states which have taken the risk and opportunity to move towards sustainable living, where India has inaugurated smart farming and smart and sustainable villages, electricity has reached out to the people through solar panels in the rural area, New education policy 2020 is a step to promote universal education. We are cutting down are usage on plastic and promoting jute bags. A very important component which requires change is social safety and security. In order to achieve the sustainable development goals we need to bring in social security for all its people, together we have to achieve the goals and fruits of the goals should reach out to all people and not just a few parts of the India or section of a society. SDGs will play a significant role in boosting the economy of India.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable development, education, over population, rural India, economy, solar panels, smart village

INTRODUCTION

In 2015, when UN adopted the sustainable development goals, India also signed it. These Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was formed to bring about a sustainable living, to reduce climate change, eliminate poverty, boost economy, food security and water and sanitation for all. The SDGs play a very important role in the developing and underdeveloped country, these goals can help the countries to evolve from poverty and other techniques and system and bring in new innovation which will provide a healthy environment and life for all. India has an ample opportunity when it comes to Sustainable development it is a key weapon that can help India to grow, boost its economy and make India a developed countries. With the growing population and rapid rise of climate change and environment has India adopted sustainable development goals to achieve it by 2030. Since 2015 we have seen a lot of development happening across the country where the central and states have collaborated working for the sustainable development or individual state have adopted new schemes and initiative to bring change in the society from ending food crisis to waste crisis, urban to rural development, protection of women, providing decent job, adopting renewable energy. India is growing, India Made in India scheme has brought in much benefit and employment opportunities which has contributed to reducing poverty in India. The increase in domestic manufacturing and export can help India to amplify its revenue, Since 2015 many new schemes have been introduced in every sector, from rural to urban There is vast use of technology to bring change in the society. India is adopting green technology, smart education system, system health care facilitates, building smart cities, creating infrastructure, the past few years, India 's infrastructure from roadways to highways, railways and airlines have developed. All

the necessary development is happening in all cities, no cities is left behind. Technology has been introduced in the agricultural sector, new mechanism and techniques are used. India is still an undeveloped country in 2020 with COVID-19 pandemic and complete lockdown the situation has turned out to be worst. Poverty and Hunger rate has increased, which has forced the system to adopt new techniques and smart living to eradicate poverty. India has the second highest population after China with maximum young population who can bring ample benefits into the country with employment and opportunities. The biggest problem in India is high rate of illiterates and over population which is the main loophole in the India society for which we can only blame ourselves and the Indian political system, even after 73 years of Independence, we are still the same in may sectors, where no new reforms and laws have been introduced in the country. Inequality has remained the same followed by caste system, gender inequality, corruption and orthodox nature of the Indian society.

Research Methodology
For the purpose of this exploration, I have used a amalgamation of two of the archetypical social sciences research tools application –as they are authentic and brilliant method to assemble statistics from multiple appellant in an methodical and convenient way. Question were asked to the common youth, public policy Analyst, rural people, farmers , survey, interviews –consisting of several interrogation which were dispersed among representative of each contender group.

Objective of the Research Paper
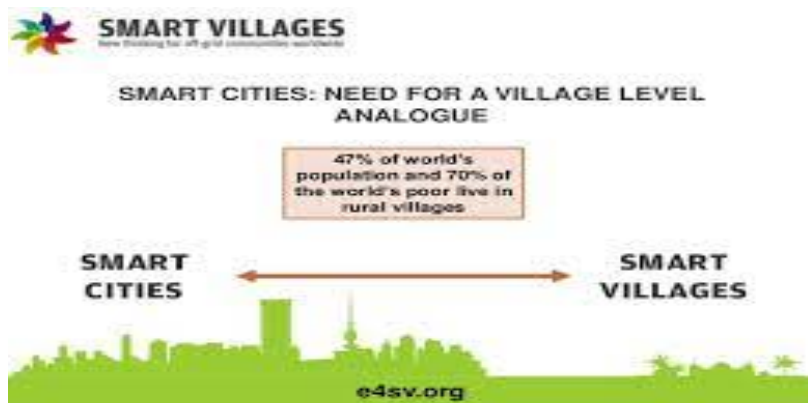The main areas of exploration in this paper incorporates
1. A study on sustainable development goals.
2. How India is working to achieve sustainable development goals and its success.
3. What are the hurdles in achieve Sustainable Development Goal in India.
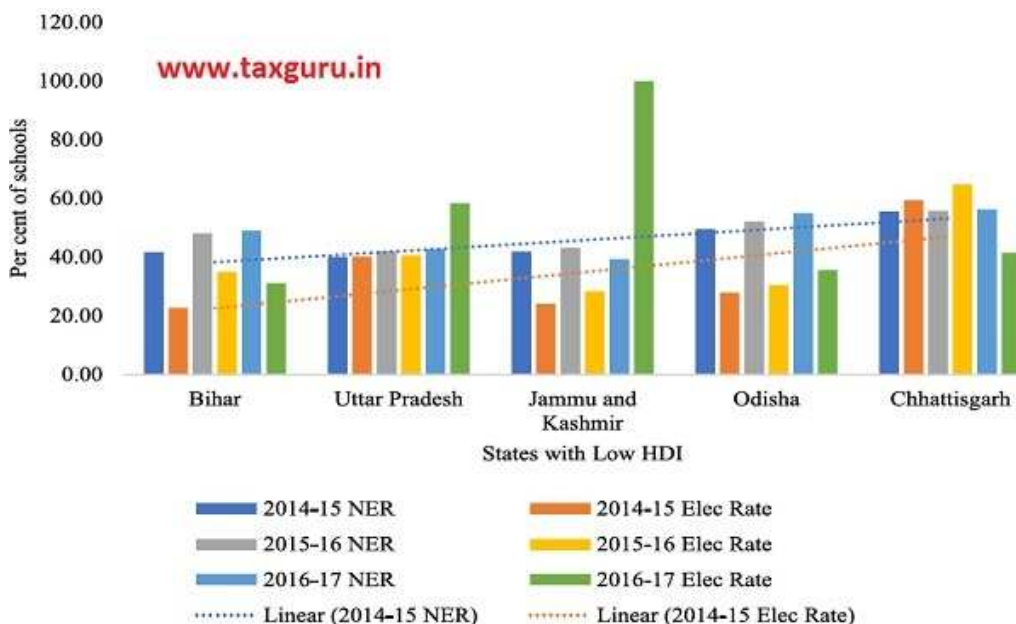
Literature Review
Sustainable Development Goals have provided India with the opportunity to eliminate caste system, gender inequality, reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, provide employment to all, decent work and economy growth. India even after so many years have left behind because of the above problems which also includes communal riots, regionalism and corruptions. As climate change has affected each and every sector and person in the country. It becomes

necessary to work together there are 17 SDGs goals which are bring an end to poverty, eradicate hunger promote better health and well being, Universal education, end gender discrimination, access to healthy water and sanitation, green energy, sufficient job and economic development, Industry, transformation and footing, Supportable cities and associations, Responsible consumption and production, Climate Action, life on land and in water, Strong institutions for the maintenance of peace and Justice and collaboration for the goals. These goals are to be achieved by 2030. The government has introduced new schemes for the rural development, empowerment of women, providing health insurance for all. Girl child education, Health schemesPradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadiPariyojna (PMBJP),Jan AushadhiKendras, Ayushman Bharat will provides free treatment to 500 million poor people. Mission Indradhanush, a campaign started by the Modi government which has provided 3.15 crore children and 80 lakh women vaccine for immune development in 528 districts. Renewable energy is being produced in ample amount in India. India has untapped resources. A new Education policy has been formed in 2020 to provide universal education to all its people, where importance has been given to regional languages to bring more and more students to the school and reducing the pressure of exams and giving importance to vocational learning and bringing back the old vedic style of education into the country, with people have the right to chose their own subjects there will be no distinction made in the science, humanities and commerce people can choose a combination of science and humanities. A person should knowledge on all subjects. Bringing back education with spiritual values and developing critically thinkers. Every sector from textile to economy to education to agricultural has adopted new polices and schemes for sustainable development. The policy Makers of India are working to develop a India which will be self -reliant and sufficient which will provide opportunities on an equal base, what is utmost required in the India society is social security to achieve all the sustainable development goals which will improve the economical condition of the people and bring prosperity. India is working to reduce its carbon footprint and depends on fossil fuels which will also reduce the imports. Rural development is a very important factor to achieve sustainable standard of living.
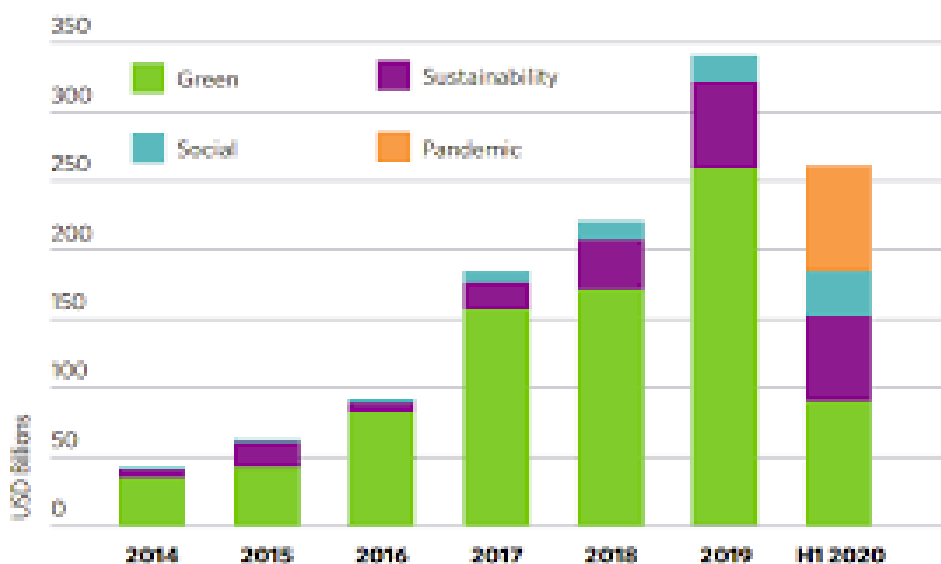
Findings

Smart villages and sustainable villages have come into existence, where paccha houses are being made and solar panels have been set on the roof of each house to provide electricity, drinking water is being supplied, there has been pipeline water connection. OR water supply to each family. Job opportunities have been opened by promoting more horticulture, floriculture industry in the villages. Schools have been developed, hospital are been developed the villages along with mobile health units in the villages where the government, foundation, NGOs have been working together to construct a sustainable living, villagers are encouraged to construct toilets in their homes and maintain sanitation. Women are being empowered there are being provided with computer knowledge, credit, saving and account is being introduced to them, people don't need to travel to distance and other neighbour in such of job. Many villages will internet connectivity has introduced innovative teaching methodology where digitalization is being promoted, the villages are been electrified with solar panels, micro - grid, small -mini -grid installed over the years providing electricity to all the household, schools and anagwadi centres in the villages, this initiative has brought back many of the villagers who have migrated to the urban sector in search of better jobs. In order to enhance the agricultural sector artificial intelligence, GPS mapping and remote sensing has been introduced, every farmer is being introduced to it, the rural banks have provided agricultural loans, and loans for the purchase tractors, over the years with development. Punjab, Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have brought in irrigation facilities and their land are even fertile. Organic farming is encouraged among the farmer. Sikkim has completed adopted organic farming, other states in the North Eastern region have started practising organic farming where Meghalaya has even introduced a water management policy, these development have happened for sustainable living. Villages like Chhotkei in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh has PaniyaraDhanora in Rajasthan Nandangram, in West Bengal Punsari in Gujarat it has CCTV camera and Wi-Fi services which water delivery happens door to door with 4G technology, these are example of the some of the smart villages in India. It is easy to develop a smart village than a smart city because of the huge population. With sustainable development in the rural India, the poverty rate also reduces, along with there is an improvement in the health of people and above all they have jobs. The Hinduja Foundation led to the sustainable rural development of Jawhar district which started in 2015. In order to resolve the problem of water for development and agriculture, check dams have been constructed across villages.

In order to reduce food security in India urban sector have started practicing horticulture and indoor farming this will help to reduce food security where in major of the urban areas will produce food where minimum amount of water is used and the crops don't require soil, it grown in a closed environment, which helps to maintain temperature and reduce climate change impact, followed by bringing biodiversity and growing fresh and organic food throughout the year which reduces agricultural waste, food waste and problem of cold storage in India, it will boost the economy where imports will reduce and nutrition level will be maintained. Many families have started horticulture, vertical farming and perma culture has a business, enterprises, they are earning in crores, it can help to reduce poverty also.
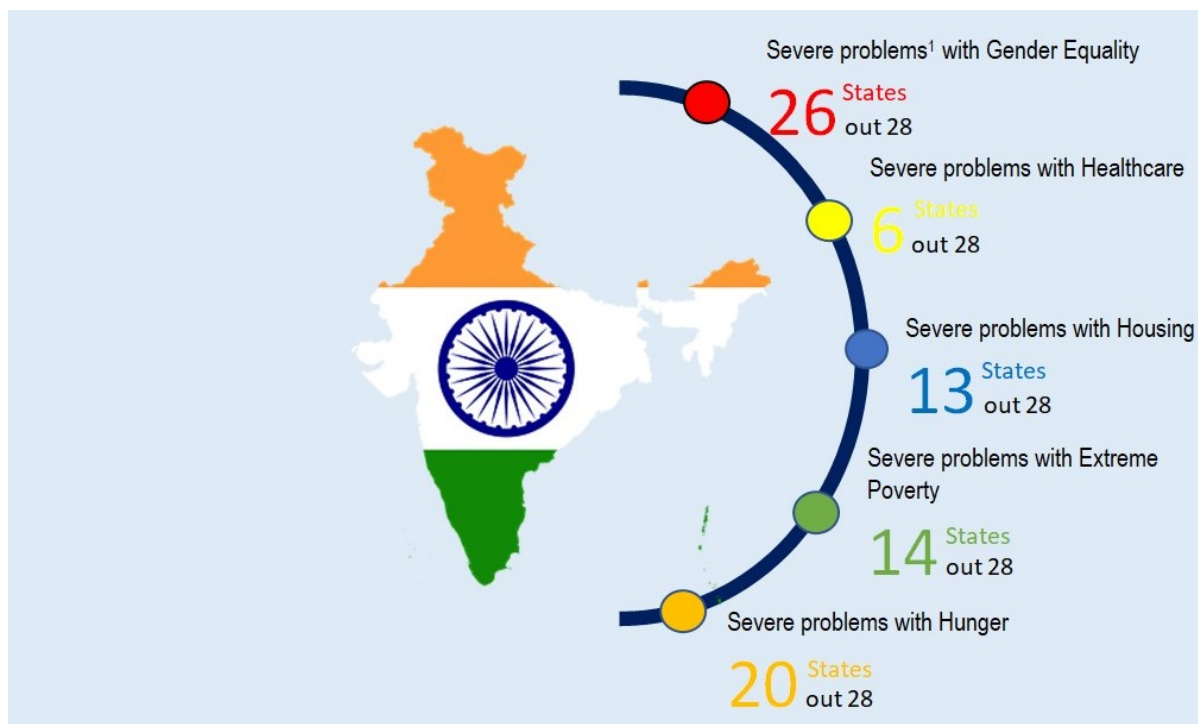
Electric vehicles and smart bicycle have been working in India, the government has approved the manufacturing of electric vehicles, many of the buses are running on electric and LPG gas in different parts of the country. Bicycle roads have been made with bicycle parking system, one can even rent a bike and move around. Cities like Bangalore, Pune, Delhi, New Town in Kolkata, Ahmadabad have started this. The National Highways are been reconstructed, repaired. New highways roads are been built to reduce the distance, in fact a green corridor highway have been formed for wildlife on the Delhi-Dehradun road. Indore has inaugurated Asia's longest high speed track road, Nodia is become a city for manufacture and development in order to become self sufficient and reduce its dependence on imports. India opened its own SAMSUNG manufacturing centre in Nodia which will provide employment so many people.

In order to control over -population, states like Assam and Uttar Pradesh have adopted a two child policy and provided maximum benefits to the families in particular in Uttar Pradesh. In order to boost the education, new IITS, AIIMS and IIM have been opened. In recent years 7 new IIMs have been opened and 15 new AIIMS have been opened in different states and many are under construction, 9 IITS and 16 IIITs have been opened where all can study there is no gender discrimination providing ample opportunities to educate more and more students. In fact many IITs have started with humanities subjects like Public Policy, the new education policy aims to make every citizen educated and make Indian education a unique and upgraded one.

Renewable energy is being produced in ample amount in the South Indians states like Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu followed by the state of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, today half of the energy is produced by renewable energy in India, thus cutting down on fossil fuel use, it has electrified many of the villages where due to poor road they can't reach. Solar energy has been introduced in the agricultural sector also. With reducing our dependency on fossil fuels we have seena reducing in our imports over many items, in particular with a shift to Made in India scheme. There is a reducing in the use of plastic bags by promoting the use of jute bags in India enhancing the textile industry.

There are still a long way to go for India to achieve SDGs goals and move towards a sustainable development, as all the above changes and development have happened in few cities which does even record half of the population. It is only 5 to 6 smart villages in India where as there are 60,000 villages in India, internet connectivity has reduced to 20 % of the rural India only. Poverty is extremely high, 90 % live below the poverty line these days taking into account COVID-19 Pandemic.

Way forward

Sustainable development goals have brought in positive changes where the country has scope to improve its economy and employment. However first we require social security to promote gender equality and women participation in the employment sector. We need to tackle our population growth and bring in legal regulation to provide social protection. Gender inequality and the social standards of the society also need to end to promote SDG in the fullest term. Education is the pillar through which we can achieve sustainable development and living. By providing vocational training to the farmers and empowering rural women through equal participation in the rural economy and rights over education. We need to cut down our depends on petrol and diesel by moving towards 30% Electric vehicles. A proper waste management sector should be introduced for all sectors to reduce food waste, e-waste, textile waste and water waste which has contributed to environmental hazards, climate change and water and air pollution. We need to become more digitalized which can cut down our carbon footprint. Provide equal opportunities in the job sector without certain discrimination, wealth needs to be equally disturbed and India requires a new land reform for farmers to enhance productivity in future and eradicate poverty in the rural India. Rural development can bring sustainable growth in no time in India as majority of the people live country side.

Conclusion

India is on its way to achieve Sustainable Development Goals with a major focus on eliminating poverty, hunger and providing employment opportunities for all. India's shift towards renewable energy has brought in economy growth and reduced poverty by providing electricity and sustainable living in the urban and rural sector. Development of smart villages, smart agriculture, smart living, green economy, green building, encourage urban mobility all have contributed to a sustainable living with reducing our depending on fossil fuels and natural resources. Development is one sector or one part is not enough. We require sustainable development in each and every corner of the society to make India prepare for the future and make India a sustainable place to live in.

Reference

[1] Vivek Kumar Patel, Abhay Kumar, Ankit Singh, Kumar Anshuman, 2020, March, Integrated agricultural waste management. Research Gate.

[2] Samiya Khan, 2018, November, Smart Agriculture in India: Possibilities Benefits and Challenges. Scientific India.

[3] Lucia Naldi, Pia Nilsson, Hans Westlund, Sofia Wixe, 2015, August, What is smart rural development, Journal of Rural Studies.

[4] Simona Biriescu, Carmen Babaita, 2013, Rural Education, an important factor of regional development in the context of local government strategies

[5] Chandrima Banerjee, 2020 November, Access to food is a problem in India: WFP.