



Gender Equality: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

Women Empowering females is achieved through environmentally friendly growth. In order to accomplish the SDGs, gender equality must be achieved, as it relies on the fair distribution of resources. Gender equity is allocating resources, making choices, and implementing programs on an equal footing with men and women, regardless of their gender. To achieve sustainability, it is essential to empower women. Many different perspectives exist on sustainable development. Fair allocation of opportunities and resources, living within constraints, and studying the interconnections among economics, environment, and society are all aspects of sustainability. Sustainable development encompasses democratic values, adherence to equality before the law, protection of basic human rights, and the guarantee of personal liberty and opportunity for all people whatever their race, religion, or socioeconomic status. Achieving gender parity is critical for long-term viability. Sustainable development relies heavily on the contributions, actions, and as a result of girls and women. In a historic event that took place on September 25, 2015, the United Nations Member States formally approved the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These goals seek to end extreme poverty, promote gender equality, and lessen the impact of global warming by the year



2030. Achieving gender equality requires a holistic approach since it is a critical development problem that empowers women. Recognition of women's involvement and impact on sustainable development is essential. Women play a crucial part in every facet of existence and society, including education, sports, socializing children, and taking care of obligations. To ensure that strengthen women's roles as movers and shakers for long-term sustainability, it is essential to liberate them from socio-cultural and religious norms that hinder their involvement in sustainable development within families and society.

Introduction:

To develop in a way that ensures future generations can also meet their own needs is the goal of sustainable development. In either 2000 or 2001, the UN created the MDGs, or Millennium Development Goals. By 2015, they aim to have achieved eight development objectives. The MDGs were significantly influenced by the OECD. As the post-2015 agenda and its framework are being developed, the OECD's varied areas of expertise might play a major role. For the post-2015 agenda, the OECD has singled out eleven industries that will be crucial in building upon the aims of the Millennium Development Compact.

Below is a list of the eleven categories:

- (1) Creating a standardized metric for academic achievement.
- (2) Promoting parity between the sexes and expanding women's rights.
- (3) Assessing one's own value and ensuring that poverty remains a central focus of development efforts.
- (4) Sustainability as an integral component of development.
- (5) Enhancing domestic statistical systems.
- (6) Advancing and advocating for peacebuilding and state-building objectives.
- (7) Building effective institutions.
- (8) Exchanging knowledge and participating in policy discussions and shared learning.
- (9) Ensuring consistency in policies to promote development that is both inclusive and sustainable.
- (10) Assessing and tracking development funding.
- (11) Advocating for the global collaboration to enhance development cooperation.



There are 17 specific goals for the Future of Sustainability (SDGs) that the UN has decided to implement by a certain date. The objective of this worldwide effort is to eradicate poverty while simultaneously preserving the environment and guaranteeing that every individual experiences wealth, fairness, and peace. We must guarantee our social, economic, and ecological safety by it's imperative that governmental institutions, scientists, social scientists, and joint efforts by NGOs to investigate potential solutions and craft policies. For the benefit of people, planet, and prosperity, this agenda lays out a plan of action.

2. The Concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The original concept for the SDGs was put out at the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. A group of globally applicable objectives addressing the ecological, social, and economic aspects of long-term growth and prosperity the intention behind the SDGs. In a summit held at UN Headquarters in New York from September 25-27, 2015, 169 objectives, including 17 Achieving Long-Term Sustainability with the SDGs, were adopted. January 1, 2016 was the official start date. The year 2030 is the target date for achieving each of the achieving Long-Term Sustainability with the SDGs. "They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."

3. Empowerment and women's Empowerment

3.1 One definition of empowerment is a complex social process that enables individuals to take charge of their life.

3.2 Women's Empowerment

Gaining control over one's own life and responsibilities is an essential part in empowering women. Additionally, it is viewed as an essential measure towards attaining gender parity, which comprises "rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals which will not depend on whether they are born male or female". Recognizing the well-established links between women's empowerment and economic, social, sustainability in the face of rising global temperatures, World Survey (2014) on the "Role of Women in Development 2014" emphasizes this relationship. Health, education, employment, nutrition, as well as social security are all human development goals that can benefit from public investments when women are included in decision-making.



4. Gender and Gender Equity Vs Gender Equality

4.1 When we talk about gender, we're referring to the social roles and dynamics of men and women. The biological differences between sexes are irrelevant to the discussion of gender. Age, social class, race, ethnicity, religion, and the political, economic, and geographical setting are some of the variables that impact gender roles.

4.2 Gender Equity

Equal participation of men and women in decision-making, resource distribution, and other areas is what we mean when we talk about gender equity. The term "gender equality" describes a society in which people of all genders are treated fairly according to their particular needs. Equal treatment in terms of rights, rewards, obligations, and opportunities is one possible outcome of this.

4.3. Gender equality

To achieve gender parity, one must a society in which people of all genders are treated fairly and equally in all respects, including but not limited to economic involvement, decision-making, and the recognition and acceptance of individual differences in behavior, aspirations, and needs. Gender equality is the objective, whereas gender equity refers to the methods and mindset that aid in attaining the objective.

5. Sustainable Development and women Empowerment

The ability to meet present needs while preserving resources for future generations is what the Panel on Sustainability and Environmental Protection means when they talk about sustainable development. In order to achieve long-term growth, it is imperative to harmonise three fundamental components: environmental preservation, social inclusion, and economic expansion. "The world requires resilient women." Women who will be uplifting and uplifting to others, as well as those who will love and be loved. Women with a courageous, compassionate, and fierce nature. women of indomitable will."-Amy Tenney. Gender equality must be achieved before sustainable development can be achieved. In the pursuit of societal progress, environmental sustainability, and sustainable economic growth, women's empowerment is a crucial component. Equal rights for women are guaranteed by our constitution, which includes equality, dignity and free from discrimination. Various policies and legislations notably, The Child Marriage Prohibition Act of 2006, The Muslim Women's Rights Act of 2005, which was passed in order to protect women from being subjected to domestic violence to Marriage Protection Act of 2019



Plan for the National Empowerment of ladies in 2001, Integrated Child Protection Scheme 2009. National Education Policy 2020 etc. have been enforced against social malpractices to cope up the grimed situation. As soon as the ladies were considered only for childcare and household works. However, things have changed lately and women are being considered as a part of mainstream workforce. Women are playing crucial function in every sector, whether it is government jobs, social function, politics business etc. Their contribution is the reflection of gender equality. The United Nations has set a target date of 2030 to achieve gender parity and empower all girls and women through its five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Enhancing women's agency involves enhancing women's strength in educational, social, economic, political, and psychological aspects. According to Mahatma Gandhi, "if you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a women you educate an entire family."

6. Sustainable Development in Jammu and Kashmir with special reference to Dal Lake.

Dal Lake, also referred to as "Srinagar's Jewel" is a most popular tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir. It attracts thousands of visitors and tourists. But in recent years, due to anthropogenic pressures such as water extraction, encroachment, untreated residential sewage and fertilizer runoff, the lake is in threat. According to ancient documents, in 1200 AD the lake has a surface area of 75 square kilometres and this was reduced to 10.56sq km.1983. According to 2018 report by the Dredging Corporation of India, the famous tourist spot's size has decreased from 22sq km to 10 sq. km. Dal Lake is a component of the Ministry of Environment and Forest's lake conservation initiative. The Lake and Waterways Development Authority, Srinagar, has also taken up the initiative for Lake conservation through education and popular awareness in partnership with the Centre for Environment Education and other NGOs. At present time ecological collapse of Lake Dal is also presented and fishing activities also maintain over time. In all these activities .One strong idea to protect, purify and beautify the Dal Lake in Kashmir is to implement strict regulations and penalties for any individual and industry that pollutes the lake and to encourage the eco-friendly tourism practices. Around 25 teams of Citizens across Jammu and Kashmir have spurred into action over the past few months, cleaning water bodies in their neighbourhoods-from Dal Lake, and other fresh water springs etc. Tariq a native of Srinagar (Dal) shared an incident as "It was a cigarette but that turned Tariq's life around. Tariq A. Patloo remembers the moment like it were yesterday. I was taking a German tourist through one of our canals. He had a smoke but did not through the cigarette out. 'It will poison the water' he remarked, and kept it with him". That incident was the turning point for Patloo. Every other day he takes his Shikara (boat) and collect garbage



accumulated on the surface of Dal overnight. Apart from cleaning the lake, he has also been filling the petitions and raising complaints to flag any encroachment on his beloved home- Dal. Two years ago, his then five year old daughter Jannat wanted to join him in his mission to save Dal Lake. The duo has made a habit of cleaning the lake picking plastic bags or bottles they see. The shy Jannat's endeavour was acknowledged on social media by the Prime Minister of India. She now seven – years old, tells us that she aims to become a scientist and invent a machine to clean her lake. Gender equality is essential for sustainable development. Sustainable development or Conservation of Dal Lake will necessitate the collaboration of multiple department working as one. Aside from the deweeding technology, Sensor-based monitoring and aerial drone scans will provide up-to-date data on the progress of the project. The people of Kashmir are equally committed to the change of Dal. It is an essential component of Kashmiri culture, without which it would be incomplete. Srinagar would deteriorate into a soulless metropolis.

7. The 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and one hundred nineteen targets aim to empower all women and girls, achieve gender equality, and uphold everyone's inherent dignity and freedom. These objectives demonstrate how the seventeen proposed SDGs affect women and girls, along with how they can and will play a crucial role in accomplishing each of these goals. The following are the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Irradiate all manifestations of destitution on a global scale.
2. Improve nutrition, eradicate poverty, and ensure food security.
3. Promote equitable and inclusive standards of education.
4. Advocate with the aim of advancing good health and wellness across all age groups.
5. Emancipate all infants, young people, and attain gender parity.
6. Make sure that all people can rely on and afford renewable energy.
7. Provide universal available sanitation facilities, water and ensure their sustainable management.
8. Mitigate both domestic and international inequality.
9. Foster inclusive, sustainable, and long-lasting economic expansion.
10. Foster industrial innovation with long-term planning while constructing resilient infrastructure.
11. Encourage human settlements and urban regions, to thrive in an environment that value diversity, safety, and perseverance and environmentally sustainable.
12. Guarantee production and consumption patterns that are sustainable.



13. Reduce the consequences of global warming as soon as possible.
14. The responsible management of water resources is essential to achieving sustainable development.
15. Prevent biodiversity loss, reverse land degradation, and promote the restoration of terrestrial ecosystems to their sustainable state.
16. Foster inclusive, accountable, and efficient institutions at every level to advance peaceful societies.
17. Invigorate the worldwide alliance for eco-friendly growth and fortify the mechanisms of implementation.

Goal '5' of the Sustainable Development

Agenda is to empower all women and girls and to achieve gender equality.

In order to encourage parity between the sexes and galvanize all women and girls, the subsequent objectives have been incorporated. Cease all discriminatory practices directed at women. In addition to eradicating any kind of illicit and other forms of exploitation and trafficking that victimize feminine and female-identifying individuals. Encourage everyone to pitch in around the house and with chores, along with the provision of social protection and public services, in order to acknowledge and appreciate unpaid care and domestic labor, in accordance with national standards. Early and coerced couples getting married, FGM, and all other detrimental practices must be abated. Guarantee equal opportunities for women to assume leadership roles across the board and ensure their complete and effective participation. Freedoms and health in sexuality and reproduction should be made available to all individuals.

Conclusion

Prior to achieving and sustaining gender equality, it is necessary to "empower" women and close the "gender gap" so that men and women contend on the same level of competition. Sensitization to gender differences is addressed in some capacity by each to ensure long-term viability objectives. By assuring their complete economic development, the role that women played in all spheres must be increased. Amounts of maltreatment and discrimination against women and girls are intolerable. This hinders them from participating fully in society and decision-making, which is not only immoral but also unjust. By promoting women's awareness, education, and empowerment, the seventeen SDGs will collectively contribute committed to securing parity between the sexes. In order for the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda to be completely implemented and realized, every nation should assume the corresponding responsibility and provide mutual support.



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