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United Nations Development Programme— Overview on its implementation

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ABSTRACT

The article examines the concept of development and various facets involved in the process. The article is composed on the strength of secondary data available in public domain viz. United Nations website, financial newspapers, journal publications available on internet and books published. The definitions as well as goals set out by the United Nations and their present status as to where the present achievements stand. It also examines the role of sovereign governments and various other players in the process. The “United Nations Development Programme” (UNDP) has defined goals in two parts and monitoring the same. In the first part Millennium Development Goals (MDG) have been set and the period ended by 2015 with acceptable achievement levels. The second set of goals, “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG) are set and have to be achieved by 2030. Apart from UNDP, the apex organization, the government of the country, central banks, and corporates of each country have contributed to the development of each country. Role of these constituents is examined.

Keywords— Development, Millennium, Sustainable

1. METHODOLOGY AND PURPOSE OF STUDY

The study based on the secondary data which is collected from the UN/ UNDP website, GOI press releases, and information published in other national and international newspapers & journals. The data available till as late as August 2018 is utilized for examining the progress made in the development process, more particularly inclusive development, across the globe. The purpose of the study is to understand the bottlenecks encountered, in the inclusion of all excluded sections of the society, metropolitan, rural and urban areas. The study aimed at knowing the path of sustainable development as envisaged in SDGs by UNDP in present conflict-ridden situation and achieve by 2030.

2. DEVELOPMENT

Development, in general, is a multifaceted term and broadly includes certain parameters such as literacy, nutrition, health, shelter, employment generation, access to information and financial empowerment etc. It is misconstrued as economic growth of a country in gross terms only, in earlier days. At present the concept of “Socio-Economic Development” is sacrosanct. Keeping in view the above parameters, having regard to prevailing poverty conditions in underdeveloped as well as developing countries the United Nations has under the umbrella of “United Nations Development Programme” (UNDP) set up a ‘Millennium Development Goals’ (MDG) programme in the year 2000 where 189 countries have made a promise to achieve the set goals, by 2015 as set out. Further, it is also observed that even in developed countries development found to be unequal and fruits of development have not reached poorer segments in equal measure. Hence, the term “Inclusive Development”, “Financial Inclusion” have surfaced. The phenomenon of inequality has different reasons/causes in different countries the objective equitable development needs to be addressed. Further, the UNDP after witnessing positive response and results from member countries a programme of “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDG) has been formulated and circulated among the countries for achieving (SDGs) goals by the year 2030.

2.1 Inequality/ unequal development

It is observed by sociologists that the gap between haves and have-nots is growing simultaneously with the general economic development in various countries, though the general living standards are increasing with the economic development of that particular country. In the economic terms rich are becoming richer and poor are getting poorer. In the underdeveloped and developing economies, the inequality is widespread not only in economic terms but also in every social parameter viz. Literacy/ education, access to employment, availability of nutritious food, health care, social/ political empowerment etc. Gender bias is prevalent in most of the countries which prevent women empowerment, without which comprehensive overall development of society cannot be attained.

2.2 Human Development Index (HDI)

Wikipedia defined human development index as “The human development Index is a statistic of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators which are used to rank countries into four tiers of human development.” The Index is published by United Nations Development Programme. It uses three dimensions and four indicators for determining human development in a particular country. The three dimensions include health, education and living standards. The health indicator is life expectancy at birth. Education indicators include the mean year of schooling and expected years of schooling. The living standard indicator is the gross national per capita income.

India through a third largest economy in Asia and heading towards the sixth largest economy in the world, it is ranked 131 in Human Development Index by UN in the year 2016. This is due to certain intrinsic political as well as asocial legacies/ problems. India accounts for 2.4% of the surface and 17.6% of the population and the largest democracy in the world. It has demographic advantages which no other country has at present. Its population contains 356 million aged between 10 – 24-year-olds. It has the potential to become the 3rd largest economy by 2030. It is a member of G-20. It has a large labour force to trigger the growth/ increase in production.

2.3 Gender Development Index (GDI)

Wikipedia defines it as “The Gender Development Index (GDI) is an index designed to measure gender equality. GDI together with the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) were introduced in 1995 in the human development report written by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)”

India ranks 127th on the gender inequality index out of 142 countries. Kerala state government has organized an International Conference on Gender Equality with UN women in 2015. “The report claims that 30.3% of women are in the workforce in India as per World Bank WDI report among eight South East Asian countries and ranks 134th in the world when it comes to economic participation of women. Nepal has the highest with 83.1% women formally employed.

It further says “India is at its worst on gender equality. We have only three percent of women vice-chancellors 600 odd universities. Only 15% of women are formally employed. It further says that 200 million women workforce needed to up the GDP by 27% in the coming years. It also mentioned Indian women participation in the economic activities can up the GDP by 1.4 points.

2.4 Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

In order to find a way forward to remove extreme poverty and make available congenial growth platform to weaker, marginalized and deprived sections of population the “United Nations Development Programme”(UNDP), in the year 2000, has set eight goals to be achieved by 2015 and 189 countries have accepted the challenge. They are termed as millennium development goals and listed as under:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality
4. Reduce child/ infant mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership development

2.5 Global achievement/ Progress

The UNDP has recorded the achievement by countries globally and recorded the progress.

- The number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half, falling from 1.90 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015.
- The number of people in the working middle class – living on \$4 a day – nearly tripled between 1991 and 2015.
- The proportion of undernourished people in the developing region dropped by almost half since 1990.
- The number of out-of-school children of primary school age worldwide fell by nearly half to an estimated 57 million in 2015 down from 100 million in 2000.
- Gender parity in primary schools has been achieved in the majority of countries.
- The mortality rate of children under five was cut by more than half since 1990.
- Since 1990 maternal mortality fell by 450 percent worldwide.
- Over 6.2 million malaria deaths have been averted between 2000 and 2015.
- New HIV infection fell by approximately 40 percent between 2000 and 2013.
- By June 2014, 13.6 million people living with HIV were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) globally, an immense increase from 2003.
- Between 2000 and 2013 tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment intervention saved an estimated 37 million lives
- Worldwide 2.1 billion people gained access to improved sanitation.
- Globally 147 countries have met MDG drinking water target, 95 countries have met the MDG sanitation target and 77 countries have met both the targets.
- Official development assistance from developed countries, increased 66 percent in real terms from 2000 and 2014 reaching \$ 135.2 billion.

2.6 Millennium Development Goals: 2015 Progress Chart (Reproduced from UN website)

United Nations Member States gathered together at the start of the new millennium to shape a broad vision to fight poverty and combat numerous issues hampering development progress. The vision was translated into eight Millennium Development Goals

and has remained the world's overarching development framework for the past 15 years. This framework, set to expire in 2015, includes time-bound goals, targets, and indicators to monitor progress on extreme poverty and hunger, education, gender equality, child survival, health, environmental sustainability and global partnerships.

This chart presents the final assessment of progress towards selected key targets relating to each goal. The assessment provides two types of information: progress trends and levels of development, which are based on information available as of June 2015. The colour shows progress made towards the target and the text in the box shows the present level of development. For most indicators, 2015 projections are used to assess progress; for a few indicators that do not have 2015 data or projections, the latest available data of 2013 or 2014 are used.

Goals and Targets	Africa		Asia				Oceania	Latin America and the Caribbean	The Caucasus and Central Asia
	North	Sub-Saharan	Eastern	South-Eastern	Southern	Western			

GOAL 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Reduce extreme poverty by half	Low poverty	Very high poverty	Low poverty	Moderate poverty	High poverty	Low poverty		Low poverty	Low poverty
Productive and decent employment	Large deficit	Very large deficit	Moderate deficit	Large deficit	Large deficit	Large deficit	Very large deficit	Moderate deficit	Small deficit
Reduce hunger by half	Low hunger	High hunger	Moderate hunger	Moderate hunger	High hunger	Moderate hunger	Moderate hunger	Moderate hunger	Moderate hunger

GOAL 2 | Achieve universal primary education

Universal primary schooling	High enrolment	Moderate enrolment	High enrolment	High enrolment	High enrolment	High enrolment	High enrolment	High enrolment	High enrolment
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GOAL 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women

Equal girls' enrolment in primary school	Close to parity	Close to parity	Parity	Parity	Parity	Close to parity	Close to parity	Parity	Parity
Women's share of paid employment	Low share	Medium share	High share	Medium share	Low share	Low share	Medium share	High share	High share
Women's equal representation in national parliaments	Moderate representation	Moderate representation	Moderate representation	Low representation	Low representation	Low representation	Very low representation	Moderate representation	Low representation

GOAL 4 | Reduce child mortality

Reduce mortality of under- five-year-olds by two thirds	Low mortality	High mortality	Low mortality	Low mortality	Moderate mortality	Low mortality	Moderate mortality	Low mortality	Low mortality
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GOAL 5 | Improve maternal health

Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters	Low mortality	High mortality	Low mortality	Moderate mortality	Moderate mortality	Low mortality	Moderate mortality	Low mortality	Low mortality
Access to reproductive health	Moderate access	Low access	High access	Moderate access	Moderate access	Moderate access	Low access	High access	Moderate access

GOAL 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Low incidence	High incidence	Low incidence	Low incidence	Low incidence	Low incidence	Low incidence	Low incidence	Low incidence
Halt and reverse the spread of tuberculosis	Low mortality	High mortality	Low moderate		Moderate mortality	Low mortality	Moderate mortality	Low mortality	Moderate mortality

GOAL 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability

Halve the proportion of the population without improved drinking water	High coverage	Low coverage	High coverage	High coverage	High coverage	High coverage	Low coverage	High coverage	Moderate coverage
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Halve the proportion of population without sanitation	Moderate coverage	Very low coverage	Moderate coverage	Low coverage	Very low coverage	High coverage	Very low coverage	Moderate coverage	High coverage
Improve the lives of slum-dwellers	The low proportion of slum-dwellers	The very high proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	Moderate proportion of slum-dwellers	

GOAL 8 | Develop a global partnership for development

Internet users	Moderate usage	Low usage	High usage	Moderate usage	Low usage	High usage	Low usage	High usage	High usage
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The progress chart operates on two levels. The text in each box indicates the present level of development. The colours show progress made towards the target according to the legend below:

	: Target met or excellent Progress		: Poor progress or deterioration
	: Good Progress		: Missing or insufficient data
	: Fair Progress		

For the regional groupings and country data, see mdgs.un.org. Country experiences in each region may differ significantly from the regional average. Due to new data and revised methodologies, this Progress Chart is not comparable with previous versions.

Sources: United Nations, based on data and estimates provided by: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Inter-Parliamentary Union; International Labour Organization; International Telecommunication Union; UNAIDS; UNESCO; UN-Habitat; UNICEF; UN Population Division; World Bank; World Health Organization - based on statistics available as of June 2015. Compiled by the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

3. PROGRESS IN INDIA

MDG	Targets	Achievement	Status
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Halve between 1990 and 2015	The all India poverty headcount estimate was 47.8% in 1990. PHCR level in 2011-12 is 21.9%	Achieved
	Halve between 1990 and 2015 people suffering from hunger	It is estimated in 1990 the under-weight children below 3 yrs 52% and in 2015 it is 33%	Fell short of the target
Achieve Universal primary education	Ensure by 2015 children, boys and girls complete primary education	Net enrolment rate in primary schools was estimated at 84.5% in 2005-06 and has increased to 88.08% in 2013-14	Close to the target
Promote gender equality and Empower women	Ensure gender disparity in primary, secondary education by 2005 and all levels of education by 2015	Gender parity index is 1.03 in primary education, 1 in secondary education & 0.89 in tertiary education. As per census 2011, the ratio of female youth literacy to male literacy rate is 0.91 Projected share of women employment is 22.28 by 2015. The proportion of women representation in national parliament is around 12 %.	Close to the target
Reduce child mortality	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Under-five mortality ratio 125 per 1000 in 1990 48 in 2013	Close to the target
Improve maternal health	Reduce by three quarters between 1990 and 2015	MMR was 437 per 100000 in 1990 and likely to reach 140 by 2015	Fell short of the target
Combat HIV/ AIDS, malaria and other diseases	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/ AIDS	The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women aged 15-24 is showing a declining trend from 0.89% in 2005 to 0.32% in 2012-13	Achieved
	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Malaria is consistently come down from 2.12 per 1000 in 2001 to 0.72 per 1000 in 2013 and increased to 0.88 per thousand in 2014(P) Prevalence of tuberculosis down from 465 per lakh of people in 1990 to 211 per lakh of people in 2013 as well as mortality has come down to 38 in 2013 from 190 in 1990.	Very close to achieving the target
Ensure environmental sustainability	Integrate the principle of sustainable development and programmes into country policies and reverse	As per the assessment of 2013 the total forest cover of the country is 69788 sq. km which is 21.23% of the geographic area of the country. During 2011-2013 there is an increase of 5871 sq. km in forest cover	Close to the target

	the loss of environmental resources	In 2013 the estimated co2 emission for India is 1954.02 million tonne which is 235.57% over 1990 for India. As per 2011 census, 67.3% of households are using solid fuels for cooking against 74.3% in 2001. Further reveals that in rural areas 86.5% households and in urban areas 26.1% of households are using solid fuels for cooking.	
	Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	During 2012 at all India level 87.8% households had access to improved source of drinking water while 86.9% in rural households and 90.1% in urban households had access to improved source of drinking water. By 2015 it is unlikely to reach the target of sanitation facility. Households without sanitation facility likely to remain at 47.31% vis-à-vis a target of 38.09%	Fell short of the target
	By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Cannot be measured statistically	NA
Global Partnership for Development	In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of the new technologies, especially Information and communication	The overall tele- industry in the country has shown tremendous progress and is at 76% as on 31.07.2014. The internet subscribers per 100 population accessing the internet through wireline and wireless connections has increased from 16.15 in June 2013 to 20.83 in June 2014	Close to the target

Source: UN report. <http://www.un.org/millenniumdevelopmentgoals/multimedia.shtml>

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) 2016-2030

Having achieved a reasonable success and to take forward the development agenda UNDP has set a fresh set of goals for more comprehensive development by taking the historic pledge on 25.09.2015 to end poverty everywhere, permanently. The set goals are

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
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.Reduced inequalities
- 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 for goals

4.1 Status of progress in sustainable development goals

As per the United Nations report, as published in various newspapers across India, the number of hungry people in the world has risen for the first time in more than a decade. There are now 38 million more undernourished people in the world rising from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016, the year for which statistics are available. The United Nations has cited conflict as one of the main driving factors for this food insecurity in 180countries. It also cited drought and disasters linked to climate change are causing a reversal in progress made. Violent conflicts also led to forced displacement of a record high at 68.5 million in 2017.

There is no country-specific report in the public domain as yet. However, there is some information available on certain parameters. South Asia, which includes India, has seen child marriage plunge, with a girl's risk in childhood dropped by 40% of getting married from 2000 to 2017. On the other hand, water stress levels for many countries in the region are above 70%, indicating fast approaching water scarcity. More than 9 out of 10 people living in urban areas are breathing polluted air, with southern Asia scoring worst in this area. Electricity and sanitation are still poor in this region. UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres has stated that "with just 12 years left to the 2030 deadline, we must inject a sense of urgency" into the process.

India is in the race for achieving better ranking in SDGs for 2017 and stands at 116 with a score of 58.1 as SDG index and dash board's report where Sweden stands at number one spot with a score of 85.6

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a concept that suggests that it is the responsibility of the corporations (business houses) operating within the society to contribute towards economic, social and environmental development that creates a positive impact at large.”

India has enacted a landmark legislation in 2013 which made India the first country to mandate and quantify CSR expenditure. The details of corporate social responsibility are mentioned in section 135 of the companies’ act 2013. The salient features are 1) companies need to spend 2% of average net profit earned during the previous three years. 2) It is desired that the company shall give preference to the local area where operates and around. 3) CSR projects or programmes or activities undertaken in India only shall amount CSR expenditure.

5. CONCLUSION

The world order has recognized the need for sustainable development across all strata of the population on the globe. The United Nations as an apex body has taken up the task of setting goals and started working on directing the countries. UNDP in the first phase has formulated millennium development goals, popularly known as MDGs comprising of eight goals to be achieved by all countries by 2015. The achievement levels are reasonably acceptable, though a lot is left to be accomplished by many countries. As a step to move forward UNDP has set another 17 goals for comprehensive development which is inclusive in nature to be achieved by 2030 and are termed as ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ (SDGs). These goals have a period of 15 years between 2016 and 2030. In the initial period of one year to one and a half year, it is found that the progress made in the previous period was reversed due to conflict situations in certain countries and adverse effects of climate change such as droughts and other natural calamities. The conflict situations have forced a good number of people to move out as refugees and caused widespread displacement. The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has expressed his concern over the prevailing impediments in the development process and asked the member countries to inject a sense of urgency to achieve SDG targets in the remaining 12 years. It is optimistically expected that, with concerted efforts and positive political will, all across, these goals can be achieved for a better world for the generations to come. All the stakeholders in the development process, despite issues and challenges, have played their role appreciably and contributed to the cause of development positively.

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APPENDIX

GOI	: Government of India
RBI	: Reserve Bank of India
NABARD	: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
UN	: United Nations
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
MDG	: Millennium Development Goals
SDG	: Sustainable Development Goals
HDI	: Human Development Index
GDI	: Gender Development Index
GDP	: Gross Domestic Product
CSR	: Corporate Social Responsibility