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INDIA – IN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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ABSTRACT: This report examines India's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, which were endorsed by the UN in 2015. The study was conducted to analyze and compare the sustainable development goals of India in the year 2020 and 2021. The parameters include SDG composite index. The data were collected from various electronic sources such as sources of the NITI Aayog, United Nations Development Program 2022. The analysis was done using SPSS Software version 20. The results shows that the SDG index score of 2021 has lowered when comparing to the score of 2020 in quality education, clean water and energy, economic growth, industry, innovation and architecture and climate change. By comparing the variation between top performing states SDG Index score with Tamil Nadu SDG index score. It proves that Tamil Nadu has scored the maximum only in SDG 1. Bihar is the least performing state as the state has scored the least in four goals. Even while India has made significant progress, it still needs to develop innovative policies and strategies in several areas. The fact that some citizens still cannot afford two meals a day is a key factor in accelerating anti-poverty programs. On the other hand, initiatives to reduce pollution must be added to the expanding industrialization. India still has a long way to go to ensure it reaches its Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, Millennium Development Goal, India, Poverty, Hunger, Health sectors.

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1.INTRODUCTION

The term "economically developed" has changed rapidly in recent decades. A globally active civil society and growing awareness among citizens worldwide has led to a political and economic restructuring of the term 'development'. As a result, the concept of sustainable development has rapidly emerged and has become an integral part of the discourse of global economic development [1,2]. Although the term sustainable development was not clearly defined, there was global consensus on a triple bottom line approach to the term. H. Combination of economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability [3,4].

Establishment of Sustainable Development Goals – In 2000, at the start of the new millennium, the United Nations set eight goals for all former Member States (191). The goal was to combat poverty, hunger and discrimination by 2015.

These goals are:-

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. To achieve universal primary education.
3. To promote gender equality and 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 have achieved several achievements. The goals were easy to understand, and being easy to understand led to increased public awareness and continued action [5]. A major shortcoming is that the process for achieving the Millennium Development Goals lacked intermediate steps that would lead to improved communication between policy makers and implementation channels [6]. Some experts and development economists point to the availability and accuracy of data as essential requirements for realizing the development agenda [7] The general perception was that it was the responsibility of rich countries to provide financial support to poor countries to achieve their development goals [8].

With these factors in mind, in 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Congress has finalized a set of 17 universal goals covering various areas such as poverty eradication, human health and hygiene. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals were finalized after several rounds of discussions with developed and developing countries. Concerns about accountability have also been addressed by the establishment of the global High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) [9].

The 17 goals are as follows -:

1. No poverty.
2. Zero hunger.
3. Good health & well-being.
4. Quality education.
5. Gender equality.
6. Clean water and sanitation.
7. Affordable & clean energy.
8. Decent work and economic growth.
9. Industry, innovation & infrastructure.
10. Reduced inequality.
11. Sustainable cities and communities.
12. Sustainable consumption and production.
13. Climate action.
14. Life below water.
15. Life on land.
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions.
17. Partnerships for the goals.

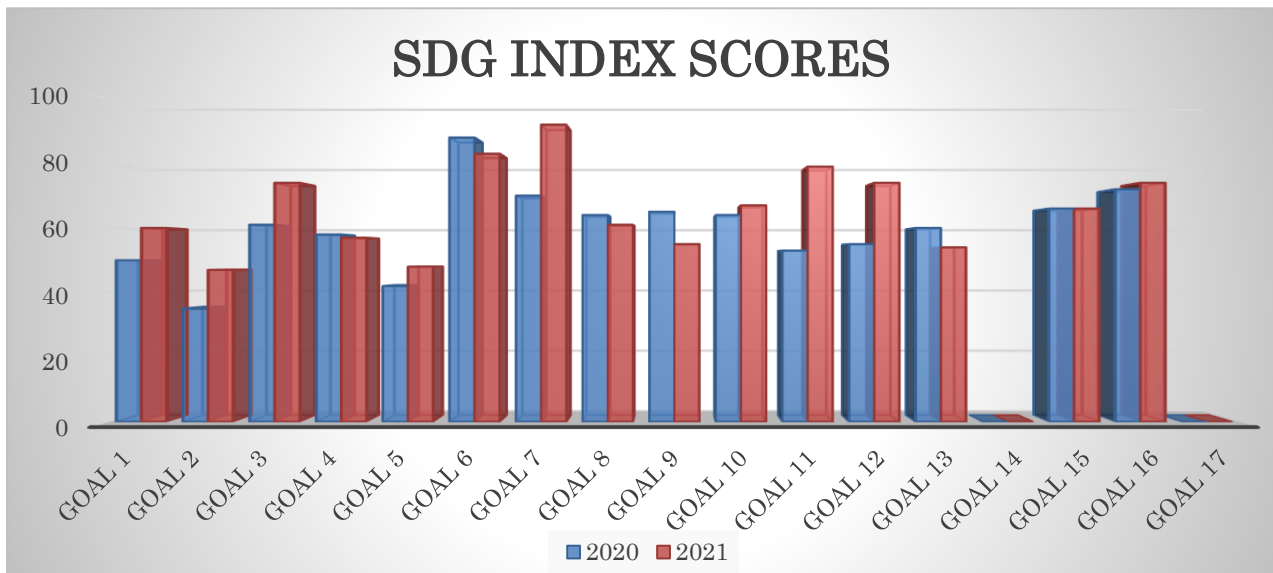
A comparison of the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals therefore reveals that the latter are a broader and more comprehensive set of goals. Another distinguishing feature of the SDGs is that they are interconnected and cannot be viewed in isolation. Until 2014, India's development strategy was primarily prepared by the Indian Planning Commission, a quasi-constitutional body headed by the Prime Minister of India, supported by experts from various fields. [10] The development plan was replicated and formulated using a five-year plan representing a development roadmap. In 2014, the Government of India abolished the Planning Commission and the National Agency for India Transformation (Niti-Ayog) was established in the same year. Ayog is a departure from previous planning commissions as it supports a bottom-down approach and strengthens cooperative federalism.[11] In 2015, the United Nations introduced the Sustainable Development Goals and since then, the Government of India, in partnership with her Niti-Ayog, has tried to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.[12] Various plans of the Indian government such as Swachh-Bharat, Mission Indradhanush and PM-JAY can be attributed to different goals set by the United Nations.[13] Lack of data was one of the main obstacles in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, so Niti Ayog said he has been working since 2018 to track progress and issues in all states and federal territories, including the SDG [14]. The United Nations-led global strategy on corrective actions to ensure sustainability has also changed significantly from the concept of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) to the

SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).[15] India, one of the fastest growing nations of the era, was also focused on ensuring its goals were met. To ensure this, the National Institute for Transformation of India (NITI Aayog) started publishing the SDG Index in 2018 (NITI Report, 2018). The study examines progress and challenges in sustainable development in India using the SDG Index 2020 and 2021.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The aim of the study was to analyze and compare the sustainable development goals among states of India and also to compare the SDG goals between the years 2019 and 2020. The parameters include SDG composite index. The data were collected from various electronic sources such as sources of the NITI Aayog and United Nations Development Programme 2022. The data on Index scores of each sustainable Development Goals and state wise SDG scores used in this analysis were sourced from the NITI Aayog. The collected data were compiled and tabulated. The descriptive analysis was done using Microsoft Excel version 2016 and SPSS Software version 20.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

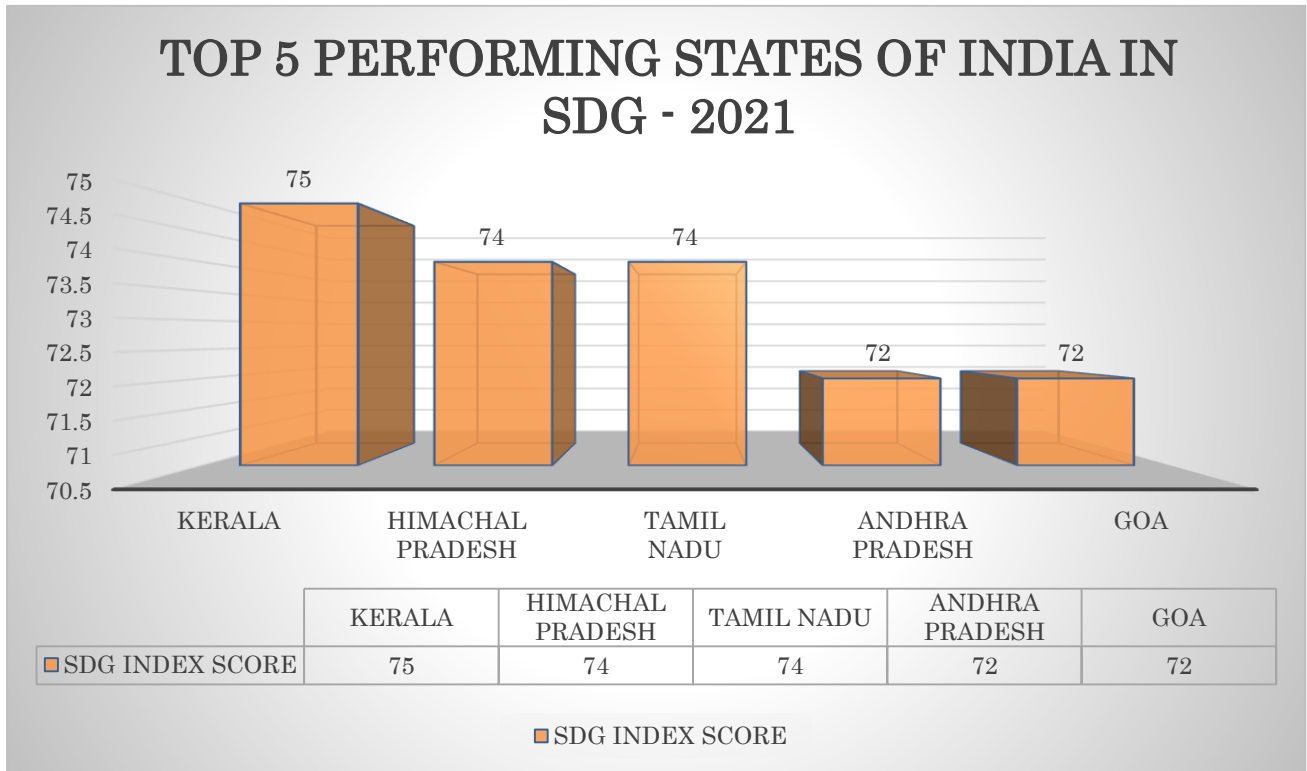


GRAPH 1: COMPARISON OF SDG INDEX SCORE OF INDIA IN 2020 AND 2021

Source: NITI Aayog

Achiever (100), Front runner (65-99), Performer (50-64), Aspirant (0-49)

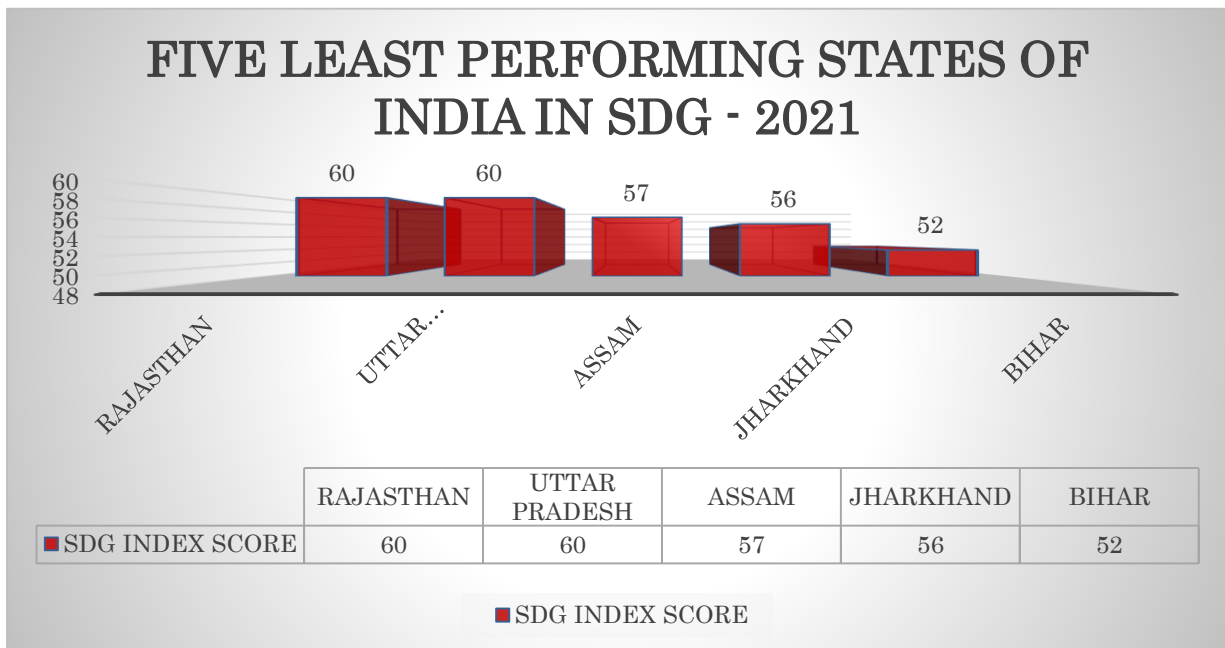
Graph 1 shows the comparison of Indian SDG index of 2020 and 2021. The table proves that the SDG index score of 2021 has lowered when comparing to the score of 2020 in quality education, clean water and energy, economic growth, industry, innovation and architecture and climate change.



GRAPH 2: TOP 5 PERFORMING STATES OF INDIA BASED ON SDG 2021

Source: NITI Aayog

Graph 2 shows the top 5 performing states of India on SDG 2021. This table proves that Kerala has scored the maximum index of 75 followed by Himachal Pradesh (74), Tamil Nadu (74), Andhra Pradesh (72) and Goa (72).



GRAPH 3: FIVE LEAST PERFORMING STATES OF INDIA BASED ON SDG2021

Source: NITI Aayog

Graph 3 shows 5 least performing states of India on SDG 2021. This table proves that Bihar has

scored the least index of 52 followed by Jharkhand (56), Assam (57), Uttar Pradesh (60) and Rajasthan (60).

TABLE 1: PERFORMANCE AMONG STATES OF INDIA BASED ON SDG

SDG	TOP PERFORMING STATES	LEAST PERFORMING STATES
SDG 1- NO POVERTY	Tamil Nadu	Bihar
SDG 2 - ZERO HUNGER	Kerala	Jharkhand
SDG 3- GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING	Gujarat	Assam
SDG 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION	Kerala	Bihar
SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY	Chhattisgarh	Assam
SDG6-CLEAN WATER&ENERGY	Goa	Rajasthan
SDG 7-AFFORDABLE& CLEAN ENERGY	Andhra Pradesh	Meghalaya
SDG 8- ECONOMIC GROWTH	Himachal Pradesh	Manipur
SDG9-INDUSTRY, INNOVATION& INFRASTRUCTURE	Gujarat	Bihar
SDG10-REDUCED INEQUALITIES	Megalaya	Uttar Pradesh
SDG11- SUSTAINABLE CITIES& COMMUNITIES	Punjab	Andhra Pradesh
SDG12-CONSUMPTION &PRODUCTION	Thripura	Goa
SDG 13-CLIMATE CHANGE	Odisha	Bihar
SDG 14-LIFE UNDER WATER	Odisha	-
SDG 15-LIFE OF LAND	Andhra Pradesh	Rajasthan
SDG 16-PEACE & JUSTICE	Uttarakhand	Odisha
SDG 17-PARTNERSHIP	-	-

Source: NITI Aayog

Table 1 shows the performance among States of India based on SDG. This table shows Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha were the top performing states and Bihar is the least performing state because the state has scored the least in four goals.

TABLE 2: COMPARING VARIATION BETWEEN TOP PERFORMING STATES SDG INDEX SCORE WITH TAMIL NADU SDG INDEX SCORE

	Top performing state score	Tamilnadu score	Variations in %
SDG 1 - NO POVERTY	86	86	-
SDG 2 - ZERO HUNGER	80	66	14
SDG 3 - GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING	86	81	5
SDG 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION	80	69	11
SDG 5 - GENDER EQUALITY	64	59	5
SDG 6-CLEAN WATER&ENERGY	100	87	13
SDG7-AFFORDABLE&CLEAN ENERGY	100	100	-
SDG 8- ECONOMIC GROWTH	78	71	7
SDG 9 - INDUSTRY, INNOVATION& INFRASTRUCTURE	72	71	1
SDG 10-REDUCED INEQUALITIES	88	74	14
SDG11-SUSTAINABLE CITIES& COMMUNITIES	91	79	12
SDG12-CONSUMPTION&PRODUCTION	99	78	21
SDG 13-CLIMATE CHANGE	70	61	9
SDG 14-LIFE UNDER WATER	82	11	71
SDG 15-LIFE OF LAND	93	63	30
SDG 16-PEACE & JUSTICE	86	71	15
SDG 17-PARTNERSHIP	-	-	-

Source: NITI Aayog

Table 2 shows the comparing variation between top performing states SDG Index score with Tamil Nadu SDG index score. It proves that Tamil Nadu has scored the maximum in SDG 1 and SDG 7. Bihar and Jharkhand are the least prepared to achieve the SDGs by the target year 2030 based on government readiness. Kerala ranked in first position, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand were positioned in third.

DISCUSSION

The Millennium Development Goals have achieved several achievements. The goals were easy to understand, and being easy to understand led to increased public awareness and continued action. The main drawback was that there were no intermediate milestones in the process to reach the Millennium Development Goals.[16] This should have improved communication between policy makers and implementation channels. Some experts and development economists point to the availability and accuracy of data as essential requirements for realizing the development agenda.

India's overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score was 66 out of 100.[17]

The annual Down to Earth 2022 India Environmental State Report states that India is falling behind at least 17 key government targets with 2022 deadlines. Slow progress so far means that deadlines are likely to be missed [18].

State of the states:

With less than 10 years (2030 deadline) to reach the SDGs, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are below the national average with 11 and 14 SDGs respectively.[19] Bihar is the third largest state of India by population and as per 2011 Census, the median age of population in Bihar is 20 years, meaning that there is high young population in the state. But on the flip-side, the drop-out rates in secondary (grades 8-10th) and higher secondary (11th to 12th) levels are as high as 65.18% and 66.98% respectively in the state indicates the least performance in Goal 4, quality education. [20] One more constraint that the states at the bottom face is the per capita availability of resources that the government can spend on development priorities. In the absence of a significant private sector in Bihar, the sole responsibility to carry out expenditures on the activities that can improve the performance on these indices is with the government.[21] Assam ranked poorly in health, education, economy and women's safety and hasn't shown any significant growth since 2018. Assam's dropout rates in Classes 9 and 10 is the second highest among all states. It also has one of the lowest Pupil- teacher ratios of 11 among all states. These makes a big difference in Assam being in poor performing list in Goal 4, Quality Education. Rajasthan state worst performance comes in sustainable consumption of resources (SDG-12), Zero Hunger (SDG-02), gender equality (SGD-05) and Industry innovation and infrastructure (SDG-09). State scored less than 40 points in these important goals. 36.8% of children under 5 found to be stunted in survey period while the national average in the same period was 34.7%. This parameter comes under Zero Hunger (SDG - 2) category and target is to reduced upto 2.5% by 2030.State has formed seven committees of different departments to monitor and implement the schemes. The UNICEF is providing technical and financial support for capacity building.[22] Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh struggled. Regarding SDG 1 (No Poverty), the six lowest performers are Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. All of these states, along with Meghalaya, Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, are on the list of worst countries when it comes to tackling hunger and malnutrition. SDG Goal 1: Under the rubic of “No Poverty” (SDG1), Tamil Nadu has taken the lead amongst the Indian states, along with Delhi, with a score of 86. But on closer inspection, one can observe that Kerala, with its score of 83, has shown considerable improvement by gaining 19 points since 2019. [23] The recipe that both these states prepared in achieving this goal has certain similar ingredients they being the virtuous cycle of participatory planning and decentralized governance. The Self-Help Groups established in these states like Mahalir Thittam of Tamil Nadu and Kudumbashree units in Kerala have been serving the states at the grassroot levels.[24]

In the area of water and sanitation (SDG 6), the performance of Delhi, Rajasthan, Assam, Punjab and Arunachal Pradesh is a concern. SDG 7, related to clean and affordable energy, has been achieved and exceeded by most countries. Thirteen federal states and two federal states are below the national average in terms of climate protection (SDG 13).[25] Orissa tops the high-performing list, followed by Kerala. Jharkhand and Bihar lift the rear.

4. CONCLUSION

The research leads to the conclusion that even if India has advanced significantly in several areas, it still needs to create novel techniques and policy proposals. Closing the development gap between the North and the South is one of the key objectives. Poor performance is a fundamental conundrum in the northeastern states, which are rich in both resources and people capital. The fact that some citizens are still unable to eat two meals a day is a key factor in accelerating anti-poverty programs to ensure citizens' right to food. Meanwhile, progress in industrialization should be complemented by efforts to minimize pollutants. Therefore, India still has a long way to go to ensure that it achieves the Sustainable Development Goals.

ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

Not applicable.

HUMAN AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

No Animals/Humans were used for studies that are base of this research.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

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