

# Sustainable Development Goals and CSR Practices in India

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## ABSTRACT

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were adopted in the general assembly of 2015, the goals were concerned with 17 different problems and the year to achieve the outcome of these goals was decided to be 2030 hence these goals are also called agenda 2030.

In this paper we will analyse and learn about the actions and steps taken in forwarding and improving the ranking of India in SDG goals list also learn about how as a nation we have fared in providing the basic qualities of life to our population.

Sustainable Goals have been adopted so we can have better and more sustainable future for us as well as for the coming generations.

In this paper we also learn about the how the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ratings has also helped to achieve a sustainable future CSR was way by which private organizations has helped or done their part to helps India achieve its SDG goals.

In the project report we covered all the 17 SDG goals which have been mentioned in the original UN documents and how since 2015 India has fared in all of them and how and which ministry has helped to achieve or improved in that particular goal.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goals, SDG, CSR, UN.

## I. INTRODUCTION

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit — officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

These SDG goals were adopted after the success of Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The original aim of these MDG was to end all kind and forms of poverty. The new goals are different from MDG because these goals covers whole host of other topics also instead of focusing on the poverty alone these goals focus on betterment of life for this as well as next generation today's goals covers goals such as:

GOAL 1: No Poverty, GOAL 2: Zero Hunger, GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being, GOAL 4: Quality Education, GOAL 5: Gender Equality etc.

They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

## What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.

For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and

inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

### What is CSR?

Corporate Social Responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives (“Triple-Bottom-Line- Approach”), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. In this sense it is important to draw a distinction between CSR, which can be a strategic business management concept, and charity, sponsorships or philanthropy. Even though the latter can also make a valuable contribution to poverty reduction, will directly enhance the reputation of a company and strengthen its brand, the concept of CSR clearly goes beyond that.

Promoting the uptake of CSR amongst SMEs requires approaches that fit the respective needs and capacities of these businesses, and do not adversely affect their economic viability. UNIDO based its CSR programme on the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Approach, which has proven to be a successful tool for SMEs in the developing countries to assist them in meeting social and environmental standards without compromising their competitiveness. The TBL approach is used as a framework for measuring and reporting corporate performance against economic, social and environmental performance. It is an attempt to align private enterprises to the goal of sustainable global development by providing them with a more comprehensive set of working objectives than just profit alone. The perspective taken is that for an organization to be sustainable, it must be financially secure, minimize (or ideally eliminate) its negative environmental impacts and act in conformity with societal expectations.

Key CSR issues: environmental management, eco-efficiency, responsible sourcing, stakeholder engagement, labour standards and working conditions, employee and community relations, social equity, gender balance, human rights, good governance, and anti-corruption measures.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

SDG of “ Life on land”, the economic, social and ecological issues of four selected Forestry clean development mechanism had been studied by (Aggarwal 2014) out of which three of

them were found to be economically unsustainable. The study also found that the plants used in these projects were having a number of adverse ecological and social impacts on long term. The study concluded by recommending a second thought on CDM projects in comparison with Green India Mission and REDD+ mission.

With regards to SDG of “Partnerships to achieve goals”, Indo-China opportunities on science and technology for sustainable development of selected Himalayan regions was studied by (E. Sharma 2017). Similarly the mutual understanding and partnership between India and EU regarding green and sustainable development initiatives was studied in detail by (Prasad 2017).

Reasoning for CSR is customarily found in moral and moral contemplations. Bowen (1953) was likely among first to underscore and assess social obligation of organizations towards the overall government assistance of the general public. Steiner (1971) held that the assumption from business to work with accomplishing of social government assistance and its relationship with the size of business is authentic. This view finished in the partners viewpoint with Freeman (1984) seeing that benefit boost for investors ought not be the main corporate goal.

It is currently generally understood that reception of standards of socially dependable way of behaving by the association raises the place of the association in the general public (Prabhakar and Mishra, 2013) other than safeguarding, protecting and sustaining human qualities and advancing financial government assistance (Nitish Desai Associates, 2017)

In India, CSR has been considered as a significant and casual generosity since ages. Different religions and ways of thinking severely dislike dishonest business. The reasoning of CSR with regards to agricultural nations must be assessed by the job it can play in tending to difficulties of social turn of events and comprehensive development. In nations like India, CSR has the capability of enhancing legislative assets for civil rights (Visser, 2008; Matten and Moon, 2008).

### Objectives

- To study the concept of sustainable Goals in corporate world and in country.
- To study the concept of CSR in India.
- To determine the impact of Sustainability and CSR schemes on the society and nature.
- To study what will be the future of Sustainable Goals and CSR in India.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The examination paper is an endeavor of exploratory examination, in view of the optional information obtained from diaries, magazines, articles, papers and media reports.. The strategies will be utilized in this study incorporate overview, spellbinding. The primary data will be collected from government websites, UN websites and reports. It is research on the Sustainable development Goals and CSR practices in India. Secondary data will be obtained from books, articles, reports, international financial and organisations, newspapers, journals, magazines, and the internet. The study will meticulously depict stakeholders, social, and environmental sustainability. Scaling methods and statistical tools will be performed to measure sustainability.

The research is descriptive in nature using secondary sources of data. It is based on:

Secondary Data Collection:

- a) From newspaper articles and research journals.
- b) From governmental and non-governmental reports such as those of United Nations, NITI Aayog.

### IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The report of the World Council on Environment and Development, titled “Our Common Future”, defined the concept of sustainable development as “...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Through three pillars, namely, economic development, social equity, and

environmental protection sustainable development seeks to achieve, in a balanced manner, economic development, social equity and environmental protection. The concept of sustainable development has been mainstreamed in multilateral fora since 1992 with the landmark United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro. Since then, sustainable development has received increased focus by Member States who have been working on mainstreaming sustainable development in national development strategies. Commitments in the outcomes of key United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, and environmental fields have been instrumental in steering the discussion globally. The key outcomes guiding the post-2015 development process include the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, Future We Want, United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Open Working Group (OWG) was established as an intergovernmental process by

Sustainable development goals

**Table 1** Proposed SDGs by the UN Open Working Group

Goal number	Goal name
Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; sustainably manage forests; combat desertification; and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Source: OWG (2014)

**Table 2** Progress towards achievement of goals or commitments in key thematic areas

Thematic areas	Energy/ environment areas	Selected international reports and assessments	Existing goals or commitments	Examples of existing targets	Current status
Poverty eradication (MDGs)	Resilience	UN Millennium Development Goals Reports; World Bank/IMF Global Monitoring Reports	Eradicate poverty	Reduce extreme poverty by half by 2015	Completed in the MDGs context, but still 1 billion people in extreme poverty
Food security and sustainable agriculture (MDGs and beyond)	Resilience, biodiversity	UN Millennium Development Goals Reports; World Bank/IMF Global Monitoring Reports; FAO The State of World Reports; the State of Food Insecurity Reports; UNCCD Reports	World free of hunger	Reduce hunger by half by 2015	On-track in the MDGs context
Water and sanitation (MDGs)	Water	UN Millennium Development Goals Reports; World Bank/IMF Global Monitoring Reports; UN World Water Development Report	Ensure access to safe drinking water and stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources	Reduce proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by half by 2015	On-track in the MDGs context

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**Table 2** Contd...

Thematic areas	Energy/ environment areas	Selected international reports and assessments	Existing goals or commitments	Examples of existing targets	Current status
Health (MDGs)	Air quality	UN Millennium Development Goals Report; World Bank-IMF Global Monitoring Reports; WHO World Health Report	Reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/ AIDs	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	On-track in the MDGs context
Education (MDGs)	Resilience	UN Millennium Development Goals Report; World Bank-IMF Global Monitoring Reports; UNESCO Global Monitoring Reports	Universal primary schooling	By 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	Off-track
Employment (MDGs)	Resilience	ILO Global Employment Trends; World Bank World Development Reports	Full and productive employment and decent work for all	Time-bound targets for assessments are not stated	Off-track
Oceans (Ch. 17 of Agenda 21; JPOI; Aichi Targets 6, 10 and 11; Target 7.B of MDG)	Resilience, water, biodiversity	UNGA Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects; UNEP Keeping Track Reports	Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs are minimized, to maintain their integrity and functioning	Off-track
Biodiversity (Aichi Targets; MDG Target 7.B)	Biodiversity	CBD Global Biodiversity Outlooks	20 Aichi Goals of halting global biodiversity loss	Achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss	Off-track
Forest (Aichi Targets on forest; four shared global objectives on forests, agreed at UNFF Session 6)	Forests	UN Forest Forum Reports; CBD Global Biodiversity Outlooks; FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments	Forest component of Aichi targets; reducing deforestation	A 25% reduction in annual global deforestation and degradation rates by 2015 relative to the 2000-05 average	Off-track
Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) (Ch. 4 Agenda 21; and JPOI Ch. 3)	Waste management, resource efficiency	UN Trends Reports: Towards Sustainable Consumption Production; World Business Council for SD Vision 2050 Report; UNEP The Marrakech Process Progress Report	Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production	International Plan of Action is in place, but no time-bound target yet	Off-track
Means of implementation (MDGs, Rio+20; Copenhagen Accord)	Development cooperation	UNCTAD Trade and Investment Reports; MDG Gap Task Force Reports; World Bank World Development Reports; IPCC Reports WIP0; Annual Reports	Develop a global partnership for development	Meet the 0.7% ODA/ GNI target now; \$100 billion per year for climate change by 2020	Off-track

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**Table 2 Contd...**

Thematic areas	Energy/ environment areas	Selected international reports and assessments	Existing goals or commitments	Examples of existing targets	Current status
Sustained and inclusive economic growth (Rio+20)	Resilience	UN DESA <i>World Economic and Social Survey</i> ; <i>UNIDO Industrial Development Report</i>	Achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth	On-going	Mixed progress
Needs of countries in special situations, and mid-income countries (Istanbul PoA; Rio+20)	Resilience	SG's Report on Implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs; <i>UN-OHRLS Reports on LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS</i> ; <i>ADB African Development Reports</i>	Address special needs of Africa, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS; goals/ commitments on mid-income countries	On-going	Mixed progress among these groups
Human rights, the right to development and global governance (Rio+20)	Resilience	<i>UNDP Human Development Reports</i> ; <i>World Bank World Development Reports</i>	Respect, protect, and promote human rights and fundamental freedom for all	On-going	Mixed progress
Equality (MDGs)	Resilience	<i>Human Development Reports</i> ; <i>UN Women Progress of the World's Women</i> ; <i>UN Millennium Development Goals Reports</i>	Promote gender equality and empower women	Equal girl's enrolment in primary school; women's share of paid employment by 2015	Off-track
Energy (Rio+20 Outcome Document)	Clean energy, energy access	<i>Global Tracking Framework Report</i> ; <i>IIASA Global Energy Assessment</i> ; <i>IEA World Energy Outlooks</i> ; <i>IPCC WG III Reports</i>	Make sustainable energy for all a reality	On-going	Off-track
Sustainable cities, transport (MDGs)	Resilience, resource efficiency	UN-HABITAT <i>Global Reports on Human Settlement</i> ; <i>IEA World Energy Outlook</i> .	Improve the lives of slum dwellers	Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Off-track
Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (Copenhagen Accord)	Resilience, climate change response	<i>IPCC Assessment Reports</i> ; <i>UNFCCC Independent Reports</i> ; <i>UNEP Emission Gap Reports</i> ; <i>World Bank Turn Down the Heat Reports</i> ; <i>UNISDR Global Assessment Report</i>	Hold global mean temperature increase below 2°C	By 2050 or longer term based on scientific evidence	Off-track
Conflict prevention, post-conflict peace building	Resilience	<i>Human Security Report</i>	Maintain international peace and security—UN Charter	Time-bound goals are not stated	Different views on how much progress has been made

## V. CONCLUSION

SD has drawn in much consideration in the intellectual, administration, arranging and improvement intercession space. A wide scope of administrative and non-legislative substances seem to have embraced it as a suitable improvement worldview. This is on the grounds that the vast

majority of defenders and supporters of the worldview, essentially appear to agree that the difficulties facing mankind today, for example, environmental change, consumption of ozone layer, water shortage, loss of vegetation, disparity, frailty, appetite, hardship and destitution can be addressed by sticking to the precepts and standards of SD.

A definitive point of SD is to accomplish an equilibrium among natural, monetary and social supportability, in this manner, making these the points of support on which SD rests. While not expecting a conclusive stance, maintainability of society can be said to rely upon the accessibility of appropriate wellbeing frameworks, harmony and regard for common liberties, good work, orientation balance, quality training and law and order. Manageability of economy, then again, relies upon reception of fitting creation, dissemination and utilization while supportability of the climate is driven by legitimate actual preparation and land use along with protection of biology or biodiversity. Albeit the writing is inundated with a plenty of definitions and translations of SD, understood in the unavoidable perspectives about the idea is intergenerational value, which perceives both the short and long haul ramifications of supportability to address the requirements of both the current and people in the future.

SD can't be accomplished through confined drives, but instead coordinated endeavors at different levels, containing social, ecological and monetary angles. The effective execution of the SDGs will depend after unraveling complex associations among the objectives and their objectives. A coordinated methodology towards supportability would require understanding the possibilities of its key layered support points at the same time, as well as dealing with the strains, compromises and cooperative energies among these aspects. All the more significantly, in dealing with the pressures of maintainability and feasible turn of events, a key job must be played by global associations and offices like the UN, administration of different nations, nongovernmental associations and common society associations.

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