

SDGS: A Visionary for Sustainable Development through Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Women empowerment and gender equality is a necessary foundation for peaceful, powerful and sustainable world. Women empowerment promotes women's sense of self worth, their ability to determine their own choices, their right to influence change for themselves and others, it can be social, educational, economic, political and psychological. Women empowerment is foundation to empower and progress entire society. Women are not only more effected by problems of society, but also possess ideas and leadership to solve them.

The gender discrimination still holds many women back and holds back the society too. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 embody a road map for progress that is sustainable and all inclusive. Achieving gender equality and women empowerment is integral to each to the 17 goals. Only by ensuring the rights of women across all the goals will get better justice and inclusion economics the work for all and sustained environment can be given to future generation. SDG-5 aims to grant women and girls equal rights and opportunity without any discrimination, By 2030 empowering women urgently and intesively will result in sustained growth and development of every society. This paper focuses on SDGs as a visionary for sustainable growth and development of every society which can be achieved though women empowerment and gender equality.

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Introduction

The impact of women's empowerment on the sustainable Development Goals is exponential, as their contributions are essential in all domains relevant to our society and economy. In contemporary society we are facing a moral imperative to redesign, reshape and recalibrate our approach towards women's empowerment and gender equality. Equality of gender is not only a fundamental human right but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Women construct approximately half of the world's population. Empowering women and girls need looking at the gender with gender neutral perspective. It requires concerted efforts from entire society. It is a crucial step towards acceleration of sustainable development.

Women's empowerment is a means of emancipation of women and their harmonious co-existence with men in society. It enables their ability to contribute in development of society at all levels maintaining their self dignity and rights and influence in decision making. Women's empowerment provides women with social justice and equality and improves on her ability to contribute at all levels.

Sustainable Development Goals and Women Empowerment

Achieving women's empowerment and gender equality is a necessary foundation for peaceful, powerful and sustainable world. Women's empowerment is recognised as pre-condition to achieving all the SDGs at the core of 2030 agenda. Women have critical role to play in SDGs with

many targets and goals specifically recognising women's empowerment and gender equality as objective and part of solution. Women and girls are crucial contributors, implementers and beneficiaries of SDGs and therefore, their empowerment is fundamental for achieving SDGs successfully. Hence, Women's empowerment is a crucial step towards acceleration of Sustainable Development. Making an end to the 'discrimination' against women is rudimentary to 'human rights'. Achieving women's empowerment and gender equality is integral to all seventeen goals of the SDGs. The goals of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is closely interwoven with all SDGs who are further interdependent on each other for their success. Only by ensuring the rights of women and girls, all other goals of SDGs will get justice. Inclusion of women and girls will provide sustainable environment for future generation. Gender equality is a right and fulfilling this right is best solution to meeting the pressing economic crisis, health issues, climate change, violence against women and escalating conflicts. Women are not only more effected by these problems, but also, possess ideas and leadership to solve them. The gender discrimination still holds many women back and holds our world back too. The 2030 Agenda for SDGs embody a road map for progress that is sustainable and all inclusive. The greater equality between men and women is a precondition for (and effective indicator of) sustainable people-centred development. The common goal of SDGs that no one will be left behind is a move towards equitable and inclusive society for all.

The concept of Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development is broadly defined as development which meets the requirements of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets decided at the UN headquarters in New York in September 2015, coming into force on 1st January 2016. The specific targets of each SDGs are to be achieved by 2030.



Fig. 1 : <https://images.app.goo.gl/8JfjdS4PbpXXELHt8>

The SDGs cover the three interrelated dimensions of Sustainable Development which are economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.



Fig. 2 : <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>

The SDGs focus on obliteration of poverty, manage climate change systematically and construct a peaceful, stable, equal and comprehensive social order.

The SDGs embody a roadmap for progress that is sustainable and all inclusive. Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to each of 17 SDGs. The 17 SDGs address both intra generational justice-the distribution of resources among men and women; and inter-generational justice that is equitable distribution of resources between present and future generations.

Objective :

1. In depth analysis of 17 SDGs in connection to gender equality and women empowerment.
2. In depth analysis of empowering of women for achieving Sustainable Development Goals..

Review of Literature :

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Empowering Women for Sustainable Development

Women are the pillar of strength in society, the stronger the pillar, the stronger the society will be. Empowerment enables enhancement in their ability to contribute in sustainable development of

society at all levels by participating actively and influencing the decision making process. Women's empowerment is a process where prevailing gender gap is removed by taking key steps to create a safe, just and enabling environment through targeted policies and gender mainstreaming and build skills and capacities in women is crucial for enabling to contribute for sustainable development. There is deep connection between women's empowerment, gender equality and genuinely sustainable development. Empowering women is a pre-requisite for all SDGs. When women are empowered, society with stability is assured. Through empowerment the powerless gain greater share of control over resources and decision making. In empowering women they should be nurtured, liberated and energised. Strengthen her to establish on right to properly, assert her power in decision making at political, economic and educational level and provide her value and security.

They should be enabled to acquire ability and implementation with proper knowledge, self dignity and confidence and most significantly promote her health and well being.

Dimensions of Women Empowerment

In various dimensions of women empowerment, freedom to make life choices, judicial and legal system, constitutional provisions and policies empowering her for poverty eradication, promoting her participation in science and technology, providing her with digital literacy. Providing protection and rehabilitation against all types of violence and restoring her human rights, providing her economically stability and self reliance, giving her political and social rights. Enabling them to get recognition in society for their skills and leadership, encouraging not only literacy but increasing their participation at higher education and thus, emancipating women from various kinds of vicious grips and gender based discrimination. Besides for integrating women's empowerment for sustainable development we should refrain from trivialising (Tuchman, 1978) her contribution to society and increasing her visibility at economic and social level as her unpaid works and contributions are not counted for and not valued properly. Neither their is equal wages for equal work. Equal rights at all levels, setting her free from patriarchy based marginalised condition and unequal gender power relations.

Setting her free from patriarchal notion of confining them from home and health. In all, providing her safe mobility, women's empowerment and gender equality is both an essential element of any development process and result of sustainable development process and results further to promote sustainable development at all levels.

SDGs and Women Empowerment : An Analysis

SDGs in some way or the other emphasise on women empowerment and are benefitted by women empowerment and have a cross cutting approach to women's empowerment and gender equality through inclusive and gender sensitive approach.

SDG-1 : End Poverty in All Forms Everywhere

End of poverty can be achieved by end of gender based discrimination. Enabling women with right to equal access to all avenues to end poverty, by inheriting equal share in property, access to good quality seeds, credits and technologies. Women will fully realise key to the first SDG.

SDG-2 : End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition

Providing food security to women leads to food security in family. Poor quality of food are taken by women. Gender inequality intersects with inadequate health. Ending hunger means enough food with good nutrition to women which will contribute to greater global food security. Empowering

women can lead to sharing practical knowledge of food protection and technology. Help women achieve high agriculture productivity resulting in zero hunger.

SDG-3 : Ensure Healthy Life and Promote Well Being

Highest attainable standard of health in fundamental right of every person, without any discrimination. Healthy women promotes healthy family and society. Health system should be fully responsive to women and girls offering high quality, comprehensive and readily accessible service including survivor of violence, maternal and child health services etc.

SDG-4 : Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education

Education is a right. It empowers individuals to increase their well being and contributes to broader social and economic gains. For all genders quality education should be available accross life time. Women act to promote education in family. It is core pre requisite to gender equality and educated society.

SDG-5 : Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

Women have a critical role to play in all SDGs with many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and objective as part of solution. Goal-5 is known an stand alone gender goal because it is dedicated to achieving this end. Empowered women who have right to equality and right to live with dignity for peaceful and healthy society.

SDG-6 : Clean Water and Sanitation

Easy availability of safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation helps women and girls to get free of burden of bringing water. Ensuring water and sanitation helps in more time for paid work, schooling and good health for women and girls hence a better contribution to family and society from them.

SDG-7 : Affordable and Clean Energy

In house holds women are primary energy managers. Availability of affordable clean energy saves them hours and toils of collecting fuel to cook and heat homes. Electricity and clean energy leads to safe mobility, saving time and clean cooking resulting in better healthy, economy and education in family.

SDG-8 : Decent Work and Economic Growth

An inclusive sustainable economy fosters growth benefit for all without harming environment using resources judiciously. Economy geared towards women's rights and gender equality give greater economic dynamism. Women must have equal access to decent work, productive resources and financial services and equal voice in economic decision, equal pay for equal work, better access to employment opportunity, safety at work place. To enable women tap their capacity to optimum.

SDG-9 : Industry Innovation and Infrastructures

Economy builds on infrastructure which needs to be sustainable. All elements of planning, building and financing must take gender dimensions into account so that women have facilities and services essential to their needs and rights.

SDG-10 : Reduced Inequalities

Many inequalities have widened across societies. Gender discrimination makes women prove to deeper disparities. Gender discrimination can intersect with other types eg. age, ethnicity, disability, economic status etc. multiplying the burden of equality many times. Therefore advocacy

for decent work, social protection, gender sensitive economic policies around the world. It is mandatory to focus on empowering women and reduce gender inequality in all sphere.

SDG-11 : Sustainable Cities and Communities

Cities and human settlement should be inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. By making cities and human settlement inclusive we can make it prosperous, safe, equitable and pleasant. Women should be given equal roles in making decision in the urban world.

SDG-12 : Responsible Consumption and Production

World of waste co-exist with world of want. Women in consumption and production must have equal access to means that boost their standard of living and allow them leadership to strike better balance in parliament, board room, communities and families.

SDG-13 : Climate Action

Climate change poses growing risk. Women can offer valuable insight into better managing the effect of climate change and its risks. they should be given right to all capacities needed to protect themselves and to participate in decisions with profound implications for people and planet.

SDG-14 : Life Below Water

Women are largely concentrated in low skilled, low paid jobs with irregular seasonal employment in processing, packaging and marketing. Work without contracts or health safety and labour rights protection. They face risk of ocean degradation, Women's limited representation in marine science must be corrected towards tapping all perspective for fair and durable solutions.

SDG-15 : Women and indigenous women in particular, need to be included in decision making on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.

SDG-16 : Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institution at all levels. Protection of women's right without exception peaceful, all inclusive society. Engaging women in all aspects of peace negotiation, peace building and reconstruction of all inclusive society.

SDG-17 : Partnership for the Goals

SDGs will mean little without means to implement them. Gender equality is central to all SDGs. Women should have right to equal access and benefit from each of means of implementation. They need to lead decision making in all fields. They should have access to technologies, gender responsive budgeting, and provision of women's right.

Links of SDG-5 with other SDGs

The 17 SDGs or global goals are interlinked and addressed multidimensionally. SDG-5 although is a stand alone goal, other SDGs and targets can not be achieved without progress of SDG-5. The link between SDG-5 and other SDGs are extensive.

Decent work and regular income for women directly contribute to poverty reduction (SDG-1) and also support better education (SDG-4) that is equality and quality education educated family and better socio-economic status. Zero hunger, food security and nutrition and women's contribution in this field (SDG-2) are closely linked with SDG-5. Eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (Target 5.2) is critical to healthy lives and well being for people of all ages SDG-3 and

SDG-6. Therefore we can say that gender equality and women empowerment is cross cutting theme for achievement of all SDGs.

SDGs and Environment : Analysis of the Role of Women Empowerment

The SDGs are closely interlinked goals that also focus on sustainable protection of environment at all levels. They are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate changes. SDGs with environment theme are SDGs 8.4, SDG-11, SDG-12, SDG-13, SDG-14, SDG-15.

SDG-15 : Protect restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem, sustainable manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss is directly related to environmental safeguard.

SDG-5 : Which focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment is a significant contributor in all the SDGs related to environment.

The nature and women both have been subjected to subjugation and oppression by the hands of patriarchal society. Over exploitation rather than sustained utilization of resources like land, water and fuel have resulted in degradation of resources. Women have direct contact with natural resources eg. fodder, fuel, forest, water and land specially in developing countries. Specially in rural areas. being the supplier of water, fuel supplies, medicinal plants at home, women are more sensitive to rampant deforestation, land degradation and soil depletion, difficult access to land and forest. It makes their access difficult further, resulting in their deprivation. They are also very close to nature and therefore major contributors in environmental rehabilitation and conservation with high ecological consciousness (Movements eg. Chipko 1973, Appiko (1983) Silent-Valley 1976, Narmada Bachao Andolan (1989), Navdanya Movement (1984), Amrita Devi, Gaura Dev, Sunita Narayan, Medha Patkar, Vandana Shiva, Green Belt Movement, Rachel Carson, Wangari Maathai, May Boeve, Marina Silva).

Empowered women are essential for any measure aimed at environmental protection and sustainable development. Gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG-5) contributes towards sustainable and balanced environment. SDG-15 is key to food and water security (SDG 2 and 6), health and well being (SDG-3) and provision of affordable energy (SDG-7). Empowerment women can be agent of change, leading biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable farming efforts.

Economic and Social Development and Women's Empowerment

Women who make up half of world's population their empowerment benefits the society enormously in its social and economic development. Nevertheless they continue to be overrepresented among world's most vulnerable group. Women's empowerment in access to resources and power is a must. Gender equality is a goal in its own right but also a key factor for sustainable economic growth and social development. By providing same opportunities to women and men, including full participation (SDG 5.5) in decision making in all kinds of activities, increasing visibility of women. value unpaid care and promoting domestic responsibilities, (SDG 5.4) , equal right to economic resources, property ownership and financial services (SDG 5.7) promotion of women empowerment through technology (SDG-5.8) we touch all the SDGs related to sustained economic and social development goals. A sustainable path of development can be achieved. Not only economic and social growth but it's benefits should also distributed equitably for sustainable development. Economic empowerment and education depends on digital literacy and access to

smart phones. Which will give them safety and save time and resources fulfilling SDG-8, SDG-9 and SDG-1.

Suggestions :

In order make women empowered to increase her participation in SDGs.

- We have to be more gender responsive.
- Increase visibility of women.
- Incorporate here in paid work.
- Make her digitally educated.
- Law of property inheritance should be improved and better implemented.
- Increase her participation in leadership and decision making.
- Engage women in trade investment.
- Easy financing to women led projects.
- Identify her climate vulnerability and ensure climate adaptation plans. Empower them to join work force.

Conclusion :

Having expertise, knowledge and perspective of women been overlooked for years, women are now demanding their voices to be heard. Women are integral to all 17 SDGs, they are also effected by each of the 17 SDGs. The result is still far from full achievement. A gender perspective of (SDG-5) women who are marginalised, though they are front line workers women can be agent of change, biodiversity protection and sustainably developed society.

The positive effects can be magnified by empowering women, making her aware about her rights so that she takes it on her own rather than having given it to her from outside, giving her equality in all aspects. It can be rightly said that women are not passive victims of all crisis. Our very existence depends on sustainable developments in all facts which may depend on empowerment of women.

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