

IN THE MAKING OF A BETTER WORLD: UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, 2030

Rupali Daimari	<i>Associate Professor, Department of History, Tezpur College, Tezpur, Assam, India</i>
Dr. Basanta Kalita	<i>Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Tezpur College, Tezpur, Assam, India</i>

ABSTRACT

DOI URL: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra3089>

Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Brundtland Commission Report 1987 defines Sustainable Development thus “Sustainable Development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

From the very beginning the United Nations have taken the initiative to make Sustainable Development a reality to protect our planet from degradation and depletion in various forms. The Declaration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment or Stockholm Declaration was adopted on June, 1972 by the UN Conference on the Human Environment at the 21st plenary meeting as the first document in International Environmental law to recognize the right to a healthy environment. In the declaration, the nations agreed to accept responsibility for any environmental effects caused by their actions.

Keeping this in view the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted 27 principles intended to guide future sustainable development around the world in tune with the Stockholm Declaration 1972 on Human Environment.

In this paper an attempt would be made to study the various aspects of sustainable development especially reducing inequalities in all forms, including the empowerment of women and girls’ and the most marginalized. To focus on balanced and sustainable economic growth with employment creation which is fundamental for addressing the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and which must be decoupled from environmental degradation.

KEYWORDS: *Degradation, Depletion, Empowerment, Poverty, Global Challenge.*

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The notion of Sustainable Development emerged in the wake of general rise in the awareness of environmental issues in the late 1960’s in the Western world. It reflected the concern of people about undesirable effects of Industrial Development on Environment.

Concerned with the growing opinion of world community on the environmental issues, the United Nations established a World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) headed by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland. The Commission gave its report (also known as Brundtland Report) entitled ‘Our Common Future’ in 1987. The report defines Sustainable Development as a ‘development that meets the needs of the present without

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

From the very beginning the United nations have taken the initiatives to make Sustainable Development a reality to protect our planet from degradation and depletion in various forms. The Declaration of the UN Conference on the Human Environment or Stockholm Declaration was adopted on June, 1972 by the UN Conference on the Human Environment at the 21st plenary meeting as the first document in International Environmental law to recognize the right to a healthy environment. In the declaration the nations agreed to accept responsibility for any environmental effects caused by their actions.

Keeping this in view the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted 27 principles intended to guide future Sustainable Development around the World in tune with the Stockholm Declaration 1972 on Human Environment.

At the special UN Summit in New York held from 25th to 27th September, 2015, the UN adopted the goal, 'Transforming our World: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.' It is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It recognizes Poverty as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for Sustainable Development and seeks co-operation of all stakeholders in eradicating the greatest global challenge. In the Summit 17 goals were set by the UN General Assembly to help create a better world and thereby transform the world.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective is to study the various aspects of Sustainable Development Goals regarding population control and policy.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in nature. Secondary data were collected from the published records like brochures, official statements etc.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Rachel Carson (1962): In her book 'Silent Spring' published on September 27, 1962, Rachel Carson documents the adverse environmental effects caused by indiscriminate use of pesticides, eloquently questioning humanity's faith in technological progress and helped set the stage for the environmental movement.

Ehrlich (1968): The publication of 'the Population Bomb' by Ehrlich predicted World Wide famine in the 1970's and 1980's due to overpopulation, as well as other major societal upheavals, and advocated immediate action to limit population growth.

Meadourz (1972): 'The Limits to Growth' by Meadourz and others further raised the level of fear among environmentalists in particular and people in general.

POVERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Poverty is the greatest challenge for any Society, State, Country. It is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Poverty means that the income level from employment is so low that basic human needs can't be met.

The sustainable Development Goals are a set of seventeen goals and 169 targets, with accompanying indicators which were agreed by UN member states to frame their policy from 2015 to 2030. They balance the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development, and place the fight against poverty and sustainable development on the same agenda for the first time. The SDGs are to be achieved around the world, and by all UN member states, by 2030. This means that all states are called upon equally to play their part in finding shared solutions to the world's urgent challenges.

As Sustainable Development Goals are inclusive, commitment to ensure that everyone benefits is a must. The commitment to reach the furthest behind first. Women the most vulnerable, needs assurance that their lives have been transformed by access to the sustainable energy. To reach women who live without access to electricity or clean cooking. To ensure that women will get priority.

POPULATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Keeping in tune with the UN Programme of Action on Population and Development which stresses that the empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is an important end in itself and necessary for the achievement of sustainable human development, policy makers in India have from time to time framed policies recognising the centrality of women's empowerment to the success of Development programmes.

India launched a family planning programme in 1952. Since then successive governments have announced iterations of such policies. However India still has to go a long way in achieving the desired objectives with respect to its population. As per the latest World Population Prospects released by United Nations (revision 2015), the estimated population of India will be 1419 million (approximately) by 2022, outpacing China as the World's most populous nation.

Policy Objectives

The National Population Policy (NPP) 2020 took up some immediate and short term objectives to address the unmet needs of contraception, health care infrastructure, health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

The medium term objective was to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement levels by 2020, through vigorous implementation of inter-sectoral operational strategies.

The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of Sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

National population policy of 2000, a commitment on the part of the government towards stabilizing the population by providing for the citizens to make voluntary and informed decisions about their family size. The policy wants to build up capacities and to achieve certain population goals by 2020 so that by 2045 a stable population is reached.

The level of population should be consistent with sustainable growth and social development. The policy achieves to accomplish net replacement level of fertility. Total fertility Rate or TFR shows the average number of children a woman will have in her child bearing period.

The women will have to have same fertility pattern as observed by age specific fertility rate currently the magic figure of TFR for India is 2.1. (TFR = 2.1) by 2010.

Objectives of National Population Policy (NPP) 2000:

There are three types of objectives of National Population Policy (NPP), 2000:

1. The Immediate Objective

The immediate objective is to address the unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.

2. The Medium Term Objective

The medium term objective is to bring the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to replacement level by 2010 through vigorous implementation in inter-sectoral operational strategies.

3. The Long Term Objective

The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045 at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development, and environment protection.

Targets of National Population Policy

The following are the targets of National Population Policy:

1. Achieve zero growth rate of population by 2045.
2. Reduce infant mortality rate of below 30 per thousand live births.
3. Reduce maternal mortality ratio of below 100 per 1,00,000 live births.
4. Reduce birth rate to 21 per 1000 by 2010.
5. Reduce total fertility rate (TFR) to 2.1 by 2010.

National Socio-Demographic Goals for 2010

To fulfil these objectives and targets, National Socio-Demographic goals have been formulated which in each case are to be achieved by the year 2010.

They are as follows

1. Make school education free and compulsory up to the age of 14 and reduce dropouts at primary and secondary school levels to below 20 per cent for both boys and girls.
2. Address the unmet needs for basic reproductive and child health services, supplies and infrastructure.
3. Achieve universal immunization of children against all vaccine preventable diseases.
4. Promote delayed marriage for girls, not before 18 and preferably after the age of 20 years.
5. Prevent and control communicable diseases.
6. Achieve universal access to information/counselling and services for fertility regulation and contraception with a wide basket of choices.
7. Achieve 80 per cent institutional deliveries and 100 per cent deliveries by trained persons.
8. Achieve 100 per cent registration of births, marriage and pregnancy.
9. Integrate Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services and in reaching out to households.
10. Contain the spread of Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and promote greater integration between the management of reproductive tract infections (RTI) and sexually transmitted infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.
11. Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programmes so that family welfare becomes a people centred programme.
12. Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels of TFR.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT POLICY OF GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Countries around the world including India are emphasizing on women empowerment. With initiatives like #metoo and #time'sup, violence and discrimination against women gained attention and helped raise the voice of vulnerable and silent victims around the world. The Indian government has also recognized women issues and their contribution to the country's economy.

Assam along with the rest of India also adopted a policy to empower the women of the state along with the rest of the country. So, in tune with the government of India's Population and Empowerment Policy, the government of Assam is

committed to the objectives and goals set out in the National Policy on Population and National Policy for women's Empowerment and is resolute in fulfilling the commitments it has made to help make empowerment a reality in the lives of its citizens, especially women and children, the elderly and differently-abled.

Objectives of the Population & Women's Empowerment Policy of Government of Assam:

The Government also recognises that rapid population growth could severely derail progress in reaching our primary goal to achieve a high quality of life for all our population in Assam that is sustainable with available resources. The Government of Assam perceives the next decade as a defining one with respect to the transition of Assam as a progressive and emerging state of the Indian Union. **Government of Assam Population & Women Empowerment Policy of Assam:** However, the continuous growth of the state's population does not only pose a severe strain on the natural resources and environment of the state but also in constraining the efforts of the government to improve the quality of life of the people. The Government therefore proposes a policy that incentivises families to optimise family size and allows them the freedom to aspire for higher standard of living. Its goal is that every family in Assam should have access to quality education, healthcare and employment opportunities. We also need to acknowledge that our state's envelope of resources is limited and finite and therefore our objective of a better future for us and our future generations can only be achieved if we achieve a stable population. The Government of Assam further believes that to further the cause of women empowerment and to ensure a sense of self-worth coupled with women's right to have and to determine their life choices, including reproductive choices, requires intentional actions and deliberate policies. Such policies should attempt to ensure women's right to have access to equal opportunities and all kinds of resources so that they get the requisite power to regulate and control their own lives, within and outside the home.

Women's empowerment therefore has five aspects: improving women's sense of selfworth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence their environment to create a more just social and economic order. Studies have also shown that women who are empowered to make choices about childbearing are more likely to seize economic opportunity and invest in their children's education; they and their children are less likely to be poor.

Roadmap of the proposed Population & Women's Empowerment

- Shift from a primarily medical led policy to holistic social reform
- Encouraging behavioural change;
- Promoting Informed Choice and Participation;
- Long term Sustainability and acceptance

Government of Assam Population & Women Empowerment Policy of Assam 8 Targets of the Policy (by 2030)

- Free and compulsory education for children under-fourteen;
- Reducing the school dropout between boys and girls to less than 25 percent;
- Bringing IMR < 30

- Bringing MMR
- Increasing Immunization to 100 percent.
- Encouraging the increase in average age at marriage of girls; strict enforcement of the legal age at marriage for boys and girls
- Increasing Institutional Deliveries to 95 percent
- Delivery by trained hands to 100 percent
- Making contraceptive of choice available to 100 percent population
- Enhancing the IEC coverage for RTI/STI/AIDS to 100 percent population
- Integrating Allopathic system with Indigenous System of Medicine for betterment of RCH services; All PHC's to provide comprehensive family planning services
- Encouraging the two family norm to substantially reduce TFR
- 100% coverage of education for all girl children
- Introduction of appropriate educational methods in all schools to ensure children have exposure to gender equality and sensitisation
- Strict and complete enforcement of laws that prohibit child marriage

CONCLUSION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

REFERENCES

1. Awad.A, & Al.Shaye.D ,Public awareness, patterns of use and attitudes toward natural health products in Kuwait: A cross-sectional survey. *BMC Complementary and alternative Medicine*, 2014,p.105.
2. Arya.V, Kumar.S & Kumar.S Consumer Buying Behaviour Towards Ayurvedic Medicines/Products in Joginder Nagar (Himachal Pradesh)-A Survey. *Ayurpharm Int J Ayur Alli Sci.*, 1(3), 2012,60-64.
3. Hawkins, D. I, Best, J. R, Coney, A. K, & Mookerjee. *A Consumer Behaviour-Building Marketing Strategy* (9th ed.). 2007,New Delhi: Tata McGraw- Hill.
4. *International Journal Of Commerce, Business And Management (Ijcbm)*, Issn: 2319–2828, Vol. 5, No.6, Nov-Dec 2016
5. Rajani. P. Consumer Perception Towards Ayurvedic Products With Special Reference To Megha's Herbo Care Ayurvedic Pharmacy, Varode, Palakkad.
6. <https://www.eda.admin.ch/agenda2030/en/home/agenda-2030/die-17-ziele-fuer-eine-nachhaltige-entwicklung.html>
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jan/19/sustainable-development-goals-united-nations>
8. <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/2017EF000632>
9. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>
10. http://www.academia.edu/Documents/in/Sustainable_Development_Goals_SDGs_
11. <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/national-population-policy-of-india/41254>
12. <http://www.sociologydiscussion.com/population/national-population-policy-npp India/3192>
13. <http://www.shareyouressays.com/knowledge/10-major-goals-of-national-population-policy-of-india/112100>
14. https://hfw.assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/swf_utility_folder/departments/hfw_lip_in_oid_3/menu/document/Population%20and%20Women%20Empowerment%20Policy%20of%20Assam.pdf