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## **Quality Education - SDG An Insight into the Soul of Countries Development and Progress.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Sustainable development goals are the soul of a country's development, which aims to transform our global village into a newly enhanced one. The main aspect of this development is that it spreads its light to all domains of the society and economy, thereby maintaining an equitability. The SDGs are mainly equipped with promoting sustainable improvement without hampering future generation needs and aspirations. The quintessential purpose of this paper is to focus its vision on "Quality Education " The inspiration of a country's development. In this paper we'll also analyse the various kinds of initiatives envisaged by the Government (Central and State) in ensuring Quality education is being made accessible to all. A case study is being deployed, based on the field visit in a Gram Panchayat [ Local Self Government Body] in India in the state of Kerala. The Data gathered for this paper is basically through the Field visit, interview and secondary data collection. The main outcome of the paper is to showcase, what makes quality education vary from other goals of SDG and how things stand. As CHARLES. B. RANGEL points out "A quality education grants us the ability to fight the war on ignorance and poverty" The study will definitely be an eye opener to the institutions to have a different perspective to enhance the existing policies and to kick start new ones

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development, Quality Education, Global Village, Equitability, Local Self Governance Department [LSGD],

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Education being one of the predominant indicators of self-reliance and development is a crucial aspect for an individual's development. Why I'm bringing the term individual rather than country here is because without individual development a country can't flourish. The point is to what extent this education is available to students, is there any particular section which reap all benefits of education and led the others to shackles of exclusion, and whether the education given or practiced now is really maintaining a standard as proposed under the SDG principles.

The paper is organized into different sections based on the general introduction, Aims and objectives, what makes Quality Education vary from other principles, current initiatives in place, case study, interview, findings of paper and conclusion and recommendation and references. The main Aims and objectives of the paper is to find out what actually is the essence of Sustainable Development of Quality Education in India, meanwhile we'll also focus on some other aspects like

Current initiative taken by central and state gov to ensure quality education and how efficient they are? Special attention to Kerala as a state of giving Quality Education (high literate state) Special focus to a Gram Panchayat in Kerala for their efficient contribution for Sustained Quality Education (Field work) How can Quality Education be an active player in the development of a nation? Conclusion/Way Forward References In the beginning of the paper, we came across what is sustainable development and its objectives. The United Nations created SDGs also known as Universal Goals which is a global call which tends to eradicate poverty, safe environment and guarantee every one's freedom and harmony. Focusing on this statement, Quality Education as one of the goals given under SDG is having some prominence.

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### **QUALITY EDUCATION PROPOSED BY SDG**

The main objective of this goal is to ensure that all boys and girls should receive free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to effective learning outcomes. One of the most striking features of this goal is that, achieving one leads to another. For example, achieving quality education will eliminate the risk of poverty and unemployment, thereby bringing stability in a major domain. Educational ambitions are fundamentally reflected in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 4 The time period for achieving these goals is to be done by 2030, which includes around ten areas of attention. The first one is ensuring free education of primary and secondary, secondly, equal access to pre-primary education, equal access to affordable technical and vocational education, increase the number of people with relevant skills for Financial success, eradicating all inequalities in education, universal literacy and numeracy, education for sustainable development and global citizenship, build and upgrade inclusive and safe school, expand higher education scholarship for developing countries and ensuring the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries.

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## HOW ACHIEVING QUALITY EDUCATION AS A GOAL HELPS IN ACHIEVING OTHER GOALS OF SDG?

Education as discussed earlier is always at the heart of every individual, it is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. Let's spread the light to the positive side, there we can see improvements in the field of education like enrollment rate, increase in literacy rate, and increase in women education etc. can be mentioned as improvements in the field. But still, there's a lot more to develop, the quality of education that children receive is questionable at times and professional qualifications of teachers are also not updated. This is evident from lower participation of girl children in education especially from Sub Saharan Africa. In developing countries one in four girls are not going to school. This proves the fact that no country can ever truly flourish, if it stifles the growth of women and their education.

There comes the first target, by 2030 ensure that all girls and boys should get free and quality primary and secondary education. The older notion of investing in the education of girl children is not beneficial and has no point in this 21st century, for better family planning and better livelihood both male and female should participate in the workforce. Thereby highlighting the pivotal importance of education. Eliminating Gender disparities in education is a positive approach towards future. The World Bank Data on Girl child education highlight the fact that eliminating gender disparity is the one-way solution to end poverty and boosting shared prosperity, as a key player in maintain balance and helping world nations in developing, World Bank ensure all of its initiatives as Gender sensitive and constantly works to tackle the barriers that are counteracting girls and boys from equally benefiting from countries investment in education.

The rationale which prevents achieving this goal can be due to multiplicity of factors like high levels of poverty in developing countries, conflict between nation States. The latest data by UNDP states that in Western Asia and North Africa armed conflict has been a reason for children's out of school. Lack of funding and poor planning system is also responsible for the lack of educational accessibility to all children's irrespective of any disparities. Meanwhile upgrading the educational facilities for child, disability and gender sensitive and nonviolent are also in concern. In the next session of the paper, we'll discuss the current initiatives in place both globally and in terms of India and will examine how effective it is!

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## CURRENT INITIATIVE TAKEN BY CENTRAL AND STATE GOV TO ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION AND HOW EFFICIENT THEY ARE?

In this session I will try to bring some insights on the initiatives by the Central and State government of India to ensure quality education for all which comes under SDG goal. India, one of the fastest growing economies in the global world is also showing a positive descending growth rate in literacy.

❖ Ensuring quality education to primary and secondary level is one highlight of SDGs goal, keeping this in mind the Indian Government has launched New Educational Policy 2020: The main objective of this initiative is to make sure that early childhood education is being ensured in government schools. The new educational policy helped in decreasing school dropouts, holistic and enjoyable training and improving the skills of teachers.

❖ The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan: This was the very first initiative of the GOI in improving the quality of education in India. The main objective of the program is to provide free quality elementary education to all the children in India in a time bound manner.

❖ National Achievement Survey: The GOI conducts this survey in collaboration with NCERT, the outcome is to know the quality of education given to children, this data is useful for the government to plan new initiatives as well as to improve the existing one in place.

❖ Right to Education [RTE]: The GOI came up with the right to education act in 2009 which makes it clear that the government is responsible to provide free and efficient elementary education to children in the school within one km of their locality. This act also guarantees that the government doesn't have the right to charge any student extra. Under this act it is necessary for the government to meet the quality and efficiency of education and teachers.

Despite all these initiatives India as a whole is still lacking in providing quality education {as proposed by SDG} except a few states. The challenges which this developing nation confront is ranging from poor infrastructure to inaccessibility of education to remote rural areas. Gender disparity and digital divide is also playing a crucial role in creating barriers for India to achieve its SDG quality education goal. In order to achieve the SDG goal in India, it is essential to gain awareness about these areas and do the necessary.

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## KERALA AS A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHER STATES IN QUALITY EDUCATION, SPECIAL FOCUS TO MATTATHUR GRAMA PANCHAYAT [LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT BODY]

According to statistics, Kerala is the only state in India to achieve 100% primary literacy through its Athulyam Literacy Program. Highlighting the Niti Aayog SDG India Index, Kerala is the best state in India for providing Quality education. According to the latest census, Kerala's literacy rate is 94%. We have seen some great achievements of Kerala in ensuring quality education. Now let's see the parameters which helps Kerala in maintaining its record and what other states can adopt from Kerala's development plan.

- The Kerala Government Plays a crucial role in upbringing Kerala's literacy rate. The various schemes and policies implemented by the government in the educational field is remarkable.

1. Online Specific ITC Training: The training is basically given to primary school teachers, by effectively using Hi-Tech facilities in school. Kerala Conduct's training on all summer vacation for teachers to enhance their knowledge and skills. Online state level training was given during lockdown time through VICTERS Channel.

2. AKSHARA VRIKSHAM: To enhance the skills of students, creative content such as articles, short stories, poems etc., were collected and published. The best contents were published in the website.

- As a part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the government of Kerala took initiatives to launch various schemes to safeguard quality education.

1. Comprehensive Quality School Planning: This scheme ensures that 1000 schools in the state will be transformed into “Centre for Excellence”. The infrastructure, quality of training etc. will be enhanced through this scheme

2. Sasthrotsavam & Ganitotsavam: This initiative was started by SSA to uplift the children’s knowledge in Science and Mathematics.

- Special Training for Mainstreaming Out of School Children: There are various initiatives introduced in this scheme, Addressing the community most in need of educational assistance like Adivasi Ooru for SC & ST and Introducing a Special Training Module for OOSC and providing training for teachers.
- To ensure that no student is having any financial issues that creates a hurdle for education, the government has introduced various Scholarship Programs.

1. Various scholarships like Post Matric, Central Sector and State Merit Scholarship are introduced, this financial assistance is to ensure that students are getting a bright future and are getting enough opportunities. Kerala as a state in India is a role model for other states to see and learn the progress in Education and also in some other areas like Health etc. But still, it is not a completely literate state. There are certain areas where the state lacks and the government are constantly trying to sort out these drawbacks.

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## CASE STUDY ON MATTATHUR GRAMA PANCHAYAT

The sole reason to bring this topic is to let you know the role of Panchayat in upbringing various development schemes. Here we’ll be focusing on the aspect of Education and various developmental plans that help the students to receive Quality Education, a prime goal of SDG. Mattathur Grama Panchayat, taken as an example, is a part of Thrissur District and is one of the best in ensuring development in all the aspects. Here we’ll be focusing on our prime goal that is Quality Education for all. As we discussed before, quality education is one of the best means to get rid of the economic disparity and underdevelopment. Achieving this one goal can surely assist in achieving other goals as well as a complementary means, making the process easy.

Highlighting the activities going on in this Panchayat, there are many initiatives taken by the LSGD to make quality education accessible to all children in school. Educational assistance for poor children and ensuring economic stability and social development is being ensured through a special program called special component plan. Ensuring that proper education is given to backward communities like SC and ST, they have added this goal in this program. In order to promote the socio-cultural, extracurricular activities and mental health of the children, the authority has taken initiatives in setting up Bala Panchayat and Bala Sabha. This will help the children to socialize in a better way and all also a platform to express their creativity

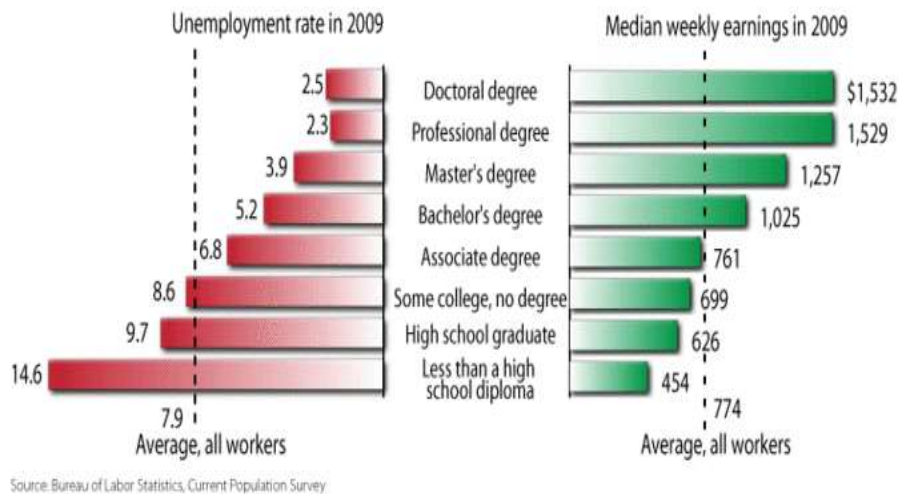
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## HOW CAN QUALITY EDUCATION BE AN ACTIVE PLAYER IN DEVELOPING A NATION

In these rapidly emerging economies, the chance to prove our skills and caliber is decreasing day by day due to the intensifying competition for placements. Quality education as a vital tool can act as a solution or as a relief from this scenario. The highly developed countries standing at the top maintaining their hierarchy are having high literacy rates and they are utilizing these developed, energetic and passionate minds to transform their nations. The percentage of students attending primary and secondary schooling is fairly high in these countries. Still there are certain areas where we can bring some effective interventions in the accessibility of quality education.

- Enrollment number in schools is an Important factor which is to be given attention. Majority of the students attend school but, still there is a good number of children who are not attending school. Quality education is not possible without solid participation in schools.
- Providing adequate training for teachers in a systematic and timely manner can help them to learn new skills and improve their knowledge level, this will thereby help in passing Quality education to children especially to those from primary and secondary level in schools.
- Making students acquainted with modern learning methods such as smart classrooms and adequate computer knowledge will definitely be an asset for them.
- The number of students in a single class is too high for a teacher to control solely. Thus, individual attention is not given to every child. So, reducing the number of students in a single class and splitting it into different sections will be helpful.
- Inventing some new extracurricular activities for students in school like environmental society, sports division can surely create an interest in children's minds and meanwhile will also help them in enhancing their skills.

## Education pays



Source: Bureau of Labor Studies.

Ensuring quality education to the vibrant spirits can definitely help in achieving other prime goals of SDG as well. Taking Decent work and economic growth as a goal of SDG, we can see that Quality education is the base for getting into the working environment. In this rapidly growing economy, to get a decent job and to be economically stable a good education is needed as a base, lacking this essential tool can be a hindrance to this goal. Similarly, no poverty as a goal can be achieved through Quality education. Entry into the workforce can definitely help an individual to be self-reliant and to lead a decent life. Going through the statistics released by FAO we can see that around 435 million people are undernourished in this world.

## CONCLUSION

Arriving at the conclusion we can see that the importance of education is increasing day by day. Sustainable development as a watchdog is promoting quality education in all the aspects possible to make its youth enlighten and thereby leading to a country's development. We have seen the various initiatives and developments that India, a developing economy undertaken to ensure its countries literacy rate and development. Each and every field from the top to bottom administrative bodies are doing something or other to promote their quality education goal and keep it sustained for a longer time. The case study of Mattathur gram Panchayat is something which proves the above statements. We have also seen the possible interventions that can be adopted to ensure quality education. Adopting these guidelines can assuredly help every country in improving its literacy rate and ensure that its country is blessed with energetic and potential youth, thereby building a strong and developed nation.

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