



The Role of Good Governance & Accountability in achieving Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is now essential around the world. On the Basis of three aspect of sustainable development, that is economic, Environmental and social, United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Development Agenda “Transforming our World”, which contained 17 Numbers of goals. The goals are properly known as the sustainable Development goals (SDGs). Every nation is ambitious to achieve the SDGs on their part, India is one of them. Indian

Government took some Initiative in achieving such an ambitious target through some

Governance and Accountability. In this paper there are some Information about Governance, Accountability, and Sustainable Development and its goals. Governance and Accountability are the key Factor of development for every Nation. This paper focuses on how to Achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) through Governance and accountability in respect to India. The Indian Constitution has already been written to achieve such goals like SDGs. This requires good governance and accountability. The paper also Focuses on the importance of Governance and Accountability for Achieving sustainable development goals. It was however concluded That Governance and Accountability have a great potential to achieve Sustainable development goals for the development of nation.

Keywords: Governance, Accountability, Sustainable, Development, MDG, SDG

Introduction:

Sustainable Development is being considered as an act of humanity where development should Take place without bargaining the necessities of the upcoming generation. The sphere where Humans live in is generally known as “Environment” and those entire acts humans do in order to Enhance their lives within that habitat is “Development”. These two go hand in hand and are Attached to one another. Sustainable Development is a twofold effort to pour concern on these Two terms i.e. Environment and Development. The ideology depicts that Nature (earth, Biodiversity), Life Support (ecosystem, resources, and environment) and Community should be Sustained and People, Society, and Economy should be developed. If we move our eyes towards The environment and climate changes it shows a clear picture of how frequently things are Degrading. The approach of sustainable development is a masterstroke to overcome these issues Along with encouraging the development. As it can be seen from the past records that every Nation who has gained freedom has attained it by economic development, thus to cope up with The world, economic development becomes the only way to exist. Despite development and growth, peace and integration among various nations are still Missing somewhere. The issues of eradicating wildlife, changes in climate, global warming, and Scarcity of resources are also haunting the earth. All these are interconnected and can be Resolved by a unified approach and practice of Sustainable Development. The concern of Sustainable development is to bring equality and justice, development in all aspects while Protecting the environment. It is where the complexities of sustainable development start, as These concerns usually do not congruence with each other.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS-BACKGROUND:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the outcome of the United Nations“ Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015. There are altogether 17 goals which Focus on eliminating poverty and protect the environment in every possible manner. The work On SDGs is being processed for decades by many countries along with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Earlier in June 2012, UN conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, presented a document “THE FUTURE WE WANT” in which the decisions regarding SDGs were taken.

SDGs are replacement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) or to say, SDGs are Add-ons in MDGs. In 2015, the UN formed 17 SDGs in place of existing eight MDGs to Eliminate extreme poverty.

All members of the UN adopted „2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ in which 17 SDGs were introduced. These 17 SDGs were set with 169 targets to be achieved in the next 15 years. All the environmental issues and the world target to remove poverty are related and hence Interrelated goals will help in improving the situation. This is a huge responsibility as this Agenda is a planet savior; this is why 2015 is said to be a Landmark year.

Formulating the Goals alone will not be helpful until and unless they are followed with full Commitment by all the stakeholders at the global level. To assist SDGs in implementation, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs is established. SDGs integrate all the thematic aspects like energy, oceans, Climate, transport, water, urbanization, science and technology. Specifically, they are named as 17 goals or Global Goals. SDGs are the unified approach and generalized goals which are Applicable to developed as well as developing countries. India has also adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and they are dealt with by NITI Aayog. In this context RIS (Research and Information System), NITI Aayog and State Government integrated into shaping the policy framework for the better implementation of SDGs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) :

For better economic it needed to end poverty from everywhere. End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote Sustainable agriculture. Promote sustained, economic growth, inclusive And sustainable industrialisation, full and productive employment and Decent work for all, build resilient infrastructure, and foster innovation. The United Nations adopted the 2030 Development Agenda in 2015, Entitled “Transforming our world”, which includes 17 goals and 169 Targets, most of which are a continuation and extension of the MDGs That never achieved before. On the basis of three aspect of sustainable Development, that is economic, environmental and social, the following Goals are arise as per United Nations (2014):

Goal 1: End poverty from everywhere.

Goal 2: End hunger and improved nutrition, achieve food security and Promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing.

Goal 4: Ensure quality education and promote inclusive, equitable and Lifelong learning.

Goal 5: Promote gender equality and women empowerment.

Goal 6: Ensure clean water and sanitation.

Goal 7: Access to affordable and modern energy for all.

Goal 8: Promote decent work and economic growth for all.

Goal 9: Promote inclusive and sustainable industry, encourage Innovation and sustainable infrastructure.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality from everywhere.

Goal 11: Make sustainable cities and communities.

Goal 12: Be responsible in consumption and production.

Goal 13: Take appropriate action to combat climate change.

Goal 14: Protect resources and life below the water.

Goal 15: Protect resources and life on and under the land.

Goal 16: Promote peace, provide justice for all and strong institutions At all levels.

Goal 17: Develop global partnerships to achieve the goals.

Fig.1: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



For sustainable environment and achieving SDGs it needs proper Governance and accountability for all aspect.

Review of Literature:

Marcelo de Sousa Monteiro, Fernando Luiz E. Viana, José Milton de Sousa-Filho (2018), the study titled “Corruption and supply chain management toward the sustainable Development goals era. The Purpose of the study to identify academic literature studies on Corruption in the supply chain management (SCM) from 2005 to 2016 to propose a research Agenda. A literature review method was used in academic research to identify which approaches Are used for corruption in SCM. The analysis of the context of SDGs required an integrated Approach once the goals are interconnected despite the increase in research studies in 2015, There is still little research focusing specifically on corruption in SCM. There is a broad Opportunity to connect the research on corruption in SCM with the context of the practice to Achieve the SDGs.

Gayle C. Avery topic of the study is “Blueprint for implementing the UN’s sustainable Development goals” purpose to explain the 17 goals in detail and to provide simple examples of How different goals provide a purpose in the lives of both ordinary and extraordinary Individuals. Mini case studies and examples illustrate, providing an interesting read. Designing

The Purposeful World provides those seeking to put their organizations on the path of doing well By doing well with specific ways of getting involved with the SDGs in a handy guide filled with Exercises, activities and copious suggestions for action.

Karin Buhmann, Jonas Jonsson, Mette Fisker, (2018) titled of the study “Do no Harm and do more good too: connecting the SDGs with business and human rights and political CSR theory”, the objective of paper to explain how companies can benefit from their human Rights due diligence process. It also identifies opportunities for sustainable development goals (SDGs) activities in operationalization of political corporate social responsibility (PCSR). Combining PCSR, SDGs and business and human rights (BHR) literature, the paper develops an Extension of the risk-based due diligence process described by the BHR literature, helping Companies identify societal needs to which they may contribute in accordance with PCSR Through engaging in the SDGs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

In the present study, the researcher will try to find out the following objectives-

1. To assess the present policies and Programmes of Government of India with reference to Selected SDG.
2. To find the gaps between the selected goal and present status.
3. To estimate the requirements of financial resources for achieving selected SDG.
4. To make the strategy for achievement of selected SDG.

Research Methodology:

The research study will be based on secondary data which will be collected from Various sources like NITI AAYOG, UNDP STATS, UNESCO website, RBI reports, Journals, magazines, book, and newspapers.

Primary data will be used to verify and validate the results of secondary data. The Government officials (NITI Aayog, RIS, Concerned Ministries, and Local Bodies), Researchers and academicians will be contacted for the same.

Governance

Sustainable development is depending on people. It is for the people or By the people. If the country man does not actively participate with Government in this development process, it totally breaks down. In Achieving the SDGs, it needed proper governance directly or through Different government or non-government agency. It is very important To link the consideration of good governance with means of Implementing and funding the SDGs (Lucas, et al. 2014).

Governance is the process of making rule, decision, and enforcement Mechanisms to guide the functioning of a body. It is essential to Maintain order, meeting the needs of the community. It is essential to Consider three aspects of governance:

- **Good Governance:** According to the World Bank (1992), good Governance is central to creating an environment that promotes Strong, trustable and sustainable development and it is an essential Complement to sound economic policies. It is the processes of Decision making and their institutional foundations.
- **Effective Governance:** Effective governance is an important Aspect of ensuring the smooth functioning of societies and organizations. It demonstrates the ability of countries to pursue Sustainable development.
- **Equitable governance:** Equitable governance, which focuses on Distributive outcomes and equitable treatment for all, including the Very poor and marginalized.

Though these three aspects are interconnected, they will require Separate political efforts. ‘The quality of governance plays a defining Role in supporting the economic, social, and environmental pillars’ of The SDGs (UNDP, 2014). Moreover, proper governance promotes Transparency, increases trust among stakeholders, and ensuring that the Organization and its related persons remain active and responsive in Achieving any goals. It is very important to fully integrate governance Into the SDGs.

Accountability:

It is obvious that proper governance promotes transparency in an Organization, but it becomes transparent if accountability exists there. Accountability, in terms of ethics and governance, is equated with Answerability, culpability, liability, and the expectation of account-Giving (Dykstra, 1938). National accountability practices have Facilitated regional consensus on SDG implementation in a bottom-up, Rather than top-down, approach in Scandinavian countries (Halonen et Al., 2017). Bowen et al. (2017) identify accountability is the main Governance challenges of SDG implementation. Emphasis has been Placed on the involvement of stakeholders in both the public and Private sectors in enhancing the contribution of accountability Processes to sustainability strategy planning and delivery (Olsen and Zusman, 2014; Buhmann et al., 2019). Together with governance and Accountability, internal resources and capital form the most important Elements that shape a country’s unique, sustainable development needs (Bowen et al., 2017; Busco et

al., 2018; Knoll et al., 2015; Singh et al., 2019). Thus, the formulation and implementation of successful National sustainable development strategies requires taking advantage Of the positive synergy between these factors and, at the same time, Holistic innovation to meet the needs created by their interdependence. (Chen et al., 2018). Now the questions are how accountability Processes and approaches to national governance might work in the Context of the SDGs and how they interact with a nation’s sustainable Development risks and opportunities, decision making processes and Tools such as national policies, missions, projects etc.

Projects undertaken with proper governance and Accountability to achieve SDGs :

Men are social being so it needs to ensure healthy, equitable, safe, Peaceful, and sustainable lives for all. Need to reduce inequality within And among countries. Need to promote inclusive, quality education and Lifelong learning opportunities for all. Need to achieve gender equality, Universal access to justice and empower all women and girls. Need to Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions and revitalise the Global partnership for sustainable development. Some of the above Challenges can be solved through public-private smart partnerships. We Identify that, tracking a nation’s contribution to the SDGs requires National governance, by both state and civil society; and accountability And governance processes influence the design and implementation of National SDG strategies. However, while the prior literature provides Helpful insights into the accountability and governance components of Our conceptual framework, it does not reveal the nature of Accountability and governance processes to the achievement of the SDGs. Indians are aware of the urgency of the Sustainable Development Goals and one of the objectives of the Constitution of India was to achieve the goals. There are many projects that have Increased people’s participation in achieving the SDGs.

Initiatives taken by Government of India for achieving sustainable Development goals:

- **Pradhan Mantri Jandhan Yojana (PMJDY):** PMJDY is National Mission for Financial Inclusion of weaker sections & Low-income groups to ensure access to financial services, namely, A basic savings bank account. Benefits of PMJDY savings bank Account is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance, Accident Insurance Cover of Rs.1 lakh (enhanced to Rs. 2 lakh to New PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018), and an overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs. 10,000 is available. PMJDY accounts are Eligible for all government schemes. It meets goals 1 and 8 of SDG.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):** MGNREGA launched in 2005 by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India to provide rural Households by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in every Financial year to adult members willing to engage in unskilled Manual work related to public projects. It is one of the largest work Guarantee programs globally. It meets goals 1 and 8 of SDG.
 - **Pradhan Mantra Awas Joyana:** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is An initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing Will be provided to the urban poor. It meets goal 11 of SDG.
 - **Public Distribution System (PDS):** PDS was developed in 1960 To manage the food economy in the country. It is a measure to Control scarcity by distributing food grains at affordable prices. PDS is administered jointly by the Central and State Governments/Union Territory. The procurement, storage, Transportation and allocation of food grains in the state are carried Out by the central government through the Food Corporation of India (FCI). It meets goals 1, 2 and 12 of SDG.
 - **National Food Security Mission:** National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in 2007 by the National Development Council (NDC), adopted a resolution to launch a Food Security Mission comprising rice, wheat and pulses to increase the annual Production of rice, wheat and pulses. It meets goals 2 and 12 of SDG.
 - **Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY):** It was introduced in December 2000 for the poorest 10 million poor families among Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, who are provided with food grains At the rate of Rs. 35/- kg per family per month. Government of India Provide food grains at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kg wheat and Rs. 3/-Per kg rice. It meets goals 1 and 2 of SDG.
 - **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao:** Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is a campaign Of the Government of India to prevent gender biased sex selective Elimination, to ensure survival & protection of the girl child and education & participation of the girl child. It meets goals 5 and 8 Of SDG.
 - **Smart Cities Mission:** Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched The Smart City Mission in 2015. The main objective of the mission Is to build cities with great infrastructure such as clean and Sustainable environments and provide their citizens with a decent Quality of life to develop. It meets goals 9 and 11 of SDG.
 - **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY):** Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is a scheme of the Government of India designed to provide uninterrupted electricity Supply in rural India. The government plans to invest Rs 756 billion For rural electrification under the scheme. It meets goal 7 of SDG.
 - **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** The Government of India, With the aim of providing clean cooking fuel like LPG to rural and Deprived households, launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in 2016 so that they cannot use traditional cooking fuel Like firewood, cow dung cakes, coal, etc. The use of traditional Cooking fuels had detrimental effects on the health of rural women As well as the environment. It meets goal 7 of SDG.
 - **Namami Ganga Mission:** The Namami Ganga Mission is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved by the Central Government of India in 2014 as a flagship programme, with a Budget of Rs 22,500 crore to be spent from 2023-26, to achieve the Dual objective of effectively reducing, conserving and rejuvenating Pollution of the National River Ganges. It meets goals 6, 14 and 15 Of SDG.
 - **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):** Government of India Has launched the NCAP in 2019 with an aim to improve air quality In 131 cities and increase the air quality monitoring network across The country by engaging all stakeholders for preservation and Control and decrease the air pollution. It meets goal 13 of SDG.
 - **Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS):** ICDS Scheme Represents one of the World's largest and most unique programmes For early childhood development launched in1975. It aims to Improve the nutrition and health status of children aged 0-6 years By reducing the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition through proper nutrition and health education. It meets goals 2 and 3 of SDG.
 - **National Health Mission:** National Health Mission (NHM) is a Comprehensive health program aims to provide universal access to Equitable, affordable and quality health care services that covers Rural and urban areas in India. It meets goals 2 and 3 of SDG.
 - **Mid-day Meal Scheme:** The Mid Day Meal Scheme launched in 1995 has been renamed as PM-POSHAN Scheme in 2021 is a School meal programme in India designed to better the nutritional Standing of school children nationwide to provide free lunches on

Working days for children in government primary and upper Primary schools, government aided Anganwadis, Madarsa and Maqtab. It meets goals 2 and 3 of SDG.

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):** SSA started in 2002 as an Intervention programme that aims to improve the quality of Education, universal access and retention, and fill gaps in gender And social segmentation in elementary education. It meets goals 4 And 5 of SDG.
- **SWAYAM:** Government of India has launched SWAYAM in 2017 as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to providing Opportunities of lifelong learning and to achieve the three cardinal Principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. It Meets goal 4 of SDG.
- **Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG):** The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for the empowerment of Adolescent girls, also known as the Sabla Scheme, is a centrally Sponsored program of the Government of India started in 2011. It Focuses on the development of girls aged 11 to 18 through Empowerment through nutrition, healthcare, and life skills Education. It meets goals 1, 3, 5 and 8 of SDG.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana launched in 2010 has been Renamed as Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) in 2017 is a scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the First live birth. It meets goals 3 and 5 of SDG.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, or Clean India Mission is a campaign by the Government Of India in 2014 to promote our country as the best and cleanest Country in the world. It meets goals 13 and 15 of SDG.
- **National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP):** NRDWP Is a centrally sponsored scheme that was launched in 2009 aims to Provide safe and adequate water for drinking, cooking, and other Domestic needs in rural areas. It meets goal 6 of SDG.
- **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):** UNIDO is actively engaged in promoting inclusive and Sustainable industrial and economic development worldwide. It is The specialized agency of the United Nations. India is one of UNIDO's Founding Members. It meets goal 9 of SDG.
- **United Nations Peacekeeping Missions:** India has actively Participated in 49 peacekeeping missions under the United Nations, sending more than 200,000 troops and deploying a Significant number of police personnel, the first women Formed Police Unit. It meets goal 16 of SDG.
- **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav:** Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav started on 12 March 2021 and ended on 15 August 2023 which was the Countdown of 75 weeks of our 75th anniversary of independence. This festival was the festival of awakening the nation, fulfilling the Dream of world peace and development and good governance. It Meets goal 16 of SDG.
- **India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations:** 6th India-Germany InterGovernmental Consultations was held on 02 May 2022. It stressed the need to build a more resilient, environmentally Sustainable, climate-friendly and inclusive future for all for Economic recovery in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It meets goal 17 of SDG.

Conclusions and Suggestions:

Success of sustainable development is dependent upon the economic And social development of the developing countries and environmental Management. The main purpose and roles of the governance and Accountability would be to establish better management practices for Both the human and the natural resources through innovations in Education, technology, social policies, and cultural paradigms. In Achieving SDGs governance and accountability has contributed to the Economic, social and environment prosperity of India, still it has yet Not reaped full benefits in all areas. This is a timeconsuming process, The projects discussed above need to be run for some years with proper Governance and accountability. Then the day will not be far, when we Will reach our desired goal. So, it was concluded that governance and Accountability have a great potential to achieve sustainable Development goals for the development of nation and bring the global Energy among the people.

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