



PATHWAY TO PROGRESS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN KARNATAKA - AN ANALYSIS

Dr. Siddaraju V.
G*

Associate Professor, Centre for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy,
University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysore – 570 006, Karnataka.
*Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The term sustainability is broadly used to indicate programs, initiatives and actions aimed at the conservation of a particular resource. India is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on nationally defined indicators that respond to national priorities and needs. The Government of India has introduced and implemented several policies, schemes and programs promoting poverty alleviation, human development, gender and social equality and climate change. The State of Karnataka also has taken the lead in formulating the Action Plan, Vision and Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals and has been proactive in implementing programs to achieve the goals of the SDGs. Karnataka has formed goal-wise committees for each SDG, with nodal officers from departments and experts contributing to the goal as members. As a result, Karnataka ranks third in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index for 2020-21. Karnataka improved its score from 66 in 2019-20 to 72 in 2020-21 and improved its ranking from fourth to third.

KEYWORDS : Vision, Sustainability, Development, Performance

INTRODUCTION

Development is the process of growth, progress, positive change or inclusion of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic factors. The purpose of development is to increase the standard and quality of life of the population and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities without harming environmental resources. The international agenda began to focus on development in the second half of the twentieth century. An understanding developed that economic growth does not lead to a rise in population levels and standards of living around the world; there is a need to emphasize specific policies that channel resources and enable social and economic mobility for different strata of the population.

In this context, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) marked a historic effort to achieve development goals and priorities worldwide by 2015. As the era of the MDGs came to an end, 2016 launched a new bold, broad-based and transformative 2030 Agenda. An approach to sustainable development – integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions across generations, acknowledging that decisions and approaches are related and have synergies and trade-offs. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive evidence-based framework that includes 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators to be achieved by 2030.

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The term sustainability is broadly used to indicate programs, initiatives and actions aimed at the conservation of a particular resource. However, it refers to four distinct areas like human, social, economic and environmental sustainability. These are also known as the four pillars of sustainability. Human sustainability aims to maintain and improve human capital in society. Investments in health and education systems, access to services, nutrition, knowledge and skills are all programs under the umbrella of human sustainability. Social sustainability focuses on maintaining and improving social quality with concepts such as solidarity, reciprocity and honesty and the importance of relationships between people. Economic sustainability aims to maintain capital intact. While social sustainability focuses on improving social equity, economic sustainability aims to improve living standards. Environmental sustainability aims to improve human welfare through the protection of natural capital (eg land, air, water, minerals etc.).

India is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on nationally defined indicators that respond to national priorities and needs. NITI Aayog is responsible for the overall implementation of the SDGs in the country, while the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) has been entrusted with the responsibility for the development of the National Indicator Framework (NIF) on the SDGs, a global indicator framework for monitoring the synchronization of the SDGs in India. The Government of India has introduced and implemented several policies, schemes and

programs promoting poverty alleviation, human development, gender and social equality and climate change. The national agenda should be supported and reinforced by strategies and action plans at the state level.

In this background, the present study is attempted to study the initiatives are taken to achieve Sustainable Development Goals and to analyze the progress of Sustainable Development Goals in Karnataka. The study is based on secondary data. The data were collected from various reports like Karnataka at Glance, Various yearly SDGs reports, Karnataka Economics Survey, etc.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Initiatives are taken to achieve SDGs in Karnataka

Being one of the progressive states of the country, Karnataka is highly sensitive to universal development programs launched by international organizations like United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank, UN and other organizations. In this context, the State of Karnataka has taken the lead in formulating the Action Plan, Vision and Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals and has been proactive in implementing programs to achieve the goals of the SDGs. Karnataka has formed goal-wise committees for each SDG, with nodal officers from departments and experts contributing to the goal as members.

The Government of Karnataka has established the Sustainable Development Goals Coordinating Center (SDGCC) as part of the Department of Planning in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). SDGCC is spearheading SDG initiatives in coordination with Planning Department and running SDG movement in Karnataka. The SDGCC is a catalyst for introducing the following innovative measures to achieve the SDGs in the state.

- **Karnataka Vision 2030:** SDGs Vision 2030 – Strategies and Action Plan for Karnataka with 600+ indicators.
- **Community Broadcast Programs:** The first community radio network has been initiated by SDGCC in Karnataka through community broadcast programs. Through this program's community radios are connecting to various government departments to understand various government schemes and programs for the community. This would help the community radio to communicate the right information to educate people at the grassroots.
- **SDG Centre for Youth Engagement:** The first SDG Centre for Youth Engagement was established at the National Institute of Engineering -Mysore. Many more such initiatives will be continued in the state.
- **SDGs for Youth:** SDG Youth Engagement Campaign partnering with Academia and the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports was initiated to build the capacity of youth to engage in SDGs.
- **NGOs for SDGs:** Initiated programs to engage NGOs in SDGs through NGO networks. The first capacity-building program was

organized for Kalyana Karnataka Districts. Many more rigorous engagement programs would be continued.

- **SDGs for CSR:** The first state to engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for SDGs. A CSR matchmaking platform (Akanksha) to align CSR commitments to SDGs has been created and functioning.
- **Media for SDGs:** Media partnership and communication through TV media events, podcasts and radio events has been initiated.

Performance of SDGs Indicators in Karnataka

In 2018, NITI Aayog developed the SDG India Index Report and developed a dashboard covering 17 SDGs covering all states and Union Territories. The relative position of Karnataka, India and best performing state in 2018, 2019 and 2020 is presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Performance of SDG Indicators in Karnataka and India

SDGs	Karnataka			India			Best performing state#		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Goal 1: No poverty	52	49	68	54	50	60	TN (76)	TN (72)	TN (86)
Goal 2: Zero hunger	54	37	53	48	35	47	KL (72)	KL (74)	KL (80)
Goal 3: Good health & well being	69	72	78	52	61	74	KL (92)	KL (82)	GJ (86)
Goal 4: Quality education	76	67	64	58	58	57	KL (87)	KL (74)	KL (80)
Goal 5: Gender equality	43	42	57	36	42	48	KL (50)	KL (51)	KL (64)
Goal 6: Clean water and Sanitation	62	88	85	63	88	83	GJ (100)	AP (96)	GA (100)
Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy	77	86	100	51	70	92	TN (89)	TL (93)	GA (100)
Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth	72	78	66	65	64	61	AP (81)	TL (82)	HP (78)
Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	57	40	64	44	65	55	KL (68)	KL (88)	GJ (72)
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities	68	70	67	71	64	67	TN (85)	TL (94)	ML (88)
Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities	36	48	78	39	53	79	GJ (52)	GJ (77)	PB (91)
Goal 12: Sustainable consumption and production	NE	72	89	NE	55	74	NE	KA (72)	KA (89)
Goal 13: Climate action	NE	71	62	NE	60	54	NE	KA (71)	OR (70)
Goal 14: Life below water	NE	65	60	NE	NE	-	NE	KA (65)	OR (82)
Goal 15: Life on land	88	89	67	90	66	66	MP (91)	KL (98)	AP (93)
Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	74	75	76	71	72	74	AP (90)	AP (86)	UK (86)
Composite SDG score	64	66	72	57	60	66	KL (69)	KL (70)	KL (75)

Source: NITI Aayog, SDG India Index and dashboard, State-wise performance across SDGs, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21

Note: NE- Not Estimated; # Best performing comparable State has been considered.

The SDGs are broadly clustered and categorized into different groups based on themes (Table 1). SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 relate to human development needs and services; And SDGs 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 specifically target environmental issues. And the common drivers and crosscutting issues necessary to advance sustainable development in all dimensions are addressed in SDGs 8, 9 and 10, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies is reflected in SDGs 16 and 17. Karnataka State ranks 3rd among States and is a 'Front Runner' with a score of 72 in comparison to Kerala (75), Himachal Pradesh (74), Tamil Nadu (74), Andhra Pradesh (72), Goa (72), Uttarakhand (72). Based on the SDG composite Index, States/UTS were categorized as Achievers (100), Front Runner (65-99), Performer (50-64) and Aspirant (0-49). In this connection, the following table depicts the Performance of Karnataka in each SDGs is presented in Table 2.

Table – 2: Performance Of Karnataka's Sustainable Development Goals

Category (Score)	Sustainable Development Goals	Score	Rank among States
Achiever (100)	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	100	1
Front Runner (65-99)	SDG 1: No Poverty	68	10
	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	78	5
	SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	85	11
	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	66	6
	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	67	12
	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	78	7
	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production	89	3
	SDG 15: Life on Land	67	11
Performer (50-64)	SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	76	7
	SDG 2: Zero Hunger	53	10
	SDG 4: Quality Education	64	6
	SDG 5: Gender Equality	57	6
	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	64	6
	SDG 13: Climate action	62	7
	SDG 14: Life below water	60	3
	All Goals- Karnataka	72	3

Source: NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog maintains the Composite SDG India Index, developed in collaboration with the UN, which ranks states across 115 indicators. According to the index for 2020-21, Karnataka is ranked third with 72 points as shown in Table 2. Kerala ranks first with 75 points, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu jointly with 74 points. The state has a top score of 100 in SDG7 on affordable and clean energy. Karnataka claims a frontrunner position in SDGs 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16, with scores between 65-99. These are areas where the state continues to make commendable progress and can reach the achiever position (Score of 100) with focused agendas and investment. In SDGs 2, 4, 5, 9, 13 and 14, Karnataka has a performer position with scores between 50-64, showing the improvement areas for the state.

CONCLUSION

The SDGs index assesses the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters. The data clearly shows that Karnataka ranks third in NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index for 2020-21. Karnataka improved its score from 66 in 2019-20 to 72 in 2020-21 and improved its ranking from fourth to third. The state has shown progress on nine of the 16 targets. Along with Karnataka, three other states namely Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Uttarakhand are also ranked third with 72 points. While Kerala (with a score of 75) is the best performing state in this year's India Index. Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu shared the second position with 74 points. Karnataka has improved its scores on indicators related to poverty reduction; good health and well-being; gender equality; affordable and clean energy; Enterprise, Innovation and Infrastructure; Sustainable Cities and Communication; responsible consumption and production; and peace, justice and strong

institutions. However, depending on people's needs, especially in the areas of education, health, nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, housing and livelihoods, it has a major impact on the living conditions of marginalized people. Therefore, investment should be made in these sectors and ensure that it reaches the people. Then only we can achieve comprehensive sustainable development.

REFERENCES:

1. SDG India Index reports (2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21), NITI Aayog, Govt of India
2. Karnataka Economic Survey – 2021-22