

CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030: CONTRIBUTION OF EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Providing quality education to all plays a central role for socio-economic development of a country. As a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals, India has committed to ensuring inclusive and quality education to all children by 2030. This includes collaborative efforts in sharing the experience and expertise in diversified areas such as universal mass education, higher and professional education, open and distance education with special emphasis on quality and gender equality. India has made substantial progress in implementing Education for All. Several programmes and policies have been initiated to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years with initiatives such as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and Right to Education. To meet the changing dynamics regarding quality education, innovation and research, New Education Policy 2020 aims to make India a knowledge hub by equipping its students with skill development and up gradation including vocational training and focus on technology. Economic survey of India 2019-20 also emphasizes role of education on entrepreneurship, stating that "literacy and education in the district foster local entrepreneurship significantly". The paper discusses various goals for Sustainable Development and in particular related to education including various programmes and initiatives by Govt. to achieve the targets and their status. This paper also discusses various challenges being faced for implementation including the desired learning outcomes and proposes few solutions to overcome the challenges. As compared to the aging population worldwide, India has an added advantage with its young population, with an average age of 29 years, which can be harnessed with an improvement in health, education, and skill development.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED), Central Sector Schemes (CSS), Skill development

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the universal, integrated, and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets on 25 September 2015. These goals are indivisible and encompass economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

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Abstract

Information and Communication Technologies play a critical role in every field such as education, medicine, agriculture, and industries. It is imperative to provide access to digital resources to the larger populations to achieve SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). The Digital divide is the gap which exists between individuals who have access to modern information and communication technologies and those who lack access. Different types of Digital divide such as Gender divide, Social divide, and Universal access divide influence our efforts in accessing the internet. The inability to access internet or digital technology can increase existing social exclusion.

Digital divide can play an important role to bridge the gap. Various implemented projects in different countries like One Laptop per Child (OLPC) program, Wi-Fi Partnerships, and Digital Literacy, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are being implemented to bridge the gap.

The importance of different approaches to handle challenges and benefits from opportunities in different countries is highlighted. The paper emphasizes need for collaborative efforts from Governments, Academia, and NGOs to ensure accessibility of digital education for enabling the realization of SDGs. The Digital divide is the gap which exists between individuals who have access to modern information and communication technologies and those who lack access. Different types of Digital divide or digital inequality such as Gender divide, Social divide, and Universal access divide influence our efforts in accessing the internet. The digital divide can lead to social exclusion and the inability to access internet or digital technology can increase existing social exclusion.

In today's era, Information and Communication Technologies play a critical role in every field such as education, medicine, agriculture, and industries. It is imperative to provide access to digital resources to the larger populations to achieve SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Inequality to access of ICTs, which is digital divide, is a major challenge. For digital transformation, high quality and reliable digital connectivity is important. The Digital divide is the gap which exists between individuals who have access to modern information and communication technologies and those who lack access. Different types of Digital divide or digital inequality such as Gender divide, Social divide, and Universal access divide influence our efforts in accessing the internet. The digital divide can lead to social exclusion and the inability to access internet or digital technology can increase existing social exclusion.

The Digital divide is the gap which exists between individuals who have access to modern information and communication technologies and those who lack access. Different types of Digital divide or digital inequality such as Gender divide, Social divide, and Universal access divide influence our efforts in accessing the internet. The digital divide can lead to social exclusion and the inability to access internet or digital technology can increase existing social exclusion.