
Gender Equality as a Tool for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Gender inequality is prevailing in all the cultures of the world that is a big challenge for sustainable development of any country. Sustainable Development depends on an equal distribution of resources that cannot be attained without gender equality. Gender equality is the process distributing resources, programs and decision making fairly to both males and females without any discrimination on basis of sex. Women empowerment is a key factor for achieving sustainability any as it enables them to fully use their potential, creativity and talent which are instrumental for the economic development for country. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) accepted by world leaders in 2015, symbolize a roadmap for progress that is sustainable and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to each of the 17 goals. The present paper reveals the aspect that sustainable development of any country is impossible without women empowerment. Main objectives of the research paper is to promote societal awareness to gender issues and women's human rights. The paper analysis applications of SDG-5 (Women Empowerment) as a Tool for Sustainable Development.

Keywords— Sustainable Development, Women Empowerment, Gender Inequality, Economic Development

I. INTRODUCTION

Women's Empowerment means strategies empowering women to gain control of their own lives and to inspiration broader society. women's empowerment refers to women's ability to make strategic life choices that were previously denied them. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG-5) targets to accomplish gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls [Osborn D. et.al].The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also recognized as the Global Goals, were implemented by the United Nations in 2015 with the objectives to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 set a 2030 deadline for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Gender analysis recognizes the differences between and among women and men in

terms of their relative position in society and the distribution of resources, opportunities, limitations and power in a given context.

Necessity of Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment is the necessity of time. women's empowerment can be estimated by their competence to contribute in household decision-making which replicates their economic, domestic and movement autonomies (Hameed W. et al. 2014 and Thapa DK, Niehof A. 2013) Women are facing discrimination since past. In India also women had to fight for their freedom and rights. The UN came out with a set of goals called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help make the world a better place. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are both recognized as urgent issues for building an inclusive society and a strong economy in many developing countries. This is

mainly because of the following: - Of the 173 countries in the world, 155 countries have some sexually unequal laws. - In 141 countries, the number of female deaths from natural disasters is greater than the number of male deaths. This gap is closely related to women's sexually unequal social positions. Reduction of the gender gap in employment makes it possible to increase GDP in both developed and developing countries. (<https://unric.org/en/sdg-5/>)

II. Discussion

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but an essential basis for a peaceable, wealthy and sustainable world. There has been progress over the last decades, but the world is not on track to accomplish gender equality by 2030.

This paper elaborates SDG'5 which end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. SDG'5 has been focusing on five priority areas to endorse gender equality and the empowerment of women which are as follows:

- (1) Women's economic empowerments
- (2) Women's rights and security
- (3) Women's education and lifetime health
- (4) Gender responsive governance
- (5) Gender responsive infrastructure,

Women's economic empowerment

Due to the fixed roles of women in society and their limited access to opportunities to acquire skills and financial resources, their productivity is lower compared with men's. Even though in many countries, most women are engaged in agriculture or small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) as their economic activities. SDG-5 escapes women from this discrimination as cooperation between men and women in making decisions about farm management and in agricultural works leads to improving the farmers' productivity. In addition, if women engaged in SMEs such as food processing companies, acquire knowledge and skills and increase production and sales, this will not only increase their incomes but also vitalize the local economy as a whole.

Women's rights and security

(Protection from conflict, natural disasters, and trafficking in persons) This para eliminates all forms of

violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Trafficking in persons occurs all over the world, because it is closely related to poverty, social and economic disparity, discrimination, labour mobility, natural disasters, and conflict, etc.; and it may be said that it is a structural problem rooted in the serious violation of human rights, gender issues, and social and economic structures. In addition, trafficking in persons is also related to not only sexual exploitation but also various types of labour exploitation, such as in the agricultural and fisheries industries, factories, and family labour.

Women's education and lifetime health

Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Gender responsive governance

Gender responsiveness in governance means equal participation of women and men in decision making. SDG-5 ensures women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.

(5) Gender responsive infrastructure development

In many countries, women are involved in domestic labour, including childcare and nursing care, for many hours. But contrary to popular belief, infrastructure is not gender neutral. There is a lack of access to basic infrastructure services such as sewerage, roads, and safe public transport, electricity and water supply facilities and sanitation. Investing in more sustainable infrastructure and promoting gender equality are development priorities of the Agenda 2030. Infrastructure influences the achievement of all targets within SDG 5 'Gender Equality'. Infrastructure as a basis for life contributes to a reduction in the amount of housework.

III. APPLICATIONS OF SDG-5 IN INDIA AND THE WORLD

The contributions and collaboration of governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals such as gender equality. Many scholars say that progress on the 2030 Agenda has been slow, (Lorraine

Eden & M. Fernanda Wagstaff, 2021, Breuer, Janetschek, & Malerba, 2019). Despite some progress toward gender equality, women and girls worldwide continue to face systematic gender-based discrimination, violence and denial of their rights. Non-governmental organizations at world such as Zonta International Foundation and JICA has made efforts to strengthen the systems. in the many countries. The Government of India also has launched Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Prof. Seema Singh and Dr. Antra Singh, 2020). The initiative aims at equal opportunity and education for girls in India. The Sukanya Samridhi Yojana on girl child prosperity and the Janani Suraksha Yojana for mothers are other specific programmes on gender equality. (<https://www.unadap.org/post/india-s-stance-on-sdg-5-gender-equality>). Women's empowerment are shown in higher education as many countries registered growing numbers of female graduates (Hirsu et al. 2018). Still need to more awareness and applications for gender equality in all over the world so that sustainable development can be achieved.

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