"PROTECTING DEMOCRATIC VALUES A WAY TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE GOALS"

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ABSTRACT

Though the United Nations set up the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by year 2030, but that would not be achievable until democratic values will not take into consideration. There are different 17 targets; setup in the agenda of SDGs, but target number 16 seems to be very relevant because there is a global discussion about the linkages of the democracy and sustainable development. Today, maintaining the SDG status is not possible, until we collectively focus on the building block of democracy.

As rightly pointed out by the American Vice-President Kamala Harrish, "As democracies around the world are under threat, it is imperative that we defend the democratic principles and institutions within our respective countries and around the world, the actual motive of SDG 2030 is based on certain vision. i.e, tolerant, open and world should be socially inclusive.

To achieve target sustainable goals, first need to protect democracy, including respects for the rights of the minorities, and migrants, there should be space for critical dissent, commitment to the rule of law.

KEYWORDS:

DEMOCRACY, INCLUSIVE, HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW, PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

In normal way democracy consider as a form of voting, but in real the meaning of democracy is wider. Democracy is a form in which people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation or choose governing officials to do so. The democracy includes various components such as freedom of assembly, associations, speech, inclusiveness, equality, and citizenship, voting rights, right to life, liberty, and also rights of minorities. 2030 agenda of sustainable development which has been adopted in 2015 consist of four sections, mainly;

1) Political Declaration

2) 17 SDGs

3) 169 targets

4) Means of Implementation

5) Framework of following and reviewing the Agenda

If there is something that is around the discussion then it's a linkages in between democracy and sustainable development- the SDG 16 framework says that agenda should aim to achieve peace, justice and inclusive institutions. The democracy foundation principles in achieving SDGs are; **Inclusiveness**, where all members of a political society should have the right to participate and their voices should be heard. **Popular control**, it means decision should rest with the people. **Judgment**, Individual and collective decision should be based on the people being adequately informed. **Transparency**, whatever the decision it should be open and accountable.

The 2030 agenda of SDGs has also brought several provisions of human rights in the discussion. Goal 1 of the agenda aims at ending poverty by 2030. Goal 10, aims at reducing inequality, all those goals are the correlation and centre of discussion and with other instruments like the Declaration of Elimination of Violence against Women, Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples. There should be an ample correlation between SDGs and the Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy and the Indian Constitution.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "One must care about the world one will not see." Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM DEMOCRACY PERSPECTIVE

There are few goals of sustainable development which can see from democracy perspective such as Goal No. 3 which stated, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" to achieve those goals; India is having a constitutional obligation of the state. The Directive Principles of State Policy is already mentioned in the Constitution. Fundamental duties (Part IV-A) in the Indian Constitution talks about the duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife. Article 51 A (g) also direct to protect and improve the natural environment. Developmental sustainability can be achieved through DPSP, which are designed to implement some progressive measures by the state. As stated in Article 47, the duty of state to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living and improve public health. Moreover apart from government machinery, civil society in India also working on SDG-related issues from the grassroots to the national level. Working individually and in coalitions, they have also partnered with the governments to provide inputs, create awareness. The rule of law plays an indispensable role for the sustainable development and poverty alleviation since it is a root cause for rapid economic growth. The very essence of the Rule of Law is that everyone should be equal before law. In India, democracy has been protected, enhanced and enriched due to the principles of rule of law, which is also a foundation to achieve SDGs. It can say that there is a close network in between the rule of law, sustainable development and eradication of poverty.

OBSTACLES IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The main challenges to sustainable development which are global in character include poverty, and exclusion, unemployment, climate change, conflict and humanitarian aid, building peaceful and inclusive societies,

gender equality, building strong institutions of governance, supporting rule of law, there should be respect to human rights, involvement of all in the decision making or etc.

India might achieve most of the MDG health targets from a view point of trends during the last few years as projected in the country report of 2015 on MDG. However, the progress has not been to desire level as all indicators should reached a level that would ensure nil MMR, SBR, and IMR. Several measures have taken place for promoting gender equality. For example, the Beti Bachao Beti Padao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) initiative a comprehensive interventions for development of girl child but much more progress remains to be made, the worst hit are the rural women who do not get a timely health service. Most women who die in Gadchiroli die at home. The remote, heavily forested district in central India is among the country's least developed area, and reaching the nearest clinic can take several hours on foot, (Shetty, Disha, Salon. com)

By respecting human rights in the need of crisis will build more effective and inclusive solutions for the emergency of today and recovery of tomorrow. As per the Amnesty International, Indian government used arbitrary arrests and detentions in December 2019. When government passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, also the government strategy to curb COVID-19 including a punitive lockdown in a very short, can see as an obstacles in the sustainable development. In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) made an important provision for the recognition of full participation in sustainable development. Even, Indian Constitution has banned gender discrimination but still women in reality do not enjoy power as such, although they constitute half of the citizen, over the years their participation by way of voting has increased, yet participation and representation and in law making are not very satisfactory.

WAY FORWARD

All human beings, no matter where they belong to, are legitimately aspire to have clean air, water, sufficient food, human dignity, they all should enjoy a fundamental right, quality life. By nurturing the democratic value society should achieve not only individual but collective rights and in particular the right of women who are actively and fully in the march towards sustainable development. All governments must accept their responsibilities by introducing economic growth policies and programs, in which government should facilitate the participation of civil society, make it to more decentralization and ensure that each individual should play a greater role in overall development.

Countries that are democratic republic they must developed strategies to better educate inform and sensitize their populations on the matters of democratic values and sustainable development. Ex: - Environmental related issues can be integrated into the school programs; through the extensive awareness campaigns, with the help of media. Civil society actors plays a key role in strengthening the values and also act as a facilitators, therefore more scope should be given to them to work on the issues of building peace, justice and inclusion-especially on key matters related to SDGs 2030.

There is also need to increase political will at global, regional and national level. Meanwhile, need to inform to regional organizations and get them involved in national implementation. Enable more women and young people to reach decision making position at the national, regional and local level, and also foremost principle should be to consolidate a real sense of equality in the democratic setup. As rightly pointed out by Dr.B.R.Ambedkar that there should be a real social democracy which is based on the three main principles that are liberty, equality and fraternity, then only there will be national solidarity and people will be able to contribute in achieving the SDGs.

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