



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL FOR RURAL MAHARASHTRA AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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### ABSTRACT:

*The world adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. India too, along with the United Nations Member States, embraced the global goals to be achieved in a phased manner by 2030. Maharashtra, the State being undertaken for the present study has great significance as it is not only the second most populated State in India, but would also rank as the 12th most populated in the country (if viewed from the global lens in 2020). The State is known for its highest contribution of 13.9 % of the country's GDP (2018-19), as per the Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2019-20, but has been troubled by high degree of regional disparities. The study has an objective to assess the status of select Sustainable Development Goals-2030 for thirty-two districts of Maharashtra. The research project is a comprehensive study for the select 32 districts to throw light on seven goals (SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10) and 66 related variables divided into 4 dimensions. The present study is indeed very timely, given the present-day challenges wherein it has become essential to work towards localising SDGs at the grassroots level - 'going local for achieving global successes.' Hope this and other reports we are sharing would make a good reading and help generate debate on issues of policy relevance.*

### INTRODUCTION:

The Rio Declaration of 1992 has recognized 'development' as a human right. In order to set up a path for sustainable future, the United Nations (UN) held various deliberations, and in September 2000, at the Millennium Summit, adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Declaration included eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved by the year 2015 and was signed by 191 UN member States. The MDGs over time achieved certain milestones. For example, child mortality was reduced by more than half. In order to take the development agenda forward in a more inclusive manner, the MDGs were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the genesis of which was initiated in 2012 at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. The SDGs prescribed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were officially adopted on 1st January 2016, which aimed to create a set of worldwide goals that would meet the pressing global challenges pertaining to economy, environment, and equity. In order to catalyse collective transformative action on a global scale, the 2030 Agenda contains a set of 17 SDGs, collectively applicable, interconnected with 169 targets and 230 indicators. The SDGs, on the other hand, take a leap forward for further mobilization through specific targets corresponding to each goal, and correct the loopholes in the MDG approach. The economy, environment and the society are seen as embedded systems under the SDGs, rather than competing 'pillars.' For example, with respect to the urban areas, the need for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), energy, and climate change are all featured prominently, and they are interlinked.

As of 30th April 2020, 7.75 % of total world's population i.e., approximately 600 million people were living under extreme poverty, compared with 736 million in 2015- living



with less than US\$ 1.90 a day, lacking basic food, clean drinking water and sanitation. According to the World Health Organization (2015). Since 1990, more than two and a half billion people have gained access to improved sources of drinking water, but 666 million people still have no access. Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the world's population using improved sources of drinking water rose from 76% to 91%, but nearly 1000 children die every day from preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases. India is committed to fulfilment of the defined development agenda and has tried to follow a holistic framework for envisioning the national/sub-national priorities-goals with their corresponding targets and indicators. At national level, the emphasis has been laid down on designing and implementing the national level priorities. Given the federal structure of the country, States are key decisive units to its progress. Local governments play a crucial role in realizing an effective welfare-based program me, having the power to spend 70 % more than the central governments. In order to succeed with the commitment to the 17 SDGs, it is important that the progress be measured at the grass root level in the three-tier federal structure, which has been framed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India. To understand and measure India's present status on SDGs, NITI Aayog has developed an SDG India Index comprising 62 indicators, which was first uploaded on their dashboard for the year 2018. However, in 2019-20, the set of indicators was enhanced to 100 for the 29 States and 8 Union Territories. This process is led by NITI Aayog and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, along with the support of the other departments.

#### **OBJECTIE OF STUDY:**

1. To assess the status of select SDGs related to economic growth, poverty, inequality, health and sanitation, as well as education, for the districts of Maharashtra
2. To identify the backward districts for select socio-economic indicators through four specific dimensions with respect to assessable targets within each specified goal;
3. To make policy recommendations to the Government of Maharashtra for inclusive growth and development to achieve SDGs within the specified timeframe.

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY ARIA:**

Latitude and longitude coordinates are: **19.663280, 75.300293**. Maharashtra is a large state which can be found in the west central India, in the north western part of the Indian Subcontinent. Maharashtra shares borders with the state of Goa and Telangana, to the east it has borders with the state of Chhattisgarh, and to the north Maharashtra has borders with the states of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Mumbai (former Bombay) is the largest and the capital city of the state, as well as a large port and one of the largest metropolitan areas not just in India but on the whole continent. India, with 17.7 % of the world's population, needs to responsibly lay emphasis on the pathway to achieving the global SDGs within the defined time - 2030. Given the multiple challenges faced by the country in the various development sectors like education, health, food, water and sanitation along with inadequate infrastructure, there is a dire need to address the challenges with a proper road map. While, the National Government will strive for the attainment of the SDGs, it is the Sub-National Governments too who have an equally important role in this regard. States and UTs look after the major social indicators as their State subject, for development. Maharashtra is the second largest State in India in terms of population and third largest by extent with a total area of 3, 07,713 sq. kms, comprising 36 districts. These districts are functioning under eight revenue divisions viz. Konkan, Pune,



Kolhapur, Nashik, Aurangabad, Latur, Amravati and Nagpur, with effective machinery for planning at the district level. For local self-governance in rural areas, there are 34 Zilla Parishads, 351 Panchayat Samitis and 27,920 Gram Panchayats.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:**

**Table 1: SDG India Index (State wise ranks for Select States)**

State	Rank-2019	Score-2019	Score-2018
India	--	60	57
Kerala	1	70	69
Himachal Pradesh	2	69	69
Andhra Pradesh	3	67	64
Tamil Nadu	3	67	66
Telangana	3	67	61
Karnataka	6	66	64
Goa	7	65	64
Sikkim	7	65	58
Gujarat	9	64	64
<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>64</b>
Uttarakhand	9	64	60
Punjab	12	62	60
West Bengal	13	60	56
Madhya Pradesh	15	58	52
Odisha	15	58	51
Tripura	15	58	55
Haryana	18	57	55
Rajasthan	18	57	59
Uttar Pradesh	23	55	42
Bihar	28	50	48

<https://sdgindiaindex.niti.gov.in/#/ranking>, 2020

Table 1 indicates Maharashtra's standing amidst all the Indian States based on demographic indicators. Although the second largest populated State in the country, Maharashtra lags behind in terms of advancement based on sex ratio, SC & ST population as a percentage of the aggregate population, and female employment. NITI Aayog has established a Task Force involving membership of Central Ministries & States to regulate and review SDG implementation for the country. According to the 'SDG India Index report: Baseline Report' published by the NITI Aayog, Maharashtra ranks 9th among 29 States of India. It has a score of 64 as against 57 for India. The State's performance has plummeted from the 4th position in 2018 to 9th position in 2019. This fall can be attributed to the poor performance of the State with respect to Goal 1: 'No Poverty'; Goal 2: 'Zero Hunger'; Goal 5: 'Gender Equality'; and Goal 11: 'Sustainable Cities and Communities'.

**SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH:**



Sustainable growth includes development across agriculture, industry and service sectors of a nation. To assess the social indicators of a State, the Human Development Index (HDI) is considered a reliable source for the first case reference. According to the Maharashtra Human Development Report (MHDR, 2012), the HDI for the State stood at 0.752 and rank 6. The State needs to progressively inch towards a higher HDI like Kerala which has a score of 0.79 and ranks first. Sustainable economic growth requires communities to establish the conditions for quality employment that boost the income and the economy while not harming the environment. During the past three consecutive years (2016-2018), Maharashtra has witnessed low rainfall and drought which has adversely affected its agricultural productivity. According to the Economic Survey of Maharashtra, 2019, Despite being one of the top-ranking States in India, Maharashtra faces several challenges, especially the farmers, attributable to the regular occurrence of drought in the State. The inadequate rainfall causes low levels of productivity for major crops, which gets reflected in YOY fluctuations in growth. During the last decade, the YOY growth in the primary sector was negative for nearly 6 years. Furthermore, land resources are of critical concern for agriculture due to continuous degradation and declining soil quality. To add to the woes highlighted, there are inadequate grain storage and food processing units.

#### **GOOD HEALTH, CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION:**

The Government of Maharashtra (GoM) over the years has undertaken various schemes to improve the standard of living of people through providing health schemes and facilities (Government of Maharashtra. These include Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), which is one of the flagship initiatives that is being implemented in the State by the Women and Child Development Department (WCD). There are a total 553 ICDS projects operational in the State, of which 364 projects are in rural areas, 85 projects are in tribal areas and 104 projects are in urban slum areas. Currently the scheme is applicable in the districts of Amravati and Buldhana. Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) is applicable for girls in the age group of 11 to 14 years, who do not attend school. The girls are supported by upgrading their home-based skills, life skills and vocational skills. The main objective is to enrol the out of school adolescent girls into formal/non formal education. Currently, the scheme is applicable to 11 districts in the State. Kishori Shakti Yojana organizes various programs such as Kishori Melawa Kishori Arogya Shibir which empower the adolescent girls to take charge of their lives. At Anganwadi Centres (AWC), adolescent girls who are found to be anaemic, are supported by providing Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets with special training for self-hygiene. Currently, the scheme is applicable in the districts of Ahmednagar, Akola, Aurangabad, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Dhule, Hingoli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Latur, Nandurbar, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Pune, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sangli, Sindhudurg, Solapur, Thane, Wardha, Washim, and Yavatmal.

#### **QUALITY EDUCATION:**

The primary goals of the education schemes are the provision of quality education and the enhancement of student learning outcomes; bridging social and gender disparities in school education through equity and inclusion; encouraging educational vocationalization and assisting the State in enforcing the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, adopted in 2010. Samagra Shiksha's Centrally Sponsored Scheme envisages "education" as a



continuum from pre-school, primary, upper primary, secondary to senior high school levels. According to NITI Aayog SDG report 2019, Maharashtra is among front runners scoring 65 out of 100 in quality education, further depicted in several schemes encourage child education, such as the flagship Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, campaign. Fostering educational facilities responsive to the needs of children with disabilities will ensure an inclusive learning environment for everyone. Separate toilet facilities for girls with Swachh Vidyalaya have helped tackle the female dropout rates to a significant degree. Consistent efforts are made to expand the formal base of higher education, with particular focus on technical, professional, and vocational education.

### CONCLUSIONS:

The 7 SDGs classified under four dimensions and 66 indicators have been carefully analyzed with respect to the achievements and constraints in the present study undertaken for the 32 districts of rural Maharashtra. The present study, deep dives into the district-level analysis to track the progress of each district with respect to the stipulated targets. The study has been conducted in two parts - a) Secondary Study and b) Primary Study. The secondary data analysis of the study, has applied the Principal Component Methods (PCM) to create a dimension wise index followed by calculating an overall PCI including all the dimensions. This includes: i) Dimension 1 - SDG-GI ii) Dimension 2 - SDG-PHII iii) Dimension 3 - SDG-HWSI iv) Dimension 4- SDG-EI and v) Overall - SDG-CI. The top five districts under the growth dimension, includes - Pune, Bhandara, Osmanabad, Kolhapur and Jalna, with 14 districts lying above the State average. The bottom five districts highlighted in the study - Hingoli, Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Sindhudurg and Washim.

Three of these districts Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, and Washim feature in the list of aspirational districts of Maharashtra as identified by the study undertaken by Niti Aayog. The top five performing districts with respect to poverty, hunger and inequality as addressed in dimension 2 -includes - Sindhudurg, Gondia, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and Pune, with 17 districts lying above the State average. The bottom five districts included Ahmednagar, Beed, Osmanabad, Nandurbar and Jalna. The best performing regions scoring above the State average, with respect to poverty, hunger and inequality index included Konkan, Nagpur, Kolhapur and Amravati. Pune region fell marginally below the State average, while Latur, Nashik and Aurangabad were the worst performing regions. The State is performing poorly with respect to poverty and hunger. To rectify this aspect, all vulnerable sections must be covered by Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which will provide opportunities for financial inclusion. The microfinance institutional framework and the SHGs have been improving over time, with respect to their numbers, deposits and loans disbursements.

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