

# A Research on Sustainable Development in India

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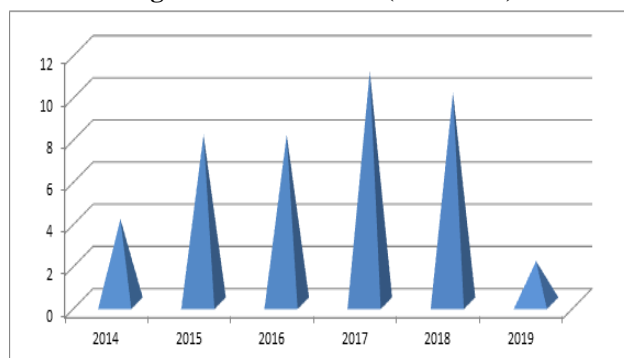
**Abstract—** This research paper is a systematic review of sustainable development initiatives in India. In this systematic review, forty articles related with sustainable development in India (2014-2019) had been reviewed from the source of multiple sources. This study found that there are only few literature regarding sustainable development initiatives in India and many of the SDG's were unexplored by the researchers. This research is concluded by identifying the SDGs of gender equality, reduction in inequality, peace and justice, and responsible consumption and production as the most promising niches for future research in the area of sustainable development initiatives in India.

**Keywords:** Sustainability, Sustainable Development, SDG, Sustainable Development Goals.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is the key for overall prosperity of the world. The word sustainable development has many definitions and the most popular definition had been coined by report of “Brundtland”, which defines sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. To achieve sustainable development of prosperity and for protecting planet by 2030, SDG, i. e Sustainable Development Goals had been developed. There are 17 SDGs and have specific targets for each. The detailed list of sustainable development goals had been given in the following list. This article has the objective of consolidating the literature on sustainable development activities in India of last two decades and to arrange them according to various SDGs. This article also aims to evaluate the progress India had made in sustainable development in last five years. This paper is divided into five parts.

Figure 1: Publications (Year wise)



## 2. REVIEW METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Selection of Journals and proceedings

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### 2.2 Selection of key themes for literature review

This paper classifies all the 17 SDGs into four broad themes and the literatures had been reviewed on basis of themes and SDGs. This paper aims to find out the research gaps in themes and to identify the futuristic areas of research in the concept of sustainable development in India

## 3. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 3.1 Goals of Economic Development

With reference to SDG of “Sustainable cities”, a comparative study on progress of the concept of sustainable cities in India and Germany was studied by (Koch and Ahmad 2018). The study considered the parameters of resilience, safety and inclusiveness.

With regards to SDG of “decent work and economic growth”, Infrastructure is the key factor growth of any economy. The funding problem due for huge infra projects are now executed through PPP model, and the evolution, rationale, benefits and challenges of PPP model of huge infra projects like airports in India was studied by (Kaur and Prashanthi 2015). The problems and prospects of mining in India and potential of sustainable mining activities in India was studied by (Gupta and Raghuvanshi 2015). The role of urban rail in sustainable development of Indian cities was studied by (R Sharma and Newman 2017) at the same time the quality evaluation of sustainable bus services in Patna was studied by (Sinha, Sadhukhan, and Priye 2017) and sorted out the positive and negative parameters on bus quality.

### 3.2 Goals on Environment

With regards to SDG of “ Life on land”, the economic, social and ecological issues of four selected Forestry clean development mechanism had been studied by (Aggarwal 2014) out of which three of them were found to be economically unsustainable. The study also found that the plants used in these projects were having a number of adverse ecological and social impacts on long term. The study concluded by recommending a second thought on CDM projects in comparison with Green India Mission and REDD+ mission. The study on medicinal plant cultivation

and sustainable development of Bengal was conducted by (Ghosh and Chatterjee 2016). The study by (Mell and Sturzaker 2014) had researched on the sustainable urban development in land constrained area of Darjeeling.

With regard to the SDG of “Life below water”, the Indian initiative and progress in reduction of greenhouse gas emission with regard to targets of NDC (Nationally determined contributions) was studied by (Byravan et al. 2017) and found that India is progressing positively to the 2030 emission targets. The vulnerability of coastal districts of Tamil Nadu to the climate variability was studied with the variables of ground water, agriculture and fisheries by (Ramachandran et al. 2016). The most vulnerable variable of each district was identified and the adaptive measures to be taken for each had been given on a priority basis.

### 3.3 Goals of Equality and Justice

With regards to SDG of “Partnerships to achieve goals”, Indo-China opportunities on science and technology for sustainable development of selected Himalayan regions was studied by (E. Sharma 2017). Similarly the mutual understanding and partnership between India and EU regarding green and sustainable development initiatives was studied in detail by (Prasad 2017).

With regards to the SDG of “Gender equality”, the role of commercial banks in supporting women entrepreneurship and improving gender equality in doing business was studied by (Deepa 2014). With regarding the SDG of “equality”, an evaluative study on empowerment of local communities of Mizoram was documented by the research of (Lalnehzovi 2015).

### 3.4 Goals of Welfare

With regard to the challenges of Civil society Organizations in sustainable agriculture in India, a study conducted by (Brown 2016) identified that apart from technological innovation, the power of state, donor organizations, activists network, rural elites and rural poor are the key factors influencing sustainable agriculture in India. The role agriculture and climate change adaptation for sustainable development of India was described by (Usman 2017).

With regards to the SDG of “Clean water and sanitation”, The successfulness of using technology for assessing water potential, Geo informatics in ground water potential mapping in Micro watershed in Tirunelveli was conducted by (Narmada, Gobinath, and Bhaskarana 2015) and similar study on Amravati River basin was conducted by (Anbazhagan and Jothibas 2016). The ground water potential of Ganga Alluvial Plain was studied by (Patra, Mishra, and Mahapatra 2018) by using remote sensing, GIS and analytical hierarchy process. The study had developed a ground water potential map by classifying areas as good, moderate and poor. At the same time the need for prioritizing the need for water sheds for sustainable development in Swan Catchment area of Himachal Pradesh was studied by (Batar, Singh, and Kumar 2016) by using the parameters of soil, drainage density, irrigated area, forest area land cover and land use, surface water and groundwater prospects etc. The study had prioritized watersheds to the categories to high priority, medium priority, very low and low priority.

However there had been arguments that the sustainability of watersheds is short run. An integrated hydrogeological study for ground water management was conducted by (Madhnure, Peddi, and Allani 2016). The water quality problems due to tannery pollutants in Palar river in South India was studied by (Sonkamble et al. 2014).

A detailed study on India’s initiatives towards SDG of “clean water and sanitation” was conducted by (Roy and Pramanick 2019) by analyzing 28 parameters divided into two categories of social and biophysical. The study also found the interrelation of SDG of “water and sanity” with SDG of “Health” and SDG “poverty”. The study concluded that a positive increase in sanitation indicators would improve water and sanitation related diseases.

With regards to SDG “No hunger”, a study the progress, linkages and disconnects of India towards food security and nutrition was conducted by (Das, Sharma, and Babu 2018) and the study found that southern states are far better than their counter parts in the area of food security and nutrition. The study concluded by recommending for reforms in coordination and approach for achieving 2030 targets of food security and nutrition.

With regard to the SDG of “Education” The sustainability of Higher Education Institutes in India was studied by (Parvez and Agrawal 2019), after considering parameters and indicators of “STARS” and “UI Green Metric WUR” and found that around 50% parameters of the above benchmarks were not complied. The study pointed out the need for report specific rating parameters for HEI’s in India.

With regards to SDG of “Energy”, the challenges of conserving energy, the current mix of energy sources in India and the role of energy security and sustainable development in India was described by (Gouri 2015). The role of globalization in the energy demand in India was analyzed by (Shahbaz et al. 2016). The study conducted by (Srikanth 2018). The study results of (Kar 2015) had concluded that the natural gas would be the most preferred green energy for India in the upcoming decades. Biogas potential as an energy solution to energy basket of India was suggested in the study of (Lohan et al. 2015). The need, prospects, application and barriers of solar energy infusion into Indian energy Basket had been reviewed by (Manju and Sagar 2017). The problem of energy poverty and the impact of new energy policies, popularization of alternate fuels and associated challenges with sustainable development of energy in India had been described in the work of (Jewitt and Raman 2017).

Rural electrification is a great challenge in India, especially remote areas and the need for micro solar energy systems for facilitating rural electrification and sustainable development in rural and remote areas of North Eastern India was pointed out in the study of (Dhiman et al. 2017), after considering the challenges of remote locations, dispersed population density and high transmission cost. A much similar study quoting applicability of solar solutions for rural electrification was conducted by (Jasrotia et al. 2018). The possibilities and benefits of two hybrid energy model for rural and remote regions was studied by (Renu Sharma and Goel 2016).

With regards to SDG of “Health and Wellbeing” the child mortality rate of India under the age of five (U5MR) was studied by (Bora and Saikia 2018) based on secondary sources and found that the National Mortality rate and U5MR is 2.4 times and double higher than the targeted rates. The study had found that the North Central and eastern India are way behind in their targets. To this problem of high child mortality, the study conducted by (V Kancherla and Oakley 2017) had described the way of reducing Child mortality by controlling birth defects. A similar study of (V Kancherla and Oakley 2016)(Vijaya Kancherla and Oakley Jr. 2018) had mentioned about total prevention of folic acid preventable Bifida and Anencephaly would reduce Child Mortality in India.

The need for preventing non communicable diseases for sustainable development was highlighted in the study of (John 2018). The exclusions in health services in Kerala was studied by (Thresia 2018)

#### 4. ANALYSIS RESULTS OF LITERATURE REVIEW

With regards to SDG of “Sustainable cities and communities”, this study had found a few articles related with sustainable architecture and building and the areas of research were design, usage of HVFA concrete in building process and comparative study of Indian and German cities. Another area for interest of researchers were green roads, PPP model of working for airport, urban rail projects, sustainable mining and sustainable bus services.

With regards to SDG of “Life on land”, most of the research was concentrated on forest products, medical and non-medical plantations and their impact on rural development. Another theme of research was the CDM, i.e. Clean Development Mechanism. Studies related with efficiencies, pitfalls and comparisons regarding CDM were conducted by researchers.

With regard to the SDG of “Life below water”, the values, challenges, impact on local community of the Mangrove wet lands and coastal regulation zones in Kerala, had been reviewed researchers.

With regard to SDG of “Climate Change” the role, challenges of climate protection for sustainable development and impact of crop market in Kerala with climate change was explored by researchers. The Indian initiative and progress in reduction of greenhouse gas emission was also studied by researchers.

With regards to SDG of “Partnerships to achieve goals”, the Indo China relations and India and EU relations regarding sustainable development initiatives was explored by researchers.

With regards to the SDG of “Gender equality”, the role of industries in supporting women entrepreneurship and uplifting status of women folk was reviewed by researchers.

With regards to SDG of “No Poverty”, the role of small check dams and lift irrigation in villages to reduce the problems of water and role of ecology and ecological poverty on the poor living conditions of Central Himalayan areas was studied by researchers. The usage of technology and terrain mapping approach for sustainable agriculture and the transition of Haryanvi Farmers to sustainable agriculture was another area for researchers.

The major applications of sustainable development activities in agriculture in rural development, the role of geology, and the role agriculture and climate change adaptation for sustainable development of India was described by thoroughly described by researchers.

With regards to the SDG of “Clean water and sanitation”, the severe water crisis and irrigation problem faced by Gujarat and the role of Sardar Sarovar Water Resource project on improving food security, and socio economic development were some areas of research by scholars.

The successfulness of using technology for assessing water potential, like remote sensing, GIS and analytical hierarchy process and geo informatics in ground water potential mapping in Micro watershed in Tirunelveli, Amravati River basin and Ganga Alluvial Plain was studied by researchers. At the same time the need, sustainability of water sheds and integrated working model for sustainable development in Swan Catchment area of Himachal Pradesh, Mayurakshi watershed, Karondi-Milli Watershed, Maheshwaram catchment area and some other selected areas was conducted by researchers.

The water quality problems due to unplanned urbanization and industrialization in the banks of river Yamuna, Kosi and Palar and challenges it creates of sustainable development was researched by scholars.

With regards to SDG “No hunger”, a study the progress, linkages and disconnects of India towards food security and nutrition was studied.

With regard to the SDG of “Education” a study on curriculum innovation, policies, challenges, prospects and future of higher education for sustainable development of India was the area of interest for researchers.

With regards to SDG of “Energy”, the role, challenges of conserving energy, the current mix of energy sources in India and the prospects and future energy mix of India was explored by researchers. The role of off grid solar system, its diffusion, acceptance, need, prospects, application and barriers of solar energy infusion into Indian energy Basket had been reviewed researchers. The possibilities micro solar energy systems for facilitating rural electrification, benefits of two hybrid energy model and potential of small hydroelectric projects for electrification of rural and remote regions was studied by scholars.

With regards to SDG of “Health and Wellbeing” the child mortality rate of and solutions, the need for preventing non communicable diseases for sustainable development was studied by researchers. The role of sustainable community based health and development programmes in Rural India and use of remote sensing and GIS for improving rural health was studied by researchers

#### 5. FUTURISTIC RESEARCH AND CONCLUSION

This systematic review on sustainable development practices in India had found that there is a huge gap on literature regarding sustainable development in India. Out of 17 SDGs, the SDGs of gender equality, reduction in inequality, peace and justice, partnerships to achieve goals, decent work and economic system, industry, innovation and



infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production are the least researched areas. There are sufficient gaps in clean energy, sanitation and linking the government plans to SDGs. There are futuristic niches in social problems of poverty, hunger, health and education. The overall status regarding existing research in this area is that there is ample scope for research in this area for researchers. However this research is limited to a single source of Web of Science and it's a limitation for this study and readers should consider other sources before going into a conclusion.

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