

- Equality and empowerment of women can be ensured through the rightful implementation of the already existing laws. Women are participating much more in the Panchayat now. But this needs to be supported by the state apparatus. The grass root workers have to ensure that the voices get through to the government.
- The laws have changed and transformed in the last 20 years to view welfare activities as a possible source of 'Social Drain'. As a result, there has emerged a sense of Targeted Beneficiaries. The laws and schemes designed to ensure gender equality are receiving lesser budgets as a result.
- Rights of everyone must be remembered to decentralize, implement and expand these schemes. Budgets need to be expanded in these schemes. We often see that infrastructure funds are exacted more than wage funds in these schemes. Examples of how Nirbhaya fund (a fund which was created to help rape survivors in distress) has decreased and the situation of women in the Haryana Panchayat elections showcase the aforementioned points in the practical light.
- In the Child Labor Act Amendment, family enterprise and entertainment industry are left out of the purview of dangerous works. We are all aware of how this amendment can be used and molded in various ways.
- Women are migrating more and more in the present social scenario. But the boundary between migration and trafficking is getting blurred as a result.

**Goal 13** - Several existing schemes mapped out by NITI Aayog for the implementation of SDG's Goal 13 are the National Action Plan on Climate Change, National Mission for a Green India, National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission for Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, Draft State Action Plan on Climate Change.

(Footnotes)

1 Estimates from the Technology & Action for Rural Advancement [http://www.devalt.org/images/L3\\_ProjectPdfs/AchievingSDGsInIndia\\_DA\\_21Sept.pdf?mid=6&sid=28](http://www.devalt.org/images/L3_ProjectPdfs/AchievingSDGsInIndia_DA_21Sept.pdf?mid=6&sid=28)

## CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Popularizing the SDGs among the youth of India, popularizing SDGs in schools, colleges, communities through campaigns, workshops will be a great way to involve everyone. Promotion of development justice among youth is very important for the future.
2. Monitoring Global platform: There should be an online platform where it should be compulsory for all the state and central government to provide the data on the progress and successes of SDGs every three months. This online platform should be open for public so a common citizen can see the progress. This same platform can also be open for the suggestion on if policies are not being implemented properly so the citizen or CSOs can hold government accountable.
3. A major problem which CSOs are facing is that the SDGs are not legally bound, that means that the CSOs have to persuade the local or state level authorities to engage in the process which creates a continuous rift between government authorities and CSOs.
4. There should be a rights-based approach in SDGs as currently, it seems to be like a charitable working framework by the government to empower and improve the people who were left behind in the race of development. Instead, SDGs should be promoted as rights of the citizen and there should be a way where any citizen can hold any government authority accountable for not implementing any scheme.
5. The term 'inclusiveness' probably needs to be redefined to have a transformative approach to ensure the SDGs slogan 'LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND' true.



Established in 1927, AIWC is a pioneer NGO consistently working towards socio-economic empowerment of women across India. Concerned about the legal, environmental, health, literacy and other social economic issue facing women in the country, AIWC's mission is to empower women, especially rural women to strive for their rights, to have better quality of life through sustainable livelihoods and for women in India to have a voice in and benefit from India's development agenda. This research was carried out by AIWC as part of an eight country project on Monitoring and Review of the SDGs with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD).



[www.apwld.org](http://www.apwld.org)

## Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals & Development Justice

Reviewed by  
ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

### COUNTRY CONTEXT

Situated in the southern part of Asia, India is the 7<sup>th</sup> biggest country in land size (3.287 million km) and second most populated country in the world (1210.19 million people) which includes 623.64 (51.5%) million men and 586.46 (48.5%) million women as per the Census data of 2011. According to UN report, India has 536 million youth (28%) of the country's population which can be a driving force to boost India's economy. India is also an economic giant with its 2.095 trillion US dollars GDP. The country possesses a pool full of opportunities for efficient implementation of SDG. India is among the most unequal country in the world with the richest 1% owning 53% of the country's wealth, while at the other end of the pyramid, the poorer half jostles for a mere 4.1% of national wealth. 21.9% of total population is still living below poverty line. The literacy rate remains at 74.04% at the national level with women's literacy rate remaining below national average, at 65.46% according to the last census. India is the world's biggest democracy which, unlike many other post-colonial states, has managed to keep the spirit of democracy alive and people's rights in order. India is also a multi-religious country where people live with diversity, speak 23 languages combined with a number of dialects and survive with multi-social economic background. India's justifies the increase allocation of its military budget to its border disputes and communal challenges with its neighbouring countries, with an allocation of 40 billion dollars, a raise of 7% from last year. There are also issues of rampant migration across bordering states. India's health sector is yet not equipped sufficiently to provide basic healthcare to majority of citizens, particularly those from vulnerable community and medical expenses are still out of the reach of poor. India spends around 4.7% (5.53 billion USD) of its total GDP in the health sector and with the lack of proper medical infrastructure, the situation is still at low level.

### OVERVIEW OF SYSTEMIC & STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TOWARDS ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE

Patriarchy, unequal distribution of wealth and resources, climate change and unequal gender roles creates multiple social and economic inequalities within India. Varying levels of poverty, poverty assessment tools and methodologies that do not seem to reflect the actual ground realities, and policymakers' lack of capacity and indifference towards the realities on the ground will probably make the implementation of SDGs for the real beneficiaries difficult.

The neo-liberal global system of trade and investments whether

# INDIA



Palma Ratio (Income Inequality)

1.4

UNDP Gender Inequality Rank

130

INDIA'S HEALTH BUDGET USD 7.3 BILLION VS MILITARY BUDGET USD 40.31 BILLION

INDIA'S MINIMUM WAGE IS USD 1,305 (PER ANNUM) VS RICHEST INDIVIDUAL NET WORTH USD 27.6 BILLION

it is the World Trade Organization (WTO) or other trade agreements often conflicts with government's obligations to its citizens. These agreements are also problematic given that the beneficiaries tend to be the developed countries or the selected few within a country. India has been sued at the WTO over its policy for mandatory local content requirements on solar power developers aimed to ensure local green energy incentives for the country. Despite arguing that these are steps that forms part of the suggested actions for combating climate change and ensuring development of its citizens, WTO ruled the against India, further undermining efforts to combat climate change.

Climate change and destruction of the environment is adding an extra burden to women in most of the



rural areas, creating more barriers for women to spend quality time in education, literacy and other empowerment opportunities. And yet a number of climate policies do not take into account women's needs. Following the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, all states were directed to submit a State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCCC). In the SAPCCC (Draft) submitted by West Bengal, there is no gender budgeting even though a directive in 2005 from the Ministry of Women and Child Development has directed all departments to include it in their policies. This is a similar story to most of the SAPCCC submitted by other states. The draft does not talk about women in climate change scenario, even though it is proven that women are one of the most affected groups in climate change scenario and therefore should be part of the framework.

Gender inequalities have restricted participation of women in decision-making in some cases, and lack of capacities in others. Social taboos, pre-determined social and cultural roles, fear of violence and similar challenges have perpetuated gender inequalities in India. Women's participation in the parliament of India is currently at 12.2%, women's leadership in businesses remains low, and women continued to be paid much less than men for the same kind of job in many unorganized sector. Maternal mortality rate remains at 190/100000 and the adolescent birth rate is still hovering around 32.8/1000 (age of 15-19). Women are being excluded in policy formation, dialogues on development framework and implementations. Violence against women is also creating a barrier to women's participation in public places. In 2014 the National Crime record Bureau recorded 337,922 crimes against women. All these challenges present constraints towards achieving development justice for women.

## ARCHITECTURE FOR SDGS IMPLEMENTATION

India has appointed National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) as the main agency to take on the implementation work of SDGs in India. NITI Aayog has been established to provide a platform for cooperative federalism; facilitating the state and centre together as equals while states will take lead in providing policy interventions to the union government. The NITI Aayog has prepared a mapping of all the related schemes and departments working on the implementation work of SDGs. Different schemes relating to the goals are being popularized through the government website, television advertisement, radio advertisements, newspaper etc. State governments have been asked to replicate the schemes at state level. Until now only the State of Assam has started working on it and in the process of partnering with Earth Institute, the University of Colombia for the implementation of SDGs. There have been no officially defined roles for CSO's engagement and no other CSO's have been invited to participate in the implementation process as of now.

While various schemes linking the SDGs have been announced in the run up to the SDG implementation, there has been no clear financial allocation or budgets provided so far. A report released by Technology and Action for Rural Advancement has estimated the gap of around 8468 Billion USD for the implementation of SDGs in India. The goal wise estimation of the financial gap can be seen in the table below:

SDGs Goals	Source of Finance (Considered) <sup>1</sup>	Finance Required (In Billion USD)	Gap (In Billion USD)
Goal 3 Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for all at all Ages	Public	880	305
Goal 4 Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all	Public and Private	2258	740
Goal 5 Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls	Public	1408	1091
Goal 13 Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts	Public and Private	267	267

Moreover, no clear cut means of implementation guidelines or legal bindings makes it difficult for CSO member like AIWC to hold government accountable.

## INITIAL FINDINGS ON SELECTED SDGs GOALS & TARGETS

World Economic Forum Gender Gap Ranking	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	87	108	114	101	105	113	112	114

**Goal 3** - Several existing schemes mapped out by NITI Aayog for the implementation of SDG's Goal 3. Notably, the National Health Mission including the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Human Resources in Health and Medical Education, the National AYUSH Mission, the National AIDS & STD Control Program, the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), and the Prime Minister Health Security Scheme 2006.

**Goal 4** - Several existing schemes mapped out by NITI Aayog for the implementation of SDG's Goal 4 are the Education for all Schemes (SarvaShikshaAbhiyan), the National Programme Nutritional Support to Primary Education, the National Middle school education scheme (RashtiyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan), Support for Educational Development including Teachers Training & Adult Education, Scheme for providing education to Madrasas, Minorities, and Disabled, the National Higher Education Scheme (RashtiyaUchhtaShikshaAbhiyan), the Umbrella scheme for Education of Scheduled Tribe students and the When India Studies, Then India Grows programme (Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat).

- It is true that female dropout rate has decreased to 33% from 45%. But the male dropout rate has increased. This has happened due to the fact that this has increased the supply of unskilled labors to other states.
- There is also the issue that 74% of class 5 students cannot read the textbooks of class 2. Basic literacy and numeracy skills are not implemented properly.
- Proficiency of teachers is still very weak because of the fact that teacher education system has become outdated.
- Status of early childhood development in India: (ICDS - Integrated Child Development Services) out of 160 Million children, 80 Million goes into the ICDS scheme. According to global hunger index, India lies in the lower quarters. Children don't receive full immunization. 20 out of 74 million children from the age of 0-6 don't attend pre-primary school. Constitution ensures right to life but doesn't ensure pre-school education as a fundamental right. It is there only in the directive principles.
- National Policy for Children: This ensures pre-primary education for all. But there are no legal or constitutional rights for this. The problem with these government schemes is that they can be scrapped at any time. 50% children do not have access to these schemes at all. Moreover, ICDS scheme schools are not trusted by most.
- Budget: 3.32% budget is allocated to children in the union budget. ICDS allocation is 15245 Cr. (2309.85 Million Dollars) which has not increased at all in the last 6 years.

### Goal 5

- Some of the schemes mentioned in the mapping by NITI Aayog for the implementation of Goal 5 includes the Save and Educate Girl Child Programme (BetiBachaiBetiPadhao), Girl Child Prosperity Scheme (SukanyaSamridhiYojana), Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) 2014, Safe Motherhood Programme (JananiSurakshaYojna), SWADHAR 2011 (A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances) introduced by the Ministry of Women, Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalaya (KGBV) – a scheme was introduced to provide educational facilities for girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minority communities and families below the poverty line, the National Mission for Empowerment of Women and the Rajeev Gandhi Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SABLA)
- The Constitution of India ensures equality to all. But the legislative structure and the customary laws don't hold the women's equality principles. The law enforcers have tried to change this from the earliest stages. There are laws against domestic violence, rape, and sexual violence. And there are laws ensuring participation of women in Panchayats (Village level Government) these changes have come through sustained efforts. And they are based on Rights and not pity. The schemes like MNREGA (A scheme which promises to provide 120 days' work in the absence of employment or Anganwadi (a scheme to provide nutrition to mother and her children) are based on these rights.