SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POST PANDEMIC

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Abstract

According to the United Nations Development Programme, "The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity." There are 17 SDGs some them include eradication of poverty, economic and social growth etc. all along with dealing with climate control. All countries developed and developing participate in it. The first case of COVID-19 was reported from Wuhan, China in December 2020. Branching out from Wuhan, it travelled to Italy, France and then gradually to all the 195 countries in the world. The WHO (World Health Organisation) declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020 and declared it a Pandemic in March 2020.The outbreak of Corona Virus or COVID-19 was a major concern for both developed, developing and under developed countries. No one was able to control it and the failure of it resulted in fall of global GDP by 3.3 percent in 2020. With the number of people losing jobs during the pandemic about 251 million people were driven into poverty. The COVID-19 wave has threatened to crumple all these years of progress, the poverty, hunger; economic gap etc. has increased in 2020. Millions of people are not getting healthcare, losing jobs and homes along with the threat of contracting the virus among their heads.

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INTRODUCTION

According to the United Nations Development Programme, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. There are 17 SDGs some them include eradication of poverty, economic and social growth etc. all along with dealing with climate control. All countries developed and developing participate in it.

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The COVID-19 wave has threatened to crumple all these years of progress, the poverty, hunger; economic gap etc. has increased in 2020. Millions of people are not getting healthcare, losing jobs and homes along with the threat of contracting the virus among their heads. The countries are at turmoil, the social, and economic and health threats are all coming down on them together. This pandemic threatens all the progress made by the countries in the last few years in education, economy and healthcare.

WHAT ARE SDGs?

SDGs stand for sustainable development goals. According to the United Nations Development Programme[1], "The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity." There are 17 SDGs some them include eradication of poverty, economic and social growth etc. all along with dealing with climate control. All countries developed and developing participate in it.

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[1] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Available at: https://sdgs.un.org/goals (Accessed on: Nov. 10, 2021)

All the United Nations Member States in 2015 decided to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 17 SDGs are:

(i)   No Poverty

(ii)   Zero Hunger

(iii)   Good Health and well being

(iv)   Quality Education

(v)   Gender Equality

(vi)   Clean Water and Sanitation

(vii)   Affordable and clean energy

(viii) Decent Work and Economic Growth

(ix)   Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

(x)   Reducing Inequality

(xi)   Sustainable Cities and Communities

(xii)   Responsible Consumption and Production

(xiii) Climate Action

(xiv)   Life Below Water

(xv)   Life on Land

(xvi)   Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

(xvii) Partnerships for the Goals

The sustainable development was first introduced at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, the objective of the conference was to make earth a better place to live in, to meet the urgent climate, political and economic challenges by making a set of tasks to complete.

COVID-19[2]

Corona virus or COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The first known case was found in Wuhan, China in December 2019 from where it was spread all around the globe. Symptoms of covid-19 are often fever, cold, cough and headache. It is transmitted when people breathe air contaminated with the virus. Older people at are a higher risk for contracting covid-19 as their respiratory systems are weak.

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[2] Available at: Covid-19, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19 (Accessed on: Nov. 13, 2021)

Several countries developed vaccines and they have been approved, with mass vaccine drives around the world the covid-19 cases have started dropping.

SDGs BEFORE COVID-19[3]

According to the United Nations before the spread of covid-19, the countries had already started to work on completing the 2030 sustainable development goals, though the progress was small and uneven, it was there.

The global extreme poverty had declined by a small number; the maternal mortality ratio had declined by 38 percent between 2000 and 2017. In some countries, the child marriage and labour rates were decreased even health care was developing in some third world countries. Gender equality was being accepted in countries, including India. The countries were developing policies and signing international environment agreements.

COVID-19 AFFECTING THE SDGs

On March 11, WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic affecting over 3 million people in 213 counties. It not only affected the human beings at this point but also the conditions of different countries from social to education.

Covid-19 certainly made it difficult to achieve the sustainable development goals, affecting every country in all aspects that were mentioned in the SDGs. The healthcare, education, livelihood everything was affected. Due to the increasing cases of COVID-19, lockdown had to be imposed in every country at least once, which resulted in shut down of business, schools, and shops.

It caused a social and economic disruption, setting millions of people on the brink of poverty. Nearly 3.3 billion global workforces are at risk of losing their livelihoods. The pandemic has affected the poor population of world the hardest, the informal labor particularly vulnerable because of lack of social protection and health care.[4]

Though the European and North American and some Asian countries had developed and accessible health care system they were to some extent able to save lives and keep the virus under control, but the third world countries who were trying to develop their health care just before the pandemic weren't able to handle and the virus hit them the hardest.

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[3] Available at: United Nations, https://bit.ly/3oxbZ9p (Accessed on: Nov. 15, 2021)

[4] World Health Organization, Available at: https://www.who.int/news/item/13-10-2020-impact-of-covid-19-on-people's-livelihoods-their-health-and-our-food-systems (Accessed on: Nov. 15, 2021)

The effects of the pandemic exhausted all aspects of the society, the health care system globally, from doctors to nurses everyone working 24x7 treating patients. The teachers and the students as they had to adopt a new method of teaching as going to school would risk the children contracting the virus. According to the United Nations, in 2020 world faces the worst economic recession since the Great Depression with a 4.2 % expected decline in the real GDP per capita.

The pandemic affected the poor and the vulnerable the worst. It increased the graph between the rich and poor. The poor are not being able to access healthcare over the top of them not getting any jobs or losing existing ones. Due to unemployment, 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy were affected.

Women and children also faced hardships, as violence against women increased during the lockdowns and they feared economic insecurity. Due to closure of schools, many children who depended on schools for education and meals both missed out as the school meals were stopped leaving them hungry and malnourished. Where private schools and children in private schools were able to continue their education without much hassle the poor children or the government schools didn't have that luxury, with the schools closed the graduation rate decreased and many children dropped out of school to earn even a little money to support their family.

CONCLUSION

With the rapid increase in urbanization and development, the spread of such viruses cannot be stopped but one thing everyone understood was the need of collaboration and a collective response is needed to tackle any problem in our world. Even though some countries were able to handle the spread of the virus better than the others, international support and collaboration is needed for a better world.