SDGs

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**SDGs**

**Introduction**

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a global initiative aimed at addressing issues of poverty, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Among these, SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) are particularly crucial for ensuring the well-being of individuals and communities across the globe. In this analysis, we will compare and contrast the contemporary issues and opportunities related to these SDGs in the contexts of New Zealand and India. The objective of this analysis is to understand the different challenges that these countries face in achieving these SDGs, as well as the opportunities for businesses to contribute to their achievement. The thesis of this analysis is that while both New Zealand and India are working towards achieving the SDGs of Zero Hunger and Clean Water and Sanitation, the challenges and opportunities facing the two countries in these areas are different due to their different levels of development and the specific socio-economic contexts they are facing.

**SDGs Challenges**

**SDG 2: Zero Hunger**

In New Zealand, the main challenge to achieving zero hunger is ensuring food security for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, such as those living in poverty or rural areas (Cheo & Tapiwa, 2021). While New Zealand is a developed country with a relatively high standard of living, there are still a significant number of households that experience food insecurity. Factors that contribute to this include low income, high housing costs, and inadequate access to nutritious food. Additionally, Maori and Pacific Islanders in New Zealand experience disproportionately higher rates of food insecurity. The government of New Zealand has implemented policies such as the Welfare Working Group and Working Group on Child Poverty to try and address these issues. However, the poverty rate in New Zealand is still relatively high, and many households struggle to afford enough food to meet their needs.

In India, hunger and malnutrition are major problems, with a significant portion of the population suffering from undernutrition. The main drivers of food insecurity in India are poverty, lack of access to nutritious food, and inadequate infrastructure for food distribution (Bhattacharyya, 2022). India is home to a large population of smallholder farmers and landless agricultural workers, which makes it difficult to achieve food security, especially in rural areas. Additionally, there are also issues of food wastage and inefficiency in the food supply chain. The Government of India has recognized the importance of food security and has launched various schemes to address the problem such as Public Distribution System (PDS), Midday Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services. However, these schemes have not been sufficient to address the problem. The implementation of these schemes is often hampered by issues such as corruption and lack of coordination between different government agencies.

**SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**

In New Zealand, the main challenge for achieving clean water and sanitation is ensuring that all citizens have access to clean and safe water. While New Zealand has an abundant supply of fresh water, there are still issues with water quality, particularly in rural areas and for small communities. The government has implemented policies to address this such as the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. However, the increasing population and urbanization of the country is putting pressure on the water resources. Additionally, the government has also implemented regulations on point-source pollution, which has helped to reduce the amount of contaminants entering the water supply.

In India, access to clean water and sanitation remains a major challenge, with large sections of the population still lacking access to these basic services. The main drivers of this problem are poverty, urbanization, and population growth. Inadequate infrastructure and lack of proper sanitation facilities are also major issues, especially in rural areas (Cisse, 2021). Additionally, poor management and lack of maintenance of existing water supply and sanitation systems is also a significant problem. Government of India has implemented schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to increase access to sanitation facilities, however this programme has not been able to reach to the remote areas and many parts of the country still do not have proper sanitation facilities. The problem is further exacerbated by issues such as industrial pollution and inefficient use of water resources.

Overall, both New Zealand and India face significant challenges in achieving the SDGs of Zero Hunger and Clean Water and Sanitation. Both countries have implemented policies and initiatives to address these challenges, however, progress has been slow in some areas. To fully achieve these SDGs, both countries will need to make significant changes in policies, infrastructure, and public awareness. Additionally, both governments will need to invest in sustainable development projects and provide support to the most vulnerable communities.

To achieve Zero Hunger, both New Zealand and India will need to focus on addressing the root causes of food insecurity, such as poverty, lack of access to nutritious food, and inadequate infrastructure for food distribution (Furey, 2020). This will require a concerted effort from the government, private sector, and civil society. For example, investing in rural development, strengthening smallholder farmers, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices will be essential for achieving food security in India. Similarly, investing in social welfare programs and improving housing affordability in New Zealand will be crucial for addressing the issue of food insecurity among disadvantaged communities.

To achieve Clean Water and Sanitation, both countries will need to focus on increasing access to clean and safe water, improving water quality, and increasing access to proper sanitation facilities (*Transitioning to clean water and sanitation* 2021). This will require significant investment in infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, as well as investments in water conservation and management. India in particular, needs to focus on increasing access to clean water and sanitation in rural areas, and addressing the issues of industrial pollution and inefficient use of water resources. In addition, both countries need to ensure sustainable management and maintenance of existing water supply and sanitation systems.

In summary, achieving Zero Hunger and Clean Water and Sanitation requires integrated approaches and a coordinated efforts from different sectors of society. Investment in rural areas and disadvantaged communities, strengthening smallholder farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving housing affordability, increasing access to clean water and sanitation, and improving water quality are some of the key steps that can be taken in order to achieve the SDG 2 and SDG 6 respectively.

**Opportunities for Businesses**

Based on the challenges outlined in the SDGs of Zero Hunger and Clean Water and Sanitation in New Zealand and India, there are several opportunities for businesses to contribute to achieving these goals.

Food security: Food security is a major concern in both New Zealand and India, with disadvantaged communities facing high rates of food insecurity. Businesses in New Zealand can invest in sustainable agricultural practices and rural development to help increase food security for these communities (Fedorova & Taaricht, 2020). In India, where a significant portion of the population still suffers from hunger and malnutrition, businesses can invest in improving the food supply chain, reducing food waste, and supporting smallholder farmers. By investing in sustainable agricultural practices, businesses can not only increase food security but also reduce environmental impact and improve farmer livelihoods.

Affordable and nutritious food: In New Zealand, where high housing costs and low income contribute to food insecurity, businesses can develop new products or services to make healthy food more affordable and accessible, particularly for low-income communities. In India, where lack of access to nutritious food is a major problem, businesses can also develop new products and services, as well as promoting healthy diets and investing in nutrition education.

Water supply and management: Ensuring access to clean and safe water is a major challenge in both New Zealand and India. Businesses in New Zealand can invest in water conservation, treatment, and infrastructure to ensure all citizens have access to clean and safe water. This can include investing in water management technologies, such as water filtration and purification systems, as well as supporting water conservation and re-use initiatives. In India, businesses can invest in water treatment technologies, water conservation and in the expansion of sanitation facilities especially in rural areas. They can also support the implementation of sustainable water management practices to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the water supply and distribution systems, thus reducing water wastage and increasing access to clean and safe water for all.

Sanitation facilities: Improving access to sanitation facilities is crucial for ensuring clean water and sanitation for all. Businesses in India can invest in developing and providing sanitation facilities in rural and remote areas, as well as investing in technologies to improve waste management and water treatment (*Safe and available water* 2022). This can include developing and installing new sanitation systems, as well as upgrading and maintaining existing systems, to ensure they are functioning effectively and efficiently. Furthermore, businesses can also invest in and promote the use of composting toilets and other sustainable sanitation options to reduce water consumption and minimize waste.

It is important to note that addressing the SDGs require an integrated and coordinated effort from different sectors of society, including governments, civil society, and private sector. Businesses can also look into partnerships and collaborations with other organizations to have a greater impact on these goals. Additionally, businesses should also prioritize and integrate the principles of sustainability and social responsibility in their operations and activities to help achieve these global goals.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the SDGs of Zero Hunger and Clean Water and Sanitation are crucial for ensuring the well-being of individuals and communities across the globe. This analysis has highlighted the different challenges and opportunities facing New Zealand and India in achieving these SDGs. While New Zealand faces challenges of food insecurity among disadvantaged and vulnerable populations and issues with water quality in rural areas, India faces significant issues with hunger, malnutrition and lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities particularly in rural areas. It has also highlighted the opportunities for businesses to invest in sustainable agricultural practices, improving the food supply chain, reducing food waste, developing new products and services, increasing access to clean and safe water, developing sanitation facilities, investing in renewable energy and through partnerships and collaborations with other organizations to have a greater impact on these goals. Achieving these SDGs will require an integrated and coordinated effort from different sectors of society, including governments, businesses and civil society organizations.

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