

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh: An Overview

Introduction

The concept of sustainable development formed the basis of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. *Sustainable development* is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society. Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development.

Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country due to its hydrological and geo-morphological realities, its location at the bottom of three major river systems - the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna and being bound on the south by the Bay of Bengal. Given the evolving climate change, the country has begun to be visited by extreme climatic events more frequently. These climatic events cause adverse socio-economic consequences for the affected people and, therefore, are a major concern for national socio-economic progress. For example, mega cyclones *Sidr* in 2007 and *Aila* in 2009 have caused huge losses and damages affecting a large number of people and consumed significant budgetary resources in relief and rehabilitation, thereby constraining the country's development prospects by reducing resource availability for development activities. The objectives of the paper is to clarify the concept of Sustainable Development and SDG goals, to find out the global strategies to implement SDG goals and targets, to observe the existing programs of Bangladesh towards SDG, to explore the achievement and challenges of SDG in Bangladesh and to discover the social workers' interventions in the continent of sustainable development.

Concept of Sustainable Development and SDGs

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resource use continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system.

Global community has adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, encompassing 17 universal and transformative goals and 169 targets. With the global commitment of leaving no one behind, the 2030 Agenda aimed at ending poverty and hunger, attaining gender equality, fighting inequality and tackling climate change to protect the earth.

According to the Burtland Commission Report,

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

(Sustainable Development, Available at: <https://www.iisd.org/topic/sustainable-development>, Dated on: 29th September 2018)

Sustainable development is based on the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social sustainability.



Source: <http://macaulay.cuny.edu/eportfolios>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a formation of 17 global goals associated by the United Nations General Assembly.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the great scheme to acquire a better and more sustainable future for whole. They address the most pressing global challenges we face, including hunger, poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Background of SDGs

The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which started a global effort in 2000 to tackle the indignity of poverty. The MDGs established measurable, universally-agreed objectives for tackling extreme poverty and hunger, preventing deadly diseases, and expanding primary education to all children, among other development priorities.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world.

(Background on the Goals, Available at:

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/background/>,

Dated on: 29th September 2018)

One of the main outcomes from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 was an international agreement to negotiate a new set of global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide the path of sustainable development in the world after 2015. Building on the MDGs, the SDGs were established following the largest multiple stakeholder consultation process of its kind. On September 25th 2015 during the UN General Assembly in New York, an unprecedented 193 countries adopted the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals with 169 specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. In the words of the United Nations Development Program, the goals are designed “to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, and build strong institutions and partnerships, and more”.

(The UN Sustainable Development Goals: Background, available at: <https://charity.org/sdgs-background>, Dated on: 29th September 2018)

Goals of SDG

All of these goals are considered as applying challenges to all developed and developing countries.

SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum).

SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

SDG 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Each SDG has its own specific targets, for a total of 169 targets in all.

Strategies of Bangladesh to Achieve SDGs

Some strategies are followed to achieve The Goals. These are described here.

i. Set National Priority and Turning SDG into reality:

SDG is a global target that will drive the world development for next 15 years. This requires each country to set their own agenda based on their priority that reflects their social, economic and political structure of each country. In Bangladesh, Parliament is at the suitable position to bring SDG to the citizen at both national and local level and engage all stakeholders to set national priorities and make all stakeholders accountable.

ii. Ensure quality of SDGs:

Parliament/parliamentarians through their oversight function can monitor government actions in relation to the progress of SDGs implementation. Parliament can bring SDG and its progress and the importance of ensuring quality to people's attention through bringing SDGs into various discussions including plenary and committee meetings. Parliament monitor and observe government's work and achievements.

iii. Ensure Financing:

Parliament as the authority to allocate national budget can ensure appropriate financing for SDG implementation, Parliament can analyze and identify areas of priority and allocate budget that ensures effective implementation. Implementation of SDGs requires allocation of enough resources to implement SDGs. Members of Parliament provide supports to allocate financial resource from government which ensures to keep rolling the development process.

iv. Co-operation with executive power:

Integrating SDGs agenda in established national strategies obliges cooperation between the legislative and executive powers, by which the government and other state institutions, provide the practical and technical support for the agenda approved by the parliament. In Germany there is a State's Secretary Committee on Sustainable Development this Committee rests with the Federal Chancellery, the main entity responsible for sustainable development at the national level. It works closely with ministries in shaping and implementing the national sustainable development strategy.

v. Form active partnerships:

Active partnerships are every important to attain this very high ambitious goals. It is not possible only for the government to ensure effective implementation as well as quality of the implementation. All partners and stakeholders have equal responsibility to take part in SDG implementation. Parliament can play a key role in this regard. It can form partnerships among different stakeholders including CSOs, academicians, business community, government, international development organizations and others.

vi. Ensure Governance:

Parliament through its 3 important mandates can play a great role to ensure that the government is giving much emphasize on the governance mechanism in attaining SDGs. Parliament as the representative body of all citizens of the country it is their prime duty to uphold people's will and give it top most priority.

vii. International Cooperation and Conference:

Another big duty of MPs is to maintain continuous communication with UN Bodies, development donors and partners. In implementing the SDGs, it is important to stay up to date on what is happening and where the agenda is heading. This can be achieved by being part of the international network working on the SDGs.

viii. Cross Party Collaboration and forming a Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs:

Achieving SDGs as a county depends on collective work and shared efforts of a country. MPs from different parties who share the same interest in SDGs, or in one specific goal, can join forces and create cross-party group as a platform to discuss and support the SDGs.

Means of Implementation the SDGs According to the Govt. Strategies

As Bangladesh has significant role and contribution to formulate the SDGs, it also needs to show its implementation commitment and achievement pathway for sustainable development. Fortunately the country's long term development plan (7FYP) and SDGs are both launched in the same year of 2015. Hence opportunities have been created for government to align the development strategies in view of 2030 global goal. We think this process will allow Bangladesh to become an example to other countries for SDG implementation as was the case for MDG implementation. This has been observed that government has realized this technique properly and developed a mapping document including the development ministries, divisions, agencies and authorities by SDG targets for them to implement and achieve.

i. ***Mapping of Ministries:***

Bangladesh has clearly identified the responsibilities of the ministries and agencies to achieve the SDGs. Bangladesh has mapped out lead, co-lead and associate ministries against each target of the SDGs. This mapping exercise is expected to reduce duplication of efforts, enhance synergy and help formulate action plans. Here, a table provides as sample design of mapping by ministries and authorities by SDGs and targets;

SDG-1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	
Lead govt. Ministries or Agencies	Cabinet Division & General Economic Division-GED
Associate Ministries or Agencies	Economic Relation Division, Local Govt. Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest, Social Welfare, Fisheries & Livestock, Industries and Disaster Mgt and Relief etc.
Action to achieve SDG in 7FYP period	Reduce extreme poverty by 4.0 percentages to 8.9% by 2020.
List of Policy Instruments for SDG achievement	National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2015
Proposed global indicator to measure performance	Proportion of Population below international poverty line by sex, age and employment status by location.
SDG-3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing For all at all ages.	
Lead govt. Ministries or Agencies	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
Associate Ministries or Agencies	Local Govt. Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs, Information and Statistics & Informatics Division etc.
Action to achieve SDG in 7FYP period	Provision of ANC services for all pregnant women including TT. Training of CSBAs. Expansion of CEmOC in more Sub-district level health complexes. Piloting of demand-side financing through providing maternal vouchers. Demand creation for utilization of ANC, PNC and institutional deliveries etc.
List of Policy Instruments for SDG achievement	National Health Policy-2011 and Bangladesh Population Policy-2012.
Proposed global indicator to measure performance	Maternal Mortality Ratio, Under-5 mortality rate and rate of skill birth attendant etc.

ii. ***Data gap analysis:***

Bangladesh Planning Commission conducted a review of various means of data generation in the country. It reveals that Bangladesh has data for 70 indicators and partially available data for 108 indicators but need to devise new mechanism for data mining for the remaining 63 indicators.

iii. ***National Monitoring & Evaluation Framework:***

We are in the process of finalizing a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for SDGs implementation. This framework will have a macro level web based data repository system to facilitate data collection, analysis, progress tracking and reporting.

iv. *Assimilation of SDGs targets in Performance Agreement:*

Bangladesh has introduced Annual Performance Agreement (APA), a results-based performance management system, across the whole spectrum of public sector assessing individual and ministries/agencies performance.

v. *Action Plan to achieve SDGs:*

The Government is preparing an action plan for implementation of the SDGs in alignment with the 7th FYP. Respective ministries are working towards translating the particular targets into actionable projects/programs/activities in this regard. The Action Plan for SDGs was finalized by June 2017.

vi. *Integration of the SDGs with 7FYP:*

Apparently the 7FYP (7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020) has been prepared in coordination with the targets of SDGs. Government has claimed that the preparation and launching of the plan coincided with the global discourse on SDGs and Bangladesh was one of the forefront countries that played a significant role in formulating the SDGs at that time. The 7FYP has made a reflection on the core goal of SDGs specially in ending poverty in all its form. Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in reducing the poverty in last few decades. Nevertheless, about a quarter of the population of 160 million is still living below the poverty line, hence setting that target is a necessary condition for attacking poverty with delineating 7.4% expected annual growth rate that was suggested by SDGs (SDG 8.1).

Actions to Achieve SDGs Integration with Govt. 7FYP (2015-2020)

SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- i. Reduction in the head-count poverty ratio by about 6.2 percentage points (from 24.8% to 18.6%).
- ii. Reduction in extreme poverty by about 4.0 percentage points (i.e. 8.9 % in 2020).
- iii. Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3%
- iv. Creation of a Lagging Region Fund.

SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- i. Consolidation of Food Transfer Program as suggested by National Social Security Program.
- ii. Reduce proportion of stunting among under-five children from 36.1% to 25%
- iii. Reduce proportion of underweight children among under-five children from 32.6% to 20%

SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

- i. Under 5 mortality rate to be reduced from 41 to 37 per 1000 live births.
- ii. Maternal Mortality Ratio to be reduced from 170 to 105 per 100,000 live births.
- iii. Immunization, measles (percent of children under 12 months) to be increased to 100%
- iv. Births attended by skilled health staff to be increased to 65%
- v. Reduction of Total Fertility Rate to 2.0
- vi. Increasing Contraceptive Prevalence Rate to 75%

SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- i. Achieving 100% net enrollment rate for primary and secondary education.
- ii. Ensure quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary education.
- iii. Percentage of cohort reaching grade 5 to be increased to 100% from current 80%

SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- i. Gender Parity Index in tertiary education to be raised from current 0.70 to 1.0
- ii. The ratio of literate female to male for age group 20-24 to be raised to 100% from the current 86%
- iii. Increase the share of female officers (Grade-9 and above) in the public sector to 25% by 2020.

SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- i. Safe drinking water to be made available for all rural and urban population.
- ii. Proportion of urban population with access to sanitary latrines to be increased to 100 percent and 90 percent for rural population.

SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- i. Generation of electricity to be increased to 23,000 MW.
- ii. Electricity coverage to be increased to 96%
- iii. Increase energy efficiency by 10%

SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- i. Attaining average real GDP growth rate of 7.4% per year over the plan period.
- ii. Total revenue to be raised from 10.7% of GDP to 16.1% by FY20.
- iii. 12.9 million additional jobs will be available during 7th FYP including some 2 million jobs in abroad.
- iv. FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) to be increased substantially to \$9.6 billion by FY20 from present \$1.57 billion.

SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- i. Focus on fast tracking a number of transformational infrastructure projects.

- ii. Increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to 21.5% of GDP by FY20 from 17.8% of FY15.

SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

- i. Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3% of GDP.
- ii. Reduce Income Inequality from 0.458 to downward.

SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- i. Access to improved water source will be ensured for all urban dwellers.
- ii. Ensure sustainable urban development that supports increased productivity, investment and employment.

SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

No Action Plan.

SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- i. Environmental, Climate Change and disaster risk reduction considerations are integrated into project design, budgetary allocations and implementation process.
- ii. 500 meter wide green belt to be established and protected along the coast.

SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- i. Develop law & regulation in pollution control including sea vessel and ship breaking industries.

SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- i. Increase productive forest coverage to 20 percent with 70% tree density.

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- i. To ensure all persons are able to live securely under the rule of law.
- ii. Enhancing Integrity & Controlling Corruption.
- iii. Strengthen Right to Information (RTI) and Access to Information process.
- iv. Making parliamentary process effective.

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

- i. Develop effective Aid Information Management System (AIMS).
- ii. Ensure development partners' policy alignment and system harmonization.
- iii. Effective national Policy on Development.

Fortunately the country's long term development plan (7FYP) and SDGs are both launched in the same year of 2015. Hence opportunities have been created for government to align the development strategies in view of 2030 global goal. We think this process will allow Bangladesh to become an example to other countries for SDG implementation as was the case for MDG implementation. This has been observed that government has realized this technique properly and developed a mapping document including the development ministries, divisions, agencies and authorities by SDG targets for them to implement and achieve.

Challenges faced by Bangladesh

According to report of Planning Commission of Bangladesh 2017 the challenges are described on goal and target basis. These are follows-

Challenges to Goal 01

The goal-1 includes 5 specific targets that are eradicating extreme poverty (the people who are earning their lives by less than \$ 1.25 in a day) within 2030 and reducing, at least, half the proportion of people who are living below the poverty line, implementing proper social protection systems domestically, make sure that everybody has equal rights to economic resources and boost the resilience of the vulnerable poor. The families who are poor and non-poor are vulnerable to confront shocks that can take them instantly into extreme poverty. So eradicating extreme poverty which currently stands at 17.6 percent and abating the current poverty rate of 31.5 to 16 percent by 2030 would be big challenge for Bangladesh.

Challenges to Goal 02

The goal-2 includes 5 specific targets such as eradicating hunger and accessibility to safe and ensuring nutritious food for all and all forms of malnutrition to end; small-scale food producers' income and agricultural productivity to make double; promoting the sustainability of food production systems and ensuring the resilience agricultural practices; and preserving the genetic multiplicity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed animals. Although there is a huge progress in poverty reduction and human development by accelerating indicators such as literacy and life expectancy, the rates of income and consumption inequalities have proliferated. About 43 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line where most of them are women and children. Understanding the first and second targets would be big challenges for Bangladesh in the absence of a still inadequate social protection system for the vulnerable and poverty laden population.

Challenges to goal 03

The goal-3 includes 9 specific targets that the reduction of maternal mortality proportion to below 70 per 100 thousand live births as well as the deaths of newborns babies to make preventable and below 5 children to at the minimum 12 and 25 per 1000 live births; the eradication of tuberculosis; non-communicable diseases related mortality rate to be reduced by one-third; the number of deaths and injuries by road accidents to be reduced at the minimum 50 percent; and universal health coverage to be ensured. Since more than 70 percent of deliveries happen at home, fewer than 20% of women receive post-natal care. So the lack of trained health care providers is a root challenge

to overcome. The doctor-population ratio in Bangladesh is 1:4000 and there are about 45,000 registered doctors to provide treatment that is absolutely inadequate for the healthcare demands of the population. Besides, most of the doctors like to stay in the main cities not practicing in the rural areas. Neglecting public health care facilities by the government (It is purely observable in Public hospitals such as CMC, DMC etc.) and expansion of private centralized hospitals' exploitation are the extreme challenges of the country.

Challenges to Goal 04

The goal-4 includes 7 specific targets that are ensuring primary and secondary education to be completed for all boys and girls as well as access to pre-primary education and early childhood development; equal participation by the boys and girls to affordable and provide quality vocational, technical, and tertiary education; and ensuring literacy for all youths and adults. In these targets we can include some more challenges to primary, secondary, and tertiary education such as inclusiveness and access to be ensured as primary education duration has been extended from the present class I to VIII; the up gradation of new curricula to be adaptive with 21st century global education system for enhancing quality education in sensitive manners related to gender. All students, on one hand, to be enable to acquire human qualities and some basic skills on the other; there must be decentralization system in all category of administration and management to develop a well mechanism for the supervision and monitoring by the inclusion of local citizens along with official processes; a unique system of education at least up to class XII to be ensured; there must be reformation in the examination system in order to assess knowledge, creativity and problem solving skills of students rather than memorization; science, information technology mathematics and humanitarian education to be emphasized to improve the relevance of secondary curriculum especially for better livelihood by the citizens; curricula, facilities, and methods of skill training to be improved for secondary school programs such as the SSC (vocational) and HSC (vocational); the Integration of ICT to be ensured in the curriculum irrespective of the stream along with encouraged computer based learning at the secondary and higher secondary level by formulating and implementing a coherent and comprehensive policy framework emphasizing national priorities in the education and minimizing rural-urban gaps; session jam and politicization to be eliminated in higher educational institutions.

Challenges to Goal 05

The goal-5 has 5 targets that include all types of gender discrimination, violence against women and harmful practices like early, forced or child marriage to be eliminated permanently; recognizing the value of domestic and household without paid care and work; and ensuring equal participation of women in leadership positions. Meeting these targets will be an uphill task in Bangladesh because of the social realities, citizens' outlook and value systems in society. Yet child marriage is a dire state in Bangladesh. Bangladesh ranks six positions with 52 percent and Cameroon the lowest with 38 percent. However, in terms of the absolute number of children married, Bangladesh seems to rank second among top 20 with 3.9 million married off every year under age 18. When children are married at the age of early, child brides face a lot of challenges in their whole way of life. So it will be daunting task for the government eradicating all forms of

discrimination towards women. Women empowerment in all places is a rough and tough job to implement. Most of women yet confined with domestic chores not contributing income to the family as like as male donor. Besides women in the working place is the worst sufferer by their male colleagues. Often time they are harassed in schools, colleges, and universities even in the families. The related ministries of women and children affairs, labor, home affairs, and social welfare and employment are relevant for realizing these targets.

Challenges to Goal 06

The goal-6 has 6 targets that include free access to safe drinking water equitably and universally, providing equitable and adequate sanitation and hygiene, enhancing the quality of water, increasing efficiency of water-use, having water resources management integration and conserve water-related eco-systems. Of these targets, the first target is likely to be achieved as access to safe drinking water already stands at 98.3 percent in Bangladesh. Although we have made a successful story comparatively better position than India in sanitation, the achievement of sanitation target will be difficult as the current rate is only 63.8 percent. The same goes for other targets, as there seems to be inadequate professionalism as well as distortions by vested quarters in the management of water-resources sector. Bangladesh is a riverine country having huge water in rivers though we have lost most of our fundamental rivers. Making efficiency of the water resources is the prime challenges to attain sustainable development. To achieve the universal coverage, maintenance, and monitoring, strong efforts are needed to the water supply services. We should make strong the only water supplying authority WASA to be richer in employment and management activities and make sure the cent percent pure drinking water for all. The ministries of local government and rural development, as well as water resources are relevant for achieving these targets.

Challenges to Goal 07

The goal-7 has 3 targets that include providing global access to reliable, affordable and modern energy services along with increasing the share of renewable energy substantially in the energy mix and ensuring to make double the rate of enhancement in energy efficiency. Having lags in fuel resources, Bangladesh will face huge difficulties in achieving these targets. And there have been complete failure of transmission cum distribution systems as well as renewable energy programmes to deliver the expected outcomes. Besides, the per capita average consumption of energy in Bangladesh is fundamentally lower than those of Asia even in South Asian countries. Having low level of consumption, a serious energy crisis persists everywhere. As a result there is a sluggish growth in energy provisions although the demand for energy has been growing rapidly that hinders to achieve higher economic growth. The present government has taken some crucial steps to increase the electricity generation volume up to 20,000 MW by 2021 and in the same year electricity for all vision will be implemented. As solar energy appears to have an unlimited supply, research and experimentation including wind power, should be encouraged. The Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministries are most relevant for realizing and implementing these targets.

Challenges to Goal 08

The goal-8 has 10 basic targets that include sustaining economic growth at 7 percent; promoting development-based policies and achieving higher levels of economic productivity that support productive activities by improving resource efficiency in consumption and production; achieving productive employment for all; substantially reducing youth unemployment; eradicating forced labor; stopping human trafficking as well as heinous forms of child labor; promoting the rights of labor and ensuring safe working environment; implementing policies to promote tourism with sustainability and to invigorate the capacities of financial institutions for expanding access to financial services. The socio-political stability as well as strengthening the capacity and efficiency of the government is the great challenge to implement these targets and government can achieve these targets through sweeping reforms in administrative and financial governance. In the perspective plan the present government has taken some fundamental policies to boost growth 7 to 8 percent by 2015 and average 8 percent by 2021 to reach the threshold of middle income country. It will be very difficult for the government to have 8 percent growth not having increased all types of investment. The private, public and foreign direct investment is not up to the mark in the recent years. Having very slow nature in employment, the newly graduated are pressuring on labor force. The ministries of finance, planning, labor and employment, industries, civil aviation and tourism are relevant for realizing these targets.

Challenges to Goal 09

The goal-9 has 5 specific targets that include developing quality, reliability, sustainability and resilience infrastructure to be developed, promoting inclusive as well as sustainable industrialization, increasing the small-scale of enterprise to financial services, and enhancing scientific research cum technological capabilities. Massive investments would require both from the private and public sector in infrastructures and industries as well as transnational collaborators. Some more challenges will be faced by Bangladesh in transportation and communication sector that also include fulfilling the transport demand originating from the higher growth rate of GDP; the introduction of modern technics for building capacity and quality and productivity enhancement to ensured; linking effective railway to be established between the country's east and west zones and developing two sea ports to ensure smooth transaction; Ensuring good attempts be made to participate in a body and initiatives to be taken to connect global and regional transport systems that can assist between South Asia and East Asia through Bangladesh to build the land route links; Ensure greater participation by the private sector to the provision of required incentive packages for transport services and infrastructure development; Transport network and service development will be ensured so that these do not cause the environmental pollution and affect ecological balance; The up gradation of commuter train services is needed to ensure better urban transport facilities to the daily passengers around Dhaka, Chittagong, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Parbatipur, sylhet etc. Moreover, the implementation of projects are needed for enhancing the services of the traditional country boat sector and ensure the enforcement of safety

regulations to reduce the number of accidents. So updating all communication system will be difficult task solely by the government.

Challenges to Goal 10

The Goal-10 has 7 specific targets that include progressively sustaining income increment of the lowest 40 percent of population at an increasing rate than public average, empowering and promoting political and socio-economic inclusion of all, ensuring same facilities and opportunities and minimize inequalities by eradicating discriminatory policies, laws and practices and implementing advocate policies, laws and actions; adopting and social protection policies, fiscal, wage policies for achieving sustainable equality; improving the laws, monitoring and enforcement of world monetary institutions; and facilitating safe, orderly, not irregular and accountable transit and mobile of the people. All these would require an overhaul of the domestic and international legal cum regulatory regimes. Another great challenge to be introduced is the income discrimination prevalence in society that present to be increased dramatically. From the findings it is observed that the income distribution is not fair and equal compared to consumption distribution.

Challenges to Goal 12

The goal-12 has 8 specific targets that cover the implementation of a ten year adapted schedules on sustainable production and consumption patterns, acquiring sustainable management and sufficient consumption of natural resources, lessening per capita food waste at a minimum 50% in consumer level and decreasing food losses in production chains; ensuring atmospheric sound chemicals and wastes management; encouraging companies to ensure sustainable practices. Maximum targets of Goal 12 don't give that question's answer directly and are so unlikely to have an important effect on national and public policies. Therefore all these would require massive efforts by the government as well as the private and non-government entities. The ministries of agriculture, jute and textiles, industries, food, planning environment and forests are relevant to achieve these targets.

Challenges to Goal 13

The goal-13 has very specific targets that include strengthening resilience and adaptive capability to face climate-bound hazards and natural calamities; incorporating the measures of climate change into national policies, plans and strategies; and creating awareness, upgrading education, having institutional capacity on climate change adaptability, mitigation, and impact reduction. The adverse global climate change is responsible for creating acute environmental risks impacting on human as well as on natural systems. Another covering area of human networks are river including other water bodies, forestry and agriculture along with marine systems and coastal zones include human settlements, financial services including insurance, energy with industry, and human health. Heavy Rainfall, atolls and coral reefs, glaciers, polar and alpine ecosystems, boreal and tropical forests, mangroves, and remnant native grasslands, prairie wetlands are included in natural systems. Due to human encroachment, the downfall of the environment in Bangladesh happens that impacts on climate change even more severe and acute.

Challenges to Goal 14

The goal-14 has 7 targets include prevention and reduction of marine pollution; sustainable management and production of marine and coastal eco-systems; minimizing and addressing the influences over the acidification of ocean; regulating the reaping and preventing too many fishes to catch and not legal cum unchecked fishing; conserving at least 10 percent of marine areas; banning certain fisheries subsidies that contribute to over-capacity and over-fishing; and sustainable use of marine resources help to add growth and economic benefits to least developed countries. Implementation of these targets would require closer coordination, efficient cum effective management of marine resources by relevant public entities like the ministries of fisheries and livestock, shipping and water resources, the department of fisheries as well as defense organizations like the Navy and Coast Guards. The Bay of Bengal is the great source of fisheries by which we can meet the huge demand of increasing population of the country. There is high income elasticity of demand of fisheries products and there is a projection of National Agriculture Commission that demand for fish will increase at approximately 4.1 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Challenges to Goal 15

The goal-15 has 9 targets that include ensuring preservation, protection and balanced application of earthbound and into the interior fresh water with complex ecosystem and their service; all kinds of forests' sustainability management; combating desertification, restoring debased land and low quality soil; making sure conservation of mountain eco-systems; taking urgent action to reduce the degradation and bio-diversity, loss of natural habitats, promoting fair sharing of benefit arising from inborn assets and resources; for the protection of flora and fauna to poach and traffic, emergency action to be taken; introducing steps to hinder and diminish the impact of intrusive nonnative species; and integrating ecological as well as biodiversity values into local and national development plans and processes. Biodiversity conservation as well as ecological balance is in a die-hard state. Erosion, loss of soil fertility and over-exploitation are the most significant and known problems in Hill forests. Soil fertility Loss, erosion, over grazing, flooding, drought, and poor water are the fundamental environmental problems in the plantations.

Challenges to Goal 16

The goal-16 has 10 basic targets that include significant reduction in all types of disorder and related deaths; eradicating exploitation, trafficking, abusing and agitating against youth; ensuring law and equal accessibility of justice for all; lessening illegal financial and ammunition flows, invigorating the recovery and back of squandered assets, and fighting with all types of systematized crimes; reducing and controlling corruption and bribery substantially; formulating effective, responsible and lucent institutions; ensuring accountable, comprehensive, typical and Participatory decision-making in all crucial levels; widening developing countries' attachment in global organization; providing legitimated sameness to all; and making sure public access to news and facts and preserving basic independence. Good governance and inclusive democratic practices

as well as strengthening the watchdog role of constitutional bodies and democratic institutions would require flourishing of all these.

Challenges to Goal 17

The goal-17 stipulates the ways of strengthening the establishment and revitalization of world contact for achieving sustainable development. It infers to financial technological aspects, capacity building especially in developing countries, promotional of global, command-based, disclose, discrimination less, balanced, and multidimensional trading system and also addresses like multi-stakeholder partnerships policy and institutional coherence along with data monitoring and accountability issues.

Recommendations

- i Relevant implementing ministries or agencies under the guidance of planning ministry of the government should have separate targets of SDG action and allocation in Annual Development Program in each fiscal year.
- ii Policy and process simplification, coordination and coherence aligning business and industrial enabling environment required for SDGs.
- iii Technological progress is the foundation of efforts to achieve environmental objectives, such as increased resource and energy-efficiency. Without technology and innovation, sustainable industrialization, development will not happen.
- iv Form a high level ‘National SDG Implementation Committee’ to act as a single platform consisting of public and private sector along with all stakeholders for outlining roadmap on short term, mid-term bases to ease the targets of SDGs.
- v Investment and GDP ratio needs to be raised to 45 percent contributed by industrial, agriculture and service sector growth. As well, Tax/GDP ratio and net need to be raised to finance dealing SDG indicators.
- vi FDI inflow for adequate infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation are needed.
- vii .Greater emphasis on attaining local and sector focused marketable skills of young workforce in support of industrial growth.
- viii Government investment will be required to increase the share of social safety spending in GDP and improve poverty reduction targets.
- ix A new and low cost SDG fund can be introduced in central bank.
- x Policy and visionary plan to gradual shifting to clean and renewable energy sourcing and access to all adopting cost efficient and green energy generation technology and manufacturing.
- xi Coordinated participation of government, international cooperation agencies, civil society and the private sector on transitional national policy reform and formulation on trade and industry affair
- xii Fiscal policy, monetary policy management, perspective plan of GoB, Industrial policy, comprehensive trade policies and other relevant policy and five-year-plan need to be orchestrated keeping the difference aside in order to achieving long term goals in SDG.

- xiii Since Private sector is the frontline stakeholder of the SDG, the plan of actions for SDG achievements need to be inclusive, private sector friendly and result oriented to have a win-win situation for private and public sectors.
- xiv National budget should look into the SDGs and allocate sizable ADP to implement targets associated with goals.
- xv Renew promise from the developed countries on their promises of aid, grant and ODA.

Social workers' Interventions to SDG programs in Bangladesh

Social work is established as a profession in many countries today. Although social work originated in the western industrial nations, it also emerged in the so called developing countries of the Third World in the middle decades of this century. In these countries, schools of social work were often created by religious organizations and social workers found employment in nongovernmental agencies. However, after the Second World War, many newly independent Third World governments began to employ social workers to staff their public welfare programs. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance well-being. It therefore proposes a paradigm shift from remedial to a social development paradigm if it is to make an impact in the 21st century (Chitereka, 2009).

- ✓ Social workers can assist in the mobilization of human capital for development.
- ✓ Social workers can contribute positively to economic development by assisting low-income and special needs clients to engage in productive employment or self-employment.
- ✓ They can foster the creation of social capital which also contributes to economic development.
- ✓ To provide assistance to states in developing early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. This assures a free appropriate public education to all children and youth with disabilities.
- ✓ To assure that the rights of children and youth with disabilities from birth to age 21, as well as their families, are protected.
- ✓ To help states and localities provide for early intervention services and the education of all children with disabilities.

Conclusion

Sustainable development requires that society play a significant role in this major transformation. Social work should not stand aside; moreover, there are opportunities to engage in this transformative process provided it adopts an eco-social approach based on social-ecological systems thinking and framed within a broad critical, political–ethical agenda. (Peeters, 2011) The complexity of a social transition asks for action on various levels and within a complex network of social relations. To ensure resilience for social change, social work may contribute through enhancing capabilities of people and building social capital. Community building, networking and alliances with other social actors have a pivotal role in a change-oriented social work practice. In

addition, developing new social-economic relations through bottom-up economic projects is crucial for a just and sustainable future. The government needs to ensure coordination amongst the various sectors for ensuring overall sustainability in future through an integrated approach. However, it cannot be achieved fully without adequate support from the international community for climate adaptation. It is also necessary to promote regional cooperation in finding solutions to regional water crisis. As Bangladesh has significant role and contribution to formulate the SDGs, it also needs to show its implementation commitment and achievement pathway for sustainable development.

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