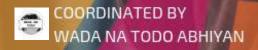AGENDA 2030: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

MULTIPLE CHALLENGES OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES IN ACHIEVING SDGs

A Civil Society Review of Sustainable Development Goals in India

Report Coordinators: Lubna Sayed Qadri, Aditi Anand, Tarun Pratap, Janavi Gupta
Print Date: September 25, 2019
Cover Photo by Tophica ul Lah

About Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) is a national campaign focused on Governance Accountability to hold the government accountable for its promise to end Poverty, Social Exclusion & Discrimination.

WNTA emerged from the consensus among human rights activists and social action groups who were part of the World Social Forum 2004 (Mumbai). The purpose was to create an environment through focused and concerted effort and try to make a difference in India where one-fourth of the world's poor live and experience intense deprivation from opportunities to learn, live and work with dignity.

In this regard, WNTA highlights the aspirations and concerns of the most marginalized sections of the society – Dalits, Adivasis, Nomadic Tribes, Minorities, Women, Sexual Minorities, Children, Youth and Persons with Disability, to the government, through People's Manifestoes before elections. Further, WNTA reviews and monitors the performance of the government on its promises and plans towards the marginalized sections on the framework of Constitutional mandates, National Development Goals and International commitments set in the UN Millennium Declaration (2000) / The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

We work to ensure that the concerns and aspirations of the marginalized sections are mainstreamed across programs, policies and development goals of the central and state governments.

Contact:

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
C-1/E, IInd Floor, Green Park Ext
New Delhi - 110016.

Ph: 011-46082371
Email: info.wadanatodo@gmail.com

Acknowledgement

This report is the outcome of the joint effort by civil society organisations in India. The organisations have long-standing engagement and programme interventions to support and promote the development of marginalized communities. Some have core expertise on specific sustainable development goals and targets, while some engage on multiple goals and targets.

The government and individual civil society organisations track SDG indicators that provide a macro understanding of the progress and gaps on individual goals and targets. As we all know, progress on any indicator is linked to others and act together in a bundled up fashion to prevent marginalized communitys' progress or reach the targets. This report is an effort to fill this gap and provide insights into the complex barriers that work together on an individual, family or community preventing their progress.

The report includes 'One-Pagers' on specific goals briefly reviewing the progress in the goal concerned. It further provides case studies reflecting the challenges of marginalized communities in their progress. Importantly the challenges cut across goals and targets and act in an inter-related manner that needs 'joint up' policies and strategies. The purpose of this document is precisely to draw attention to this complexity and present 'real people' and their challenges while discussing goals and targets and their progress.

We acknowledge the contributions of (names of organisations in alphabetic order) in preparing the 'One Pager' overviews and the sharing the case studies. We thank them for taking the time to share their work to this joint effort. We hope these briefs will contribute towards building the necessary mechanisms, resources and networks to ensure that India achieves SDGs and the furthest behind will be reached first.

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan
Convenors: Annie Namala, A K Singh, Thomas Pallithanam

Contributors

ACTIONAID

ALL INDIA WOMEN CONGRESS

AZAD FOUNDATION

CENTER FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, PRIYADARSHANI

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL EQUITY & INCLUSION

HUMSAFAR SUPPORT CENTRE FOR WOMEN

INDO GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY, SONU YADAV

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS

NATIONAL DALIT MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE

NIRANTAR

OXFAM INDIA

PEOPLE'S VIGILANCE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SAHAJ

SAMUDAIK KALYAN EVAM VIKAS SANSTHAN

SAVE THE CHILDREN

TERRE DES HOMES

VOLUNTARY ACTION NETWORK INDIA, HARSH JAITLEY

WATERAID INDIA

YUVA INDIA

Contents

Preface

All UN member states are committed to achieving SDGs Agenda 2030 consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets, spanning the three dimensions of economic, social and environmental development. Under this framework, each national government as well as other stakeholders, including local governments, business and the civil society is expected to identify, implement and report on specific actions that lead to their achievement. The national government has to translate these goals and targets into the national policies, to resource and implement these policies and to measure their implementation. On the other hand, civil society organisations are expected to play an important role in popularizing SDGs as well as take on the role of monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.

In a diverse country like India, it becomes necessary to first review the systems that are in place for ensuring the participation from all stakeholders- from people in the grassroots up to the highest levels of Government. Since the Government is the biggest entity with the most resources to ensure achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and targets that have been set, the legal and policy framework already in place in the country has to be critically reviewed to see how capable it is of achieving the SDGs and identify the gaps and challenges for rectification. The UN resolution also mentions that the business sector, non-state actors and individuals too must play a significant role in ensuring the achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, the existing efforts by these other sectors and individuals also have to be reviewed for proper planning.

In the last four years, there has been some progress on SDGs by Government of India, NITI Aayog and civil society organizations in popularizing SDGs at the national and sub-national level. NITI Aayog has come up with 361 National Indicators and in the backdrop, a compendium of recommendation on the indicator has been submitted by civil society organizations. WNTA, as a platform of various civil society organisations, in partnership with the office of United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) had actively engaged with the Ministry of Statistic and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and NITI Aayog in recommending national indicators keeping in mind the most marginalized section of the society.

WNTA organized the national multi-stakeholders' consultation on SDGs to strategise a common accountability framework for Civil Society in November 2016 from the prism of the most marginalized communities to achieve the agenda of 'Leave No one Behind'. In 2017, a Civil Society report (shadow) on SDGs for India was prepared by a large number of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and networks, using the lens of 'Leave No one Behind' and 'A Life of Dignity for All' as proposed by the SDG framework. In 2018, Leave No One Behind: a micro-study on hunger and poverty among the marginalised groups in India was collated by the WNTA, which reviews the communities' access to the PDS provisions, as one of the pieces in monitoring how SDG Goals 1 and 2 of poverty and hunger are being addressed.

In 2019, WNTA came up with a pilot study, '100 Hotspots: Snapshot of Excluded Communities and SDGs in India', a first of its kind study on SDGs status among the less recognised, invisible, excluded population groups in India. The purpose of the study was to highlight the degree to which the most vulnerable population groups across India have access and benefit from the SDGs targets and indicators in the true sense of 'leave no one behind and a life with dignity', and thereby pave the way for India to achieve SDGs at a global level.. WNTA has been actively taking the SDG work to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) processes every year to ensure advocacy of gaps in SDGs in India on the global platform.

However, four years into the process, there is little evidence to show that political decisions will take this framework into their policies and strategies, in particular in the ethos and spirit of 'leave no one behind' in the SDGs. Even as we will have reports and debates on how well a country is progressing or not progressing on the goals and targets, there is little that has been done to give SDGs a human face. Hence, WNTA has come up with a Civil Society Review Report on SDGs-2019 with human stories, reflecting mainly the challenges and multiple interrelated barriers to help identify the gaps. Through this report, it hopes to actively engage with the Indian state and create a platform for dialogue between the Civil Society and the Government on SDGs.

No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

The SDG Goal 1 calls for an end to poverty in all its manifestations by 2030. It also aims to ensure social protection for the poor and vulnerable, increased access to basic services and support people harmed by climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

The prospects of ending poverty seem increasingly bleak in the face of the current economic slowdown, despite the government's efforts to bring in measures to stimulate growth. This is because even in the period of relatively high growth, its impact on poverty eradication was less then optimal as the growth was not inclusive.

Falling agricultural incomes are both a symptom and a cause of the long-standing agrarian crisis that India is facing. The unresolved land question continued to leave numerous households without adequate means of livelihood, and the mechanism to ensure that farming was protected from the vicissitudes of price fluctuation continued to prove inadequate, and to the extent that they existed, they were marked by failure. Despite the existence of progressive legislation in the form of the Forest Rights Act that was enacted to protect the rights of forest dwelling tribes and other traditional communities, inadequate implementation did not see enhanced security. Conversely, a Supreme Court Judgement, currently under a stay order, called for the eviction of all forest dwelling communities who had not got their rights recognized under the Forest Rights Act.

To make a difficult situation worse, the extremes of weather seen in the recent years can only be understood as caused by climate change. Since 2016, India has been facing both drought and flood, with some regions moving directly from one to the other. In India, 27 states are disaster prone. The Vidharba region in Maharashtra and the Bundelkhand region in states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are chronically affected by droughts, while floods are now endemic in Assam and Bihar. The east coast suffers from cyclones and hurricanes a number of times in a year. At the same time, changes in land use pattern, unregulated construction and mining, and indiscriminate deforestation have compounded these challenges and have led to unprecedented flooding in urban areas such as Chennai and states such as Kerala. These disasters create deep impact on the economy and livelihoods, which directly impact the income and survival of the poor and deepen their insecurities.

Employment figures are a good indicator of inclusion, and the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) stated that the overall unemployment rate in the country at 6.1% for 2017-2018 was at a record 45-year high. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was on a continuous decline from 43% in 2004-05, 40% in 2009-10, 39.5% in 2011-12 to 36.9% in 2017-18. The PLFS also shows that India's female LFP has fallen to a historic low of 23.3% in 2017-18, meaning that over three out of four women are neither working nor seeking work in India. The various reasons for this dismal figure include women dropping out of the workforce due to a lack of decent jobs and wages which would match their educational levels, huge losses in agricultural jobs, and high pressure on women to stay at home and carry out unpaid care work, especially at higher levels of household incomes.

The impact of all these negative economic factors, are felt mostly by Dalits, tribals, Muslims and nomadic and Denotified tribes (NTs-DNTs), who make up most of the small farmers, agricultural labour and informal workers. These are the households that make up bulk of the chronically poor – people who have faced economic deprivation,social marginalisation, discrimination and oppression for generations.

Though a number of initiatives exist with the aim of creating social security for vulnerable communities, they have proven inadequate in the past in raising the significant number of households from poverty or preventing vulnerable households from slipping into it. However, rather than increasing financial outlay on such schemes, it fell from 14.4 % in Budget Estimate (BE) 2014-15 to a record low of 12.77 % in 2019-20 (BE).

While it is commendable that the NITI Ayog has drawn the SDG Index, there is need for the adoption of a more holistic approach to measure SDG progress against poverty, which evaluates both availability and access of marginalised and vulnerable communities to quality basic services, and also disaggregates data to assess progress made with regard to all dimensions of poverty and vulnerabilities.

Alongside, the government should ensure that the public policies contributing towards achieving SDGs are informed by the existence of multiple layers of vulnerability which include economic, social, gender, caste and minority identities. In the given scenario where a pattern of economic growth has accentuated insecurities and inequalities one cannot measure poverty alone on the index of income or resources - it needs to include dimensions of social discrimination and exclusion, lack of basic services, such as education, health, water and sanitation, and lack of participation in decision making. A strategy to end poverty needs to be comprehensive and aimed at making structural change and hence would need to be interventions with a long duration.

1.1: Community Struggling For A Decent Life

Musahars are considered lowest within the Scheduled Castes in India and continue to live in extreme poverty, they are excluded to the fringes and deprived of welfare benefits provided by the government.'*Musahar'*, literally means 'rat eaters' and was used as a derogatory title for the community. The name is symbolically suggestive of the lack of food security in the community and thereby the abysmally poor condition of the community.

This study showcases the situation of the community's habitation from one village within Patna, Bihar. A population of 250 to 300 people, live in a separate *tola*, their local term for a peripheral hamlet. There are around 30 houses and most of the people are daily wageworkers.

There is but one built house in the hamlet despite rural housing schemes being in place for decades. There exists no drainage and the only source of clean water is a single *chapakal*(hand-pump) for the entire habitation. There are more *chapakals* in the village but *Musahars* are socially excluded from using them given their caste.

Development hasn't reached the community, because there is no way to reach. There are no constructed roads leading to the *tola*, the closest railway station is 15 km away and the tertiary transportation available runs only sporadically. The only way to move is on foot, which becomes extremely difficult especially in emergencies because the nearest hospital is also 15 km away.

The entire community is illiterate with the exception of one boy who graduated and a girl who passed intermediate recently. The main occupation of the community members is that of bonded laborers in full or part-time capacities. The payment they get is often in the form of grains and occasionally in cash, which significantly restricts their spending capacities. Although, even this form of employment is available for only half a year, they are left to struggle for the rest of the year.

In addition to all this, the community either doesn't have a ration card or hasn't had them updated, and are left in a constant shortage of food and subsequently a chronic state of poverty.

Government schemes and benefits are available for all the challenges impaling the lives of *Musahars* but the thing lacking is the vision to have an inclusive, last mile implementation. Thus, there is a need for a special focus on this community to ensure employment, infrastructure, health and education benefits reach them.

1.2: Continued Prevalence Of Bonded Labour

In India, the system of bonded labour is still a harsh reality which forces many people to live and work under subhuman conditions just to make a living. They face, physical and mental torture and find no way out of it.

49 labourers and 4 child labourers were working in the PXN Marka Brick Kiln of Smt. PremLala Devi in village Hariharpur (Paterwa), PS-Jansa, District-Varanasi. They were bonded labours of owner Smt. Premlata. These labourers are residents of village Shivrampur, Post-Mirzapur, Tahsil-Razatalab, Distt-Varanasi.

The labourers took 5000 INR as an advance for working in the brick kiln. In one day one family makes 1200 bricks and are paid only 400 INR for food and other expenses. Sometimes the labourers sleep on an empty stomach. Whenever labourers demand for the remaining wages, then brick kiln owner verbally abuses them. He tells them that they already have 15000 INR advance on their selves.

When a labourer goes for shopping they are followed by the Munsi (sub-contractor). They are not allowed to go outside without permission. A person follows them every time they do.

In 2015 a non-governmental organization conducted a rescue and intervened the matter with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and District Magistrate. All labourers received a release certificate. 43 labourers received a rehabilitation package. The rehabilitation of 10 labourers is pending. The matter is constantly being followed up with the NHRC and Labour Department.

Zero Hunger

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

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 is focused at ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture. SDG 2 along with its targets is aimed at addressing the issues of nutrition, food production, distribution and access. Target 2.2 of SDG 2 is categorically aimed at addressing malnutrition. *"By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons".*

India has targeted initiatives, both at the national as well as State level, aiming to achieve the SDG Goal 2. The National Food Security Act, 2013 mandates provision of food grains to nearly 75 percent of the population in rural areas and 50 percent of the population in urban areas at affordable prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), supplementary nutrition is provided to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age. The recently launched **Poshan Abhiyaan** has brought in renewed focus and synergized efforts to battle stunting, wasting, anaemia and malnutrition among children (SDG India Index Baseline Report, 2018, NITI Aayog).

However India still faces a number of challenges in achieving SDG 2. Child Under-nutrition is especially an area of concern. India has the highest burden of under-nutrition in the world with about 30% of the world's stunted children and nearly 50% of the severely wasted children under the age of five: so the world cannot achieve the SDG targets unless India and its high burden states are able to do so. 38.4 percent of children under 5 years of age are categorized as stunted in India. The Government of India aims to reduce this to 21.03 percent by 2030. The only States to have achieved this target are Kerala and Goa. No Union Territory has achieved this target as yet. The profound impacts of under-nutrition on health, education and economic productivity are well known – and under-nutrition directly or indirectly contributes to almost half of the country's under-five mortality.

Factors that contribute to stunted growth and development include poor maternal health and nutrition, inadequate infant and young child feeding practices, and infection. Working across multiple delivery platforms - including Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and social protection schemes – and integrating them at the outreach, community, and institution levels is important for addressing the challenge. Community based behavior change approach is critical in tackling child under-nutrition at the level of community.

2.1: A Community Failed By PDS

This village's primary issue has been the Public Distribution System (PDS). Either the ration mafia takes away the beneficiaries' quota, or the Fair Price Shop (FPS) opens only once in 2-3 months. This is a study of how the community is struggling to resist these institutional challenges to their and their family's right to food.

The study was made from the inputs of Samraji Devi, a resident of village Mathia Bhokaria in Kushinagar district, Uttar Pradesh. Samraji belongs to the Musahar community, which is the predominant population of the village, and has six family members. Her family, along with the other 160 *Musahar* families, of the village, is landless and depends entirely on the PDS to function properly in order to have food security.

The food security of the community in this village is challenged at every possible level. They have to constantly deal with the strong-arming of the ration mafia who takes control of all the subsidized food grains being sent for the beneficiaries and sells them in the open market at full price. Even when ration is distributed, the beneficiaries don't get their entitled share.

The community has tried complaining at the block and district level, but to no avail. There hasn't even been an enquiry regarding this. The community is generally poor so they can't afford the means to repeatedly travel to follow-up on these complaints. To add on to their troubles, the community has stopped getting work under the government's employment insurance scheme MGNREGA.

In this crippling state of hunger and poverty, the community members who try to resist the ration mafia also have to deal with constant life threats, which leaves the families in an overall sense of insecurity.

The community has started to keep a watch on the FPS to ensure that everyone is getting their entitled share and tried to bring the entire village together on the issue during village-level meetings. There is though, an imminent need to break the vicious cycle that the community is trapped in and that can't happen without disempowering the ration mafia to ensure food security for all. With that end in mind, the higher authorities should take necessary action on the registered complaints.

2.2: Victims Of A Disabled System

Food security can't be considered secure unless you can depend on it to deal with your grievances in a timely manner. This case is about one such person who had food security but doesn't anymore, due to the public distribution system's (PDS) fallacies and doesn't know how to avail of the same anymore.

Under the National Food Security Scheme of India, beneficiaries are issued different kinds of ration cards depending on their poverty level. In the state of Jharkhand, the poorest section gets the 'Antyodaya' (AAY) card, which gives them 35 kg of wheat for the family every month. Suresh Paswan of Gadokhar village in block Katakmandi of Hazaribagh district is one such beneficiary.

Suresh got his AAY card in April 2015 and got his monthly allocation of grains until December 2018. His fate then turned for the worst and one of his legs was completely paralyzed. Since he was unable to, Suresh's wife went to collect two months of ration in February 2018 only to return with the claims of the PDS dealer that their name was cut off from the ration list.

Upon enquiring, the dealer shrugged them off saying that he cannot help them in anyway and that they should take the complaint to the block office for any action. The block office is 25 km away from the village and this family which is by definition the poorest of the poor don't have any means to travel and go complain and then also follow-up on it. As a result, the family is on the verge of dying with hunger.

These cases have been known to have taken place due to the actions of ration mafia and corrupt PDS dealers but with a regular and effective monitoring system they could be dealt with. If the government would make the grievance redressal system more localised and inclusive, keeping in mind the external costs borne by vulnerable communities, the process of dealing with possible systemic glitches would also become easier.

Good Health and Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

There are overall 12 targets within SDG 3 which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. However, NITI Ayog's SDG India Index uses only five indicators to ascertain the progress of states in achieving Goal 3, these are as follows-

- To bring down Maternal Mortality Ratio up to 70 per 100000 live births
- To bring down Under Five Mortality Rate up to 11 per 1000 live births
- 100% immunization of children between 12 to 23 months for BCG, measles and pentavalent vaccine
- Bring down annual notification of tuberculosis cases per lakh population to 0
- Increase the availability of health care providers- 550 governmental physicians, nurses and midwives per 1,00,000 population

As per the NITI Ayog SDG Index, Kerala and Puducherry are front-runners in achievements for Goal 3 whereas Dadra Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh are the worst performers.

One of the important concerns for India regarding achieving health related SDG targets are the huge inequities across states. For example- lowest under-five mortality rate is 7 per 1000 live births in Kerala whereas highest is in Uttar Pradesh (78 per 1000 live births). Thus the difference is more than ten times. As against the target of achieving 100% immunization, coverage for immunization in states like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland is less than 40%.

Another significant challenge in achieving health related targets is inadequate public funding for health sector. In the recent budget, out of INR 62659.12 crores budgeted for health sector, INR 6400 crore are earmarked for the flagship program of current Government of India named 'Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana'. Given the huge deficit of health care personnel in public health sector, the health care service delivery under this scheme will be mostly through the private sector, hence there is a huge possibility that irrational care would increase, which was seen in other insurance based schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Though reduction in maternal mortality has always been India's policy priority since MDG era, very little has translated into action in this front. NFHS 4 data reveals that only one-third of the eligible beneficiaries in India receive social protection benefits under the maternity benefits. There are huge inequities across the states in MMR, in Kerala MMR is 46 per 100000 live births, whereas in Assam it is 237, which is almost five times the difference.

Government has also planned to upgrade sub-centres into health and wellness centres (HWCs) which would deliver comprehensive package of primary health care at the grass root level. However, for well-functioning health and wellness centres, substantial increase in health care personnel would be necessary. GoI has set a target to have 550 government physicians, nurses and midwives per 1,00,000 population by 2030, however, in reality, the states like Chandigarh have the availability of health care personnel as low as 10.45 per lakh population. Other states, which have serious deficit of health care personnel are Bihar (19.74), J and K (29), Jharkhand (28), Nagaland (19), Andaman and Nicobar (16.43).

Hence, if there is any seriousness in achieving the SDG target 3 of good health and wellbeing for all at all ages, Government needs to substantially increase the allocations for health sector, strengthen the public health system and have stringent measures for regulation of private health sector if the health care service delivery under Ayushman Bharat is through private sector.

3.1: Preventable Maternal Death

Gangaben, (36 years, name changed) a tribal woman from Gujarat died four days after her third delivery. Her previous two pregnancies were normal. Her third pregnancy was registered within the first three months at the Village Health and Nutrition Day and she went for regular checkups.

She did not receive any advice from health workers anytime although she had a history of low Haemoglobin (Hb) and this was her third pregnancy. She should have also been informed of the complications that might result from anemia so that she and her family could take extra precautions. Hb test at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) revealed that she was severely anaemic and was referred to the nearby Government hospital. She was prescribed ten bottles of iron and sucrose and her Hb count doubled in percentage. Gangaben experienced delivery pains on 21/7/2016 and was taken to the PHC at 10 am.

However, she was not admitted (reasons not known) till 8:30 am the next day. By evening, her condition worsened and she was taken to a city hospital (three hours away) in the 108 ambulance for further treatment. No referral and treatment was given during her ambulance ride nor did any health worker accompany her. After admission in the city hospital at night, a caesarean was done at 5 am in the morning. Post operation, the hospital staff reported that her heartbeat was increasing and she was given blood and an injection (as mentioned by a family member). She passed away the next morning. The family did not know the cause.

The case was investigated to an extent because of maternal death reporting done by a local NGO working in that area. Many maternal deaths still go unreported or if reported just become files in the government hospitals as they are not shared on public platforms. It is important to not only strengthen maternal death review committees but also making the files accessible to public platform for research and improving quality of care and services in public institutions. It is important to investigate maternal deaths from a social determinant point of view for improving health care at all levels.

3.2: Barriers In Seeking Abortion Services For A Woman Due To Wrong Diagnosis

Nandini Raval (name changed) (28 years) is from a semi-slum area of Vadodara. She lives in a joint family and there are total 10 members in her family. She has 2 daughters, elder one is 10 years old and younger one is 5 years. She is married for last 11 years. Her husband works as driver and she works as a housemaid and takes care of children and elderly people in her family.

Last, Nandini became pregnant for the third time. She had registered her name in the Urban Primacy Health Center after confirming her pregnancy by pregnancy check kit after one and half months. Her pregnancy was also confirmed by the doctor at the UPHC. One day during the third month of her pregnancy, she started bleeding. Her sister-in-law immediately took her to a private clinic where the doctor was known to her as she suspected something serious. The lady gynaecologist at the clinic performed sonography and informed her that the foetus is only six weeks and it is not properly developed. Hence, she advised her to wait for one week after which sonography was performed again and she was informed that the foetus is still not developing properly.

The doctor suggested aborting the pregnancy through pills because the foetus was only six weeks as per her diagnosis. Nandini took a three day course of pills as per the doctor's advice and her menstruation started again. When at the time of second visit sonography was done, the doctor informed that the uterus was not cleaned properly and the uterus needs to be cleaned as pieces of the foetus were left inside. Nandini went to another private hospital to confirm the same, as she did not have faith on that doctor. Again, the doctor there did a sonography and Nandini was given a seven-day course of antibiotics after cleaning the uterus as the uterus was infected severely as per this second doctor's diagnosis. After three days, this second doctor checked her and informed her that everything is all right now.

Now her menstruations are regular, and she uses contraceptives as she does not want a child now. But she had to bear an expense of Rs. 15,000/- which was financially very constraining for her for a service which she should have received free of cost in the government hospital.

3.3: Poor Quality Services In City Government Hospital

Ankita Vanzara (name changed, 29 years old) lives in a slum area of Vadodara. Married for nine years, her husband works as a driver and she supports her livelihood by working as a housemaid.

She gave birth to a healthy boy through cesarean in a private hospital after two years of marriage. The expense was of Rs. 30,000. After five years, she became pregnant again. She confirmed her pregnancy after consulting a doctor from a private hospital. That doctor suggested that this delivery will be also be done by cesarean and the estimated expense will be Rs. 40,000/- to Rs. 50,000. So she registered her name in the Government hospital as she could not bear such a big expense again. All the prenatal checks were done in the Government hospital, which was normal.

As labour pain began in the ninth month, she went to the hospital and got admitted. The student doctors came and checked her frequently by hand insertion into her vagina, which caused her discomfort. The doctor pressurized her for normal delivery but she informed the doctor that as the earlier delivery was also a caesarean, she would prefer the same. The doctor did not listen to her wishes and waited for two days for normal delivery. By then the pain became severe and the doctor started preparation for a caesarean, which according to Ankita, was done by a medical student.

Post operation, her bleeding did not stop. She was informed that during the operation, there was an injury in the uterus due to scissors and so there was bleeding that required immediate stitching and removal of the uterus to stop the bleeding. They also put a Copper-T without asking her. She and her husband panicked and went to the private hospital where the first delivery was done for second opinion by taking discharge. Sonography revealed that that there was no injury in the uterus. She was informed that bleeding continues because the uterus was not cleaned properly. The private doctor removed the Copper-T, cleaned the uterus and prescribed medicines. After that her condition improved.

Meanwhile, her baby was also affected due to delayed delivery and frequent checking by non-experienced doctors by hand insertion in the vagina. The baby was kept in ICU for three days but eventually died. After one year she became pregnant again and gave birth to a baby boy through caesarean in the private hospital.

3.4: Unobtainable Access To Sexual Health For Women

It is common to find under-represented communities blind-sided by their own customs. This study unveils the reality of the state of women in vulnerable SC communities with reference to their awareness regarding reproductive processes such as menstruation.

Gosaimathin Nadia (Nalanda), Patna is an SC populated village. There is only one school in this village, which consists of just one room with a scarce number of teachers. With the nearest Anganwadi situated 2km from the village and the Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) 45 minutes away. The female residents of this village face challenges on the lines of basic provision of healthcare and awareness.

The cloud of sexual taboo over this village prevented the women from seeking guidance in need from the Primary Healthcare Centre, regardless of its distance. Moreover, the school itself did not promote menstrual awareness by providing awareness about body processes. Even at home, there never is an atmosphere of any provision of advice or help regarding menstruation.

Although, an ANM or ASHA would mark their attendance, there was nobody to cater to these women. Essentially, women in this village were left to suffer in silence without any sexual and reproductive health rights.

In order to fight through this sexual stigma, female Self-Help Groups should be encouraged and promoted in this village. It provides an atmosphere for the women to discuss their issues regarding their reproductive health, guide each other based on their respective experiences.

Another development strategy in such a situation would be a 'Yuva clinic', which provides regular counselling and consultations to any adolescent in need and aim to answer their questions in a safe space.

It is important for the goal to be to empower these women enough to know about the basics of their own health and to guide their peers about the same.

3.5: Social Taboo Around Women's Sexual Health

The extreme orthodox nature of neglected and vulnerable communities can at times be lethal. This study points at the taboos caused by this nature and how it harms the women of such communities by taking into consideration the violations against their sexual and reproductive rights.

Within Haryana, in a village of the district Rohtaak, consisting of an SC/OBC population. Without the provision of Anganwadis and just one Primary Health Centre (PHC) which is 30 minutes from the village, the female residents face a number of challenges with regards to getting guidance on their sexual and menstrual health.

The core challenge these women come across in their daily lives is the social taboo against women's sexual health. Natural processes like menstruation are considered 'dirty' which prohibits them from accessing universal guidance and support. Although at times boys show interest in the awareness programs organised by civil organisations, it does not have a significant effect on their female counterpart's personal health.

Moreover, ANM/ASHA in this village are often themselves corrupt by this stigma, making them shy and not very effective. Other than the very evident need to sensitize the ANM/ASHA in order to influence more women into coming out of this social stigma, female Self-Help Groups would also be very beneficial in such a society.

Moreover, Yuva clinics provide a safe space for young women who start going through sexual changes to ask their questions and receive guidance accordingly. The essential goal of such strategies is to directly tackle the extreme aversion implemented against these concepts.

Quality Education

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

Education is the key for the process of empowerment and ensuring access to free, quality, equitable education and opportunities for lifelong learning is key for the fulfilment of all goals and targets. However, India appears to be off track for the fulfilment of this goal.

While there has been an improvement in the number of children attending school, the retention rate at elementary level is 70.6%, going down to only 50.5% for secondary education. This puts the Education 2030's commitment of completion of at least 12 years of free, publicly funded, inclusive and equitable quality primary and secondary education at risk. Three-fourths of five-year-old children and quarter of children aged 5 -19 with disabilities in India are out of school rendering meaningless the commitment to leaving no one behind.

The lack of qualified teachers remains critical at all levels of education. 18.5% of teachers lack professional qualifications and 34.4% schools lack adequate number of teachers to meet statutory RTE norms. By some estimates, India is short of almost a million teachers at the elementary and secondary education. This is to a large extent also reflective of a broken teacher training and support mechanisms. 38% of faculty positions in India's central universities are vacant.

Teacher shortages are accompanied by poor infrastructure facilities with only 12.7% of schools complying with the national minimum norms laid down in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, India's benchmark legislation laying down the standards of education. Privatisation of education in the country is rising. This contributes to segregation in India's society and reinforces social hierarchies excluding the most marginalised and vulnerable groups.

India continues to spend only 3.8% GDP and 14.1% of its budget to education, falling short of both domestic and international benchmarks of spending. Unsurprisingly, learning outcomes are low.

The solutions lie in enhancing allocations to education to investing in the public education to meet normative standards of quality and address disparities within the system. A greater push to identify and re-enrol out of school children, strengthen public systems for teacher training, enhance mechanisms for handholding of teachers and put in place adequate infrastructure facilities in schools.

Enhanced efforts to strengthen secondary and post-secondary education, adult education and lifelong learning are needed. Stronger regulation of private schools to curb privatisation of education is critical for ensuring an inclusive and equitable quality education for all. At the same time, if the vision of complete implementation of the full SDG 4 Education 2030 Agenda is to be ensured it is critical to roll out a process of sensitization of education departments to the UNESCO-led Framework for Action for its implementation and India's commitments under the same.

4.1: Struggle Of Children In Reaching School

The school environment should be safe and secure to improve the teaching-learning process. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) laid down certain parameters for every school. However, even after completing of nine years since its enactment, merely 12.2% schools in Uttar Pradesh and 6% schools of Raebareli District comply with the norms and standards of RTE Act.

In Raebareli town, the snake charmer community resides in Chakthauhra (*Gadariyankapurva*). 64 children from this area have been enrolled in Primary School, Devanandpur for the past three years. This was possible thanks to the efforts of its teachers. However, the school is situated at a distance of three kilometres from the children's homes, and children have to walk a long distance from their hamlet to the school. There is a narrow path and a pool on the way, which makes the journey difficult and risky for the youngest school students.

Last year on the way to school, a small girl child Anchal, could not keep her balance and fell into the pool. Children going to school along with her shouted for help. Hearing the voice of children screaming, some workers working in the nearby agricultural field rushed to the place and rescued Anchal. She fainted in fear and regained consciousness only after twenty minutes.

After this children stopped using this particular route and started travelling to school using another pathway, which passes by a cement factory. There, children coming from Dalit communities had to face discriminatory and derogatory remarks from upper caste people. However, the children weren't demotivated and continued going to school. In January, 2019 one child Ashish who was enrolled in class 4th had an accident and was hit by a truck. His right leg was broken and he was severely hurt near his eye. After this incident all the parents got scared and stopped sending their children to school.

In June 2019, the School Management Committee federation member, Ram Mohan, did a survey of out-of-school children in that area and identified 64 such children. SMC members have been trying hard to convince parents to send their children to school but the parents are reluctant saying that they 'need a school within one kilometre as committed under RTE Act'.

The leader of the snake charmer community, Pappunath, said, "The government had brought a good law to ensure that our children get a school in their neighbourhood. Why does the government then not open a school for our children?"

4.2: Need To Increase Supply Of Qualified Teachers

Teachers are the torchbearers of education. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) promises to provide one teacher for every 30 children at primary level. However, even ten years after its enactment, a large number of schools continue to be staffed by a single teacher.

Primary School, Raipur of Raebareli district of Uttar Pradesh has a single contractual teacher (*Shikshamitra*), Ms Shakila teaching 67 students. Teaching so many of students singlehandedly is a daunting task for any teacher and their responsibilities do not stop at teaching. A report by NIEPA claims that only 19.1% of teachers' annual school hours in India is spent on teaching. The remaining time is split between assorted non-teaching activities in the school and other department activities. Primary school teachers spend higher proportion of school hours annually in non-teaching activities compared to upper primary school teachers.

Ms Shakila said, "I have to meet several administrative requirements and most of my time goes in doing paper work and attending meetings organized by the education department. How can I give the time needed to teach the children enrolled in my school? Somehow, I am managing the entire school and find time to teach children. Despite my sincere efforts, enrolment is decreasing in school and attendance is also not satisfactory". Feelings of hopelessness cloud over teachers and reduce their motivation when they cannot see results, believing it is their failure.

Additional responsibilities are present throughout the academic year. Aside from additional duties, teachers also have to do clerical work like distribution of school uniform and maintaining the mid-day meal register. During elections, mid-day meals are not distributed in many schools, depriving students of nutrition and their fundamental right to development. Students and their parents in the area have cited presence of a single teacher and her inability to give 'enough time to students' as the reason for dropping out of school or preferring a private school.

4.3: Transgender Community And Their Access To Education

Though the latest government statistics on school gross enrolment rate indicate that 105.8% of Indian children are enrolled in schools, literacy rates among persons self-identifying as transgender, are 56.07% (substantially lower than the 80% national average for male subjects of the Indian Census, as well as the 62% national average for female subjects).

Quality education for all is a crucial sustainable development goal, and in countries with flawed education systems, interventions in Adult Education are crucial to achieving sustainable lifestyles and disseminating the knowledge and skills necessary to promote responsible, aware and informed global citizenship. Equally, equity in education (with respect to gender, caste and class, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, race and religion) is an indispensable marker of societies progressing sustainably, and inequity is indicative of fundamental, structural faults. Through focus group discussions with two communities of persons identifying as transgender, Nirantar found there is a particular lag in education with respect to all three aspects: the quality of education, the possibility of lifelong learning, and equality of educational opportunity.

Both the places, the communities consisted of 18-45-year-old transgender women, gay men, and *hijra/kinnar*. We worked with Mitr and Aarohan, both grassroots organizations who reached out to persons identifying as transgender via the National AIDS Control Programme.

Many members of either community began their transitions self-identifying as cis-gendered gay men; several were still discovering their gender identities and/or sexual orientations. While most could imperfectly read Hindi signs and posters on the walls of Mitr and Aarohan centres, they had trouble with Hindi *Matras(grammar)* and could not fill out forms independently. Most members from both communities agreed on a wish to learn English, primarily to communicate more impressively (in person and on WhatsApp).

Most members of either community dropped out of school several years early. They cited sustained bullying by peers and teachers as the primary reason for doing so. Most members of either community were aware of and familiar with vocational training institutes and language coaching centres. Most found these were almost always inaccessible to them as learning environments: even if they were admitted, the prejudice they faced was debilitative and effectively disabled educational endeavours.

4.4: Literacy Marginalisation Due To Gender Identities

There is a marked difference between male and female literacy rates in Garasia community, Rajasthan. For various reasons, girls are forced to drop out of school and subsequently hampering their chances of better employment, leaving them dependent on their male counterpart.

Reports issued by microfinance initiatives and surveys of women's self-help groups (SHGs) in Sirohi, southern Rajasthan, have indicated that despite abysmally low literacy rates (about 16% for women in 2018) women are able to achieve empowerment, and take charge of their own and the region's economic and social development through access to monetary resources and institutionally guided capacity building.

Through in-depth engagement with Garasia (scheduled tribe) communities in Pindwara and Abu Road blocks, Nirantar found that this is not entirely accurate. Though women's SHGs have achieved a great deal *despite* girls and women not being formally educated, obstacles to them attaining literacy hobble their social, economic, and political autonomy. Nirantar also found that the desire for education among Garasia girls is enthusiastic. The letter of the sustainable development goal of quality education for all remains critical and must not be represented as dispensable.

72% of Sirohi's population is tribal; the average household income is Rs. 55,741 (about Rs 20,000 lower than the state average). The region is primarily agricultural, and 54% of households experience migration during the lean season. Banks account for only 2% of loans; 21% of all loans are acquired via moneylenders. Exploitation by government and bank officials, shopkeepers, and other agents is rife. Within SHGs books and accounts are kept by men or by the single literate women in any group.

With men keeping books the imbalanced gender dynamics are reinforced in ways that appear dramatically counterproductive, given the aims of the SHGs. Even when an educated woman is doing this work, the fact that women members have neither direct access to money nor any certainty of information relating to financial and other paper/digital transactions negatively impacts their confidence and capacity, in every sphere and every interaction they have in the public and private spheres.

Though girls are not housebound as they are in other parts of Rajasthan and north India at large, many are not able to attend school because school hours clash with cattle grazing timings. Girls are involved in goat rearing and small business operations, and a majority accept their debarment from education as inevitable. Nirantar found that non-formal literacy and applied digital literacy programmes for both girls and adult women among the Garasia community in Sirohi may act as a gateway to formalizing girls' education in the region.

Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The social development Goal 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls' revisits and re-emphasizes many of the commitments made under CEDAW and the Beijing Platform of Action. The targets under this goal cover all the relevant aspects, which impede gender equality and reflect a comprehensive and achievable agenda of upliftment going forward.

In general, women are not given access to political and economic decision-making positions. This is evident from the lack of women in entrepreneurship roles, political roles or enrolled in education institutions. There have been a few attempts to achieve increase in female participation; however, the total desecration of discriminatory roots is yet to be achieved.

The 17th LokSabha constituted this year saw an increase in women's participation to 14% as compared to previous years. Moreover, several laws have been introduced by the State as well as the Central government in the form of cash benefit or adolescent empowerment programmes to encourage school enrolment among girls and induce behavioural change. Various legislations have also been enacted, addressing violence against women and girls. However, the reality reflects a different picture.

Prevailing patriarchal social norms and cultural practices which lead to limited access to education, financial dependence, discriminatory inheritance practices and gender neutral policies relating to environment & climate change continue to create roadblocks which undermine the ability to achieve this goal. While the number of women in senior positions has escalated slightly, inclusion of their voices in decision-making and effective contribution of women in any policy formulation is still negligible.

Holistic empowerment of girls and women is still just a fantasy. The government needs to identify and strengthen the core enablers which leads to gender equality and address the structural issues from the root. Stringent implementation of initiated laws and rules pertaining to gender based violence, gender sensitive policies with proper implementation plans of data collection as well as monitoring are a few necessary steps to be taken to change the current social scenario.

5.1: Landless Women

Discrimination is often a deep-rooted belief system. The unsupported women in a village in Sadhrana, Haryana, had significantly low literacy rates, and did not have easy access to health, legal or any other relevant services. This study is regarding their fight towards land ownership with multiple discriminatory and financial obstacles.

Apart from taking care of their children and family, the women of the village used to work as daily wagers in nearby agriculture lands, which belonged to male landowners. Under the village adoption scheme, AIWC had adopted this village in 2005 for holistic development and overall empowerment of women. Despite number of resistance from the men in the family, women came forward to avail benefit of AIWC's various interventions like: formation of SHGs.

After a few years of intervention, three SHG group women decided to bid for 2 acre land for cultivation in 2009 at Rs.6000 for a year and produced wheat, mustard and peas. The first challenge they faced was the particular land they were allocated lacked water and was not very fertile. However, again with support from the district collector, a pump was installed and the produce gradually increased over the years. The women who were already linked to the bank through the SHG, started selling their product directly in market and were earning a good profit.

The social condition and the lack of land ownership created hurdles on the way as the price of the land bidding enhanced multi-fold to around Rs.96,000 in 7-8 years. This year the base price of bidding was fixed at Rs.1,03,000 which was certainly not affordable by the women implying that ten years of their hard work had now gone to waste.

5.2: Lack Of Gender Responsive Public Services

Saima Begum (name changed) /25years from Old City Hyderabad lives in a Chawl with her husband and children with six other families. All the families residing in the Chawl share one community public toilet, as there is only one available for the entire settlement. In her Chawl there is an unwritten rule where men get to use the toilet before women even though both women and men go to work. At times because of this Saima and women like her get late for their work and their wages get deducted.

Saima works as a teaching assistant at a local school where there is no separate toilet for women. Lack of any mandated guideline and inspection by the government on public provisioning available at community level and at the workplace for women, which prevents them from using the toilet for long hours. Saima also shares there are other facilities such as running water, safe doors with lock, and dustbin which are often missing in toilets. She emphasises the need for availability of sanitary napkins inside the toilets as well.

Saima has been suffering from a urinary tract infection also contracted from not using toilets when one needs to, on an everyday basis as well as unhygienic toilet conditions. Despite being advised by the doctor to consume more water in order to cure her UTI, Saima rations drinking water to avoid frequent toilet usage.

Pregnant and menstruating women face worse consequences as they find it extremely difficult to control bladder movement, which has health implications. During menstruation, Saima as well as other women of her neighbourhood face challenges finding an appropriate time to use the toilet to change their sanitary pads. In her own words, Saima says '*I truly believe better and accessible public toilets will encourage more women to participate in work force. Women going to Karkhane(factories) need to rush back to their homes early to use the toilet and fetching drinking water – if these services get delivered to our homes then women can earn more for their families and children*'

The state programmes like Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) while committing to sanitation facilities lack at providing accessible, free, safe and quality public toilets for women and adolescent girls, especially from marginalised communities.

5.3 Lack Of Livelihood And Security For Gender Based Violence Survivor

Preeti Patel, age 27 years, native of Sagar District (Madhya Pradesh).

Preeti belongs to a poor OBC (Other Backward Caste) family. She has one sister and two brothers. Her mother is a housewife and father is a marginal farmer. Preeti wanted to study but her family got her married after class 8th with a man who was in his 40s. She wasn't happy but had no choice. Preeti became a mother of two sons at a tender age of 20 years.

Unfortunately, her husband died of brain hemorrhage thereafter. She came back to her parents who then remarried her to a man named Purushutam, who already had a wife and lived in Bhopal. Initially he did not have any issue with her however after birth of a child, both he and his first wife started mistreating Preeti and forced her to leave him without taking the child.

Preeti was physically tortured many times by her second husband. Due to mental and physical harassment, she contracted Tuberculosis. She approached Gauravi, a One Stop Crisis Centre supported by the Madhya Pradesh government and Action Aid where she took shelter support with her three children and with claim money of maintenance from her second husband she opened a street food stall.

Although her stall was in a prime location, she was unable to sustain the expenses and faced regular harassment by local authorities and police, which deterred her spirits even further. There is no support/subsidy from the government for such gender-based violence survivors, and this is why several women like Preeti who want to stand up on their feet end up losing ground.

Today Preeti is working as a domestic worker and hardly able to sustain herself and her children.

5.4: Enforced Poverty on Abandoned Woman

This report highlights the incessant nature of discrimination against women. When broken free from familial discrimination, institutional and societal framework, come in as obstacles to Jayavanti's independent, free living.

A Shimla local and a single mother of two, Jayavanti is a victim of domestic violence at the hands of her estranged husband who she married when she was in her teens. At the age of 20, she courageously decided to leave him and support herself along with her 2 children who were both under 3 years old.

Upon failing to receive any help from her husband after their separation, Jayavanti had no option but to go to court after which she had to wait 12 years for her divorce to get finalized.

In those 12 years, her children started going to a government school and are now aged 14 and 13 in their 10th and 9th grade respectively. Her expenses, which included making them and both her elderly parents live with her on rent and supporting them were often overbearing as a sole earner who used to walk 10-12 km to go to work every day. However, she received no money from her husband after the divorce either. Instead, received threats from her in-laws who wanted her to drop the case. Even the government failed to provide her with any financial assistance.

It took Jayanti 12 years to cross her first of many obstacles in order to reach justice. Government schemes have failed not only to reach women like Jayavanti, but to even recognize them until their divorces gets finalized. There should be a way for single women like her, to receive life-altering benefits when their own family and society fails them.

There is a critical need for women's access to land. There should be laws which assure that if women's groups are producing on a piece of land for certain years, they can get ownership of the land. Likewise, the village government institutions should earmark some of the land specifically for women's groups. In the absence of such laws, despite capacity building, hard work and initiatives, socio-economic empowerment of rural women seems far-fetched.

Clean Water and Sanitation

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

Access to safe water and toilets are human rights denied to billions of people. This violation leads to growing inequalities that are holding back lives, nations and the entire development agenda.

Through SDG Goal 6, the countries of the world have resolved to achieve universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene to all in the next fifteen years. However, the situation requires more attention as 31% of people still don't have access to even basic sanitation, and more than three in ten people lack safe water. 35% of healthcare centres in low- and middle-income countries have no water and soap for hand washing. 19% of schools had no drinking water facilities and 23% had no sanitation facilities available.

India: At the crossroads of SDG 6

India's achieving Goal 6 is important not only for India, but for improving the global situation as well, for the reason that India contributes to the major chunk of these gaps. While there are specific measures put in place by the government, the situation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) still need major improvements.

The Census of India in 2011 states that 30.80% of the Rural Households in the country get tap water and 70.60% of the Urban Households of the country are covered with tap water supply. In December 2018, NITI Aayog, the policy think tank set up by Government of India, stated that 71.8% population in India has access to safe and adequate drinking water. However, only 18.33 % of the rural population have access to piped water supply through household connection. Given the extremely low coverage of piped water supply at household levels in rural India, it will be a great challenge for the Ministry of Jal Shakti to achieve 100% piped water supply by 2024 under the flagship program Jal Jeevan Mission. In the recent past, India has seen many upfront challenges such as depleting water table on an average by 0.3 metre and as much as 4 metres in some places. Official figures from the Ministry of Jal Shakti suggest that out of 593 districts for which data is available, the country has problems of high Fluoride (203 districts), Iron (206 districts), Salinity (137 districts), Nitrate (109 districts) and Arsenic (35 districts).

In 2015, it was estimated that close to 60% of all people in the world who defecate in the open live in India. From 2014, the Government of India is running its flagship Swachh Bharat Mission for sanitation, and the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19 suggests that rural India has 93.1% toilet coverage, with 96.5% of these toilets being used. However, some of the independent studies, with lower sample sizes though, suggest lower coverage and usage, indicating critical need to improve the situation. Moreover, it has been indicated that terrain variations and water table levels call for design responsiveness, without which risk of environmental/ water contamination adds up. The other areas of concerns include Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and adequate arrangements for faecal sludge management. Health and safety of sanitation workers, and their dignity, is a related focus that India is missing in practice, though the legislations as well as policy documents may give an impression of adequate attention to this issue.

Inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, child care facilities and health care facilities is another important area where the country has developed some focus but requires major improvements. The JMP report suggests that 45% of schools in India lack basic facilities of water and soap, and 22% does not have basic sanitation facilities. Similarly, 9% of the health care facilities lack access to drinking water and 45% lack sanitation facilities.

Decentralised financing for WASH through local governments is another area that needs major strengthening, as indicated by recent studies.

We recommend

- Prioritising water quality affected areas and most difficult and remote geographies for piped drinking water supply with adequate measures for source sustainability and operation & maintenance services
- Identifying and including the left out populations in sanitation campaign
- Focus on environmental protection by way of making the toilet technologies appropriate to terrains and introduce decentralised Faecal Sludge Management services in densely populated rural areas or small and census towns
- Action to improve the health, safety and dignity of sanitation workers
- Strengthening decentralisation of WASH financing, along with institutional capacities of local governments

6.1: Exclusion Of Migrants From Sanitation Access

India has made significant progress in terms of toilet coverage under Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. However one of the categories excluded from the sanitation campaign are migrant labourers and their families in rural worksites. Particularly vulnerable are seasonal migrants, which constitute a floating population, and hence don't receive benefits of government programmes.

For instance, persons working in brick kilns migrate to other villages for 4-6 months in a year. Based on the NSS 2011-12 data, a report by Centre for Policy Research (CPR) suggests that 2.1 million workers are employed in brick-kilns in India. Often they live in temporary accommodation within brick kiln premises located away from the village centre, and lacking basic amenities including clean water and sanitation. Many of these workers hail from socially disadvantaged sections- the CPR report suggests that 47% and 16% of the total migrants in brick-kilns are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. Small or no landholdings, irregular wages and harsh working conditions further add to their vulnerabilities.

During a recent study by Water Aid India and Institute of Development Studies Sussex, study teams identified twenty-two families working in a brick kiln, one family and three workers in a poultry farm, one family and forty workers in a mango orchard, and one family managing a private irrigation pump in one village alone. None of them had access to basic sanitation facilities and clean water, although the village had been declared open defecation free.

While the Indian government has initiated measures to include people left out from sanitation coverage, ensuring coverage of migrant workers will be challenging unless focused efforts are put in place at the local level. Their inclusion in the upcoming piped drinking water supply scheme would also require an inclusive approach from the very beginning.

Credit: WaterAid India, VR Raman
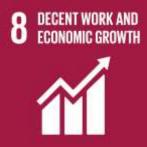
6.2: A Village Stuck in the Middle Ages

It takes one a three-hour journey from Raipur to have some glimpses of the medieval era in t w o v i l l a g e s, Matal and Dumarghat of Mainpur block in Chhattisgarh. Both the villages have their own set of woes which on and off make headlines in the local media, but always fail to create any buzz where it really matters-the powers that be. The residents of Matal and Dumarghat lack basic amenities like roads, drinking water, health, electricity, and situation is not likely to improve in near future if one goes by the sense of hopelessness writ large on the faces of the villagers.

Matal under the gram panchayat Kulhadipur is located atop a hill covered with dense forest. For 30 Kamar tribe households, life is a continuous struggle due to lack of road connectivity and water. Kamar tribe falls under PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups). The population of Matal is 205. There is a *kuccha* road from Kulhadipur to Rajadera which is almost 10 km from Matal. From Rajadera, people have to walk 10 km for 4-5 hrs braving dangerous trenches and rugged track to reach Matal. Most households have to leave the cattle below the hill with their relatives due to scarcity of water and fodder and take them back during the monsoon. A small river, which flows past the village, remains dry for the most part of the year. On the other side of the village is a deep gorge. For drinking water, the villagers have to dig small pits called *jhiriya* in their local dialect to meet their water requirement. There is no handpump in the village.

Only once did a government official reach this village.That was way back on October 2, 2015. In terms of socio-economic conditions, the village is worse than the *Abujhmad* region of Bastar. There is no electricity and primary health care center in the village. The nearest community health center is 24 kms away in Mainpur. There is a primary school in the village but the teacher does not come to the school regularly. The children who have enrolled in a secondary school in Kulhadipur have to travel 10 kms every day. Basic amenities like road connectivity, electricity, education, and health have also eluded the village

Dumarghat 10 kms away from Matal, has a population of 300 and falls under the Boirgaon panchayat in Mainpur block. The biggest stumbling block to the development of the village is the lack of a *pucca* road. Despite the long pending demand of the villagers, the administration has not built a *pucca* road for Dumarghat. There are two routes to reach the village. One is six km long and runs through dense forest while another one is 28 kms. On both the routes, people have to cross six small rivers. The villsagers have approached the administration to build bridges on these rivers but nothing happened so far. Due to poor accessibility, the government offcials don't care to reach the village.

The biggest problem the villagers face is during the monsoon, when they have to take the sick on a cot to the community health center in Mainpur crossing these rivers. A relatively bigger river Torenga flows through the village, which is responsible for the erosion of large parts of land every year. The residents have been a demanding embankment along the river, but this demand too has gone unheeded for years. Worse, the electricity has not yet reached the village despite the announcement of the government 15 years ago. The survey for the electrification had been done. The people have to walk up to Boirgaon to buy kerosene and the grocery.

Decent Work and Economic Growth

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

Sustainable Development Goal 8 targets the achievement of economic productivity through the promotion of inclusive sustainable livelihood opportunities that provide economic security, equitable and dignified work conditions for all. Economic growth indicates a country's potential to meet people's needs like healthcare, education, and employment as well as expand their economic capabilities through creating safe, secure jobs and working conditions all of which encompass the idea of 'decent jobs'.

India despite showing strong employment growth, driven by a rapidly expanding working-age population has a staggering female labour force participation rate. This decline in labour force participation rate is also reflective of women's conditional access to resources and opportunities and deep-seated gender inequalities like restrictions on mobility, early marriage, high incidence of violence at home and public spaces.

In the Indian context, while education levels are overall increasing, skills without formal education and formal education without skills are both realities to be dealt with. India has a specific policy, The National Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Policy, 2015, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (2015), the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and campaigns "Skill India" and "Make in India" that set the context of skill development initiatives in the country targeting to skill 400 million people by the year 2022.

The government focus on skilling as a priority area, is an important step, but the mismatch of the policy context with its implementation that is neither inclusive, nor sustainable, in the provision of 'decent jobs' is the reality. The narrow focus on only technical and in some cases 'soft' skills with a major thrust in areas, which are traditionally 'male spaces' and a focus of women only in sectors like 'beauty and wellness' indicates it's selective bias. The biggest challenges have been inflexible training schedule, inadequate promotion of soft skills and life skills, non-engagement of trainee's family, minimal placement and post-placement support and absence of a supportive network.

To enable women to sustain their work participation, there is a need to create an entire ecosystem that helps them combat the deep-rooted socio-cultural barriers that have been systemically inhibiting women from entering 'public' spaces and workspace. As indicated by the case studies below, 'decent work' not only requires adequate skill building in relation to industry needs but also a need to create compassionate and gender-sensitive workspaces, public spaces and home space, compliant with labour laws related to minimum wages, maternity benefits, promoting the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplaces Act as well as addressing issues around domestic violence through creating a network of support from private to public spaces and recognition of the care and domestic work of women.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

8.1: Challenges to find work for divorced/estranged women

Discrimination against women often starts early and is never ending. This case describes Shankari, a woman who has struggled for obtaining equal opportunities since childhood.

The youngest of five children, Shankari had to fight for everything, including getting an admission in school. However, when she was just 10, she was forced by her parents to leave school and marry a man twice her age.

Shankari's in-laws allowed her to continue studying initially but the physical torture by her husband soon became unbearable. Being a child, she didn't realize when she was being forcefully impregnated. Seven months into the pregnancy, she returned to her maternal home and consumed poison. Both Shankari and her child survived the incident but she filed for divorce and was soon left with no means.

She started working as a domestic helper in South Kolkata. She found out about Azad Foundation from her employer and trained to become a driver with their help. She found employment as a private chauffeur with a good salary soon after but had to leave because the society would see her being a driver as a taboo. That, coupled with the distance she had to travel every day became a hurdle she couldn't overcome.

In February 2019, the West Bengal state government came up with a Pink Cabs initiative and Shankari became a proud car owner and became a commercial cab driver. While there are nuances of dealing with different kinds of clients, navigating and understanding new routes that all cab drivers face, Shankari faces more specific challenges because of her gender. Road rage is a constant threat, parking spots are deliberately blocked, other cab drivers, or auto drivers hurl abuses at her and she is seen constantly as someone who is 'taking away their livelihood'.

Shankari continues to struggle for a decent livelihood despite her several hardships but that doesn't diminish the fact that societal conditions aren't conducive to help women avail equal opportunities. There is a need to sensitize and make people more accepting of women in different professions, in addition to empowering schemes.

8.2: Issues and Challenges of Home-Based Worker

Pompi Das at the age of 17 is known for her expertise for assembling metal buckles in Bhangamath area of Kolkata. She is a feisty adolescent, who helps her mother in household chores and is also involved in assembling metal buckles. She lives with her parents and two brothers. Her father is an alcoholic and was detected with severe pulmonary TB and has been hospitalized for the past one year.

This was a key reason for Pompi to drop out of school and help her mother earn, so that they can pay their father's medical expenses and sustain herself. Pompi earns close to Rs. 400 a week from assembling metal clips. She has mastered the process of hammering and bending the metal sheets, but in the bargain at times she gets cuts on her fingers and hands.

"Our lives have been spent around these metal buckles. I would wake up to see my mother is doing that work and go to sleep while she would still be doing this work". At times her mother gets no work, and then it is difficult to run the house. Often contractors cut money for damages or late delivery. Pompi has been wanting to go out and get other petty jobs but her mother fears her security and doesn't allow her. Pompi has no idea as to how without education and skillsets she will fend for herself later in life.

In India there are an estimated 37.4 million people involved in home-based work, large numbers of those are women and young children who end up becoming secondary workers. The workers are contracted by a firm, individual traders, intermediaries or sub-contractors on a piece-rate basis. They work from their homes, or around them, and don't have direct access to markets. Apart from the low income and inconsistent work these workers are far removed from any social security or protection mechanism.

8.3: Employment struggles of a transgender

The LGBTQIA+ community in India often faces problems that are not just legal or constitutional, but also societal. This study highlights the daily life of an employment seeking transgender, who struggles to find her place in this society that keeps rejecting her.

Pallabi has an extraordinary story from where she started to where she is today. She had to endure a great number of struggles, most of which were a result of Pallabi being a member of the transgender community. She joined the Azad Foundation to train as a driver as this was an unconventional skill for women. In the course of her training, she learned about rights, gender and how to claim her identity. Spurred by this knowledge and support of the organization, she changed her identification documents to indicate her identity as a 'Transgender'. Upon finishing her course in Azad, she looked forward to working as she was a skilled driver. Even though her driving skills were applauded by many, Pallabi found it impossible to get a job.

Despite her educational qualification, which is BA (Graduation of Arts) in History, English, Education, and Bengali; as well as successful completion of vocational courses in computer and beautician, Pallabi has never been accepted in the general society or felt welcomed. She says that although there is awareness, there is no acceptance. She was rejected in many interviews that the organization sent her for and wasn't even allowed to sit for interviews at many other places as she is a transgender. When she finally found a job after many attempts, she could not retain it due to the attitude of her employers.

Her accomplishments and accolades are recognized by the transgender community, and she is a very active member of her community. She says that she could have had a better chance at life had there been no discrimination in the society towards the transgender community and had they been given equal rights to earn a decent living.

8.4: Inaccessible banking, insurance and financial services

The Indian Banking system, since nationalisation in 1969 has been working towards the goal of reaching out to the rural and unbanked areas. But banking has gone through fundamental changes since the structural adjustments.

One of the many examples is, that in 1977, the government passed a regulation requiring banks to open four branches in rural (unbanked) areas for every branch opened in banked areas to ensure banking accessibility across the spectrum. India Policy Forum's 2004 report corroborates that for every 1 percent increase in banks public sector, there is a 0.42 percent decrease in poverty and 0.32 percent increase in per capita output.

However, this policy was repealed in 1990, by RBI resulting in a reduction of rural branches from 33,004 to 32,082, between 1995 and 2005. More bank branches have been closed down due to bank mergers. The merger of SBI with its associates alone resulted in shutting of 6950 branches. It is not a stretch to state that banks have moved from lending to the people to lending to big business houses.

Though RBI claims its commitment to Financial Inclusion, the impacts of policies taken towards this end actually results in exclusion than inclusion of the poor and working class. The mergers of banks resulting in closing down of branches, closing down of off-site ATMs, and increased bank charges, push towards cashless banking and now virtual banking are challenges to accessibility of banking services for those in the margins.

The service charges and penalties imposed by the banks have today alienated the banks from the people with many closing their deposits or moving towards informal banking. Similarly the push towards virtual banking would exclude the vast majority of the population who do not have internet, smart phones or technical knowledge.

The path being pushed by the government is one of privatisation, which again will be a tool of exclusion than inclusion to most of the population in the country. In the current scenario, we are in reality moving away from universal access to banking than towards it.

Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Income inequality is on the rise—the richest 10 percent have up to 40 percent of global income whereas the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 to 7 percent. India has added 18 new billionaires in the last year raising the number of billionaires to 119. In 2018, total wealth of India increased by $151 billion (Rs. 10591 billion): Wealth of top 1% increased by 39%, whereas wealth of bottom 50% increased a dismal 3%. These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity.

According to India Inequality Report (2018), India is home to 17% of the world population; it is also home to the largest number of people living below the international poverty line of $1.90 per day measure of the World Bank. India is also one of the fastest growing economies of the world. While the growth rate of Indian economy has been slow for most years since Independence, it took off in the early 2000s. The spectacular growth post 2003-04 was also accompanied by a drastic fall in poverty headcount ratio. However, a reduction in poverty is not the same as a reduction in inequality.

In India inequality is not just restricted to differences in income and wealth. It is much more complex and it also shows up in the form of poorer access to basic healthcare and education facilities as well as fewer opportunities in the employment market. These are aggravated by the disparities of caste, class and gender. It is due to these complexities that 42% of Adivasi children are malnourished which is 1.5 times higher than the non-tribal children. Children from poor families in India are three times more likely to die before their first birthday than children from rich families. A Dalit woman is likely to live 14.6 years less than one from a high caste family.

Dalits, Muslims, Adivasis and women face the worst form of inequalities. Reports have shown upward mobility has declined among Muslims, while it has increased among Dalits and Adivasis. This is because they have access to reserved seats in educational institutions and jobs as against Muslims. Women are left out of the workforce due to social patriarchal norms and unpaid care work.

There is a need to strengthen policies that will provide opportunities to Dalits, Adivasis, Muslims and Women on equal footing and address income inequalities. The social security schemes in the country have to be strengthened and rolled out efficiently such that the marginalised are not left out. Differences arising out of caste, class and gender disparities have to be ironed out to make a more equal society. Bridging inequalities requires direct intervention by the government like the rights-based approach envisaged in schemes such as MGNREGA, Food Security Act, Right to Food and Right to Education legislations. In the absence of timely action on reducing inequality, India will risk its ability to grow fast and remain a peaceful society.

10.1: The Social Stigma A Waste Picker Lives With

Saira Banu picked a fight with the principal of her son's school after he was threatened with a possible expulsion for getting into a fight and damaging school property. "Children fight. They have to be stopped by teachers. Instead they wait and watch and instigate by saying, 'he is a Bangali and he will become a terrorist'. And their only solution is to expel our children. Is it fair?" She asks. Nearly 27 children, all of them waste pickers', had been expelled from that Delhi government school in a fortnight, she added.

'Bangali' is a reference to the waste pickers who live in the Shraddhanand colony, very close to the Bhalaswa landfill in Delhi. They are mostly Bengali Muslims who migrated from West Bengal at different points of time. Some are first generation waste pickers; others have been in this profession for at least a couple of generations. Saira Banu's parents migrated and settled as waste pickers in Jehangirpuri, she married Akhtar from the Bhalaswa landfill. Her neighbour Sultan came from 'Calcutta' almost 20 years ago. He worked in a bag factory back home and had come to Delhi in search of a job; he ended up at the Bhalaswa landfill picking waste for a living.

Saira Banu's fight for her child's right to go to school is just one example of the kind of social discrimination the waste pickers face every day. The society is hostile to these groups and it is not surprising then that some teachers bring their prejudices to the classrooms.

The waste pickers are trapped in a vicious cycle. "Even if we wanted to do something else, who would give us a job? No one would let us come close to them or inside their homes. And it is not feasible for us to leave this place, go somewhere else with proper drinking water and toilet facilities, and work," she says. Though Saira Banu has moved on from working on the landfill (she is now a scrap dealer), she continues to stay just a few feet away from where the landfill drops.

10.2: Lives That Don't Matter

There are nearly 39 crore Indians employed in the unorganised sector; the sector comprises 83 per cent of the total workforce. The Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Bandaru Dattatreya, shared this data in 2016 and added that under The Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008, every unorganised worker is eligible for state social security schemes along with the three Central Government schemes — 1) life and disability cover, 2) health and maternity benefits, 3) old age protection.

Each state has its own social security schemes. Bihar's social security scheme provides scholarships and cash prizes for workers' children, financial assistance for marriages and illness, maternity benefits, disability pension, old age and family pensions, compensation on natural and accidental death, financial assistance for funeral/cremation, and grants for purchasing cycles and tools and repairing homes. Every State is mandated to register unorganised workers in their state; only registered unorganised worker is eligible to avail the social security.

Labourers we spoke to in Patna were not registered with the labour department— they are either unaware or don't have the time to get registered or pursue cases at the cost of losing their daily wages. As per 2011 Census, around 71 per cent of total households in rural Bihar earn their livelihood as manual casual labourers; the national average is 51 per cent. In a resources-constrained state like Bihar registration of manual casual labourers under the social security scheme remains a huge challenge.

Rakesh Kumar* worked for a contractor who pushed him off a multistoried building when he demanded his payment. The fall left Rakesh disabled and unfit for work. If he was registered, he could have availed disability compensation under the central scheme or either of the state government's social security schemes pertaining to the unorganised workers and artisans or the one for construction workers (and workers in allied activities). The latter was floated because a need was felt for more welfare provisions for those in the construction business. Now all his savings have been spent on his treatment and he is not sure if he will be able to get back to work and secure a better future for his children.

Sustainable Cities and Communities

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

Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, with opportunities for all and access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible spaces, in particular for women and children and to achieve this target by 2030. Goal 11, particularly, is cross-cutting and multi-dimensional and the above mentioned targets cannot be achieved without taking into consideration other SDGs.

A fine mesh of cities and towns overlies the Indian subcontinent. A large number of people live and work in cities, which are not just hubs of government, commerce and transportation but also the centre for socio-cultural transformations and critical spaces of re-imagination. With 31 per cent of India's total population currently living in urban areas (Census of India, 2011), urbanisation is increasing at a fast pace and scale in the country.

Indian cities accelerate economic activity and largely contribute to the economy. Despite being the epicentre of production and economic opportunities, cities reflect increasing disparities in wealth, distribution, income and access to livelihoods, thereby intensifying social tension and identity conflicts (gender, caste, ethnic and religious divisions) accompanied by high rates of unemployment and poverty that majorly impacts the low-income and marginalised people living in informal settlements (commonly known as *bastis*) as well as the homeless. The wealth that is generated from the cities only benefits a few and "inclusive" still continues to remain a word of the future! In addition, the delivery of urban infrastructure and basic services is largely inadequate, especially for the vast majority who live in informal settlements, leading to their exclusion.

As per the Socio-Economic Caste Census (2011), 20.30 per cent of urban population lives in informal settlements, and 35 per cent urban Indian households qualify as poor. The data also uncovers that in urban areas 0.31 million people are homeless. The urban poor, who largely live in inadequate housing or low-income settlements, are unable to access adequate housing and basic services and are vulnerable to forced evictions.

While government schemes and programmes are aimed at inclusion, they paradoxically exclude access based on individual and family documentation. For the poor who have migrated to the city or have moved from one location to another within the city (in search of livelihood and better opportunities), legal recognition through documentation of their existence becomes the only way to access any form of development. In addition, their right to live and work in a city is met with barriers and constrained by social and class locations. Such exclusion, when viewed from a systematic lens, unravels structures that hinder participation and access to equitable citizenship in the city.

The New Urban Agenda (2016) represented the "right to city", one in which all people have equal rights and access to the benefits and opportunities that cities can offer, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements to foster prosperity and quality of life for all. However, the Indian government often falls short in ensuring the same. Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) regularly analyses the status of implementation of various urban welfare schemes. The reports reflect the lack of effective implementation, widening gaps between fund released and utilised, lack of fiscal autonomy of urban local bodies and limited scope for people's participation.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDGs need to be effectively integrated into national development strategies and plans. Policies must ensure the guarantee of secure and adequate habitats as access to land and legal security of tenure are strategic prerequisites for the provision of adequate shelter for all and for the development of sustainable human settlements. For the effective implementation of welfare schemes, equitable access and non-negotiable principles should be prioritised.

Participatory planning should also be a prerequisite of any endeavour for urban renewal. The government should aim for transformative change rather than incremental change and this requires the inclusion and strengthening of local institutions as well as national and global bodies and frameworks. Additionally, multi-level planning should consider the diversity of India and include every individual, so that no one is left behind.

11.1: No Access To Water And Sanitation

Bhuri Tekri is a rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) site located in the periphery of Indore, around 10 km from the city centre, in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is known as one of the most inaccessible settlements in Indore. This site was built in 2011 under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and its sub-component Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP), to provide adequate housing and basic services to people living in informal settlements. It is a cluster of 13 buildings, with each building having a ground floor and four storeys. Six settlements were provided alternate housing under this scheme and the residents were relocated to Bhuri Tekri in 2015.

The BSUP sub-mission included provisions like security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, sanitation and delivery via convergence with other already existing universal services of the Government for education, health, social security and care. It also mentioned that care would be taken to see that the urban poor are provided housing near their place of occupation. However, in reality, none of these terms were taken into consideration. The residents were compelled to move to the periphery of the city against their will and their place of occupation is distant from their "new address".

Basic services like water, sanitation, affordable housing, healthcare, legal identity and entitlements, livelihood and food security were essential components of the BSUP scheme. However, in a recent study by YUVA, the residents mentioned that taps in their homes are not functional and approximately 65 per cent of the households need to fetch water from tankers as there is no direct water supply in the colony. Individual household toilets, taps and water pipelines run dry, but there is only one boring well for over 500 families and the water pressure is very less. On a regular basis, residents have to skip their daily work and stand in long queues to fetch water. Many a times fights break out while collecting water as every individual is desperate to store substantial amount of water.

The technical construction of toilets is problematic and if the residents use less water for these toilets then the entire sewage line gets choked. Fearing the overflow of sewage, people have stopped using their personal toilets. Merely constructing toilets is not enough unless it is functional and sustainable. Due to the non-availability of public toilets, residents are forced to defecate in the open. Additionally, given the fact that Bhuri Tekri is located in a deserted area, it becomes unsafe specifically for women and adolescent girls to openly defecate.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11.2: Pushed To The 'Penalty Corner'

The Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 was organised at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. In preparation for the event, forced evictions of numerous street vendors and several informal settlements took place, for constructing roads or parking spaces. One such settlement was the Jagannath informal settlement (commonly known as *basti*), situated along Kalinga stadium, for more than three decades.

This *basti*, with more than 300 families, was evicted in September 2018 amidst heavy rain and huge protests led by the residents as well as city-based activists. After consistent demands for rehabilitation, the administration agree to provide INR 35,000 to each family as compensation, INR 8,000 to construct toilets, a plot size of 20*12 sq. ft. with electricity connection, materials for constructing houses at the Panda Kudia site, which was about 6 kms from the current location. This resettlement and rehabilitation of the slum residents was a result of their struggle and demand for adequate compensation.

Although these amenities were to be provided within fifteen days from the day of eviction, it took months for the residents to procure them. Families had to struggle a lot to build their houses and arrange for services, such as access to water and electricity. They were provided with temporary water connections without any certainty of when the supply would finish.

In addition, the residents had to travel quite a distance to reach their workplace from the new site, and the mode of transportation was infrequent and expensive too. Several women had to give up their work to take care of the household, given the uncertainties that abounded and the increased distance to work.

After the relocation, people came to know that the land has been given for just two years, the tenure of which will end in October 2020. The Jagannath *basti* residents were devastated. They felt that they had been completely misled by the government. Although resettled, the residents have been rendered helpless and without any sustainable access to housing and basic services.

11.3: Unsafe And Insecure: The Homeless Women

As per Census (2011) there are 1.77 million homeless people in India, or 0.15 per cent of the country's total population consisting of single men, women, the elderly, and the disabled who are homeless. In Mumbai alone, the Census (2011) covered 57,416 homeless (the real figure is many times over) who live in nondescript public spaces within the city, ranging from bus and train terminals to commercial junctions and places of worship.

In line with universal human rights and as per Supreme Court's orders on the homeless in India, they are entitled to safety, housing and basic services that can allow them a dignified life. But the situation on the ground reflects very poorly on what has been envisioned for them.

There are about 20 homeless women living on the streets near Hanuman Mandir GTB Nagar, with or without families. Life on the streets deprives the homeless women from safety and access to safe public spaces. Most homeless women include destitute elderly women as well, living on the streets. They complain of having lost their meagre belongings due to frequent incidents of forced eviction, sexual harassment and heavy rains. Without a protective habitat, their wellbeing is severely affected.

These homeless women have to be vigilant at all times to protect themselves and their children from external threats. Near Hanuman Mandir GTB Nagar, one can find frequent cases of homeless women being molested and children getting kidnapped. Women are forced to tie their infants to their bodies to protect them; they hardly get any sleep at night as the distress of not being safe haunts them at all times.

Most of them work as domestic workers during the day and spend their nights in fear of being abused or harassed. Drunkards and other miscreants have often forced themselves on them. During the night, the public toilets are closed and these homeless women are compelled to defecate in the open. There are times when they have been compelled to avoid nature's call! Moreover, the public toilets are pay-and-use and given their economic condition it is not possible for them to pay each time. To avoid such a situation, some homeless women prefer to eat less food and drink less water, risking their health and lives. Additionally, due to their lack of residential proof, they are denied access to basic services.

Despite being entitled to provisions of permanent shelters and essential services under the National Urban Livelihood Mission Shelter for Urban Homeless Scheme (NULM-SUH), the homeless women of Hanuman Mandir have no access to "all-weather" shelters and basic services. No schemes and no support from the government have been provided, to ensure shelter and social security to these women.

11.4: Institutional Obstacles In Making A Livelihood

The discrepancies in our governmental system affects under privileged people the most. This study highlights the struggle of women who have the desire to work and earn their livelihood. It shows how the system not only does not provide help but derails their plans.

This study focuses on a 35-year-old woman Premlata. She is a mother of three and is a domestic labour. She works at three four different houses to earn her livelihood. She was married at the age of 13 but left her husband as she was a victim of domestic and sexual violence. She had been learning to drive an e-rickshaw. Her right leg is impacted due to polio because of which she cannot walk properly.

When her learning license form was filled and on the due date, she went to give the exam, the RTO office put a stop to her application. And she was asked to bring a report from VMO on whether she can drive or not.

After a struggle of 20 days, when she got that report, the RTO office said that the license will be created in the category of invalid carriage and not for an e-rickshaw.

Lucknow based Hamsafar Mahila Sahayta Kendra is fighting her case for they have always tried to provide help and training to women that supports them in their fight against patriarchy and help them change the mentality that believes women cannot be equal to men in the technical sector. Hamsafar believes that, the more number of women found using the street, the safer the city will be.

These government rules and regulations have denied a single handicap woman right to drive an e-rickshaw stating she cannot drive it properly. She could have contributed in making the city safer. Premlata wanted to improve the condition of her life by driving an e-rickshaw and taking people to their destinations but she has been denied the opportunity to drive any kind of public transport. She is tired of her leg handicap. She thought if she works, people will appreciate her desire to work but that did not happen.

Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

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 adopted in 2015 by replacing MDG designed more inclusive and holistic to benefit people all over the world. Having 17 goals, each goal deals with specific issues required to protect the environment, animals, human (peace, justice, women, education, children), life below water and many more. Goal 16 of Sustainable Development commits 'to promote peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'.

NITI Ayog released its "SDG India Index Baseline Report 2018" which presents the current achievements under different SDG goals. Goal number 16 has been awarded for best performance in some of the states, Andhra Pradesh is one of them. But the current situation presents a totally different situation on the ground. People have been evicted by the police from their residences, harassed by anti-social aliments, police denied registering their complaints, a large number of homeless population struggling to get their legal identity, children being forced into labour in age of their mental and physical development.

There is evidence of high failure of Institutions nationally in addressing the injustice. Washington Post reported a 28 percent increase in communal violence in the year 2017, which, shows the failure of institutions meant for providing social, political and economic justice to the citizens.

Legal identity is the primary requirement and also promoted by SDG 16.9, to recognize the identity of a person. It is necessary to get identified in order to access the social welfare schemes. But the current situation does not present a positive sign against SDG 16.9.

The Election Commission of India must develop the un-divertible strategies that homeless/identity-less populations are counted and primarily voter ID cards are issued to each of the homeless.

Controlling violence and maintaining peace is a state subject and the state has the machinery to address it. But due to negligence and lack of will to deliver social justice amounts to violence and injustice. In order to address this, the judiciary should be strengthened. According to Law Ministry data there is a shortage of 6,000 judges, including 5,000 in lower courts itself. It leads to a delay in justice delivery and further violation of the rights of people.

16.1: Justice Denied For The Homeless

The state of Andhra Pradesh scored 90 in index ranking against SDG16 achievements and awarded as the best performing state in the country (Front Runner). It means Andhra Pradesh has done very well among all the states in promoting peace and justice to its people. But the case of Hari Kumar (name changed) tells some other story.

Homeless who was abused by the police and anti-social elements at his place of stay and work. He was attacked with a blade and partially lost his right eye. And his complaint was rejected by the police on duty at the railway station of Vijayawada city.

Harikumar is one among the many people who lives on the streets of Vijayawada city as homeless. He had to migrate from his hometown to Vijayawada due to conflict in his family. Now he is working in marriage catering. Services. On an average he earns Rs. 300/ in a week. As he sleeps in the open on the road, his belongings and money has been snatched by force many times by anti-social elements. Once he tried to protect his belongings but the snatcher attacked him with a blade and his right eye got injured. Attackers are very cruel and drug addicts, their soft target, are homeless people, for the sake of even Rs.50/- or Rs.100/- they are attacked.

When Harikumar lost his belongings for the first time he approached police at the railway station to lodge his complaint but in return he faced oral abuse from the Police and got a warning to move away from his place of stay. He did not have money to get his swelled eyes medicated as his money was looted. Now he is not in a position to open his eyeliddue to a huge swelling. He stopped approaching the police due to his previous experiences. Homeless who stay at railway stations, bus stands and other public places. and are being attacked and complain, find that their complaints are left unaddressed by police. The Municipal Corporation of Vijayawada also looked uninterested in taking up the issue. We can find more homeless people like Harikumar near railway stations with blade injuries on face, hands, stomach, neck etc., and their miserable stories are endless.

The above story presents the status of SDG 16.1 & 16.3 implementation in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Under NULM-SUH the homeless people entitled to be provided shelter by Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA). But due to their failure people like Harikumar had been victimized and justice is being denied.

16.2: Legal Identity And Its Reality

Due to lack of identity proof there is deprivation of access to social welfare policies. Kamal Kumar (name changed), a 35-year-old man lives in Charni road pocket in front of Saifee Hospital of Mumbai, an economic capital of India. He lives with his wife and 2 young children. The entire family makes flower beads for their living and manages to earn Rs. 200-250 per day. This small amount is insufficient to survive on by 4 people in a city like Mumbai.

They have approached the Municipal Corporation to get ration cards so that they can avail cheaper ration through PDS, but they are unable to get their ration card as they had been asked to provide Aadhar Card as proof of identity. Both the children do not go to school and help their parents in the business instead. They have had to go through illegal eviction that too during the monsoons and this is the time when they earn money because it is a festival season. The said case is strongly supported by a study conducted by Indo Global Social Service Society and it questions the SDG 16.9 performance presented in NITI Ayog report.

According to "SDG India Index Baseline Report 2018" released by NITI Ayog, SDG 16.9 scored 100 (Achiever) in Index, which means almost every Indian, has a legal identity proof. But the survey done in 5 states covering 15 cities by Indo Global Social Service Society raises a question on it. The study reveals that 66.4 per cent of the homeless have an Aadhar card, while 37.3 per cent, 39.5 per cent and 27.7 per cent have a Ration Card, Voter ID Card and Bank Pass Book respectively and 30 per cent of the total homeless population do not have any identity proof.

This survey covers only homeless population in 15 cities of 5 states and it says 30 per cent homeless population doesn't have any identity proofs, however if we consider entire population then SDG 16.9 comes under serious doubt. It is recommended that the government directs The Election Commission of India to develop un-divertible strategies in line with SDG 16.9, that homeless are counted and primarily voter ID cards are issued which makes it easier to get other required documents.

16.3: Innocent Dalit Children Burnt Alive

On October 19, 2015, Jitender, his wife Rekha and their two children were fast asleep when around 2.30 am, the Rajput men poured petrol on the family from the window. By the time, Jitender could wake up his wife, flames had engulfed the bed. The two doors to the room were locked from outside in order to prevent the family members from escaping the fire. Their 9 months old daughter Divya and 2 years old son Vaibhav succumbed to the burns and died. Rekha suffered 35% of burnt injuries was hospitalized in Safdarjung, Delhi and Jitender suffered burns in his hand. On 20th October 2015, Jitender registered an FIR in Ballabhgarh Sadar Police Station against 9 Rajput family members.

Background to the arson premised on the family participation in village politics. Jitender's cousin brother Jagmal, was elected as the Sarpanch in 2010. Jagmal's electoral win led to a shift in the power hierarchies within the village, this aggravated hatred and insecurities among the Rajputs. In October 2014, the Rajputs had captured obscene images of women from Jitender's family while they were in the field in order to mock and shut down the Dalit family. This led to the violent scuffle on both sides there were severe injuries, with broken limbs and injuries on the head. Three people from the Rajput family succumbed to the injuries. The investigation was one-sided and 11 members of Jitender's family were arrested including one person who was not even present when the incident occurred.

Prior to the incident, the accused Balwant and his family members threatened the women of Jitender's family, therefore in October 2015, Rekha went to the police station Ballabhgarh to file a complaint against them. However, Subhash Yadav, Commissioner of Police refused to take the complaint and failed to take necessary measures to prevent the murder of the two children. Though the Police registered FIR on 19th October 2015 incident of burnt and death of children but failed to invoke make section that would describe the state of crime more thoroughly. Investigation officer failed to complete the investigation and submit the charge-sheet in the Special Court within a stipulated period of sixty days, which created a ground for the bail out of all the 9 accused, who later threatened the victim with dire consequences.

In the last three and half years of prolonged investigation by the CBI officials, at many instances the couple Jitender and Rekha was mentally and physically tortured by Amit Kumar, DySP of the CBI Branch. Jitender was beaten-up and was compelled to confess that he did not witness the incident. The family was forced to leave their ancestral place and move to Rajsthan where they are struggling to make a living. Since they are pursuing the case against the dominant Rajputs, no one was giving work to Jitender. Though Government assured to provide Job to Jitender but still he has not received it. Rekha has undergone 4 surgeries till now. Finally, CBI's Closure Report said that the case is a concocted story. Jitemder has filed a petition to re-investigate the case.

Victims and witnesses shall have the right to take assistance from Advocate or any NGO during the investigation. There should be appointment of Special Public Prosecutors of victim's choice for the speedy trial of the case. There should also be an open and transparent investigation against those Government and police officials are found to have negligent in their responsibilities. Victims should be provided relief in terms of employment and they should be paid TA/DA for every appearance. Also there is an urgent need of sensitizing Police Officers in regard to the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act so that they do not act in a biased manner. For that there should be regular and effective training to the Police Officers and all enforcement officials.

16.4: Dalit Woman Murdered By The Forest Department

In the tussle of grabbing land and forests by the state; the most affected communities are tribals and forest dwellers, in this conflict they are at the receiving end of state violence and dislocation. These communities traditionally have been living in the forests and have been preservers of the jungles. However, the forest department has been consistently driving the communities out of the forests even though there has been a protective mechanism called the Forest Rights Act, which was enacted in the year 2005. In this case study, a Dalit elderly and widow who was living and cultivating on a part of forest cover; she was humiliated and threatened by forest officers for living in the forests.

Dama Devi a resident of Dangyal Tehsil Chachyot District Mandi state Himachal Pradesh, was a widow living in abject poverty. She was tiling a part of the forest land which was home to her ancestors and was feeding her family of three. On 26th July 2019, without any information or prior notice the forest department officers on their rounds came and called for her; they humiliated and threatened her in front of 30 to 40 people accusing her of grabbing forest-land. She was scared and suffered a severe heart attack and she died by the time her son came to her rescue.

When Dama Devi fell unconscious, no Forest officer helped her. His son was not given any help in taking her to the hospital leading to her death on the way. The tribal family is illiterate and afraid of officers like most of the villages.

The head of the local government, Ms. Moviseri made a statement that the old widow Dama Devi was a poor lady, her name was given for application of BPL to avail the schemes of the government but the forest department did not pay any heed. People did not see the case as a violation of their rights and it took time to speak to them. This was an issue of forest grab and using it for ulterior motive of constructing a temple in the spot.

The family filed an FIR against the officers of the Forest department. There is a need to engage with police to invoke the sections under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 amended in 2015 in the said case. Also there should be a Private Petition filled in the court on the murder of the Dalit Woman.

Partnerships for the Goals

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

The scale and ambition of achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 cannot be realized unless there is decisive and equitable partnership among all kinds of stakeholders. SDG 17 underscores triangular cooperation between Government, Private Sector and Civil Society as an effective framework for policy development, financing and policy implementation. Without a holistic cooperation framework that supports the ecosystem of triangular cooperation there is high probability of falling short of stated targets and delaying the results envisaged under Agenda 2030. Moreover, Civil Society has been an enthusiastic actor, viewing SDGs as specialized vehicles for addressing the sundry development challenges that are sought to be rectified by the mandate of these goals. Considerable impetus has been provided by the Indian civil society to mobilize government, private sector and other critical stakeholders for producing transformative plans via joint collaborations. Strengthened by their grassroot penetration and sourcing data from the ground level- civil society organizations hold unique use-value in terms of policy coherence, programmatic implementation, quantitative mapping and assessment, beneficiary analysis and monitoring outcomes and so on. Indian civil society is well conditioned to deliver socio-development outcomes, because of its historical rooting in movements, campaigns and *andolans*. Therefore, its partnership will feed ground-level information into SDG customized policies and programs of government and navigate myriad forms of financing from private sector that aid in development outcomes. In analyzing how to construct a roadmap for implementing SDG 17, it was found that certain institutionalized mechanisms are already present which should be utilized as platforms for dialogue and conversation. For instance, Corporate Social Responsibility is an innovative resource that can be used to finance a host of SDGs through its partnership with civil society. Additionally, Indian CSOs are already implementing national flagship programs, which are in partnership with both central and state governments. However, the modalities for triangular cooperation suffer inherent challenges mainly because civil society faces crucial impediments. These impediments highly disable civil society organizations from effectively partnering with government and private sector and in effect make SDG 17 a mere rhetoric.

Inefficient Grant-In-Aid System: Most civil society organizations in India heavily rely on government funding and grants to achieve their organizational objectives and deliver flagship programs and schemes of the government. However, it is evidenced Indian CSOs are subjected to a lackadaisical grant system that does not disburse timely funding and is replete with administrative inefficiency whose costs are borne by CSOs. A common thread for the problems in grant-in-aid system relates to the CSOs expending their core funds and not receiving due reimbursement from the concerned government departments. For example, in the state of Bihar and Jharkhand, many CSOs involved in development activities faced the situation where they were implementing government schemes. One such case related to a CSO who works for the Right to Education Act and had not received their grants bordering to INR 40 lakhs. The case also details that the CSO had constructed a primary school building and had to incur their own expenditure while waiting to this day reimbursement of their expenditure. With such a grant system prevalent across the country many CSOs hesitate to partner with the government and collaborate for development schemes and programs.

Private Sector's uninterest in development: India is one of the few countries, which has provided philanthropy a legislative sanction. The Corporate Social Responsibility Act acts as enabler for civil society and private sector collaboration. Albeit its existence, CSR has not been favorable to development as many private sector entities prefer to siphon their CSR to their foundations or organize activities that promotes their businesses. As such, majority of time CSR which could be leveraged for addressing sticky

development challenges by partnering with CSOs is utilized for non-development purposes. In many cases, CSR activities are channelized towards organizing football tournaments and championship, complete with sponsoring

and branding of products. Such cases are a strict violation of CSR rules. In one the cases pertaining to a CSO in the state of Chhattisgarh, CSR of mining companies is used only for beautifying vicinity areas of the plants and industries. When this particular CSO that works on livelihood and education approached the CSR units of the companies, a checklist for grants was provided that only dealt with landscape beautification. Similar experiences from the field detail the unnecessary expenditure by CSR units towards creation of toilets. While it is highly appreciative that the Prime Minister commanded our attention to making India open defecation free, the spree by private sector has constructed lack supply chain amenities such as piping and sceptic tanks-making them unfit for human use. Such actions by private sector result in demotivating CSOs from approaching their partnership.

Lack of Institutional Partnership between Government and Civil Society: Currently the legal code and regime do not have an institutional partnership mechanism with the government. Because of the practices of INGOs and multilateral a contagion has spread that seeks to subjugate CSOs as short-time contractors. Government grants and contract awards commence with calls for interest and tenders which are derisive in tone and tenor. Many CSOs in south India have been accustomed to carry out short term assignments through tenders provided in newspapers. Additionally, many a times the contracts awarded are nullified during their expiry period leaving CSOs helpless because of stalled payments and unfulfilled objectives. Instituting a specialized, legitimate mechanism that provides CSOs space to work with Government can rectify this.

The continuity of such challenges highly demotivates CSOs and are a cause of worry given that Indian government has accorded primacy to achieving SDGs. Without meaningful and equitable participation of civil society, SDGs will be rudderless because of its infinite scope and methodology. A principled approach needs to be presented before all three sectors to derive benefit from the partnership. Moreover, it should be well acknowledged that all three actors should be incentivized from the partnership and not collaborate for altruistic reasons. Therefore, Civil Society is keenly looking towards new models of partnership but should be willing to participate only if impediments are removed and its pursuits are recognized and rewarded.