

# LOCALIZING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A STUDY OF GUJARAT

**Dr. Pranjali S. Dighe**

Assistant Professor

Rashtriya Raksha University, Dahegam, Gujarat

pranjali.dighe@rru.ac.in

**Ms. Navaneeta Majumder**

Assistant Professor

GLS Law College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

majumdernavaneeta@gmail.com

## Abstract

*The lexical definition of Sustainable or sustainability focuses on the environment in which we are living. The need of an hour is to endure the environment along with all the resources and living beings. To sustain is to maintain at a certain period without any damage to any fragment of the society. The path of consumption of the resources are at its peak, hence for the rational beings to use it sustainably and viably could be useful to achieve the sustainable Development Goals 2030 which is the priority of the nation. To harvest a good governance and to endure a positive attitude in citizens the relationship between the government departments needs to be strengthen. The current paper will have a desk review regarding the sustainable development goals. Moreover, how Gujarat has reacted towards the new goalmouths should also be considered and looked after. Methodology of this research paper will be propelling toward the secondary and the primary data, which will help in analysing the future of the state and of course the sustainability. For the secondary data, rigorous identification of the literature review were conducted through academic search engines and by cross-referencing of the bibliographies. The arguments provided in the literatures and the observations of the researcher were tested against each other for ensuring the highest possible accuracy. The paper is pooled with the practical information and the knowledge which the state has tried to administer. The conclusion derives that in a mean time how the Gujarat government has dealt with the challenges for achieving the just environment for the citizens and some suggestions have also been incorporated which will help government to localize the goals to ground level.*

**Keywords:** Sustainable, Gujarat, Goals, Governance, Challenges

## INTRODUCTION

In the Rio +20 summit, conference named “The Future we want” which took place in Brazil in 2012 boosted a process and paved the path of global goals for better development of the world. (United Nations, 2019) Sustainable development Goals is nothing but a more depth pathway from and a journey from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The roots of Sustainable development goals are embedded in the MDGs. It is important to understand the underlying significance of the goals. In the year 2000, a historic meeting among the leaders of the world paved the path of growth and development by adopting the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to work towards the eight international goals of Development for better future prospects. (United Nations, 2009). The goals which were subjected to MDGs are always paramount for the reduction of poverty and hunger along with the reduction of maternal mortality rates in the country and they were covering the other major aspects also. The goals of MDGs were:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. To achieve universal primary education;
3. To promote gender equality and empower women;
4. To reduce child mortality;
5. To improve maternal health;
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
7. To ensure environmental sustainability; and
8. To develop a global partnership for development.

To target all the goals for each country who have adopted it and to achieve them is challenging because the geopolitical situation of every country is different. To achieve the eight goals, time of 15 years was given, i.e. 2000 to 2015. The judicious use of every assets for the coming generation is required. The uneven development was achieved by the countries. The question arises that what will happen after 2015? Is there a need to sustain the development? With a cooperative mechanism we should take the world towards the path of enhancement. But without the collaboration of the countries, the exploration towards peace, justice and sustainability is not possible. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012, observing the 20th Anniversary of the 'Rio Earth Summit' (held in 1992), initiated the debate and work towards post-2015 development agenda targets.

The General Assembly of UN, in its 70<sup>th</sup> Session considered and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the next 15 years. The period available to achieve the goals were stipulated. Total of 17 goals came into existence with 169 targets. These goals are wide and very determined. They are almost double the MDGs, hence the double exertion is required. (Marta Lomazzi, Bettina Borisch, Ulrich Laaser, 2014). The solemnity of UN towards the SDGs are providing them substantive capacity building and support which would provide an ease for future implementation of goals and its achievement.

#### Journey from MDGs to SDGs

In the present situation we have adopted SDGs. Let us understand how the journey which have shifted from one group of goals to other. The SDGs is an umbrella term and it covers the MDGs in a thoughtful manner. India, an overpopulated country is facing challenges in achieving the goals. It is required to have the resource saving technologies along with the data which will show us the result after certain time period so that transparency and accountability can be maintained. SDGs work on five pillars, they are People, Prosperity, Partnership, Peace, and Planet (basically known as the 5 Ps).

*People* signifies that all the citizens of the country or the world should live with equality and equity. It is necessary to ensure the dignity of individuals, while providing choices for health, education and livelihood. The Human Development of every individual should transpire with time. This could be achieved when poverty and hunger will be reduced with a good amount of nutritious food.

*Prosperity* can be achieved when a person has choices related to employment. Harmony with the nature and global development is required to have opulence in the country. To maintain the prosperity it is required for everyone to coordinate in a peaceful manner.

*Partnership* of every country with one another must be done in coordination. Unless and until this requirement of partnership is not fulfilled, the development of all the countries on the same platform is difficult. The developed, underdeveloped and developing countries must help each other to overcome the challenges in the path of progress.

*Peace* is an abstract term which can be felt if the country has overcome the international challenges of terrorism, poverty, climate change etc. To foster a peaceful environment and to have a just society, the problems must be dealt in contemporary terms.

*Planet* is the last pillar for SDGs without which nothing can be thought off. To preserve the resources in a judicious manner is the duty of every individual. To enjoy the success of all the pillars, it is required to maintain the mother earth. The sustainable maintenance of every species is accountability of every rational being. The policies which are framed should be strictly implemented and followed by every Government especially those which are related to the non-renewable resources. (Technology and Action for Rural Advancement, 2015)

Hence, all the 5Ps of SDGs are interconnected to one another and if anyone is lacking, there will be loophole in achieving the goals in estimated time.

According to Millennium Development Goals- Final Country Report of India, A broad mapping of MDGs to SDGs can be done.

**Table 1**  
**MDGs to SDGs- A broad Mapping**

MDG1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger	SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education	SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women	SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
MDG 4: Reduce Child Mortality	SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all

	at all ages
MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health	SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB	SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability	SDG 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all, SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, SDG 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss
MDG 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development	SDG 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The above Table 1 shows how a broad mapping of MDGs has been done by covering all the 17 goals of SDGs in it. The United Nations has started the MDGs to achieve the development around the world and now after covering it half way the next paradigm is to achieve SDG which is covering all the goals of MDG as well.

#### Study Objectives

To know the importance of Sustainable development goals and Gujarat as a state have taken up these goals to enhance the level of development.

### METHODOLOGY

The methodology of Sustainable Development in the Gujarat state underlines the sustainability of all the resources which are available in the state. Even to penetrate these goals of Sustainable Development to ground level, we need to understand the judicious use of resources without depleting them. The methodology of the papers focuses on the literature review from the Governmental organizations and various secondary sources, which will help in analysing the future prospects of the different goals in the country and to what extent they can be localized for the citizens.

#### Limitations of the Report

To collect the empirical data of every goal is not possible hence, only the literature review of the existing data is possible. This research paper can be termed as an exercise for the study of localizing the global goals. Moreover, the targets of every goals in relation to the department is difficult to analyse. Study of all the states in short time duration is also not conceivable hence only the status of Gujarat has been studied.

### SDGs and INDIA

The 17 SDGs and 169 targets are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by 193 Member States at the UN General Assembly Summit in September 2015, and which came into effect on 1 January 2016. A great amount of energy is being spent by the Government to achieve the ambitious goals which are related to the sustainable human development along with the capacity building. The goals are covering the broad range of interconnected issues which demands a strong partnership among the departments and the organizations of the government. The relationship between human and nature is important because it is unethical to push the development against nature. To conserve nature and to move towards green development is need of an hour. Sustainable development goals by UN, will provide a desired direction along with a framework to achieve better prospects in the era of transcending advances.

India's globalization policy and economic development has converged to pave the path of inequality resulting in the degradable impacts on ecosystem. Government of India has implemented several programmes all over the state to bring overall enhancement in the quality of life of the people. The urban and rural ministries with the help

of various Government departments' instigated policies and programmes like <sup>1</sup>MGNREGA, NRLM etc. in all the schemes, the core mechanism is to reduce poverty which will become an effective instrument for the empowerment of people. Every state with its pros and cons have tried to raise the Human Development. In spite of decentralised policy making and encouraged participation at the ground level, introspection of the states is required to be in the list of developed countries, some more efforts needs to be brought out. (Research and Information system for developing countries, 2016)

Hence it is required to create a mirror image of every resource of the country and its linkages towards the life of people which could affect them directly or indirectly. All the 17 goals and 169 targets are designed in such a manner, that not a single individual get left out. It has tried to cover all the resources along with every organism so that the sustainability can be maintained.

The good part is that, there are <sup>2</sup>26 organizations of UN which are serving in India. These organizations are also linked with the SDGs as, they are promoting the development and sustainability in the country. In the journey of global transformation, we have specific time in which, we have to transform our nation leaving no one behind. The Government is strongly committed to 2030 agenda policy initiatives for inclusive development converge well with the SDGs, and India will play a leading role in determining the success of the SDGs, globally. The goals are formed in such a manner that it has a capacity to bring all the citizens across the nation. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted, "These goals reflect our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages that define our lives. Even the role of local Government in every state is as important as the Central government, as it would help in planning the bottom-up approach. (NITI Aayog, 2019)

*Role of The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)*

The MOSPI is an independent Ministry of Government of India which deals with the statistics based on surveys and census. It has developed the <sup>3</sup>National Indicator Framework (NIF) which helps in monitoring the progress of SDGs in the country. Statistical indicators has been developed by MOSPI under NIF which acts as the backbone of SDGs and helps in measuring the outcomes of policies of various targets.(MOSPI, 2019) When NIF was prepared, it turned out to be the largest framework in the country. If NIF indicators are deeply studied, the prominent characters are as follows:

- The NIF consists of 306 statistical indicators.
- State Government, Central Government and other agencies which are coordinating with SDGs are also involved in the preparation of NIF.
- The indicators are directly related to the goals and targets which are provided by UN.
- The periodicity of the data sources are also included.
- Data disaggregation to be decided by the respective Ministries
- Periodical review of all the indicators are done by the High level steering committees which results in to proper monitoring.

Moreover, it is the responsibility of MOSPI to establish a proper coordination with the various line departments and the ministries wherever required. Proper capacity building and development of the institutions which are related with SDG monitoring and framework. The development of NIF is done on the national level and the indicators has been finalised, but to move at the deeper levels of the sustainability, the state must also frame a

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<sup>1</sup> Policies and Programmes are those short term interventions by the Government which helps a certain section of the society to improve their status or standard of living and are approved by the legislation. The example can be MNREGA which is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, which provides economic security in terms of 100 days of employment to one of the family member. Likewise National Rural Livelihood mission, NRLM is also a project which provides self-employment to the rural poor and helps in elevating poverty.

<sup>2</sup>There are various organization which are part of UN like APCTT(Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology), FAO,(Food and Agriculture Organization)IFAD(International Fund for Agriculture development),ILO(International Labour Organization),IMO(International Monetary Fund),WTO(World Trade Organization),UNAIDS(United Nations Programme on HIV) UNDP(United Nations Development Programme), UNEP(United Nations Environment Programme) etc.

<sup>3</sup>In September 2016, MoSPI developed a consolidated list of possible national indicators based on the available information. A national consultation workshop was organized with the Central Ministries / Departments and State Governments to discuss the proposed indicators. The Ministries / Departments were also requested to examine the suggested possible national indicators and add / delete / modify / suggest national indicators for the SDG targets concerned. Furthermore a public consultation was also made.

Based on the suggestions received in the national consultation process from concerned Ministries/Departments and other stakeholders, National Indicator Framework (NIF) consisting of 306 statistical indicators has been prepared by MoSPI. NIF will be the backbone of monitoring of SDGs at the national level and will give appropriate direction to the policy makers and the implementers of various schemes and programmes.

statistical network at the state level, which will be known as State Indicator Framework. Every state of the country is responsible to develop SIF based on the resources which are available in the state and to what extent the indicators are matching with the departments. If required the number of indicators may increase or decrease according to the availability of the assets and resources.(Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2019)

*Role of National Institute for Transforming India (NITI)Aayog on SDGs*

NITI Aayog is a multilateral development organization along with a think tank, which is working extensively on achieving the goals of Sustainable Development. The fundamental work of NITI Aayog is to localize the SDGs to strive to adopt better, faster and in a more innovative manner to achieve the Goals. In a country, like India, where we have a quasi-federal governance structure, every state which is different from each other, plays an important role in designing and structuring the plans of development and growth. Thus, NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating the SDGs among Central ministries and the concerned State Government. With the support of central and state ministries, the state Government is the key driver for the achievement of SDGs in their respective states.

To motivate the states and for providing them an endeavour, NITI Aayog has designed ‘Composite SDG India Index’. This is a type of report, which focuses on every state and has developed a benchmark for helping the states to analyse their path and assist them to know the loop holes on which one has to work. Here, the participation of all the states are necessary as there exist demographic diversity along with socio-economic disparities. Hence, in terms of realization of SDGs, the state governments are the stakeholders and they have the prime responsibility to localize and achieve the goals which are relevant to their respective states.(NITI Aayog, 2016)

The NITI Aayog report named ‘Localizing SDGs: Early Lessons from India’, has divided the states into 4 parameters namely: Aspirants, Performer, Front runner and Achiever.

**Table 2**  
**SDG Parameters for states of India**

Aspirants	Performer	Front Runner	Achiever
Assam	Andaman Nicobar Islands	Chandigarh	Maharashtra
Bihar	Andhra Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	Manipur
Uttar Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Kerala	Meghalaya
	Chhattisgarh	Pondicherry	Mizoram
	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Tamil Nadu	Nagaland
	Daman and Diu		Orisha
	Goa		Punjab
	Gujarat		Sikkim
	Haryana		Rajasthan
	Jammu and Kashmir		Telangana
	Jharkhand		Tripura
	Karnataka		Uttarakhand
	Lakshdweep		West Bengal
	Madhya Pradesh		

Table 2 shows that the states are divided by NITI Aayog to have a sense of competition among them to achieve the results of SDGs at earliest. Here, Aspirant are those states who aspire to perform and achieve the SDGs. Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the aspirant states. Performer are those states who are performing well on different indicators of SDGs. The performer states in India are Andaman Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh. Front runner are those states who are performing very well and are about to achieve many indicators of SDGs. Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu. Achiever are those states which have achieved on certain indicators and are performing well in other indicators. Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura.

To monitor SDGs at the sub-national level, NITI Aayog has developed an SDG base line report and along with that a <sup>4</sup>Dashboard was also prepared. This type of ground work can provide a framework for local development policy. Even NITI Aayog has identified the priority indicators which are 63. Among all the 169 indicators, the indicators

<sup>4</sup> Dashboard is a user interface which provides at a glance view of the indicators and goals of SDGs. It is generally used for the quick view of report or any important data based work.

which are related to Health, education, livelihood and the natural resources, are required to be achieved at the earliest. For all the states, the priority indicators are needed to be fulfilled in a stipulated time period.

NITI Aayog has also identified the levels of working of government at 3 steps. At the central level organizations like NITI Aayog, MOSPI and Central level Ministries will help in localizing the SDGs. At the state level, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department and Office of the Chief Secretary of the State. At the District level, Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Urban Local bodies are responsible for the localization. (NITI Aayog, 2019)

### Some of the State level initiatives to attain SDGs

Every state in the country is in a mode for aligning the schemes according to the goals. Almost all the states have set up a nodal agency for the implementation and work of SDGs. Every state consists of a High level committee which directly coordinates the work of various departments in the state. These Committees are typically chaired by the Chief Secretary of the state and comprising of all the departmental heads. Even in some states, the Chief Ministers are also involved to have a closer monitoring of the mechanisms which are being used by the states to work upon. Along with that, the states have identified the nodal departments which will be directly responsible for the allocation and the working pattern of the SDGs in collaboration with the line departments.

If we look at Andhra Pradesh, it is the only state to bring out the final achievement report of MGDs and thereafter SDG baseline report in 2015. The state Government has identified the short term and the long term vision which needs to be achieved. For all the districts, they have prepared a district vision report which will be helpful for the alignment of the schemes.

Kerala, has also set up a mechanism to ensure that all the government departments should work on the same platform for achieving the SDGs. In the NITI Aayog's report, Kerala is a front runner as they are on the way of accomplishing the goals. Now they have undertaken the capacity building of multiple stakeholders on SDGs by including a module on SDGs in their 'Social Education Programme'. At the district levels, they are localizing the plans and aligning them with the Centres to have better awareness building. They are working on different schemes, which are associated with the indicators to help the marginalized sections of the society.

The state of Maharashtra has organized various workshops on SDGs to make it more localised and to generate awareness regarding it. They have identified the most backward blocks from the state to prepare a framework under SDG and to make them more developed. Simultaneously, they have started various schemes for the backward regions which will help them in the 5<sup>th</sup> outcome budget and replenish the role of attaining the goals in a stipulated time period. They have developed Public Private Partnership (PPP) model between the states and the philanthropic organization to plug the gap of growth across the rural areas of the state.

States like Manipur and Meghalaya are also undertaking the task of sensitizing all Government departments to conceptualize the work of SDGs and to align their schemes with it. At the same time, the capacity building and training of all the officials who are involved in the framework of SDGs are taken care of. Here, the sensitization work of public is taking place through media. Also workshops and training programmes of various stakeholders are used to spread awareness regarding this. (NITI Aayog, 2019)

The states like Nagaland, has also shown a positive response towards the SDGs. It has initiated the steps with planning and the nodal department for sensitization and implementation of SDGs in the state. Capacity building workshops and strategies are finalised by the government.

#### LOCALISING THE SDGs IN THE STATE OF GUJARAT

When Gujarat Government learnt about SDGs and its importance, the grouping of goals was done to have a better understanding of the indicators. There are seven bifurcations, they are also known as the Thematic Working groups. They are as follows:

Group 1: Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 12

Group 2: Goal 3 and Goal 6

Group 3: Goal 4

Group 4: Goal 7, Goal 8, Goal 9 and Goal 11

Group 5: Goal 5 and Goal 10

Group 6: Goal 13, Goal 14 and Goal 15

Group 7: Goal 12 and Goal 17

These divisions of goals have helped the Government to align the schemes with the department and to finalize the nodal agencies who will work for the implementation of the goals. The goals are paired with one another in such a manner that they are closely linked and interconnected. To achieve one goal in a group, other goals need to be understood and worked upon. The Goal no. 4 which describes about education, cannot be linked with other goals, as it is utmost important and is required to be achieved at the earliest, as it will sooner or later affect the other

<sup>5</sup> Outcome budget is a type of budget which aims to measure the outcome of ministries or organizations for which a specific budget has been introduced. In terms of SDGs, it helps to understand the expenses demarcated for the specific schemes and programmes which align with the line departments of the states.

goals too.

Along with it, the Government of Gujarat has developed a 'Vision Document' – comprising of four parts. The Vision Document sheds light on the indicators of goals, roadmap of the goals along with role matrix, framework for the implementation of the goals and the action plan which will be followed by the departments to accomplish the goals till 2030. Along with these, awareness generation and deeper understanding of the SDGs is also a difficult task. Hence, Gujarat state has prepared a six-monthly calendar of capacity building programme according to which trainings will be conducted. It is necessary to impart the training in local language which is Gujarati. Therefore, about 100 senior district level officers including District Planning Officers and District Statistical Officers from all districts have been trained on localising SDGs at the sub-state level.

To impart education and awareness regarding SDGs the State Government has collaborated with different universities and colleges to fulfil the agenda. In this light, various conferences and workshops are held in the state to localize the SDGs. The roles and responsibilities of every officials are designed and a matrix is formed through which proper monitoring and evaluation can be done.

Preparation of outcome budget along with the SDG dashboard is under preparation. The dashboard will help to have a quick view of all the data which is related to indicators and aligned schemes. It will reflect the government approach towards the achievement and also the success which has achieved after the implementation of SDGs. Above all, State Government has constituted, State Empowered Committee (SEC) to monitor all the district level collaboration and working pattern. This committee is chaired by Chief Secretary along with the SDG cell which is again constituted by Gujarat Social Infrastructure Development Society (GSIDS), General Administration Planning. This institution works for effective monitoring, authenticity of indicators and proper functioning of the cell which is constituted.

GSIDS has hired a professional agency for the better procurement of the SDGs. The main functions of the state SDG Cell are collection, compilation, verification and analysis of information related to SDGs. It also provides documentation, reporting, capacity building and technical support to the SDG Cells at the district levels. The professional agency provides an expertise help for the implementation of the goals. The Government is planning to develop online Management Information System (MIS) to track the progress of work at any time. To monitor the physical progress against the financial budget which is provided, an analytical web portal with the help of technical expert will be developed. This will provide a dynamic result and analysis of each and every goal.

To run alone for development and progress is little difficult, hence, partnership is required and Gujarat is partnering with UNICEF and UNDP to achieve the SDGs. These international agencies are helping with the funding and the expert advice whenever required.

To make this more localised, a committee for state level has been constituted named District SDGs committee. All the 33 districts of Gujarat will mandatorily participate and it will be chaired by the District collector. The district level officials will be responsible for the review and implementation process of SDGs. Every district will prepare a plan according to the resources which are available and the challenges which are faced by them. Even the districts of Bharuch and Rajkot of Gujarat has published District vision document 2022, which shows their alertness and awareness towards SDGs and its implementation.

Gujarat state government has also identified the State Indicator Framework (SIF), in total there are 388 indicators which has been recognised with the help of SDG cell and an expert agency which has been recruited for this purpose. Now the state is working to achieve these indicators by working on them.

The intersectoral approaches by the Government has been done through the implementation of various schemes and programmes to mainstream the marginalised people in the society. Departments with convergence with each other are actively participating to overcome defies.

## DISCUSSION

Looking at the status of all the districts and specifically Gujarat, it can be said that through the achievement of SDGs it will be easy to step up in the list of developed countries. Most of the states of India have emerged as a front runners. It should be acknowledged that any country alone will not be able to achieve SDGs without partnership, as India is a forgoing country, now it is need of the hour to rush towards the 5 Ps which will build as strong pillar for the achievement of SDGs. The governments' flagship programmes and policies are directed to address the national priorities like health, education and livelihood along with the conservation of natural resources at its best. Even the national agencies like NITI Aayog is continuously tracking and monitoring the progress by preparing reports and motivating the states. A base line index was also prepared by NITI Aayog to show an image of every state and to calculate a composite score. The calculation will definitely create a sense of competition among the state governments, further it will help analysing and identifying best practices and priority indicators which the states are adopting to reach SDGs. (SDG India Index Baseline report, 2019)

Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator in India, said India could be one of the first countries in the world to create one such benchmarking index, and it was commendable. (The Hindu, 21 Dec, 2018) It measures the performance of India and its state with respect to selected SDG indicators, which will create competitive federalism. NITI Aayog has realised the roles of local government in Panchayati Raj and Urban local bodies and

civil society organizations.

## CONCLUSION

To make the journey more esteeming, some of the following points can be included:

- Dashboards which are prepared must be kept open for public.
- Small booklets for the citizens can be published.
- Workshops at different level can be arranged.
- Especially in the Universities it should be mandatory to organize the conferences related to SDGs.
- Training to all the government officials must be made mandatory.
- Quarterly reports of the progress work of each states can be generated and published.
- Awards should be given to those states which have achieved good score in the score card generated by NITI Aayog.
- Dashboards for every state should be prepared to monitor the data and indicators.
- A separate team for the collection of data at district level can be hired for the better facilitation of the work.
- Long term and short term strategies can be distinguished separately and working pattern for both needs to be decided.

To meet the goals of SDGs a long term visionary planning is required with centre and state working together to bring a sense of transformation among them and to get developed. The local level governments have a huge role to play in it. They are the main drivers as they are working on the ground level and know the working pattern of decentralization. Through SDGs life of millions will surely be effected and a positive hopes can be seen because it emphasis on the overall development including the socio economic, cultural, education, environmental etc. in a sustainable manner.

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