



Role of Women and Sustainable Developmental Goals: A Critical Study

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Abstract

The study is dealing with sustainable development, which depends on distributing resources fairly for the present and the future. Without gender equality, it cannot be accomplished. Empowering women is crucial for achieving progressive change, ecologically responsible development, and sustainable economic growth. The objective of the study is to analysis the sustainable development as a core tenet of all programmes and initiatives that, in principle, strive to construct a society that cherishes freedom, democracy, and the upholding of fundamental rights while advancing equality of chances and tranquility between or among generations. Protecting the ability of the earth to support life in all of its variety is the focus of this study. It is predicated on representative democracy and humanitarian concepts, and respect for equitable opportunity access and basic freedoms. This study combines descriptive and qualitative techniques. The study is the first of its kind and is incredibly original because it highlights the challenges and achievements while promoting solidarity within and between generations. In a safe and secure society, it aims to develop a flourishing economy that cherishes multiculturalism and has high levels of employment and education, as well as protection for the environment, health, and social and territorial integration. In almost all countries, women are primarily responsible for household administration, child care, and nutrition, according to the study. Additionally, they engage in environmental management and other pursuits of sustainable development. Nevertheless, despite their roles, women remain underrepresented in local, national, and international decision-making processes pertaining to environmental and development issues.

Keywords: Equitable distribution, Environmental Protection, Household Management, Territorial Cohesion, Sustainable development

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Introduction

The sustainable development is characterized as satisfying modern demands without harming previous generations' capabilities to gratify their own requirements. All options and actions that are essentially aimed at constructing a society that is based on tolerance, democracy, and the accomplishment of fundamental rights, fostering opportunity equality and camaraderie between generations, should begin with the concept of long-term sustainability. The corner stone of ecological sustainable growth should be a social market economy that is extremely competitive, aspires on full employment, high levels of socioeconomic and educational advancement, and high levels of ecological preservation and enhancement. All national policies should have sustainable development as a top priority. It concerns preserving the ability of the earth to sustain all forms of life. It fosters comradeship within and across generations. It aims to develop a dynamic economy with high employment and educational levels, preventive care, social and spatial integration, and environmental protection in a safe and secure society while preserving diverse culture. Women have contributed significantly to the worldwide environmental movement when seen as a whole. Women have persisted in speaking out for laws and practices that do not jeopardize the health and welfare of future generations over the years. They keep up their campaign for higher living standards and environmental preservation. Women are disproportionately represented among the destitute in practically all nations. Furthermore, research findings have demonstrated that the poor are the individuals who are affected the most from environmental pollution and deterioration in both urban and rural areas of both affluent and poor nations. In practically every country, women are primarily responsible for running the household, providing for the children, and providing for themselves. Additionally, they are involved in environmental management. Women are primarily responsible for farming, caring for animals, and collecting water and fuel in the majority of poor nations. Nevertheless, despite their roles, women remain underrepresented in local, national, and international decision-making processes pertaining to environmental and development issues. Since their competence, knowledge, and point of view have gone unnoticed for so long, women are now demanding that their voices be heard¹. They understand that as political, economic, social, and environmental challenges are intertwined, an Integrated strategy to sustainable development is required. Women were able to obtain over a thousand allusions to and prescriptions for women included in the final agreement, Agenda 21, as well as a volume



on women and sustainable development, although they actually participate in the Costa Rica Climate Forum project. The United Nations has focused its efforts on the environment, population, human rights, poverty, and sexual preference, as well as the connections between these issues, as a result of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, 1993 Human Rights Symposium, 1994 International Congress on Population and Development, 1995 Community Summit, and 1995 Fourth United Nations conference on Women. In Rio, it was recognized that women were a "major group" whose participation was important to attaining sustainable development. For women to be safeguarded, benefit from all development and environmental management programmes, there is an increasing emphasis on "mainstreaming," or fully integrating women's concerns and participation. The Nations Convention on the rights aspires to implement a feminist perspective through each facet of its work. The 4th World Conference on Women, organized in Beijing in September 1995, underscored that women's empowerment, level of engagement, and equality establish the foundation for global peace and long-term stability. The proposal also emphasizes that initiatives for sustainable development that exclude women and men won't last more than a period. The benefits in economic and social growth have benefited women more than men during the past three decades, as women make up half of the world's population. However, they still outnumber men in terms of access to resources and power, making them one of the world's most vulnerable populations. In addition to being a goal in and of itself, gender equality is essential for social, economic, and environmental sustainability. A sustainable route of development can be reached by giving women and men the equal chances, including indecision-making in all sorts of activities, to ensure that women's and men's interests are both taken into account in the distribution of resources.

Objectives of the Study

1. The primary goal of COVID19 is to identify the sustainable advancements made by women.
2. To determine whether the gender gap in food security has increased globally since COVID19.
3. To determine whether COVID19 has raised the danger of violence and exploitation against women.
4. To learn more about how the 17 SDGs and the 5Ps, specifically for women, fit within the Harvard Sustainability Aims for 2030.



Literature Review

According to the European Environment and Development Commission, environmental sustainability comprises meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. It has these norms: the premise which "necessities" in general, the basic needs of the world's poor ought to receive top priority; the thought that "needs" in particular, the existing and future requirements are bound by the degree of technology and social structure. Economic expansion, social inclusion, and nature stewardship must all be balanced in order to achieve sustainable development. By bigger opportunities for everyone, reducing inequality, and boosting the minimum standards of living, sustainable development strives to eradicate poverty.

Findings

1. Women who work informal jobs make substantially less money than men
2. Girls under the age of 15 are over represented among slum dwellers.
3. The ratio of maternal deaths decreased
4. Compared to men, women have less access to financial services.
5. Women own agricultural property at much lower rates than men.
6. Highest rate of child marriage

Women and Poverty

More than one in five individuals worldwide, on an average of less than \$1 per day, are estimated to be living in extreme poverty. Since the 1980s, there have been more poor people than ever in every emerging region (apart from East Asia). According to studies, the wealth and income discrepancies are growing, and most of the world's poor people are women. In contrast to men, who have seen a 30% increase in poverty since the 1970s, rural women have seen a 50% increase. Over the course of their lives, women earn less money than males for a variety of reasons. They are more inclined to work fewer hours because they get paid less for doing the same amount of labour. Additionally, it makes getting loans or credit less likely. All of these features make women more susceptible to poverty, especially as they age. Governments must implement measures to address this imbalance, including policies, programmes, and quota systems. Sustainable development is described by the International Association of Development as development that empowers people rather than marginalizes them, regenerates the environment rather than degrades it, and promotes



economic progress while also distributing its benefits fairly. The poor are prioritized by development, which increases their options and possibilities and makes provisions for their involvement in decisions that have an impact on their life. Affiliations representing women are anxious concerned the current trends in economic development and globalization would widen the wealth and poverty gaps, favour men more than women. The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) released a report, "Five years after Rio, the post-Rio agenda appears to be falling behind the demands of the global economy. The current problem is how to get them to move closer together." Women are advocating for this field of study to be gender-sensitive. Secondly, they are requesting increased access to resources like land, credit, education, technology, and information so they can participate on an equal footing with men in causing lifelong that will have impact on both their lives and the lives of everyone on Earth. Along with campaigning for the implementation of new economic accounting systems that account for their unpaid labour, women have also agitated for federal measures that will lower the disproportionate amount of hours that they spend working often twice compared to males.

Control over Land and Resources

Women are often the principal consumers and guardians of farms, forests, freshwater, and other natural resources in almost every significant developing region. Women in rural parts of poor countries spend much of their waking time cooking, carrying water, gathering fuel wood, and growing food. The majority of local food production in Asia and Africa is carried out by women. As a result, they are in charge of choosing the seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides to use, as well as keeping the soil fertile so that seedlings and plants can grow. Additionally, women manage, protect, and use biodiversity. There are 230 distinct species in 60 home gardens in Thailand, according to research, many of which were saved from a nearby forest before it was removed. In order for future generations to be able to meet their requirements, their traditions and practices encourage the wise, respectful use and preservation of natural resources. However, the majority of development plans today disregard the needs and customs of indigenous peoples. Through their commitment for the happiness of both future and present generations in their roles as users, producers, parents, and educators, women greatly contribute to the promotion of ecological sustainability.² However, discrimination inhibits many women from attaining their full



potential in the stewardship of natural resources and the environment because they lack resources, standing in society, property rights, and expertise.

Women and Water

Women manage water resources in rural areas of the majority of developing nations; they frequently travel great distances to obtain water for daily activities. In some parts of Africa, women and youngsters devote eight hours a day collecting water. According to estimates, water shortage affects 45% of rural women in Latin America, 32% of remote women in Asia, and 55% of rural women in Africa. Clean water accessibility is another issue that is becoming more and more crucial for urban families and women. Women's ability to raise crops and livestock as well as the number of jobs required to collect, store, and treat wastewater are all hampered by poor water access and quality. Consequently, they affect the own and her dependents' health. Each year, thousands of individuals die from water-borne ailments like cholera, dysentery, typhoid, malaria, and diarrhea. Water that has been contaminated has the ability to spread parasite diseases like onchocerciasis (river blindness). Women are in charge of managing sanitation and water collection, but they are rarely involved in decision-making when infrastructure development is planned. Too often, they have no control over how latrines are laid out or where pumps are placed. It is now known that the exclusion of women from the planning process plays a key role in the high failure rate of water supply and sanitation systems. Water and sanitation programmes must priorities lowering the time and effort women spend collecting water and enhancing women's participation in community water and sanitation decision-making in order to improve women's health and quality of life. Likewise, every effort must be made to guarantee that there is access to clean water. According to broad estimates, there are currently more than a billion people in underdeveloped nations without access to safe water. Women's empowerment is a process, and a wide range of social, economic, and environmental challenges are involved in sustainable development. Until recently, gender issues have typically been addressed as social issues. This is mirrored in the areas of the Millennium Development Goals devoted to eradicating poverty and enhancing access to healthcare, education and other services. Water and sanitation programmes must priorities lowering the time and effort women spend collecting water and enhancing women's participation in community water and sanitation decision-making in order to improve women's health and quality of life. Likewise, every effort must be made to guarantee that there is access to clean



water. In addition to being human rights, UNDP emphasizes gender equality and women's empowerment as a means of accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is built upon by these 17 goals, which also include additional topics including priority for peace and justice, innovation, economic inequality, and climate change. Since these objectives are interrelated, obtaining one frequently demands addressing issues that are more second most common cause to another. The SDGs aim to choose the best options possible in the present in order to improve living for future generations. They act in a pragmatic and cooperative manner. They established specific goals and principles for all nations to accept in line with their own objectives and the worries about the environment all across the world. The SDGs display a broad agenda. They tackle the underlying causes of poverty and unite us to bring about change that benefits both people and the environment. Supporting the 2030 Agenda is the UNDP's foremost responsibility, according to Administrator Helen Clark. The SDGs give us a similar solution and agenda for tackling some of the most significant problems facing the world right now, such as climate change, poverty, and violence. The UNDP provides the expertise and knowledge required to promote employment and assist countries on their path to sustainable development.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The paper gathers important suggestions on how gender equality concerns might be addressed across the SDGs to aid in the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda. Eliminating discrimination from legal systems and fostering a shift in societal mores, enhancing the generation, examination, and application of statistics and data on gender, Institutions that focus and mainstream gender equality across all policy domains and localization ensuring women's leadership, representation, and active engagement at all levels increasing investment and financing. Recognizing female's commitment to ecological growth is essential. Instilling in children a feeling of responsibility and care for the use and preservation of the environment is one of the various strategies that women actually contribute to their upbringing and development. Enhancing the importance of women in environmental decision-making and enabling them to benefit from advantages in the "diseconomy" more needs to be done. Women's needs-specific training and capacity-building initiatives are required. Women must be empowered to overcome socio cultural and religious conventions that limit their engagement in family, community, and society at large in order to serve as a



catalyst for sustainable development. Changes in thinking are required, especially among the scene's predominately masculine guys. Therefore, it covers both men's and women's needs. Gender relations, the root cause of the current disparity, must be addressed in order to attain intergenerational equity. If inequalities persist, neither inter generational justice nor the obligation to leave behind amore just world to future generations can be achieved. Sustainable development cannot be accomplished if gender inequality is not seriously addressed because it is one of the most ubiquitous forms of inequality in the world. While attempting to maximize the well-being of the current generation, it's critical to maintain a long-term perspective, considering the effects of our actions on our children, their children, and grand children. By doing this, we can prevent the depletion of resources necessary for their own well-being as well as the pollution or destruction of the natural environment into which they will be born. Three interconnected pillars economic development, social development, and environmental protection are thought to support sustainable development. The fourth pillar has been argued to be the survival of cultural variety. Without acknowledging the numerous ways in which these pillars interact and promote sustainable development, this conceptual grouping could lead to managing these sectors independently. Green energy can instead be seen as a complex and dynamic process by adopting an integrated and holistic approach that includes cultural components responsible, eco-responsible economic development.

Scope for further Study

Rights, including sexual and reproductive health, the elimination of violence against women and girls, the reduction of unpaid childcare and domestic labor, and the empowerment of women to improve climate resilience and reduce disaster risks should be intimated.

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