

## **SFHS MUN 2022 - (SGCSDG)**

**Agenda:** Deliberation on policies to achieve SDG 5 on gender equality in India

### **History - Turning back the pages to where it started from**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted Agenda 21, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.
- Member States unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York. The Summit led to the elaboration of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitments to poverty eradication and the environment, and built on Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration by including more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.
- In 2013, the General Assembly set up a 30-member Open Working Group to develop a proposal on the SDGs.
- In January 2015, the General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda. The process culminated in the subsequent adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 SDGs at its core, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.
- 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2015)
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development (July 2015)
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 SDGs was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York in September 2015.
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)
- Now, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.

## **Introduction to the agenda**

With a total of 17 SDGs with a total of 169 targets in place, it aims to make the world a better place in a variety of ways by the Year 2030.

### **SDG 5 - Gender Equality**

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5 or Global Goal 5) concerns gender equality and is fifth of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015. The 17 SDGs recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. A system thinking approach is the base for global sustainability.

SDG 5 has nine targets and 14 indicators. Six of the targets are "outcome-oriented": ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; ending violence and exploitation of women and girls; eliminating harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; increasing value of unpaid care and promoting shared domestic responsibilities; ensuring full participation of women in leadership and decision-making; and ensuring access to universal reproductive rights and health. The three "means of achieving" targets are: fostering equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services for women; promoting empowerment of women through technology; and adopting, strengthening policies and enforcing legislation for gender equality.

- **5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- **5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- **5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

- **5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- **5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life
- **5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- **5.A** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- **5.B** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- **5.C** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

## **The Road to SDG 5 - Ongoing path to 2022**

The world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030, and the social and economic fallout from the pandemic has made the situation even bleaker. Progress in many areas, including time spent on unpaid care and domestic work, decision-making regarding sexual and reproductive health, and gender-responsive budgeting, is falling behind. Women's health services, already poorly funded, have faced major disruptions. Violence against women remains endemic. And despite women's leadership in responding to COVID-19, they still trail men in securing the decision-making positions they deserve. Commitment and bold action are needed to accelerate progress, including through the promotion of laws, policies, budgets and institutions that advance gender equality. Greater investment in gender statistics is vital, since less than half of the data required to monitor Goal 5 are currently available.

### **Accelerated progress is needed to align public financing with gender equality objectives**

Building back better from COVID-19 means doing so in a way that advances gender equality and women's empowerment. Fundamental to this goal is ensuring that the allocation and spending of public financing takes gender equality into account. According

to data reported by 105 countries and areas for the period 2018–2021, only 26 per cent of countries have comprehensive systems in place to track public allocations for gender equality, 59 per cent have some features of such a system, and 15 per cent do not have the minimum elements of such a system. Accelerated action is needed to expand comprehensive implementation of gender-responsive budgeting and strengthen its monitoring and evaluation.

## **The Road to SDG 5 in India**

### **Introduction - Major developments for the progress in the country**

The concept of gender equality is cross cutting across several goals and targets along with Goal 5 which is specifically on "Gender Equality". Women's empowerment is a precondition to achieve the targets of several Sustainable Development Goals like poverty eradication, inequality, good health and well being for all, decent work and economic growth among others. The related targets of the SDGs are encompassing as these also cover major areas of concern like violence and discrimination against women, child marriage, reproductive and sexual health of women, effective participation of women at workplace, political role from parliament to local bodies and also in public life, ownership over land, and laws and policies to ensure effective implementation of these. This is in congruence with the Global Gender Gap index which measures the relative gaps between men and women across four key areas – health, education, economy and politics. India has remained committed to the goal of achieving equality among all its citizens. The Constitution of India conveys a powerful mandate for equality of women in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights and also Directive Principles of State Policy. India is also a signatory to a number of UN Conventions, like Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action and Convention on Rights of the Child where the nation's commitment to protect and empower its women and girls is evident. India has been striving to dispel discrimination against women in all forms. Laws against sex selective abortion, child marriage and sexual harassment at workplace are being implemented. There is also a draft women's policy (2016) of which the basic tenet is empowerment of women as a socio – politico ideal. However, discrimination against women in India remains a deep seated issue despite various policy and legislative reforms being undertaken at all levels. One of the main areas of concern is falling female participation in the labour force. A 2016-15 report by the Labour Bureau reveals that Female Labour Force Participation Rate in India is 23.7%. Even on the indicator of Economic participation and opportunity, and labour force participation in Global Gender Gap, India has a low rank on female labour force

participation rate though in some other areas like political empowerment it is ranked better. This is because of the high representation of women in local governance institutions. Sex ratio at birth is also a major area of concern for our country. However, initiatives are being taken to prevent such trends. Through committed implementation of programmes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, awareness campaigns in the states, focus is on changing the mindset of people towards girl child. Implementation of SDG 5 will go a long way in making India gender equal. Though the discourse on gender justice and empowerment is rampant in our country, SDG 5 can help in bringing a gendered approach to the policies, schemes and laws of the country. India is expected to gain from its „demographic dividend“ in the coming years and women are an integral part of this developmental process if India wants to tap its full potential. It is only through empowering the women in all forms that women will transcend beyond the constraints they presently face. It is essential to focus on these aspects if India wants to achieve its vision of “A society in which women attain their full potential and are able to participate as equal partners in all spheres of life and influence the process of social change” (Draft National Policy for Women, 2016).

### **Policy Framework for Navigating the Schemes by Government**

Although India has achieved gender parity at the primary education level and is on track to achieve parity at all education levels, as of August 2015, the proportion of seats in Parliament held by women had only reached 12% against the target of 50%. India is also confronting the challenge of violence against women. As an example, a baseline study revealed that in New Delhi, 92% of women had experienced some form of sexual violence in public spaces during their lifetime. The Government of India has identified ending violence against women as a key national priority, which resonates with the Sustainable Development targets of the United Nations on gender equality. The prime minister’s Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative aims at equal opportunity and education for girls in India. In addition, specific interventions on female employment, programmes on the empowerment of adolescent girls, the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana on girl child prosperity and the Janani Suraksha Yojana for mothers advance India’s commitment to gender equality, and the targets of Goal 4.

#### **1. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**

“Let us celebrate the birth of the girl child. We should be equally proud of our daughters. I urge you to sow five plants when your daughter is born to celebrate the occasion.” -PM Narendra Modi to citizens of his adopted village Jayapur.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio

(CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.

The key elements of the scheme include Enforcement of PC & PNDT Act, nation-wide awareness and advocacy campaign and multi-sectoral action in select 100 districts (low on CSR) in the first phase. There is a strong emphasis on mindset change through training, sensitization, awareness raising and community mobilization on ground. The NDA Government is trying to bring about a transformational shift in the way our society looks at the girl child. PM Modi in his Mann Ki Baat lauded the Sarpanch from Bibipur in Haryana who started a 'Selfie With Daughter' initiative. The PM also urged people to share their selfies with daughters and it soon became a world-wide hit. People from across India and the world shared their selfies with daughters and this became a proud occasion for all those who have daughters.

The objectives of this initiative are:

- Prevention of gender biased sex selective elimination
- Ensuring survival & protection of the girl child
- Ensuring education and participation of the girl child

## **2. Sukanya Samridhi Yojana**

The Sukanya Samridhi Yojana is a girl child prosperity scheme under the Beti Bachao Beti padhao program of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. SSY account is to ensure a bright future for girl children in India. This yojana is to facilitate them proper education and care free marriage expenses. The scheme has well been accepted by the masses in wake of the financial security and independence it would provide to the girl child as well as their parents and guardians.

This Yojana offers a small deposit investment for the girl children as an initiative under 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign. One of the key benefits of the scheme is that it is quite affordable and offers one of the highest rates of interest. Please see this page for current SSY interest rate and also SSY is under the Income tax Act 1961, section 80C.

## **3. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**

Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 8, 2015 for providing loans up to 10 lakh to the non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs,

Small Finance Banks, MFIs and NBFCs. The borrower can approach any of the lending institutions mentioned above or can apply online through this portal [www.udyamimitra.in](http://www.udyamimitra.in) . Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth / development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit / entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation / growth.

### **MUDRA VISION**

"To be an integrated financial and support services provider par excellence benchmarked with global best practices and standards for the bottom of the pyramid universe for their comprehensive economic and social development."

### **MUDRA MISSION**

"To create an inclusive, sustainable and value based entrepreneurial culture, in collaboration with our partner institutions in achieving economic success and financial security."

### **Ground Reality - The ongoing challenge**

Since gender inequality constitutes one of history's most persistent and widespread forms of injustice, eliminating it will call for one of history's biggest movements for change. Women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world. Gaps in gender equality exist in every sector. In South Asia, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 1990. However, by 2012, the enrollment ratios were the same. In 155 countries, at least one law exists which impedes women's economic opportunities. Women in most countries on average earn only 60% to 75% of wages paid to men. Only 22.8% of all national parliamentarians are women. One in three women experience some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes.

### **SDG Choupal**

The SDG Choupal i.e. the flagship initiative of Nagrik Foundation is a collective community initiative which was launched on 20 Dec 2019 at The NITI Aayog New Delhi. It was supported by Dr Ambedkar International Centre, Ministry of Social Justice Govt. of India, MSME Govt. of India, NSIC, RIS, TERI, Nagrik Dialogue, UN-Habitat, FICCI-ARISE India, CII India@75, WHO, UNESCAP, ONGC, GCNI, BSE Samman, KPMG, Akshayapatra Foundation, Rotary International, Sulabh International, Commonwealth Secretariat in collaboration with other stakeholders.

This initiative supports the national and state Governments, and institutions on advocacy and community engagement for SDG implementation in India.

Now let's talk about Choupal. In Indian traditions, Choupal is a place where people of the village assemble to discuss solutions for their problems. Unfortunately this tradition is almost dying out. This project intends to revive this old tradition and connect it to regional development. This project aims to be a tradition where people can sit together to discuss the issues they are facing regarding development and reach to some conclusions for their welfare by taking assistance from government policies meant for their development. The discussions held in SDG Choupal enable people to know whom to meet and resolve the problems that they face while availing the government policies. This would increase the people's participation in the government projects and bring together people and government officials on a single platform to chalk out misunderstandings and problems. This is how SDG Choupal is conducted at the local level.

SDG Choupal aims to create awareness about the SDG Agenda, and inspire people across the communities to enable achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on the basic principle of engaging people with policy makers, and help make the Goals attainable by 2030.

With the proven policy tools, expertise and experience, NITI Aayog has been working on the Goals to ensure reaching the targets set out in the SDGs by 2030 through its national interventions. As the same cannot not be addressed alone, achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike. This initiative envisages bringing all stakeholders, Policy makers to Community members, at one platform for creating a positive understanding about the goals.

The SDGChoupal draws its Inspiration from the Hon'ble PMs slogans –

*SabkaSaath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas & Sankalp Sey Siddhi*

The functioning of the SDG Choupal has been designed in a very simple, yet effective and people-friendly way. The NITI Aayog gave its seal of approval to SDG Choupal in a glittering function of its inauguration held in New Delhi on December 20th, 2019. The NITI Aayog broadcast the function live to 112 aspirational districts to communicate its endorsement for the initiative. This was proof enough of the effectiveness and need for such a program. It sent a clear message that SDG Choupal would act as a catalyst in implementing government policies on the grassroots level by ensuring people's participation. SDG Choupal would be held in 718 districts by 2030. It would be held in



112 districts in the first year itself! These Choupals (public meetings) would be conducted at district headquarters. The people's representatives, who represent the villages in different panchayats at the village level. This would be an open platform where the members of district panchayats, block panchayats, village panchayats, town areas, municipal corporations, and village cooperative society would be invited to discuss the issues relating to development projects and come up with solutions and suggestions for the best results. Moreover, in these Choupals District Magistrates and various officials at the district and block level, observers of NITI Aayog, representatives of the United Nation's implementing agencies and the honourable citizens of the district along with media would also be invited. This is for the first time after India's independence that in all the 718 districts such Choupals would be organised; 6,612 block-level representatives, 649,481 village representatives 5,816,673 primary school teachers, 2127,000 junior high school teachers would be given information about the development projects which are in sync with Sustainable Development Goals like health and nutrition, education, agriculture and irrigation, social inclusion, literacy, skill development, and many other basic amenities. Our endeavour is to showcase India as the best example of SDG success by ensuring people's participation in government policies meant for their welfare!

### **Apna Gaon Project**

The liberation of women from socio-economic restraints of reliance is the most effective tool for development these days as women across the world are actively working as a leader and surpassing others in all the spheres of life. The apna gaon project by the Dhani Shankar Wali village of Haryana accomplishes the desired mission of eradicating the plight of women in the society of India, by providing a sewing machine and a bundle of hope for rural women in empowerment.

Supported by a rotary club in gurgaon and the NITI Aayog crafts a concrete policy framework. The members of these organisations are connected with the UN providing them with resources at their disposal.

Sample policy 1: This is one that has been already implemented is that the rural women are provided with a sewing machine and are taught the workings of it to meet the standards required in the industry and are then provided with job opportunities by a connection in said industry.

Sample policy 2: Education being the initial line of defence for women who withstand life-imperilling circumstances that traditional lifestyle perpetuates, this sample policy is for the participants to build on, i.e a system to provide education to women and have them further the education to their children and other family members themselves.+

As delegates of the SGCSGD committee, your target should revolve around framing strategies for women empowerment to make use of the courage and capacity of the women so as to make them self-reliant.

## References

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