

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

Smita S. Bansode, *Asst. Prof., Department of Law, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai- 410210, Maharashtra, India, Bansodesmitas@gmail.com*
Sapana N. Jaiswal, *Asst. Prof., Department of Law, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai- 410210, Maharashtra, India, sapana.jaiswal@yahoo.com*

Abstract

Sustainable development (SD) has become a popular slogan in modern development discussion. Sustainable development means to make this world a better place for everyone without destroying the possibilities for future generation. Sustainable development means there are three main elements i.e. social progress, economic development and environment protection and it is important to harmonize them. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) have set the 2030 agenda to transform our world by attacking numerous challenges mankind is facing to make sure well-being, economic prosperity, and protection of environment.

This research topic will address the sustainable development Goal 16. Goal 16 of Sustainable development, talks about the peace, justice and strong institutions. Under the heading of sustainable development researchers are trying to study the need and importance of social justice system. As we have heard about three concepts of access to justice i.e. access to court, fair and just treatment of court and legal assistance to those in greater need and in vulnerable situations. Basically the agenda behind this justice system is not leaving any one behind and to ensure equality and universal justice. It was the world wide Campaign to access justice for everyone waiting for justice. Access to justice for everyone is not an easy task but not that difficult also. Considering this as the global issue on September 2015 member's states of United Nations have made an important step forward by agreeing on Sustainable Development Goal 16. It promotes the rule of law national as well as international level to ensure equal access to justice for all. Further more in this paper researcher wanted to study about the objective and current scenario about justice system in society.

Keywords: *Human rights, Legal empowerment, Social justice, Sustainable Development, United Nations*

1 Introduction:

In 2015 United Nations launched the 2030 agenda for bringing the sustainable development and set 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030 as sustainable development goals to ensure that all the people enjoy peace and prosperity in present and in future. Reaching these goals requires action on all fronts – governments, businesses, civil society and people everywhere. All have a crucial role to play to achieve 17 sustainable development goals. Sustainable development continuously seeks to accomplish social and economic progress in ways which will not exhaust the Earth's limited natural resources. Thus, it is our duty to develop ways to meet these requirements so that our future generations can inherit a healthier and greener planet Earth.

The aim of SDG 16 is ensuring peaceful and inclusive societies for all, providing equal access to justice for all and to build accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels as the main hindrance in achieving global sustainable development is conflict, weak institutions and unequal access to justice. However in recent years key factors in achieving this goal has improved.

In the 21st century everything can be fixed now with the single click like answer to the question and solution to the problem. Likewise the peoples are also getting aware about their rights. Rights related to life, liberty, Justice, survival, original rights, technological rights etc. Out of the more important is the right to access justice, if we see there are many more rights available to the peoples or community. But the rights could not be used or effective if those rights cannot be accessed easily or without any obstacle. Considering about this same point the United Nation has included the goal 16 in the Sustainable development program. Goal 16 talks about the peace Justice and strong institution to access justice worldwide. It promotes the rule of law not only at national but also at the

international level and ensuring the equal justice for all. To promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies it is more important to provide the open legal access to maintain the peace, stability and also human rights to form the effective governance based on the rule of law it plays immense role for the sustainable development. In the current era we are living in the extremely divided world which carries unequal distribution of rights and opportunities. For the advancement and growth of a nation it is much important to access equal opportunities to everyone. Social equal justice plays vital role for the survival of the community. The importance of the SDG 16 has access to justice for all. In this regard researcher have observe that in some countries the peoples were enjoying sustained level of peace and justice but on the other and some countries fall apparently endless cycle of conflict and violence. This kind of problems could not be avoided and have to address it.

For the sustainable development and growth; the nation is relying upon the justice system and available resources to implement those adopted policies in the society. The world wide national and international justices were important to eradicate the violence and insecurity has a destructive impact on national development. To avoid the another serious issues like sexual violence, exploitation, torture and other types of crime must be prevented through the exercise of rule of law in the society. Under the sustainable Development goal it was aimed to reduce effectively all the forms of violence and work with the communities and government to list down the effective solution for the conflict. To make the strong rule of law promotion of the human rights is the first task, with this can reduce the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the global governance.¹

The social justice system is the heart of a healthy nation because the development of nation is closely related with justice system. When the community can get the easy access to the justice they can contribute actively in the national growth. At the specific point of justice system and feeling of protected environment make the communities as a strong nation to develop the social justice by all means is important. Furthermore, we will see the importance of social justice in detail with some specific points with the existing justice system.

2 Research Methodology:

In this research paper researcher have been adopted the secondary method of data collection. The information has been collected from website, Journal and UN charters.

Research Objective:

- To understand the sustainable development and goal 16.
- To understand what is the importance of social justice under the sustainable development program.
- To study the scope of social justice and implementation in the society.
- To research for the sustainability of social justice.
- To study the means to promote equal access to justice

Objectives of social justice under Sustainable Development Goal 16:

- To reduce violence at national and international level.
- To prevent problems occurring as abuse, Exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence.
- The early intervention is needed and often robust early resolution services system and the basic legal skills to promote social justice.
- To accept the new developments in technology and
- To promote rule of law and equal justice for all at national and international level.
- It was the aim by 2030 effectively reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crimes.
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.

¹ <https://www.oecd.org/gov/delivering-access-to-justice-for-all.pdf>
Vol. : XXIII, No:33, 2022

- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development².

Importance of social Justice under SDG 16:

“Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Social workers aim to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need.”³

It is an indispensable right in promoting and empowerment it has been included in United Nations host 2015 under the sustainable development goal. Under this heading of sustainable development and access to justice it was the comprehensive concept for that purpose first of all the awareness and understanding of such rights is important. Through the question and answer session we can better understand the importance of social justice under SDG 16.

Key questions for considerations:

- **How access to justice plays an important role in sustainable development?**

Near about four billion people around the world subsist outside the protection of the law, because most of them are poor or marginalized within their societies. Women, are often facing multiple forms of discrimination, violence and sexual harassment, are mainly affected by legal exclusion. Addressing these legal challenges will be essential to enable the basic protection of human rights, from protection of property to legal identity and freedom from violence. Legal empowerment is the capability of people to understand and use the law for themselves. It enables even those who are most marginalized to accomplish justice, meet up their basic needs, hold authorities responsible, protect their wellbeing and take part in economic activities in an inclusive manner.

- **How Government can effectively implement sustainable development goal- access to justice to transform the world into better?**

World was facing number of challenges to achieve sustainable development. There are increasing inequalities within and among countries. There is a huge disparity of opportunity, wealth and power. Access to justice for all remains a key challenge. But significant progress has been made in meeting many development challenges in recent few years. Hundreds of millions of people have emerged from extreme poverty. Access to education has greatly increased for boys and girls both. The spread of information and advance communications technology and global interrelatedness has great possibility to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies.

- **What are the good practices for designing people-centered legal and justice services?**

The design of people-centered legal and justice services included a focus on the result or outcomes to be achieved and these may not always directly connect to the law even in the context of legal services. The extent of requirement of legal and justice services will vary from case to case and therefore it is as important to know what type and level of legal service is required along with whether legal services are required at all.

In addition to formal judicial and non-judicial proceedings; People-centered justice services include a growing range of processes and procedures: alternative mechanisms for dispute resolution such as mediation, conciliation, online dispute resolution system, paralegal services, public legal education providers, community advocates, collaborative service provision from legally-trained and other professionals, and pre- and post-resolution support.

- **How legal empowerment plays important role in achieving access to justice for all?**

Legal empowerment happens when marginalized people or groups use the legal assemblage i.e., law, legal systems and justice mechanisms to get better or transform their social, political or economic conditions. Legal empowerment tries to solve people's daily problems of injustice, including intra- community disputes and rights abuses that arise from traditional authorities, state institutions and private firms. Legal empowerment perspective usually depends on five categories

² <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal16.html>

³ <https://www.sdfoundation.org/news-events/sdf-news/what-is-social-justice/>

of tools: legal awareness raising, legal service provision, dispute resolution, law reform initiatives, and litigation.

Impact of legal empowerment in various nations:

It must be said that due to the legal empowerment approach to access the justice were resulted in the effective manner and can see it in different geographies as follows:

- In Indonesia, one of the local NGO used female paralegals to spread out understanding about rights and entitlements in female-headed households. Along with international partners, the NGO supported government reforms of state and religious justice institutions by creating and raising awareness and assisting with women's cases, contributing to a fourfold increase in the number of women able to access circuit courts the subsequent year.
- In Ecuador, the World Bank evaluated five legal service centers focused on enforcing child support payments for poor and needy women and reducing domestic violence cases. The study found that the centers' clients seeking child support were more likely to succeed than those without access to legal aid. They were also less likely to experience physical violence after separation from their partners.
- In India, filing applications under the Right to Information Act (RTIA) has helped New Delhi's slum dwellers to acquire ration cards for subsidized foodstuffs. It has subsidized the cost of litigation.
- In Sierra Leone, extended or unlawful pretrial detention damages the prosperity and health of prisoners and their families. An Oxford University study showed that a program placing paralegals in prisons to provide free legal services has reduced the numbers of prisoners held on remand by 20% and increased the percentage gaining access to bail by 13%. Moreover, only two paralegals placed at each police station managed to provide basic legal advice to 70% of detainees.⁴

3 Conclusion

Sustainable development goals ensure that all the people enjoy peace and prosperity in present and in future. The aim of SDG 16 is ensuring peaceful and inclusive societies for all, providing equal access to justice for all and to build accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Legal empowerment is intended to give people the power to know and use the law, and is considered as one of the most effective and responsive methods for achieving access to justice. Throughout the world availability of resources, laws and regulations have talked about equal justice for all. In each region the different law is available for the same offence it shows the discrimination on the ground of justice for all. Looking into the social justice it has been shown that nearly all approaches address the question of how just or unjust social situation of socially disadvantaged group of society are neglected. Upliftment of the weaker section of the society through the UN sustainable development program has brought this issue in light. Through this research I must say that the draft for the sustainable development is ready and implementation for the same is waiting for.

4 References

1. <https://www.sdgfund.org/es/node/251>
2. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030-goal16.html>
3. <https://www.oecd.org/gov/delivering-access-to-justice-for-all.pdf>
4. <https://www.careerlauncher.com/rbi-grade-b/sustainable-development-and-environmental-issues/>

⁴ <https://www.oecd.org/gov/delivering-access-to-justice-for-all.pdf>
Vol. : XXIII, No:33, 2022