



## Role of LSDGs in Promoting Sustainable Rural Livelihood: An Overview

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*“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” - Peter Drucker*

### **ABSTRACT**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted 'Agenda 2030' in 2015, which featured 17 overarching goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2018, the High-Level Political Conference agreed that, in order to accelerate SDG implementation, the local dimensions should be prioritised and efforts should be increased at the local level. Based on the notion of localising SDGs for impoverished countries, which would involve finding and implementing culturally suitable rural policies. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals closely reflect India's development strategy. Therefore, the present study seeks to analyze the programmes and schemes carried out in order to localise the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030. The article primarily works on pre-existing data by utilising the conceptual review of content analysis method, for which relevant data was gathered from official websites, Government of India authorised reports, and National Sample Survey reports, Annual Reports published by various trusted websites, books, and published articles.

**Keywords:** Antyodaya; Niti Ayog; Sustainable Development; Localisation of SDGs; Gram Panchayat; Zilla Parishad

### **1 Introduction**

The Sustainable Development Goals framed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 has been endorsed by almost all the Nations across the globe, and works on it accordingly and strive to attain them by 2030. The sustainable development goals are further broken down into 17 goals and 169 targets so as to enable the countries to effectively design and determine the

policies and initiatives to attain the goals. Globally as well as locally, nations have faced both opportunities and obstacles since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The 2030 Agenda is commonly addressed as ‘A Substantial and Transformative Action Plan’. Its ubiquitous nature necessitates cross-sector collaboration at all levels of governments. The premise that successful SDG implementation involves adequate multilevel governance may indeed be attributed to the experiences gained by the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as several goals have been framed by the United Nations with the aim of developing the global community sustainably. Nevertheless, despite many accomplishments, it has been recognized that one of the major challenges in achieving the MDG objectives was local governments' lack of competence. According to an assessment carried out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank Group, the lack of skills and resources at the local and regional levels was a hindrance in reaching targeted populations in implementing the MDGs (Pytrik Dieuwke Oosterhof, 2018). This has been sorted out and harmonized in the Sustainable Development Goals, 2015 by the United Nations’ strategy of Localising it to National and Sub National Levels, and thereby implementing and monitoring it from the grass root level concerning the advancement and improvement of livelihoods of the last one of the citizens of last one of the countries, eventually leading the world to be a better place to live in. The statement made by Mahatma Gandhi, ‘India lives in its villages’, is still relevant today. Today, 65.5 percent of Indians live in rural areas, where agriculture provides the majority of their income. Most of the individuals who live in rustic locales depend on farming for various reasons, including pay creation, since they turned to it without a trace of satisfactory work prospects.

India, being the sixth largest economy worldwide has now significantly involved in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals, has carried the goals through several of its schemes and policies and the National Development Goals and agendas such as the ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’, ‘Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)’, Niti Ayog, ‘Mission Antyodaya’ and is on the right track of achieving it by the stipulated time of year 2030.

## **2 Materials and Methodology**

The Qualitative Research Methodology has been adopted in the present descriptive study, and has been conducted by adopting the Conceptual Review of Content Analysis Approach of study, and thus this study is reliant on a combination of sources that are required and sources that

are optional. The present article aims to view the Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals in India from a Bird's Eye, and it primarily works on the pre-existing pertinent data which has been collected from the official websites, Government of India authorized reports, and reports of the National Sample Survey, Annual Reports published by Niti Ayog, Mission Antyodaya, Ministry of Rural Development, various trusted websites, books, and published articles.

### 3 Localisation of SDGs

*“Local spaces are ultimately the key site of delivery and development and, as such, local government is central to the success of sustainable development”*

*-South African Local Government Association (SALGA)*

NITI Aayog and UN India worked together on creating national progress, the report thoroughly analyses and evaluates the contributions made by States and UTs towards specific SDG objectives by placing them according to a predetermined set of indicators. This Index offers the first comprehensive method for tracking development's progress in terms of the socio-economic and environmental criteria. The SDG India Index has made it possible for States and UTs to compare their progress to that of other states and UTs, identify priority areas, and foster competition among them for performance improvement. The SDG India Index is anticipated to track development in real-time as well.

#### 3.1 Roadmap for Localising SDGs

The Localisation of the SDGs in India is an ongoing process and has been strategically and systematically classified into three phases by the research and planning committee of Niti Ayog (Localising SDGs- Early Lessons from India, 2019).

##### 3.1.1 Phase-I: Identifying institutions and assigning specific mandates to deliver on the SDGs

There is a three-tiered local governance within the country for which the state and local governments are responsible for the majority of responsibilities linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, including planning, implementation, and monitoring. SDG localization is the duty of all three levels of government at the Central Level, at the State Levels and the District Levels of governments.

### 3.1.2 Phase-II: Raising Awareness and Advocating for SDG Implementation

Increasing awareness of the SDGs among meeting the Agenda 2030 objectives requires the participation of all collaborators, programmes to educate government and non-government partners about the SDGs by creating shared understanding among the governments, imparting objectives and plans to various departments of the governments in order to implement it by creating composite measures to advocate about the SDGs and by developing National Indicator Framework to Monitor the SDGs.

### 3.1.3 Phase-III: Bringing on board Ministries, State governments and the UTs

Considering India's vast geographical expansion and socio-cultural, demographic, and economic diversity, localising SDGs is essential while national initiatives serve to define the extent of localization, actions at the subnational level are crucial since subnational governments are the primary drivers of the process. A variety of programmes are underway to this end, each addressing a particular goal which are recognising the relevant Departments in charge of the particular SDG targets and Objectives, comprehending SDGs in local settings, determining indications and parameters, and establishing tracking systems, establishing the strategy and plan the framework, setting up the enactment system, and carrying out the evaluations and reviews focused on targets (Localising SDGs- Early Lessons from India, 2019).

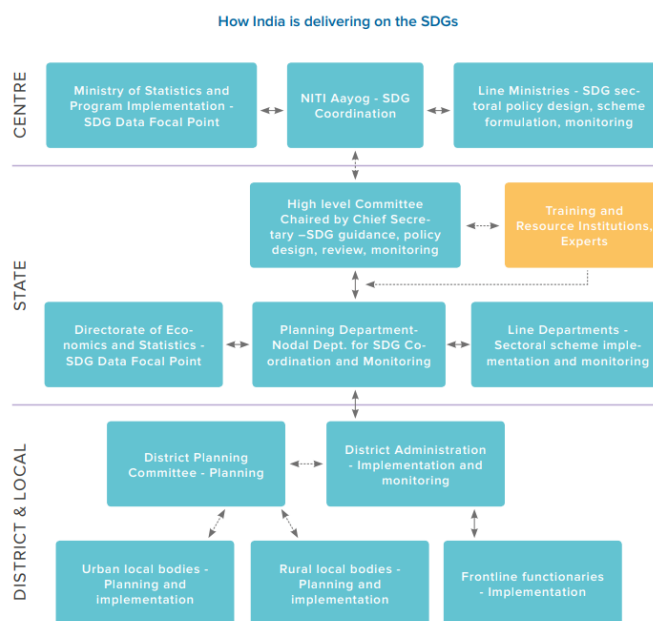


Figure 3.1.1: Source: Niti Ayog 2019: Localising SDGs- Early Lessons from India

### 3.1.2 Composite SDG India Index

The Indian states represent the country's geographic and demographic varieties, as well as the differences in social and economic conditions. The SDG India Index, that has been established as an initial effort for ranking the states and union territories, highlighted significant differences across states and stressed the importance of customized methodologies.



Figure 3.1.2: Source: Niti Ayog 2019: Localising SDGs- Early Lessons from India

Four Indian states and one Indian union territory have been recognised to be the front runners in the effective implementation of localisation of sustainable development goals and in improving the livelihoods and living conditions of the last man of the society. Majority of the states and union territories are in the phase of implementing the ultimate aim of localising the sustainable development goals which is a clear indicator that the sustainable development goals of the United Nations would be achieved within the stipulated time by 2030 in making the world a better place to live in.

## 4 Programmes and Schemes to Localise Sustainable Development Goals

This chapter identifies few of the various rural development programmes implemented in India. Rural India presently accounts for 65.5% of the country's population. To enhance the lives of India's rural population, new initiatives and programmes must be launched on a regular basis. The following are major rural development initiatives underway in India.

### 4.1 Antyodaya Mission

'Mission Antyodaya' was included in the Indian government's 2017-18 union budget. The program's principal purpose is to offer an accountability and convergence framework to various rural development programmes. As this is a state-led programme, it is expected that gram panchayats would serve as the primary convergence activity centres. A crucial component of the Mission Antyodaya System is the yearly survey done at the gram panchayat level across the country. It corresponds to the "People's Plan Campaign" of the Panchayat Raj Ministry (PPC).

State Name	Total GPs	GPs In Progress	GPs Field Survey Completed	GPs Survey Finalized	Total Villages	Villages In Progress	Villages Field Survey Completed	Villages Survey Finalized
Total	268795	97388	57099	46633	658283	288206	156022	117733
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	4290	1181	3029	2659	7364	1908	5338	4584
HIMACHAL PRADESH	3627	351	3258	3078	20928	3133	17713	16518
PUNJAB	13241	3501	4852	4159	14614	3909	5267	4544
UTTARAKHAND	7802	2694	3729	3150	15961	5713	7025	5834
HARYANA	6220	3663	369	89	7415	4399	435	112
RAJASTHAN	11265	8611	632	233	46282	34315	2705	909
UTTAR PRADESH	58532	17949	939	489	104681	33503	1743	685
BIHAR	8175	5501	12	0	44960	29974	125	0
SIKKIM	200	150	3	0	447	341	9	0
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	2108	294	47	1	5761	869	107	1
NAGALAND	1282	160	2	1	1282	160	2	1
MANIPUR	3174	1349	158	16	3703	1782	160	17
MIZORAM	834	2	831	813	864	2	861	843
TRIPURA	1301	0	0	0	1779	0	0	0
MEGHALAYA	6800	82	4	0	6807	82	4	0
ASSAM	2716	2430	51	9	27962	25710	639	77
WEST BENGAL	3361	904	2426	1990	41126	9167	31753	24833
JHARKHAND	4344	3412	932	29	32713	24822	7891	329
ODISHA	6845	3908	2886	2295	51346	28540	22732	16555
CHHATTISGARH	11612	8169	955	286	20253	13940	1525	439
MADHYA PRADESH	23020	13820	7095	5852	55119	34134	15819	12858
GUJARAT	14380	3	0	0	18912	3	0	0
MAHARASHTRA	27544	3194	3	0	42322	5340	6	0
ANDHRA PRADESH	13325	1013	12285	11784	20206	2217	17958	16261
KARNATAKA	5958	1053	62	5	29072	4263	271	43
GOA	191	40	0	0	403	118	0	0
KERALA	941	9	932	931	1594	19	1575	1574
TAMIL NADU	12528	11578	946	53	17709	18316	1389	62
PUDUCHERRY	108	0	0	0	139	0	0	0
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	70	45	17	8	361	286	45	20
TELANGANA	12771	2198	10570	8708	15831	3000	12829	10601
LADAKH	192	99	73	25	265	143	95	33
THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	38	35	1	0	102	98	1	0

Source: Progress of Mission Antyodaya: GPs –Gram Panchayats

#### 4.2 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MANREGA)

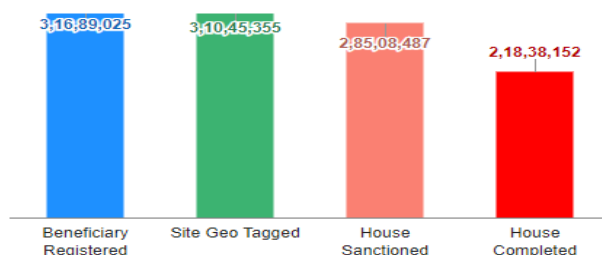
As a poverty-reduction programme, the Indian government introduced the National Rural Job Guarantee Act in 2005. (NREGA). In February 2006, it went into force in 200 districts across the nation, and it was subsequently expanded to cover the entire country of India. In 2009, it was called the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act." (MANREGA). Candidates receive employment offers within 15 days after submitting a job application through this service. The positions are no more than 5 kilometres from the candidates' homes and pay the minimum salary. If the government is unable to find them a job within 15 days, they are eligible for unemployment compensation.

#### 4.3 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G)

The Government of India launched PMAY-G on April 1, 2016. It took the place of the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), which had been in existence from January 1996. The PMAY-G programme aims to "address the gaps that exist in rural locations and give the fewest comforts and a clean kitchen to individuals living in kutcha huts." The dwellings built under the programmes must be low-cost, disaster-resistant, and at least 25 square metres in size. The government has pledged to provide "Housing for Everyone" by 2022. The scheme's first target is to cover one crore kutcha home households over three years, from 2016-17 to 2018-19.

Sl. No.	Key Parameter Indicators	Status as on Date	Daily Delta Change	Monthly Delta Change
1	Target	2,94,03,621	0	42,001
2	Beneficiaries Registered	3,16,89,025	1,645	57,81,845
3	Site Geo-Tagged	3,10,45,355	2,058	47,67,325
4	House Sanctioned	2,85,08,487	1,035	40,46,614
5	House Completed	2,18,38,152	17,066	1,31,80,932

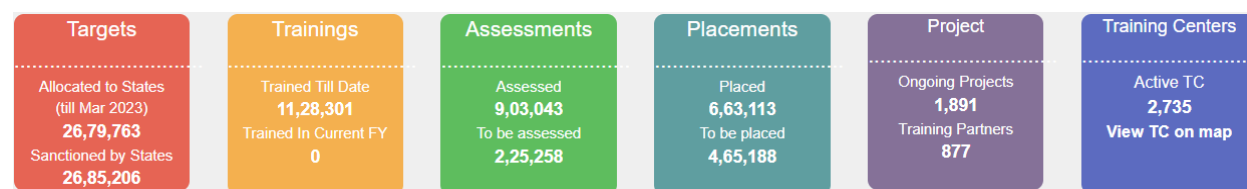
Source: Progress of PMAY-G as on 24.03.2023- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin



Source: Progress of PMAY-G as on 24.03.2023- Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin

#### 4.4 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushlya Yojana DDU-GKY

On September 25, 2014, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) inaugurated the 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushlya Yojana (DDU-GKY)' scheme with the purpose of transforming rural underprivileged youth into a labour force that is financially self-sufficient and globally relevant. The initiative is a component of the 'National Rural Livelihood Mission' (NRLM), which was established to assist rural youth in achieving their professional aspirations and to increase income diversity in rural disadvantaged households. The programme is primarily directed at children aged 15 to 35 from low-income families. It actively promotes the few financial and social programmes that are part of the Skill India mission. The initiative has reached teenagers from over 7426 blocks in 689 districts in 28 states and UTs around the nation. It presently runs over 1575 projects with 717 partners in over 502 crafts from 50 company categories. As of April 19th, 2022, this programme had trained over 13,29,885 people and placed over 8,10,154 in work.

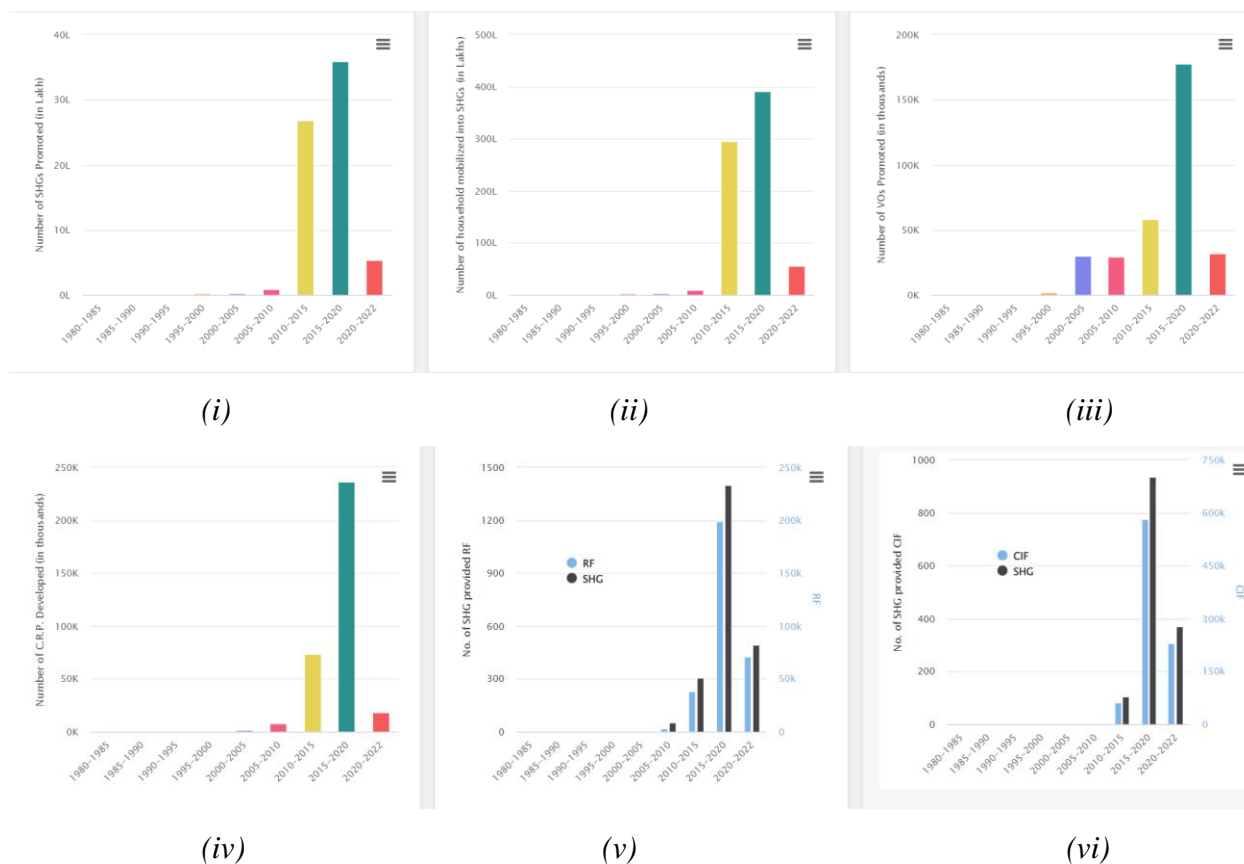


Source: Kaushal Pragati

#### 4.5 National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)

The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was established as a flagship initiative, widely known as 'Aajeevika-NRLM'. The ultimate purpose of the initiative is to create an effective and efficient institutional infrastructure that allows the rural poor to boost their family income via sustainable livelihood development and increased access to financial services. The World Bank is contributing to the initiative's funding.





(i) Number of SHGs promoted

(ii) Number of Households mobilized in SHGs

(iii) Number of Village Organization

(iv) Number of Community Cadre

(v) Number of SHG provided RF

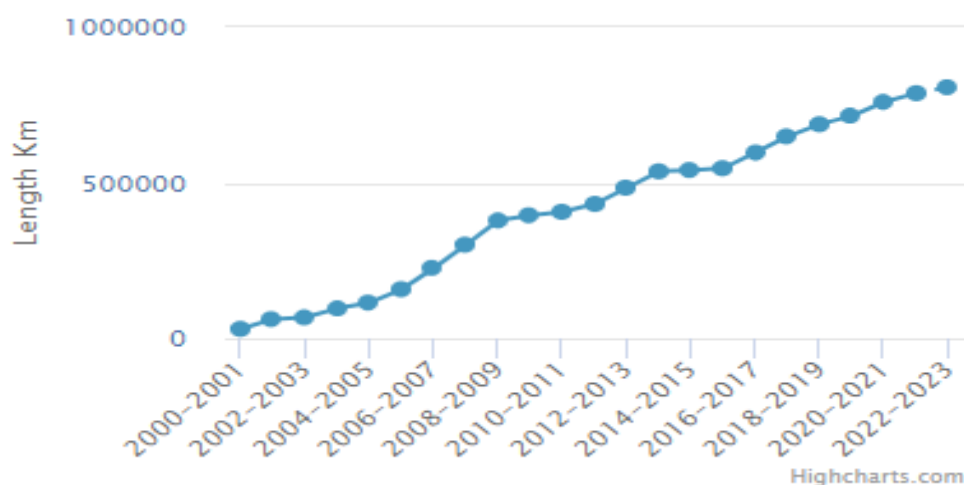
(vi) Number of SHG provided CIF

Source: MoRD, Government of India

#### 4.6 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

This is a completely centralised scheme implemented on December 25, 2000. The program's purpose is to connect isolated villages as part of a poverty reduction strategy. The Indian government plans to create sophisticated, equivalent technical, management standards, as well as aid policy creation and the development of state-level planning, to ensure sustainable management of the rural road network. The attached graph clearly illustrates that the length of streets covered

by PMGSY increases year after year. It emphasizes the method's effectiveness, which is especially beneficial to rural development by connecting rural regions to urban areas.



#### Road Length Sanctioned

Source: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana- Online Management, Monitoring and Accounting

## 5 Results and Discussion

With regard to the UN sustainable development goals and its strategy of localising at the grass root ground level, India has been outperforming and has been dedicatedly working on it to promote the sustainable rural livelihood and in the development of livelihood of the common man as a whole, even in the rural remote areas. India, with that as the primary focus, is far better in implementing the innovative schemes and programmes for the well-being and the betterment of the livelihood of the people hailing from the rural areas. India is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Agenda of 2030 and is dedicated to accomplishing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This has also become necessary in consideration of the significant devolution of funding to Gram Panchayats under the Finance Commission. To achieve the SDGs in rural areas, PRIs identifies with themes of SDG localization. The Ministry has developed a grounded approach to the SDGs, comprising 9 themes. Each of these domains encompasses several SDGs and is associated with different nodal Ministries/Departments in order to segment SDGs in Panchayat. Thematic approaches would facilitate simple comprehension, adoption, and implementation by Panchayats with community participation. Gram Panchayat is generating themed Gram Panchayat Development Plan for holistic development based on the Sankalp obtained by Panchayats on

LSDGs topics to give impetus to the process of LSDGs at Panchayats (Press Information Bureau, 2022).

## 6 Conclusion

Though Agenda 2030 is a challenging Himalayan task, it is not unattainable. Localization and data disaggregation of key performance indicators are essential tools in the effort of promotion of sustainable development. There are the highest chances of success if subnational governments and non-Governmental organisations along with individuals if joined together with their enhance performances, the SDGs, their objectives, and indicators may and will have an impact on decisions made on the grassroot. The present research focused on the numerous rural development initiatives being implemented in India. Based on the findings of the preceding study, we may infer that rural development programmes in India have had a major influence on raising rural people's living standards. All of these programmes benefit the rural people by providing employment opportunities, social assistance benefits like as old age pensions, widow pensions, and disability pensions, and infrastructure. Prior to the SDGs, one of the primary weaknesses of many worldwide development goals was the lack of localization, which has been strategically addressed in the Agenda 2030, and eight years have already passed which clearly shows an evident improvement, and if progressed in the same phase, the Agenda 2030 of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals would be successfully accomplished with the improvement of living conditions of the impoverished communities.

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