

# EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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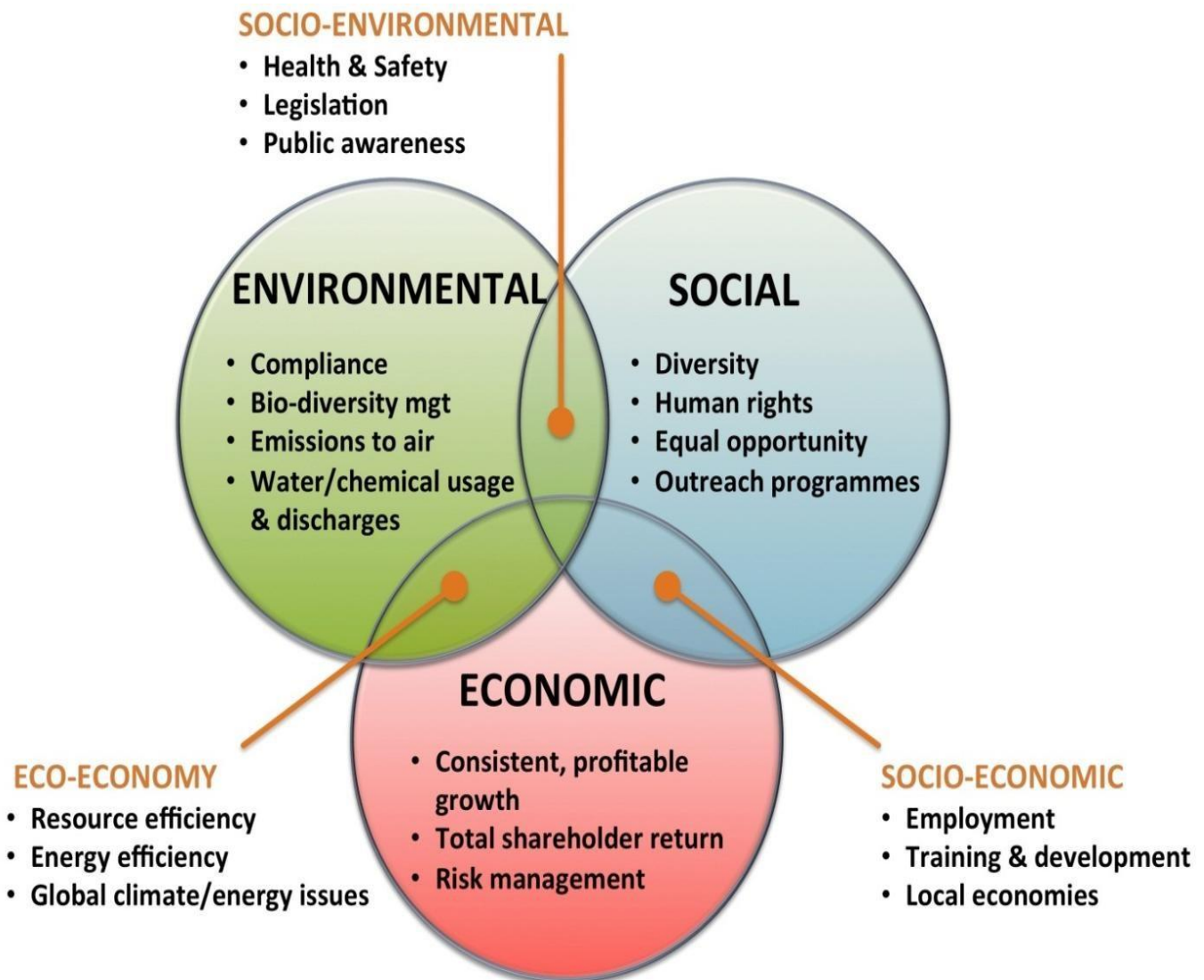
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<b>Published:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Sustainable development is defined as development that meets current needs without jeopardizing future generations' ability to meet their own. In this paper, we will look at one of the United States 2030 Agenda's sustainable development goals. Gender equality is not just a basic human right, but also a prerequisite for a world that is peaceful, affluent, and sustainable. The purpose of this article is to look into the necessity of gender equality for long-term development, the current role of women, and the role of education in empowering women. Because Indian society is patriarchal, women are discriminated against and dominated by their male counterparts in practically every industry. As a result, it is critical to understand gender issues and how they might be resolved. Education is a critical component in empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality in society. To ensure the nation's long-term viability, the government must take steps to formulate policies, conduct engagement and awareness programmes, and provide health care services, among other things, for the benefit of society and humanity at large.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development, Gender Equality, Women Empowerment

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development is the organizing concept for achieving human development goals while also preserving natural systems' ability to supply the natural resources and ecosystem services that the economy and society rely on. Sustainable development can also be described as development that meets current demands without jeopardizing future generations' ability to meet their own [1].

It is about preparing individuals, communities, groups, businesses, and governments to live and act in a sustainable manner, as well as providing them with knowledge about the ecological, social, and economic success. It's about getting ready for the world we'll live in in the next century and making sure we're not left behind. The following diagram shows the different dimensions of Sustainable Development



The three components on which sustainable development is dependent are depicted in the diagram above. Social, economic, and environmental development are the three pillars of development.

Social Development entails learning the values, knowledge, and abilities that enable children to effectively relate to one another and contribute positively to their families, schools, and communities [2].

As children mature socially, their relationships with others improve, they become more conscious of social ideals and expectations, and they develop a sense of self and become more involved in society.

Economic development is the process by which a country's people progress from a low-income to a high-income economy. It attempts to improve people's economic and social well-being by enhancing their living standards.

The totality of all living and non-living objects that surround us is referred to as the environment.

Environmental development attempts to preserve, conserve, and make equitable use of the environment's natural resources without jeopardising the requirements of current and future generations. As a result, all three areas of sustainability are included in sustainable development.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 objectives for long-term development (SDGs) [3]. The United Nations 2030 Agenda outlined the SDGs.

The following are some of them:

Goal 1: Eliminate Poverty

Goal 2: Food Security

Goal 3: People's Health and Happiness

Goal 4: High-quality education

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 6: Access to safe drinking water and sanitation

Goal 7: Energy that is both affordable and clean

Goal 8: Fair Employment and Economic Growth

- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- Goal 10: Reducing Inequalities.
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- Goal 12: Consumption and production in a responsible manner
- Goal 13: Take Action on Climate Change
- Goal 14: Submerged Life
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

We will look at Goal 5 in this paper (Gender Equality).

Gender equality means that everyone, regardless of gender, has the same opportunities.

Gender equality entails treating everyone equally, based on their individual requirements.

It also shows that people are free to make their own decisions without being constrained by preconceptions, and that their diverse contributions and needs are respected equally.

Although gender encompasses male, female, and transgender (LGBT) people, we will concentrate on females and how education can help them become more empowered for long-term development.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The research's main goals are as follows:

- a) To investigate the importance of gender equality for long-term growth.
- b) To investigate the role of women in the current Indian situation.
- c) To comprehend the importance of education in India for the empowerment of women and girls.

The main significance is Gender inequality is one of the most pressing concerns in today's society, and it can be seen in many different areas.

Male counterparts bully and try to dominate women in all facts of their lives.

Even women are uninformed of their own rights, thus education is the only way to make them aware of their rights and responsibilities, as well as providing opportunity to combat the terrible practices that exist in society [4].

This study will assist us in better understanding gender issues and how to address them in order to achieve long-term growth.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

For the study of this paper we use descriptive and analytical method. In this paper the data are collected through secondary sources like journals, articles, books and internet.

**Objective 1:** To study the importance of Gender Equality for sustainable development.

Gender equality is a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Gender equality is important so that discrimination against women and girls can be ended. Moreover violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres like trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation can be eliminated. It is also important to eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage, harassment and molestation, abuse etc. it is also necessary to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work of women. Gender equality is important to encourage women for participating in various decision making and taking leadership in different political, economic and public level [5].

Gender Equality is crucial to sustainable development. The key to development is giving equal opportunities to the women and girls as they have the leadership in them to change the world. Only through equality we truly can tackle the gender based violence. Many girls drop out of school as they face a lot of problems and societal issues but there is need of encouragement and someone to empower them which would result in bridging change and betterment of our country. Women are the central actors in pathways to sustainable and green transformation.

**Objective 2:** To examine the role of women in present scenario in India.

"Women is an incarnation of „Shakti“ -The Goddess of power. If she is bestowed with education, India's strength will be doubled. Let the campaign of „Kanya Kelavni“ be spread in every home; let the lamp of educating daughters be lit up in every heart." – Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

The role of women has changed in the present scenario. Today women play the leading role in developing the society. Society cannot be created without the active contribution of women. Now, in a developing country like India women is self-dependent, good manager and is making a balance between family responsibility and outside world. Women has gone beyond every profession which were traditionally considered good for them like nursing, librarian, teaching etc. today women are intellectually liberated and are becoming fighter pilots, architects, scientist, journalist, gym instructors etc.

But due to the deep rooted patriarchal mentality in many parts of Indian society, women are still victimized, humiliated, tortured and exploited. Even after almost seven decades of independence in some places of India women

are still subjected to discrimination in the social, economic and educational field.

According to 2017, Global Gender Gap Index (World Economic Forum), India is positioned in 108<sup>th</sup> among 144 countries.

**Objective 3:** To understand the role of education for empowering women and girls in India.

Education and literacy empowers women. Women empowerment is a global issue and discussion on women and political right are at the fore front of many formal and informal campaigns worldwide. The concept of women empowerment was introduced at the international women conference at Nairoibi in 1985. Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to response the challenges, to confront their traditional role and changed their life. The only way a society or nation can move forward and aspire to growth and development is not just through education-but especially education among the women citizens. In order to provide equal status in the society women need to be empowered. Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom for development. Education liberates the mind by opening up the mind to various sources of knowledge like places, people and possibilities. An educated women will also be a liberated women.

Education enables to break down all barriers – religious, linguistic, political, gender and geographical. An educated women will not discriminate others on the basis of these barriers and will treat everyone the same which ultimately helps to foster and integration.

Education helps to enlight the women and gives them the right and strength to fight against social evils like dowry, bride burning, marital rape, molestation and sexual harassment etc.

Today's intellectually liberated and an emancipated woman does not have to depend on a man to give her the basic needs of life. Education is enabling women to go beyond every profession and earn her own keep, buy her own house and feed herself.

The contribution of women to the workforce will enhance the output and contribute greatly to the advancement of any society both culturally and economically and also help in its human development indicators. Through their work women can help to get rid of problems like higher maternal mortality rates, high rates of gender violence, child sex abuse, female feticide etc

#### **4. VALUABLE MEASURES**

Measures to reduce gender inequality in India for sustainable development are as follows:-

- While formulating new policies government has to consider the needs and interest of women because women constitute half of the population and they contribute equally with men for the development of the nation. For example: Through „Make in India“ Project government is trying to encourage women by preserving their personal integrity.
- Even today most women are not aware of their basic rights. So, in order to create awareness among women campaigning, free workshops and seminars should be organized. Moreover to motivate the rural meritorious women and girls towards higher education, educational scholarships should be announced by the government.
- For motivating women the government with collaboration with different NGOs should try to arrange interaction programmes with other empowered women of the society so that the unprivileged women cantake active participation in the mainstream society.
- The curriculum for Gender Studies in every discipline should include such topics which emphasizes onreducing gender disparity and encourage women empowerment. "Health is Wealth"- Government should provide women and girls better health care services and socialservices. Every girl child from their time of birth should be given proper nutritious food.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

We can conclude from the preceding debate that gender equality is critical for long-term growth. Because women account for half of the population, it is critical to stress their needs and interests in the growth of society and the nation as a whole. Women must be empowered via education in order to be aware of their rights and to be strengthened in their struggle against prejudice. As a result, gender equality is critical for long-term development, and women are key players on the road to sustainability and green transformation.

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