Sustainable Development Goals: Agenda 2030

“Leave No-one Behind “

Report

“National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation”

November 8th & 9th, 2016

Constitution Club of India, New Delhi

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI)
National Multi-stakeholder Consultation on SDGs was organized by the WNTA on 8th & 9th November 2016 at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. National Multi-Stakeholder Consultation was intended to bring together the distinguish participant from Government and non-government organizations, and most specifically to share and discuss the aspirations of the marginalized communities with the academician, think tanks, experts, grassroots workers, civil society leaders and government officials.

About 270 participants from marginalized community from 18 states including of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi on the other hand officials from NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) & Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), people from CSOs and grassroots organizations, social worker, activist, academician and other experts Participated in the event.

The primary focus of this consultation was on marginalized communities, the event was enriched by the eminent officials of NITI Aayog, the nodal agency nominated by the Government of India to implement and realize SDGs, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India. An overview of SDGs process at the national level was shared amongst the participant follow by the discussion on the grassroots realities, challenges, concern which marginalized communities faced in their daily lives. People from marginalized raised their concern and aspiration before the experts and the official from the UN, NITI Aayog and MoSPI responded and it was assured that their aspirations will be taken care in the process of SDGs implementation.

Mr. P.K. Anand from NITI Aayog, Dr. Krishna Kumar from MOSPI, Thomas Palithanam and Annie Namala, Convenors Wada Na Todo Abhiyan and Amitabh Behar from NFI.
Mr. P.K. Anand from NITI Aayog - All the goals are not only inter-related but also inter-dependent and the secret lies in working on these inter-linkages. So we need to keep in mind that the implementation of one goal should not act as an impediment in realizing the other goals. By quoting a study where it was found a direct relation between availability of roads and incidence of institutional deliveries. Thus, one goal should help strengthen the other as there are direct proportional relations between various goals. Instead of mapping goals, he argued, if we try mapping targets it will become too complicated.

With support of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) organized consultations on different thematic such as on health, drinking water and sanitation etc.

Dr. Krishna Kumar - Civil Society Organizations are the well-informed on ground realities. Without the co-operation of CSOs, it will not be possible for us to conclude our work. When the SDG goals were adopted, all national governments pledged to leave no body behind, and that everybody, each and every man should reap the benefits of development. Here development meant not just economic development but also social so that all natural resources are also incorporated into this developmental agenda.

We have been measuring only economic poverty; we do not look at its socio-economic facets and it is at this juncture that the Sustainable Development Goals come to fill in the gaps. He openly invited inputs from the CSO’s to understand the exact dimensions on which the department has to take up its work. However, the quality of the outputs and its definition is as important as the issue itself in formulating indicators, he mentioned.

Outlining the challenges, he suggested that firstly, the definitional issues need to be sorted out. The second challenge is that most targets are cross-cutting in nature and some targets encompass a range of issues and the problem is making of indicators. As such, a composite indicator will make its assessment very difficult.

These challenges have to be overcome apart from other problems that deal with capacity issues to collect disaggregated data, for which the sample size has to be increased for which in turn limited resources like money; finances have to be looked at.

Thus, this agenda can only be realized by means of co-operation both nationally and internationally. The government can reach each and every person only through the Civil Society. He then called out to the CSOs to participate in disseminating information to the people. It is also the CSOs who need to advocate and explain to people about the goals and targets of the SDGs. Of course, in policy formulation he spoke about a need for co-operation and a need to accentuate our local capacities.
Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, explained, The SDGs are an amazing framework and 5 million of comments for the consultation in the run-up to the SDGs came from India and which is why it is so comprehensive. India roughly is in between 30-65% in the realization of the goals which means without India it does not get done. He agreed that a lot has to be done, it is not a law yet but the responsibility is beginning to be distributed, he retorted. He appreciated the interested and inquisitiveness exhibited by the government officials at senior levels which he suggested was a very progressive move.

The states are coming up with vision documents to pull them into an Indian strategy which will take time. He said that if there are other systemic issues that the CSOs want them to know, he requested for information and available data and pledged to make it known to the decision-makers. He believes that the government will get their act together because if they don’t deliver the results, India is very finicky about elections. And this he said is purely based on an impression he has formed after his meeting various politicians.

The beauty of the SDGs and the fact that they are happening at this time when India has 600 million connections, it is a technological capability of a regular citizen to question on false claims by sending pictures and this was impossible 5 years ago. The fact that India has this platform will have a positive tension between civil society, people and state which will also let the state pull its socks. Yes there is one trend of shrinking spaces but there is no country where this trend in some form doesn’t exist but it has also to do sometimes is with security issues and maybe an anticipated threat. In India, (counter-intuitively) he informed that the piece of good news is the UN programme has been actually increasing in India- more money coming from outside through UN in India. And out of this thick list, we can pick up 5-6 goals, where we will focus mostly. He spoke about UN’s increasing presence in various states outside Delhi now and most of the work will be around the SDGs. The entire programme will be focused on ‘leave no one behind’ i.e. rural poverty, health, education, energy, youth and will start targeting. Also on data he spoke about a lot of avenues for collaboration.
WNTA released SDGs Simplified Booklets on 11 Goals of SDGs and a SDGs research document was also presented in the event.

**SDGs Simplified Booklet**

Eleven simplified booklet on SDGs Goal- 1, 2,3,4,5,6,8,10,11,13 and 16 was release in the event. The SDGS simplified booklet is a four pager booklet, containing very simplified information on SDGs such as NITI AAYOG mapping on different SDGs Goals and Targets, Data on different goals, and goals wise recommendations.

*“Mapping the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 with the Legal and Policy Framework in India”* [SDGs Document]

A comprehensive document on SDGs was also release in the event. This SDGs document is a research document on the mapping of the Constitutional & legal provisions and policy framework of India. The document gives the information on legal, constitutional and policy provisions which already exist in Indian policy framework and thus they need some minor modification or amendments.

**Outcomes:**

- Popularised SDGs in among 300 people / 245 Civil Society organisations from 18 State including of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, West Bengal, Telangana and Delhi with different stakeholders
- Shared the progress on SDGs at National and State level and information with data and facts related to SDGs and LNB Agenda to different social groups and stakeholders.
- Facilitated a group of Civil Society to monitor the process and progress of the most marginalized Specially the Tribals, Dalit, Religious Minorities, Youth, Labour, Migrants, LGBT, Women & Girls, Commercial Sex, workers and Fishing Community on SDGs.
- Shared the Mapping document of the SDGs and the policies and schemes of the governments with latest available data was also shared.
- A mechanism for regular civil society monitoring of the implementation of SDGs in India, ensuring the social exclusion and Equity lens be used so that “no one leave behind” was developed with the consensus of all the stakeholders present.
- Translation of the SDGs Goal and targets in 22 languages by UNRC was also displayed and distributed to the participants.
- Children’s perspective of the SDGs was also shared with the participants and standees disseminating the Goals and Targets were also displayed in the consultation.
Some Glimpses of the National Multi-Stakeholders Consultation on Agenda 2030

Participants from 18 states of India at the Multi-stakeholders Consultation

Members from World Vision, Helpage India, Sight Savers along with representative from Person with disability sharing their perspectives.
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