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Interconnectivity among Sustainable Development Goals through Women's Perspective

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Abstract- If we divide the world's population into two parts, one part would be women. However this large part has always been neglected in terms of opportunities and rights. They have significant roles in forming a better society to live. From childbirth, rearing them, make them learn the good values, caring of elders, and other households chores; women bear all the responsibilities without any compensation. Not only family responsibilities but they work outdoor to increase family income for the fulfilment of family needs and gain a better lifestyle. "The participation of women employment into the workforce as human capital for a sustainable development is very important for acquiring the environmental and production perception, an increase in their income creating financial resources for saving and investment, and getting more respect in society" (Yildiz, 2016). To make the world a better place to live, United Nations has declared 17 goals that are essential for sustainable development, so that all human beings can survive without any biases. In Principle, Rio Declaration said that "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development" (Warth & Koparanova, 2012).

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This situation demands equality in society to empower women, which is an essential for sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability (Lohani, 2017). In Brutland Report (1987)," Sustainable development is defined as the "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Yildiz, 2016). To achieve sustainable development and environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it (Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992). "The Sustainable Development Goals with Agenda 2030 is the world's first comprehensive blueprint for sustainable goals. The recognition of the synergies between health, education and gender equality are among the core goals of this Agenda "(Deshpande & Bhat, 2019).

In this paper, the researcher will find out the role and connection of women in sustainable development because women are the important and inseparable factors. Researcher will see the interconnectivity of these seventeen goals in terms of the overall development of the society. Furthermore, this study will describe that why women's empowerment is essential, especially in the Indian context. According to Kofi Annan, "There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women." (Lohani, 2017) In this study, a narrative literature review method will be used. Various documents and related literature will be analyzed for the research. The results of the study will explain the importance of social, economic, political, emotional empowerment of the women for the sustainable development.

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I. INTRODUCTION

If we divide the world's population into two parts, one part would be women. However this large part has always been neglected in terms of opportunities and rights. They have significant roles in forming a better society to live. From childbirth, rearing them, make them learn the good values, caring of elders, and other households chores; women bear all the responsibilities without any compensation. Not only family responsibilities but they work outdoor to increase family income for the fulfilment of family needs and gain a better lifestyle. "The participation of women employment into the workforce as human capital for a sustainable development is very important for acquiring the environmental and production perception, an increase in their income creating financial resources for saving and investment, and getting more respect in society" (Yildiz, 2016). To make the world a better place to live, United Nations has declared 17 goals that are essential for sustainable development, so that all human beings can survive without any biases. In Principle, Rio Declaration said that "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development" (Warth & Koparanova, 2012).

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First of all, it is needed to know what are the sustainable goals and their connection with the life of women. These are-

- 1) Poverty
- 2) Zero Hunger
- 3) Good health and well being
- 4) Quality Education
- 5) Gender Equality
- 6) Clean water and sanitation
- 7) Affordable and clean energy
- 8) Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9) Industries, innovation, and infrastructure
- 10) Reduced Inequality
- 11) Sustainable cities and communities
- 12) Responsible consumption and production
- 13) Climate Action
- 14) Life below Water
- 15) Life on Land
- 16) Peace, Justice, and strong institutions
- 17) Partnership for the goals

These all 17 goals are interconnected if seen through the women's perspective for the developing society in a better way.

- 1) *Women and Poverty*: Poverty among women can be eradicated only by giving them empowerment which plays a vital role in women's lives and gives them power or hold of their own life, which further reflects in their decisions. Page & Czuba (1999), defined Empowerment as a "multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power in people, for use in their own lives, their communities, and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important".

When women use their power of decision-making in the economic field, it will increase family income which leads to the reduction of poverty. "Sustainable development aims at eradicating poverty through, in particular, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable social development and inclusion" (Lohani, 2017). "The strategies focusing on women employment and reducing poverty lead to faster and stronger economic growth and sustainable development. In summary, it can be said that an increase in women workforce brings a noticeable increase in family welfare, national welfare and that of global welfare respectively" (Yildiz, 2016). "As women dedicate more time to unpaid activities, they are often dependent on men's income and less protected through financial savings, pension entitlements, and property in their name. This means that women are at greater risk of poverty and have fewer opportunities in the labor market. The general understanding is, therefore that, women need to be "empowered" to narrow the "gender gap" and to create an equal playing field between women and men before gender equality can be reached and maintained" (Lohani, 2017)." Globally, more than 800 million people are still living on less than \$1.25 a day; much lacking access to adequate food, clean drinking water, and sanitation. "Rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has also been uneven. Women are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty than men due to unequal access to paid work, education and property". SDG's goal is to end poverty by 2030 to improve the lives of disadvantaged people by providing them basic (facilities. <https://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/p-ost-2015/sdg-overview/goal-1.html>)

"Based on employing a new poverty line of \$1.25 per day at 2005 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), made available on account of new information on PPP exchange rates, due to the efforts of the International Comparison Program, the World Bank estimates that 41.6% of India's population (approximately 455 million) is now living below the poverty line (Basin, 2009).

"Over the past two decades, India has witnessed sound economic growth to emerge as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. Poverty has been more than halved since 2004, but the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in 2020 hampered the country's economic growth trajectory and caused severe health, social, and economic impacts. ADB intends to sustain its regular assistance program and deploy additional resources to support India's many COVID-19-related challenges. The bank will seek to accelerate efforts for financial leveraging to attract private investments and promote local resource mobilization". (<https://www.adb.org/publications/india-fact-sheet-2021>)

"There is need for a faster and robust development of the agricultural sector, to provide both immediate employment and basic food (and caloric) requirement. Also there is a need to put in place a more enlarged and efficiently working public distribution system, along with a responsive, regulated, accountable, and functioning public health system, to take care of the nutritional and health needs of vast masses of poor and marginalized people. The State must assume major responsibility and increase investment in agriculture, health and other social welfare sectors substantially, to make some dent in the gross income and health inequalities (Bhasin, 2019)".

Although the Indian government has made several initiatives with the support of UNDP, WHO, and the Ministry of Rural Development to provide cheap housing to everybody and promote employment possibilities, particularly for women, the situation remains dire. Skills development programs for better livelihood were funded by the India Development Foundation, UNDP, and Xyntéo, with support from the IKEA Foundation. National Service Scheme (NSS) and Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) (2014-2017) The Government of India began involving youth engagement in peace and sustainable development programmes in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. https://www.academia.edu/49242883/Sustainable_Development_Goals_2015_A_Review

2) *Zero Hunger and Women:* Hunger is the consequence of low income and high expenses. In other words, if the family income is low or nil and requirements are more than income, the family will suffer from poverty and hunger. It is a basic right of every human being to get food for their survival. Every government and other organization should work toward this goal. Women can contribute significantly to increase the family income by working from home and outside the home as well. It is possible only when they get an equal chance for education and work. In India, many Self Help Groups are Government supported for women empowerment and human development. Women are involved in the field of Micro Financing, not just for poverty eradication but to make themselves good managers and entrepreneurs so that they can get skill development, literacy, health, schooling, and gender sensitivity training. For example, APMAS (Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh) and Kudumba shree in Kerala (Reddy and Manak, 2005) are working for poverty eradication successfully. In Gujarat, the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) has worked for women's employment to make them self reliant and decision workers. Pradhan, based in Rajasthan focuses on poor tribal communities to generate

forest-based livelihoods and natural resource management (Anand et al, 2019).

With over 15% of the population deemed undernourished, South Asia continues to be one of the most hungry regions on the planet. India's agriculture sector employs over 40% of the country's workforce. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, on the other hand, account for only 15.5 percent of GDP value-added. The Indian government has also made important initiatives to improve food security, such as establishing a targeted public distribution system across India, establishing a National Nutrition Mission, and enacting the National Food Security Act. The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the Government Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, and a slew of other national initiatives in horticulture, agricultural technology, and livestock are all helping to improve the situation. (<https://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/zero-hunger-program-me-sdg-2/>)

3) *Good Health -Well Being and Women:* It will not work if half of society will be ignored in terms of health benefits and well-being as the whole family should be healthy in every manner. So, women should have equal rights for being healthy and getting all the facilities. Then only they can take care of other family members. They are mothers who have a responsibility to bring healthy babies for our future generation. Furthermore, they have a double workload as they work at home and outside as well. That's why in 2014, United Nations member states proposed a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) to help further the millennium development goals that they had proposed in New York in 2000.

Of these 17 SDGs, Goal 3 (i.e., SDG 3) was titled "Good Health and Well-Being" This goal highlighted women's health and well-being via two key objectives. The first, SDG 3.1, aimed to reduce maternal mortality rates (MMR), and, the second, SDG 3.7, aimed to ensure access to sexual and reproductive health care services. (Daher-Nashif & Bawadi, 2020) "The health of people, particularly of women throughout the world, has remained a matter of concern. No doubt the health of people is improving but, our health system has not always understood the factors that influence the health status of women, nor has it addressed women's health issues adequately. Several factors resist women from availing themselves of health facilities globally. Among the prominent ones include persistent disparities between women and men notably in parts of Asia" (Deshpande & Bhat, 2019).

Females' health is still an issue of concern. The coexistence of disease burdens linked to reproductive health, nutrition, and infections, as well as the developing epidemic of chronic and non-communicable diseases, has increased as a result of population aging

and changes in the socio-economic determinants of health. women's health has belonged not only to maternity and child health. This broader perspective includes health issues that affect women beyond their reproductive years, as well as those that affect men. ([https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60497-4.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(15)60497-4.pdf))

In India, women's health, (Bhasin, 2019). is a big issue as there are a variety of diseases that are communicable like tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, and many non-communicable diseases like blood pressure, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. On the other hand, over 50,000 people die per day in India of diseases that emerge from pathogens and animals. Dengue and Chikungunya are also on the increase (Draft National Health Policy, 2015). India accounts for most of the infant deaths globally. Diarrhea and pneumonia continue to be the biggest killers in children. Malnutrition is also a factor of ill health and mortality. As per the District level Health Survey of 2013-14, in Tamil Nadu, which has made good progress in the health sector, 49.2 percent of women in their reproductive age-15-49 are anemic. That's why they give birth to underweight children.

The government with its state Government has started Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Movement) to ensure the health of its people. India has taken health as its basic duty to achieve SDGs. In Post the UN Sustainable Development Summit, a Draft National Health Policy was put in 2015, which talks about programmes for addressing CD and NCDs with the laudable aim of "the attainment of the highest possible level of good health and well-being, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all development policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence." It recognizes the salience of preventive and promotive health, integration of AYUSH with mainstream, and ensuring adequate investment. For safe drinking water, The National Rural Drinking Water Programme ensures, at least 90 percent of rural households are provided with the piped water supply that by 2022 as many states like Bihar has only 2.60 percent piped water. http://ris.org.in/pdf/SDGs_Report_Chapter_3.pdf

Many programmes were implemented in India, such as The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India began a scheme called "Kishori Shakti Yojna" (KSY) in 2000, which was a Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls to empower them.

Thereafter, (NPAG) was launched as a pilot project in 51 identified districts across the country in 2002-03 to address the problem of under-nourishment. Underweight adolescent girls are given 6 kg of free food grains per month as part of the programme. Both projects have had some impact on the lives of

adolescent girls (AGs), but not to the extent that was hoped for.

- 4) *Quality Education and Women*: This is the most important goal because the development of any society depends on the level of education of its population. So, the Right to education must be provided to all genders without any biasness. In any society, various kinds of people exist who have different educational needs. These needs should be fulfilled 246 at every level primary, secondary or higher education in their required languages. It will enhance not only social status but the economic status of the communities because all the members can work equally. In Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives (UNESCO 2017a) stated about cognitive, socio-emotional, and behavioral learning to achieve the target of getting knowledge and upskilling children, youth, and adults with the idea of "lifelong learning for all" will be achieved by micro, meso, and macro-level perspectives, specifically referring to the role of (1) individuals and their families (the micro-level); (2) schools, education, and training initiatives (the Meso level); and (3) regulating governments (the macro level) (Boeren, 2019). In this way when Government take initiative with the help of academic institution, definitely individuals will get quality education whether they belong to either gender.

"The story of India's educational achievements is one of mixed success. On the downside, India has 22 percent of the world's population, but 46 percent of the world's illiterates, and is home to a high proportion of the world's out-of-school children and youth. On the positive side, it has made encouraging recent progress in raising schooling participation".

The article also mentioned the data from the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (UNESCO, 2006) where the literacy rate of 15+ age which is 61.0 percent in total, 73.4 percent male and 47.8 percent female. Although age between 15-24 years literacy rate in total is 76.4 in which 84.2 percent are male and 67.7 percent are women. The government of India introduced many programmes (Smith, A. 2010).

For universalization of elementary education, encourage higher education in its directive principle of State Policy in Article 45, Constitutional Amendment 2002 to make education as a Fundamental Right and enactment of RTE (Right to Education) Act. For that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA-Education for all) has been launched, with States/Union Territories since 2000-01. Its overall aims are to enroll all children in school and eradicate all gender and social category gaps at primary and upper primary stages two special schemes, supported under SSA. These are:

The National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) was launched in 2003 which

emphasizes the responsibility of teachers to recognize such girls who are not able to cope with the pace of learning in the class or feel neglected and pay special attention to bring them in the mainstream to save them from dropping out. By the end of 2012-13, 41.2 million girls have been covered in 3,353 EBBs in districts, 41,779 Model School Clusters have been established. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV) Scheme: These are residential upper primary schools for girls from marginalized communities to include them in the school system with all security measures where schools are at great distances. It is launched in 27 States/UTs. Up to the year 2012-13, in 3,609 KGBVs, 500 girls were enrolled.

The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), is established in March 2009, revised in 2013 for improved secondary education in which the Girls Hostel Scheme and National Incentive Scheme for Girls, A sum of Rs.3,000 is a fixed deposit in the name of eligible girls up to class tenth were included.

Mahila Samakhya (MS) Programme: It was launched in 1988 to pursue the objectives of the National Policy on Education, 1986. It recognized the importance of education for women empowerment through capacity building among poor women to address gender and social barriers to education and for the establishment of women's rights at the family and in society.

Saakshar Bharat Scheme: It was implemented in 2009 up to 31 March 2017 were 2.86 crore learners (including 2.05 crore females passed the biannual basic literacy assessment tests under basic literacy conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), up to March 2014. Almost 1.53 lakh Adult Education Centres are functioning. Vocational Training programme through Jan Shikshan Sansthan between 2009 to 2014, 29 lakh learners benefitted under out of which the women beneficiaries were 25.02 lakhs.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: It has been launched on 22 January 2015 where the overall aim was to save the girl child and educate them properly (<http://www.ris.org.in/sdg/india-and-sustainable-development-goals-way-forward>).

Government of India has done a lot of work of women education but still miles are left to cover.

5) *Women and Gender Equality:* According to Lohani (2017) "UNDP focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human rights, but also because they are a pathway to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development". If a society can't see equally to all its members, it can't use the potential of them fully. To gain all the benefits from its population, a society must facilitate equal rights to all the genders, especially women who are being ignored from way back. This equality should be there in social,

economic, political, education and in the work field to empower them. "Women's empowerment can also be seen as an important process in reaching gender equality, which is understood to mean that the "rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not depend on whether they are born male or female" (Lohani, 2017). It should be applicable in all walks of life e.g. education, employability, social justice and so on.

As India is a patriarchal society, women are not attaining equal rights in all walks of life especially in social life. "The workforce participation rate of India's women is significantly lower than that of the men; and amongst the women, the employment levels of urban women are lower than those of their rural counterparts. Using the findings of the 2018 Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS), released in 2019, this brief provides an overview of the current state of female labor force participation in urban India. It analyses data on vocational training and employment, education and employment, rural versus urban employment, and employment in social groups. The brief makes recommendations for arresting the decline in urban women's inclusion in the workforce. It outlines the ways in which the skilling, education, and labor departments can work together to skill the labor force in the jobs that are commensurate with education levels, and also diversify the areas in which the skilled and educated candidates can work" (Ratho, 2020).

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is both across cutting issue as well as a goal in its own right. To account for the overlap of SDG 5 with the majority of the other SDGs, the UN Secretary-General's synthesis report suggests that each target should only be considered achieved if it is met for all relevant income and social groups, which includes women, must be followed.

6) *Clean Water-Sanitation and Women:* Men and women equally involve in water consumption, sanitation, and water conservation. Their awareness and education towards this issue are equally important. Although women's awareness will be more helpful in preventing extra water consumption. In this way, water can be saved. "Women's advocacy groups have drawn attention to the important role that women are playing as natural resource managers and agents of change. It is important to recognize this role and to draw on women's commitment and expertise in shaping strategies and decisions" (Warth & Koparanova, 2012). "Globally, billions of people still do not have access to safe water. Every day they need to travel far to fetch water, and most of them are women (Irianti & Prasetyoputra, 2019). So, policies related to clean water and sanitization affect more on women.

"For much of India, toilets are all about an issue of sanitation, health, privacy and dignity, and gender rights. According to a UNICEF fact sheet, India with 626 million people who practice open-air defecation has more than twice the number of the next 18 countries combined. This accounts for 90 percent of the 692 million people in South Asia who practice open-air defecation. 59 percent of the 1.1 billion people in the world who practice open-air 374 defecations live in India (Banerjee, Pasha, M. A. M., Fatima & Isaac, 2013)". "Public defecation goes hand in hand with unclean drinking water and leads to disease and malnutrition and thus pollution caused by feces mixing in with crops and water. In addition, this lack of sanitation is exacerbated by a lack of hygiene products, specifically for young women, a problem that becomes an impediment not only to their education but to their lives. These conditions are all interconnected but can be resolved by a hygienic environment in India (Villarreal, 2015)".

7) *Affordable and Clean Energy and Women*: Same like water, energy sources can also utilize in saving mode if the people will be aware especially women. New ways can be found for better environments and women can be helpful in this matter as they are the main consumers in the home. Yildiz (2016) mentioned that "According to the Basic Needs approach, the very first aim of development should be nutrition, housing, clean water, energy, health, education and employment for a better life".

According to Ataniyazova (2003) Environmental pollution has a negative health impact on the local populations who are exposed to high levels of toxins in the drinking water. Women and children are particularly affected (Warth & Koparanova, 2012).

For clean energy moment, the Indian Government has initiated renewable energy by 2022 and signed on the International Solar Alliance (along with France) to get non-costly energy than coal. The Government also invited to business and private sectors to work with central and state governments to plan innovative renewable energy ideas such as home energy systems and renewable energy mini-grids, businesses 395 can help 396 remote communities. (<https://in.one.un.org/unibf/energy/>). As women are more affected, so they will be the first beneficiaries through these projects.

8) *Decent Work and Economic Growth*: Women need a favourable and enabling environment to work without any kind of exploitation. A healthy environment boosts their capabilities which converts to the economic growth of the society. So, social and economic security should be there.

According to UN Women Report, globally, 94 percent of men are working but only 63 percent of women (aged 25 to 54) are in the labour force. Women's

participation rate In Central and Southern Asia, the rate has fallen to 37 percent. Only in Latin America and the Caribbean, it rose from 57 percent to 68 percent. In India almost 50 percent of the population are women but only 29 percent are in employment (Shetter, 2015).

Currently, the gender gap in pay scale informal jobs stands at 23 percent worldwide will not close until 2086 in the same scenario. On the other hand, women are involved in many substandard jobs, unpaid jobs that are very difficult to find in data. Also, some jobs are designated to women only which are lower in status and pay. There must be equality in providing jobs, equal opportunities, equal pay, and facilities for women especially mothers for day care centres for their babies so that they can go out for their livelihood. Therefore, it is targeted in UN Women report that "By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value" and "Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular, women migrants, and those in precarious employment (Rosa, 2017)".

India is an agricultural country where women are mainly occupied on no or very less pay scale. Through public investment and new technologies, productivity can be increased by Government intervention. It can be done by Increasing the labour force participation of women which will convert to National development. The government's National Skill Development Mission, Deendayal well as the National Service Scheme, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are launched for better opportunities of employment. (<https://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/sdg-8/>)

"The contribution of women to India's GDP is 18 percent, one of the lowest proportions in the world, reflecting the fact that only 25 percent of India's labour force is female. More than 70 percent of the potential GDP opportunity comes from increasing women's participation in the labour force by 10 percentage points, according to McKinsey Global Institute's recent report, The power of parity: Advancing women's equality in Asia-Pacific"

9) *Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure, and Women*: In all walks of life, women can play a vital role and their full potential can be used in Industries as workers, managers, CEOs, or owners. Their innovative ideas can lead society towards development.

So, suitable infrastructure should be given to them for proper growth. "Infrastructure developments in transportation as well as urban planning, which take into account the safety and mobility needs of women, are important factors enabling women to move around freely.

Safe and affordable transport enables women to fully participate in economic activities as well as in community life and plays an important role in broadening access to health and education opportunities. Safe environment also means not being exposed to health risks created through environmental degradation such as air and water pollution" (Warth and Koparanova, 2012).

To support economic development labour human well-being, construct excellent, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, with an emphasis on affordable and equitable access for all. That's why the Indian government has started new programmes as Make in India and Start well as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shramev Jayate Karyakram to increase innovation and sustainable industrial and economic development for all including women (<https://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/sdg-9/>).

Espinosa said she is very much looking forward to engaging and working together with India under her presidency of the 193-member UN General Assembly. Furthermore, "India is indeed a very important player of the multilateral system. It is a friendly country to the United Nations. If India succeeds in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda - we are talking about 1.3 billion people - this really can change the face of the world," she told here. (<https://www.unadap.org/post/india-stance-on-sdg-9-industry-innovation-and-infrastructure>)

10) *Reduced Inequality*: Reduction in inequality is a must not only among all the people but between men and women as well. Equality in opportunities and rights and the precondition of equality is to be given to the women so that they can work in a positive environment and can prove themselves. "By providing the same opportunities to women and men, including in decision-making in all kinds of activities, a sustainable path of development can be achieved to ensure that women's and men's interests are both taken into account in the allocation of resources" (Lohani, 2017). According to the United Nations Development Programme- "Income inequality has increased in nearly everywhere in recent decades, but at different speeds. It's lowest in Europe and highest in the Middle East. In 2016, 22 percent of global income was received by the top 1 percent compared with 10 percent of income for the bottom 50 percent. These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower-income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all- regardless of sex, race or ethnicity".

(<https://www1.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-10-reduced-inequalities.html>). It is seen that inequality is there

among the countries but within the countries, women are more vulnerable than men.

"In 2017, the richest 1% of the world's population held 50.1% of the world's wealth, while the poorest 70% of the world's working-age population people together hold only 2.7% of the global wealth. a total of 36 million millionaires, who account for 0.7% of the world's adult population – control 46% of total global wealth".

By 2030, the UN has set a goal to empower and promote social, economic, and political inclusion of all people, regardless of their age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or another status, by ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies, and practices. Adopt policies, particularly budgetary, wage, and social protection programmes, to gradually attain greater equality. (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envisi-on-2030-goal10.html>)

11) *Sustainable Cities and Communities and Women*: According to UN Women, the target of providing access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety with a special arrangement of safeguards for women, children, disabled, and senior citizens will be considered to fulfilled by 2030. Also providing universal access to safe, inclusive, and technical assistance to strengthen them.

"By 2030, a historic 60 percent of people worldwide will likely to live in cities. For women and girls, urban residency can open doors to more income, better work, and increased independence. Yet many, particularly lower-income women, are far from experiencing their equal rights to all the benefits and opportunities that urban areas can offer". (<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-SDGs/sdg-11-sustainable-cities-communities>)

Urban settings, public transport, medical facilities at the time of childbirth, clean water, and sanitization are not adequate for women especially in urban slums which is the major concern for sustainable development goals.

India is increasingly urbanizing. The country's urban population expanded by 91 million people between 2001 and 2011. Between 2018 and 2050, India is expected to gain 416 million urban residents. India is anticipated to have seven megacities with populations of more than 10 million people by 2030. Rural areas account for 68 percent of the country's total population, while slums account for 17 percent of the urban population. The Smart Cities Mission, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) are all trying to improve urban spaces in India.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to accomplish houses for all.

Men and women are equally responsible for consuming accessible, green, and public spaces, affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums, sustainable urbanization, protecting cultural and natural heritage, disaster management, paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management, and helping underdeveloped countries through financial and producing the resources. So both can equally participate to achieve them. As women are a major role in SDGs, their education, awareness, and active participation are essential for achieving the targets. "In the sustainable development approach, the main problem is the attitude of human beings as the consumers and producers. That's why it was discussed during the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and it reaffirms the vital role of women and the need for their full and equal participation and leadership in all areas of sustainable development and decided to accelerate the elimination of all kind of Discrimination against Women" (Yildiz, 2016).

- 12) *Responsible Consumption-Production and Women:* Women particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged socio-cultural and economic layers, are harmed by unsustainable production, waste generation, and pollution. Women are impacted by the depletion of natural resources, which they rely on for survival. Women frequently face bad working circumstances in areas of the workforce that are becoming increasingly "feminized." Women in poor nations are increasingly performing unpaid and informal labour in industries such as textiles and waste management, resulting in increased involuntary and misinformed exposure to dangerous products and chemicals. Women are more susceptible to harmful side effects.
(https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/7ff96708-en/index.html?item_id=/content/component/7ff96708-en)

In India as well, the same situation is present for women. It has a male dominating society. Thus women's sufferings are uncountable.

- 13) *Climate Action and Women:* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2020, briefed that "Climate change has a greater impact on those sections of the population, in all countries, that are most reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods and/or who have the least capacity to respond to natural hazards, such as droughts, landslides, floods, and hurricanes. Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty, and the majority of the world's poor

are women. Women contribute to sustainable development but they are also affected by the implications of environmental degradation and the negative effects of climate change" (<https://unfccc.int/gender>) Personal actions to prevent climate: Special Euro Barometer/Wave 72.1

According to this Euro Barometer, women are more actively participate in achieving the goal of climate conservation by their acts. Warth & Koparanova (2012) mentioned that the Euro barometer survey on attitudes towards climate change in 2009 found that women more often than men reported to have undertaken personal actions such as recycling, saving water and energy at home, and using environmentally-friendly transports. The OECD also found that "men generally tend to perform energy-saving activities less often than women" (OECD, 2011: 67).

India is the world's third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide, accounting for 6.9% of worldwide emissions. India finally ratified the historic Paris Agreement on October 2, 2016. India has pledged to reduce its GDP-related emissions by 20-25 percent by 2020. The Indian government has also created a National Action Plan on Climate Change, as well as a National Mission for Green India, to directly address this issue. These national plans are supplemented by a slew of individual programmes focusing on solar energy, improved energy efficiency, sustainable habitats, water, the preservation of the Himalayan ecology, and the promotion of strategic climate knowledge. (<https://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/comb-at-climate-change-sdg-13/>)

- 14) *Life below Water and Women:* Marine industry has many challenges like marine debris and nutrient pollution, improper harvesting, overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, conservation of coastal areas, maintaining national and international laws, increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology are included. UN report says- "The world's oceans—spreading over 70 percent of the planet—are in crisis from decimated fish stocks, pollution, and acidification. Sustainable management is essential since oceanic changes can result in globally significant climate shifts. Equally vital is the protection of human livelihoods.

Nearly a billion people, 12 percent of the global population, depend on oceans, seas, and marine resources. Women are the most venerable who face the risks of ocean degradation with fewer assets and alternatives for income who are mainly involved in fish processing and marketing on very low pay without any health safety and labor rights. The maritime business is managed by men. According to the data, in 2016, only one of the top 100 seafood companies was run by a woman.

According to India's Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the country boasts a 7,517 kilometre-long coastline that nourishes and offers a source of income for more than 250 million people. India is the world's second-largest fish producer. The Sagarmala Project, also known as the Blue Revolution, is an initiative of the Indian government to improve the state of India's ports and coastlines. The government has launched a National Plan for the Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems to protect marine ecosystems. The protection of coastal and marine biodiversity is a priority for India. (<https://in.one.un.org/page/sustainable-development-goals/sdg-14/>)

In India, 3.8 million fishermen and 1.6 million fisherwomen are among the 5.4 million active fishermen. They mostly deal with the processing and sale of fish. However, in the fields of aquaculture, research, development, and education, their participation and contribution are expanding. Women's participation in these activities provides them with additional revenue to help sustain their families. The National Bank for Agriculture (NABARD) has established several programmes to help women in the fisheries industry better their socioeconomic condition, with a focus on providing credit support through self-help groups.

(Samantaray & Pathak, 1998) Although women are just as productive as men, they get paid nearly half or unpaid. (Samantaray & Pathak, 1998, Ogden, 2017).

15) *Life on Land and Women*: According to Ryan (1992) tropical forests are shrinking and continue to decline per year. Simultaneously the population of the world has increased rapidly.

Forest became half of its size and population became double of its size (WRI, 1994). In this context, women's roles have generally attracted attention for their potential part in fertility reduction rather than in economic growth and development (As cited by Mehra, 1995).

Jacobson (1992) and Sen (1992) emphasized that policymakers have always given more attention to women's part in reproduction than to their part in production (as cited by Mehra, 1995). So, Women can reduce the percentage of the new population and increase the productive force to maintain the balance in ecology. By 2020, the UN has targeted to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, and natural habitats. Also to stop deforestation and desertification, poaching and trafficking of protected species. According to the UN women's Annual Report- "Around the world, 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods, yet forests are being felled at an astonishing rate. Between 2010 and 2016, 3.3 million hectares were lost, often for profits that bypassed local communities.

Women, particularly those who are poor and living in rural areas, often depend on forests for fuel, fodder, and food. Deforestation for some means spending many more hours each day walking long distances to secure these needs". Further said that women have restricted rights on the land which hinders them from making decisions about the use of land. Although 25 and 35 percent of women are involved in forestry, they must be considered appropriately.

The Constitution of India provides equal rights to both men and women but they don't have proper access but after Hindu Succession Act (Amendment), 2005, has expanded the space for enhanced women's land rights. and implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 (provisions of mandatory joint titling) are making significant contribution Reduction of stamp duty, for the lands registered in the name of women, has encouraged women's property ownership rights in some states Secure land rights of women have demonstrated enhanced agricultural productivity and building resilience among the small and marginal farmers, who constitute 75 percent of the farming community. (<https://landportal.org/debates/2017/womens-land-rights-India-and-sustainable-development-goals-SDGs>)

According to the Agriculture Census, 2010-11, nearly a third of cultivators in India are women, but they own less than 10.34 percent of land and operate 12.8 percent of holdings, although 75 percent of the female workforce, largely marginal or landless, relies on agriculture for survival. The average size of a woman's landholding is 0.93 hectares, compared to 1.18 hectares for men and 1.15 hectares for everyone. The regional inequality in women's land rights was noticeable, with states in the southern region having a disproportionately higher number and area of landholdings operated by women, while states in the northern and eastern regions have a worse condition. In the last ten years (2001-2011) (Choudhury et al, 2017)

16) *Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions, and Women*: For gaining these goals, equal socio-political settlements are required. No community can develop if there is no peace among its citizens on social, political, economic grounds which are part of strong foundations of justice. This applies in women's context as well. "The most basic and important premise for women's empowerment is peace and the absence of violence, including domestic violence" (Warth and Koparanova, 2012). "Women employment for sustainable development should be taken into consideration in terms of political choices, education, financial support, and social perceptions. The participation of women's employment into the workforce as human capital for sustainable development is very important for acquiring the environmental and production

perception, an increase in their income creating financial resources for saving and investment, and getting more respect in society" (Yildiz, 2016).

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." This is an important recognition that we cannot achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development Without tackling conflict and insecurity especially with the reference to women. Women are still being excluded from peace talks, post-conflict recovery processes are still failing to reflect the priorities of women and girls, police and peacekeeping forces remain male-dominated, and women and girls continue to face violence on an alarming scale, around the world (LEAD, 2016). India is not far behind. Almost the same issues Indian women are facing in a patriarchal society where men are dominant traditionally and religiously.

17) *Partnership for the Goals and Women:* Targets can be achieved only when all the stakeholders participate fully. Not only men and women but all the government organizations, public-private organizations should also work. Efforts should be done individually and mass level as well as nationally and internationally.

It can be seen that all the goals are interconnected. Without education, equality, peace, and justice, all other goals are difficult to achieve. Women's contribution to sustainable development, and their knowledge and skills, must be recognized. (Warth and Koparanova, 2012). A woman who performs duty as a daughter, sister, wife, mother in the family where children are growing and being respectful to the environment, nature, history, cultural values, women are models to those children by doing the right things in front of them. The relationship between woman's employment and the five capital model is shown in this figure (Yildiz, 2016). Five –Woman Employment and Capital Model for a Sustainable Development (Yildiz, 2016).

II. CONCLUSION

Sustainable goals are meant for the development of all the people who are living in this world currently and have provisions to save the biodiversity of the earth for future generations. In this article, the researcher is looking through women's perspectives, their participation, and their role in achieving sustainable development goals. According to Dankelman (2010), although women are involved in every aspect of these goals they are equally affected by the consequences of environmental changes and degradation. Women face more challenges than men like they have to bear pregnancy, child-rearing responsibility, and taking care of elders with other

household chores. In this stage, pollution affects more to them. So, there should be protective measures for them. Equality in every walk of life, better women/girls pro opportunities, rights, and policies should be made for them. "To take gender issues into account in their daily work, policymakers need to be sensitized to gender dimensions. There are many examples of gender training in the UNECE region. In Lithuania, for example, the National Programme of Equal Opportunities for Women and Men for 2005-2009 covered the integration of a gender equality perspective in environmental protection. Between 2006 and 2009, gender equality training for environmental specialists was organized. A total of 82 specialists of the Ministry of Environment received gender equality training (Warth & Koparanova, 2012). Another important aspect is 'Awareness' which is very essential to use the full potential of women. By awareness, they can be thoughtful producers and consumers and can help in achieving sustainable goals effectively.

"Both climate change itself and related policies are likely to have wide-ranging effects on gender relations, especially in developing countries. Poor women face many gender-specific barriers that limit their ability to cope with and adapt to a changing climate; these must be removed in the interests of both gender equity and adaptation efficiency" (Terry, 2009). Dankelman (2002) in his article said that "climate change not only requires major technological solutions but also has political and socio-economic aspects with implications for development policy and practice. Questions of globalization, equity, and the distribution of welfare and power underlie many of its manifestations, and its impacts are not only severe but also unevenly distributed".

Dankelman (2002) further said that there are links between gender and the environment, both positive and harmful which help to show the present and potential ties between gender and climate change, as well as climate change's gender-specific consequences. It also shows how women's participation might translate into more gender-sensitive outcomes in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

The main thing is that women should have all the rights which men own. On social grounds, they have the independence to live their life freely. They should have decision-making power related to their own life. They must have the right to education and work equally as men and getting the same salary for the same work which will help reduce hunger and poverty. Clean water, sanitation, clean energy, a suitable work environment, and infrastructure for economic growth will play an important part and enhance women's good health and well-being. Peace, Justice, and strong institutions in the society will encourage political empowerment which will provide them the right to vote and they will have their own political opinion. These empowerments will

be helpful to achieve sustainable goals. So, the governments should make policies accordingly.

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