



The Blue Planet

A Magazine On Sustainability
Towards Knowledge Sharing

Issue : 2 Volume: 1 2020

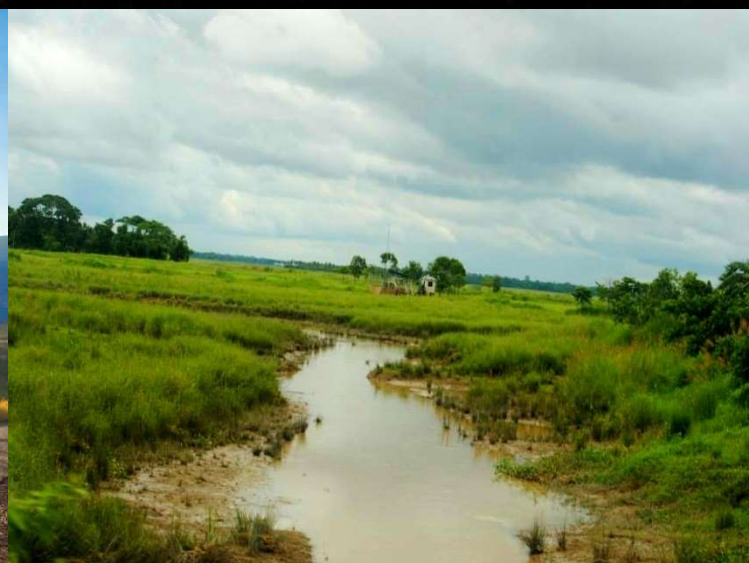
COVER STORY REPORTING FROM

SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY CONFERENCE

MODERN MONEY AND A GREEN NEW DEAL - ADELAIDE 2020

BLUE PLANET

"...Our ONLY Home..."



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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The **Australian Centre for Sustainable Development for Research & Innovation (ACSDRI)** www.acsdri.com and the **South Asian Institute for Sustainable Development (SAISD)** www.saisd.org.in are two sister organisations that have been focused on undertaking development and research projects based on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2018.

One of our main objectives are to promote awareness of sustainable development values and to disseminate knowledge about these values. As part of these objectives, we are publishing THE BLUE PLANET – Magazine on Sustainability. We need your support and patronage for this cause.

The Blue Planet is a multi-disciplinary magazine for academics and professionals with a primary focus on the sustainability agenda, projects, and innovation in relation to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)s. We also accept submissions on other topics related to management, information technology, and other scientific and social science disciplines. We encourage our readers and patrons to contribute nature photography. We also accept cartoons on important issues of the day as a part of 'Freedom of Expression' agenda.

The goal of our magazine is to disseminate knowledge and to propagate dialogue with a general mass audience. This issue contains the following articles and discussions:

- *Report from the Sustainable Prosperity Conference by **Dr Kuntal Goswami** (p:1-9).*
- *Developing Awareness within Low Socio-Economic Families & Communities Regarding Sustainable Development through Story-Telling Methods by **Dr. Ritu Bhatia** (p: 11-15).*

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- **An Opinion Piece:** *Are people with emotional intelligence more likely to value a positive social and ecological agenda?* by **Afaf Ibrahim** (p:18-21)
- *The SDGs: Progress, Challenges and Gaps* by **Satya Narayan Ghosh** (p: 23-33)
- **Impact Focus:** *Hummingbird Foundation & Equal Community Foundation – Agents of Change* by **Aparajita Dhar** (p:35-38)
- **Short Essay:** *Women's Empowerment and the SDG Gender Equality Goal (SDG-5): An Indian Perspective* by **Dr. Neelmani Jaysawal** (p: 40-42)
- *Sustainability Practice in the European Union: A Reflective Essay on an Educational Tour* by **Ravindranath Srinath Amingad** (p: 44-48)

Photographic Contribution:

We would like to extend our SPECIAL THANKS to **Rupam Bose, Enam Elahe Mullick & Indranil Mukherjee**

- **Rupam Bose** is a senior Hospitality Industry professional from India and a committed member of our ACSDRI & SAISD Team.
- **Elahe Mullick** is from Bangladesh and is a marketing professional, keen cyclist, and a mobile phone based nature photographer. Elahe is another significant supporter of our cause.
- **Indranil Mukherjee** : Apart from his professional work, Indranil maintains a very strong balance with his hobbies and other passions. He has been running an art community group known as VIBGYOR (www.infovibgyor.com) since 2012, which is active predominantly across Calcutta, Bombay, Bhubaneswar, and Hyderabad. He is a trained artist in a variety of the fine arts from the Birla Academy of Art & Culture (1990-2000). He pursued his certification in Digital Photography from Ram Krishna Mission Vidyamandira, Belur, Howrah (2014).

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Indranil actively participates in various art promotion activities and motivates people to engage in a regular digital detox and to pamper themselves with their passions and talents.

Indranil @ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/indranil.mukherjee.927>

Instagram: @j4jishun. A supporter of our cause.

Our Recent Event

Recently, we conducted a Covid-19 Food Donation Camp and donated protein-based food and hygiene items to approximately 50 families in rural West Bengal, India.



Sayta Narayan Ghosh (is a passionate social sector professional – worked with many international development agencies) with villagers during food donation camp

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We are also planning to extend our support to communities affected by super-cyclone Amphan and if wants to donate, please contact Dr Kuntal Goswami on +61 401 646 872 and Satya Narayan Ghosh on +91 98185 16715.



Our editorial team, Dr Kuntal Goswami and Satya Narayan Ghosh, would like to thank all those who contributed to the publication of this magazine.

*We would also like to acknowledge **Dr Robert Muller** for his editing contribution. Dr Muller is a Research Fellow of Torrens Resilience Institute, Flinders University (Aus) and a professional editor of PhD, Masters and Honours Thesis. He is also an expert trainer of GAMSAT. His profile is available in Facebook & Linkedlin M: +61433 354 383*

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To publish in our next edition kindly contact us:

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Expression of Interest

ACSDRI & SAISD will be publishing 3rd Edition of its
'THE BLUE PLANET' - Magazine We are requesting to
submit:

- a) A small 800 words write-up on any topics aligning to
17 Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); or
- b) Any Sustainability (Economic / Environmental /
Social) related policy issue.
- c) Nature Photography.
- d) Freedom of speech via Cartoon.

Submission date by OCTOBER 2020

Kindly email your material in word document at

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REPORTING FROM

SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY CONFERENCE

MODERN MONEY AND A GREEN NEW DEAL – ADELAIDE 2020

Reported by **Dr Kuntal Goswami** (ACSDRI)

The three-day Sustainable Prosperity Conference in Adelaide at the University of Adelaide Campus was a congregation of some of the world's most progressive economists and thinkers from various fields. The conference strongly advocated for progressive economic reforms, improving the fairness of the economic system, and to undertake resolute action on climate change. The conference included 28 distinguished speakers, with some of the most notable being Prof. Herman Daly, University of Maryland; Prof. Robert Costanza, Australian National University; Dr Steven Hail, University of Adelaide; Assoc. Prof. Philip Lawn, Wakefield Futures Group; Alex North, Australian Unemployed Workers' Union; and Emeritus Professor Bill Mitchell, Chair in Economics and Director of the Centre for Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE), an official research centre of the University of Newcastle in New South Wales.

Some of the key topics of the conference was : an overview of economics for sustainable prosperity, modern monetary theory, the potential for a job guarantee scheme to contribute towards economic stability and social justice, the feasibility of a rapid transition to 100% green and renewable energy, the political economy of a new green deal, and an appropriate way to

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measure genuine progress, how to conceptualise a sustainable future and many other thought-provoking policy agendas.

One of the high points of the conference was a presentation on the Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) by Prof. Bill Mitchell. He explained the myths around budget deficits and surpluses. According to Prof. Mitchell, budget deficits and surpluses are neither good nor bad. Rather, we need to understand these two concepts in their appropriate context. Prof. Mitchell explained these myths through number of simple graphical models. He argued that, in one sense our liability or obligation to pay taxes gives worth to our fiat currency. If this obligation is not there our fiat currency has no value and will be otherwise worthless. Hence, the sequence of this argument is: Tax Liability => Spending => Tax Payments. The tax liability creates a demand to get back the money that is flowing through the economy. The government cannot get its tax revenue until, or unless, it is spent (in this argument, banking is not included).

Prof. Mitchell presented three simple graphical explanations on flow and stock of money. He explained the cycle with a three phased example. In the first model or first period, he showed how every dollar government spends is equal to income in the non-government sector. Everyone pays taxes and government gets its tax revenue and shows causality. At the end of this first period, the fiscal injection by the government sector is zero, as a result the overall savings and financial wealth in the non-government sector is also zero.

Government		Year 1	Non-government	
				
Spending	100	Income	100	
Wages	100	Wages	100	
Interest payments	0	Interest received	0	
Taxes	100	Taxes paid	100	
Fiscal injection		Overall saving		
Bonds outstanding	0	Financial Wealth	0	
		Cash	0	
		Bonds held	0	

Government		Year 1	Non-government	
				
Spending	100	Income	100	
Wages	100	Wages	100	
Interest payments	0	Interest received	0	
Taxes	100	Taxes paid	100	
Fiscal injection	0	Overall saving	0	
Bonds outstanding	0	Financial Wealth	0	
		Cash	0	
		Bonds held	0	

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In period two, suppose that government increased spending, but kept the tax collection target the same as the first period, then the fiscal injection by the government sector will increase. Consequently, the overall savings and financial wealth in the non-government sector will increase in the same proportion, as shown in the diagram below. In this context, Prof. Mitchell argued that in an economy, the government deficit is the same as private sector savings and wealth dollar for dollar.

Government	Year 2	Non-government
Spending 120	Income 120	
Wages 120	Wages 120	
Interest payments 0	Interest received 0	
Taxes 100	Taxes paid 100	
Fiscal injection	Overall saving	
Bonds outstanding 0	Financial Wealth 0	
	Cash 0	
	Bonds held 0	

Government	Year 2	Non-government
Spending 120	Income 120	
Wages 120	Wages 120	
Interest payments 0	Interest received 0	
Taxes 100	Taxes paid 100	
Fiscal injection +20	Overall saving +20	
Bonds outstanding 0	Financial Wealth 20	
	Cash 20	
	Bonds held 0	

In the third period, suppose that the government repeats the same amount of spending (fiscal injection) as it was in the second period. In this phase suppose the government wants to utilise non-governmental sector's savings and wealth, and the government issues bonds (government debt). Now the non-government sector would invest in the government bonds with the expectation of earning interest. In reality, this increased investment capacity of the non-government sector in the third period was financed by the government's fiscal deficit (fiscal injection) of the previous period. If the government had no fiscal deficit or had balanced budget the non-government sector's investment capacity would not have generated.







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Now he introduced another factor, fear of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

 Government	Year 3	Non-government 	
Spending	120	Income	120
Wages	120	Wages	120
Interest payments	0	Interest received	0
Taxes	100	Taxes paid	100
Fiscal injection	+20	Overall saving	+20
Bonds outstanding	40	Financial Wealth	40
		Cash	0
		Bonds held	40
		Bond sale	

Austerity mindset adopted ...



Hence, in the fourth period, under pressure of IMF the government adopts austerity and cuts back government sector spending (reverses fiscal injection). Immediately the non-governmental sector's earnings reduce, as shown below.

 Government	Year 4	Non-government 	
Spending	80	Income	80
Wages	76	Wages	76
Interest payments	4	Interest received	4
Taxes	100	Taxes paid	100
Fiscal injection	-20	Overall saving	-20
Bonds outstanding	20	Financial Wealth	20
		Cash	0
		Bonds held	20

However, this is a simplistic explanation. Having said that the underlying principle is general public's overall saving or wealth cannot generate if government squeezes it fiscal injection (liquidity).

Basically, public debt is untaxed spending, or the amount that has not yet been taxed away.





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But the question is, what is an appropriate fiscal position?

Hence, we must understand the context to ascertain the appropriate size of a fiscal deficit. If the non-government sector is not capable of achieving full employment in the economy, then the government must run a deficit.

Prof. Mitchell also educated the audience on inflation, employment, and the job guarantee. To understand Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) further, please visit the conference website: <https://mmt-adelaide-2020.com/> (click video tab).

Emeritus Professor Bill Mitchell also has a web-page on the University of Newcastle's website: <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/profile/bill-mitchell>

The next key highlight of the conference was the discussion between Prof. Herman Daly and Dr. Phil Lawn about Ecological Economics. Dr. Phil Lawn explained the traditional perspective of the economics discipline as it is taught in most of the universities' economics courses. The traditional perspective teaches economics in isolation and only highlights the interaction (the circular flow) between firms and households. An important aspect is missing from this traditional view that is the natural environment. Even when environmental economics is introduced, the gap is not fully bridged. It only recognises the importance of the natural environment and some connection with it. The economy is only tenuously linked to the natural environment. The key message in these traditional perspectives is that "*costs imposed on the natural environment are externalities, not due to the scale of the economy*".

In contrast, ecological economics provides a real picture. It identifies economy as a sub-system of the non-growing natural environment. However, a major flaw in our education system is that ecological economics is an elective subject and very few universities offer the subject.

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In this discussion, Prof. Daly mentioned ecological economics focuses on three main issues and these are: 1) the problem of the sustainable scale of the total economy; 2) equitable distribution of resources and income; 3) efficient allocation of resources among alternative private uses. Ecological economics addresses these issues, starting with scale, and followed by distribution and reallocation. Scale is not addressed in traditional economics, whereas ecological economics considers the economy as a sub-system of the natural environment.

Prof. Daly also added that it is important to consider the costs and benefits of expanding the economy. It is prudent to assess how much we should expand the economy by sacrificing the eco-system.

Further in the discussion, Prof. Daly explained three main criteria of sustainable development: a) the harvest rate of renewable resources should not exceed the regeneration rate; b) if extraction is based on non-renewable resources, then the depletion rate should not exceed the creation of renewable substitutes, and c) the rate of waste generation, whether generated from renewable or non-renewable sources, should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the ecosphere.

The full video of the discussion is available at the conference website: <https://mmt-adelaide-2020.com/> (click video tab).

One of the high points of day three was the presentation by Prof. Robert Costanza (Bob Costanza), the VC's Chair in Public Policy, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (ANU). Prof. Costanza presented on 'The Importance of Natural Capital'.

Prof. Costanza mentioned that aspiration to have sustainable wellbeing for all needs: a) a vision (how is the world? how we would like it to be? a shared vision); b) tools and analysis (systems thinking and modelling); and c) implementation (new institutions and strategies).

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However, in the present system, we are operating through an “empty world” vision in which we think we can grow indefinitely based on factors of production (land, labour, and capital), with the idea being that the more we consume, the more we will have individual’s welfare.

Prof. Costanza argued that we must transit from this empty world vision to a full world vision. We need to understand that we are living within the ‘Earth system’ which is materially closed, and we must realise that not all our well-being comes from the consumption of goods and services. Instead, well-being comes from relative consumption, rather than absolute consumption, of four types of capital. The natural capital (everything itself in the system which we didn’t build, which is a part of nature and provides a range of services which we often don’t acknowledge enough), human capital (not just their labour, but also the health and well-being of the individual), social capital (formal and informal interaction among people, friends, and families, as well as our culture and institutions. The market itself is a part of social capital), and conventional built capital (which we have build).

The full video of the presentation is available at the conference website <https://mmt-adelaide-2020.com/> (click video tab).

However one of the most thought-provoking panel presentations was entitled ***Really Ending Poverty and the Future of Work*** by Alison Pennington, Alice Clark, David Faber, and Alex North.

Alison Pennington, from The Australian Institute, Centre for Future Work, mentioned that there was a steady decline in Real Private Capital Spending in Australia between 2012-2019 and, as a result, there is an over-supply of under-utilised work. The official unemployment rate in Australia is 720,000, or 5% of the population, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are large numbers of under-employed people, or people who are only marginally attached to employment. Statistically speaking, 20% of Australians don’t have enough work.

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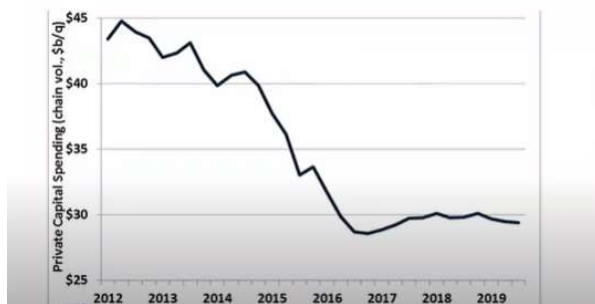




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Real Private Capital Spending Down +1/3rd (2012-19)



The Quantity Problem



- “Official” unemployment 5%: 720,000.
- Underemployment 8.5% (rising from 3% in 1980): 1.2 million+.
- “Marginally attached” or “discouraged”: 1 million
- TOTAL SLACK: 3 million (20% of adjusted labour force).

We end up with low-paying and low-quality jobs, which is pushing many towards a hand-to-mouth situation. As a result, the gap between real productivity and real wages is increasing at the same time as there the labour share of GDP is falling

Hype v. Reality



Alison Pennington strongly advocated for the revival of quality full employment, and her key recommendations were to stimulate the growth of anchor industries that succeed in the global market; to create jobs in green industries; and to facilitate mobility and opportunity.

Alex North (Australian Unemployed Workers’ Union) was also part of the panel, and presented on the state of private sector-based unemployment support services in Australia such as Jobs Statewide, JP Job Prospects, Match Works, Status Employment Services, and Workskil

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Australia. *There are currently 1,635 private sector-based employment service providers, which is more than the total combined number of McDonalds stores in Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea.* This unemployment support service industry is worth A\$10 billion and is publicly funded. This industry receives up-front public funding to operate so that these agencies can find a job for unemployed people, as soon as possible and to monitor activity tests and job seeker compliance.

Alex North mentioned that, in actual reality, caseworkers in these job active agencies ... *spend about half their time on compliance and administrative activities alone and only 10 per cent on actually canvassing the labour market. Unemployed workers suffered 2.35 million payment suspensions by job active providers in 2018-2019, with an error rate of over 50 per cent.*

He further added that if someone gets injured in the Work for the Dole scheme, she or he will not be eligible for any work entitlement. Rather, unemployed people will be punished for not meeting the activity test criteria. All job active agencies get paid by government for meeting these activity test criteria. The system is so punitive, that people prefer to go for the lowest paying job on the market, rather than enrolling in the Job Active system. The full video of this presentation is available at the conference website: <https://mmt-adelaide-2020.com/> (click video tab).

These are some of the key highlights from the 2020 Sustainable Prosperity Conference. Presentations from other speakers are available on the conference website.

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Photography by Rupam Bose, Tatanagore,
(Jamshedpur), India. Photo taken in one of the
Andaman Islands, India



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Developing Awareness within Low Socio - Economic Families & Communities: Regarding Sustainable Development Through Story Telling Methods

**By Dr. Ritu Bhatia, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development Smt P.N. Doshi Women's College (affiliated with the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, India).
Email: ritubhatia24@gmail.com**

(Dr Ritu Bhatia's Project Team Members: Sana Ansari, Rehana Shah, Karimun Manihar, Sheetal Kharva, Farha Ansari, Sayma Choudary, Quratulain Khan, Rabina Joshi, Priyanka Dhingra, Soofiya Sartaj, Wahida Shahabuddin, Nagma Ansari, Priya Wishwakarma, Rubina Kidwai, Tanvir Khan, Farheen Khan, Shifa Shaikh, Taranum Sayyed, Shaheen Shaikh, Chandani Shahani, Sonam Walmiki, Nilofer Khan)

The family is one of the fundamental units of society and a primary change agent for sustainable development. The United Nations General Assembly proposed the Millennium Development Goals in which the family occupies a central place in the development strategy. It is within the family that change is supported or opposed, encouraged, or undermined.

To bring about change and awareness within low socio-economic families and communities on various aspects of sustainable development, a community-based participatory project was undertaken with a community in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. The primary focus of this project was to increase awareness of the three pillars of sustainable development (family and social development, economic development, and environmental values) through an integrated story-telling model.

Stories are an effective medium through which interest can be generated and attention of the target audience can be win-over. Stories have the power to transform ideas and habits, and to develop the possibility of constructive change in the people's lives.

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Storytelling is about engagement using the power of words to create empathy, loyalty, and aspiration among listeners.

In the present project, a series of family-focused activities were conducted through the story-telling model. Various story-telling methods were used such as verbal stories, written stories in the form of booklets, short story books, visual charts with illustrations narrating a story, street plays, etc.

Puppet shows, finger puppet stories, and pop-up story books were used for young children.



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The language for the selected stories were in Hindi and a regional language i.e. Marathi. The main objective of the project was to develop understanding and skills within families and communities on holistic sustainability values and how to improve their standards and quality of life.

The stories were developed keeping in mind the socio-economic and cultural status of the community. The main topics covered **under family & social development** were family relationships, family health, a balanced diet, interpersonal skills, and conflict resolution; **under economic development:** family self-sufficiency, smart consumerism, debt avoidance, conservation of resources, and resistance to drugs and alcohol; and **under environmental awareness**, the topics covered were the ecological footprint of the family, energy conservation, food preservation, and kitchen garden areas.

The duration of the community project was two months. During this period, people in the community were called-in to meet at a pre-determined location in their local area to listen to





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stories every Sunday and on public holidays. Parallel sessions were conducted for young children.

Our findings showed that the story-telling method was an effective tool for generating interest and awareness among the community members. Communities participated in greater numbers during the story-telling sessions. Particularly women and young children were eager to listen to stories. It was learned through the feedback sessions that messages about family sustainability was well received by the community members. The stories added knowledge and skills within the community on the importance of family well-being, health, and resource management.

The following are some of the topics we have worked on and distributed flyers after the story-telling sessions.

Your rights and civic responsibilities

1. Use dustbins to avoid throwing waste on roads and in drains
2. Use separate dustbins for dry and wet waste. Use the blue dustbin for dry waste and the green dustbin for wet waste
3. Use a cloth bag for shopping and avoid using plastic bags
4. Don't throw leftover food in drains or on the road as this can attract flies and insects
5. Left-over food can be given to poor people or to feed stray animals
6. Dry flowers and coconuts and other material used in religious rituals can be used for fertilizer for plants
7. Give e-waste to authorized vendors. Don't throw mobile laptop batteries and other electronic waste products with other wastes

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8. Don't flush sanitary napkins and diapers in the toilet, and don't throw them on the road. Use paper to wrap them up and then dispose of them in the dustbin.

9. Download an app for the contact information of your local authority if a garbage problem exists in your local area

10. Be a responsible and well-informed citizen

The key success story of our project was how to educate and spread awareness about different aspects of sustainable development among families through the story-telling model in a cost-effective way.



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An Opinion Piece:

Is it people with emotional intelligence are more likely to value social and ecological agenda?

By Afaf Ibrahim, Emotional Intelligence Practitioner – Genos Certified

Email: info@modernhrsolutions.com.au

What is Emotional Intelligence?

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is described as an individual's ability to understand and manage his or her emotions as well as those of others around him or her. An emotionally intelligent person can differentiate various feelings and label them appropriately and use emotional information to guide their thinking and behaviour. Most importantly, the person can assess how their emotions affect other people. The person can also manage and/or adjust their emotions with changing circumstance to achieve their goal (s).

Why does Emotional Intelligence matter for success in life?

There are 34,000 different emotions that one can experience. Each emotion leads to automatic responses that may have an impact on relationships, decision-making, future planning, health, and lifestyle. The human brain has an almond-shape set of neurons known as the "Amygdala", which forms part of the limbic system and plays a key role in the processing of emotions. Feelings such as anger, fear, sadness, and other negative emotions are linked to the Amygdala. The Amygdala is responsible for detecting threats and maintaining the survival mode. That is why we are afraid of things outside of our control. The Amygdala then processes automatic responses to events where potential danger is perceived.

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Learning how to analyse one's emotions objectively and to manage responses effectively will increase a person's ability to realise better outcomes in every aspect of life. The Genos EI Model has six dimensions that relate to behaviours, performance, and decision-making which can be measured and developed. These six dimensions represent the core Emotional Intelligence competencies:

1. **Self-awareness** is about how aware one is of their feelings, and how much our feelings have an impact or influence on one's decisions, performance, and behaviours
2. **Awareness of others** is about how empathetic or sensitive one is about others' feelings
3. **Authenticity** is about one's abilities to openly express themselves so that others can appreciate one's genuine traits
4. **Emotional reasoning** means that one should consider their own and others' feelings in the decision-making process, and try to identify information in feelings, and corroborating this information with facts, and then communicating this decision-making process with others
5. **Self-management** is about being composed and resilient, having the ability to handle challenges and stress, and not being temperamental at work
6. **Positive influence** manifests through the ability to empower and positively influence others. This trait enables one to motivate others to cooperate and to bring about high levels of performance and productivity from others.

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How emotionally intelligent are you?
Let's try to migrate to the 'PRODUCTIVE STATE' domain



Emotional Intelligence in the Social and Ecological context

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen every leader on the planet facing the same risks. Yet each leader has reacted in a different way. Leadership style is derived from diversity in culture, context, risk attitude, and risk appetite. Every leader is now judged by their results. Each leader's response to COVID-19 shows us the different sides of leadership.

For example: US President Donald Trump has been criticised worldwide for his handling of the coronavirus crisis, being insensitive and indifferent. This contrasts with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's leadership style, who has focused on empathy which has helped her country to put on track against the coronavirus.

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EI is a critical trait that leaders need to be equipped with to handle change and unforeseen crises.



Similarly, in the climate change debate, much of the solution lies in the emotional intelligence of the leader and of wider society. We saw how former US Vice-President Al Gore and a 16-year old young climate change activist Greta Thunberg attracted the attention of millions to act "quickly" and "drastically" on the climate change agenda because of their “positive influence” – a EI trait. Both of them have motivated us to think about the millions of people who are, and will be, affected by climate change and made us think to choose between our short-term profit and our long-term disasters.



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In a separate study entitled *The role of emotional intelligence as an underlying factor towards social acceptance of green investments*, by Stamatios Ntanos, Garyfallos Arabatzis, and Chalikias Miltiadis found ‘...the existence of a positive correlation between emotional intelligence traits and willingness to invest in renewable energy sources...’. Their study also found a ‘...significant correlation... between emotional intelligence and citizens’ views about the contribution of renewable energy sources to life quality and environmental improvement ...’.

Hence, in my opinion, we need to improve human-to-human emotional consciousness at a societal level, and our leaders need to learn how to improve the human-to-human emotional consciousness of wider society to tackle many of our economic, social, and environmental issues. It is true that to tackle climate change, we need a large amount of economic resources. Emotional awareness is about recognising and understanding one’s own emotions, and recognising drivers of our behaviour, making decisions on optimal on the use of resources and its impact, considering the needs of others, and whether we should go after short-term profits or long-term disasters. Hence emotionally intelligent leader and society can make intelligent decision on optimal recourse allocation for climate change mitigation steps.

Furthermore, developing and practicing a communication style based on understanding one’s own emotions and, at the same time, being motivational and understanding the emotions of others can create a pathway for open and effective dialogue through empathy and caring for others’ needs of. This EI trait can improve interpersonal relationships and organisational performance and can create resilient sustainable communities.

Therefore, Emotional Intelligence (EI) matters for success in every aspect our life.

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The SDGs: Progress, Challenges and Gaps

By Satya Narayan Ghosh, SAISD. Email: naco.satya@gmail.com Ph: +91-9818516715

The Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in 2015 represents a transformative framework to spur national action to end poverty and build a sustainable world. The ambitious target encompassing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, presents a historic opportunity to make development more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable, and to end extreme poverty and provide a life of dignity for all.

Progress so far

According to 2019 the Economic and Social Council's report, extreme poverty and child mortality rates continue to fall. Certain targets regarding gender equality are seeing progress, including the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting. Globally, labour productivity has increased, and unemployment is back to pre-financial crisis levels. The proportion of the urban population living in slums is falling. The proportion of waters under national jurisdiction covered by marine-protected areas has more than doubled since 2010. It is estimated that the share of the world population living in extreme poverty declined to 10 per cent in 2015, down by 16 per cent of 2010's baseline and by 36 per cent of 1990's baseline. However, the pace of poverty reduction has recently decelerated to 8.6 per cent in 2018.

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The key concerns

Despite some positive trends, the main concern lies in the shift in development patterns and the overall pattern of development is not congenial with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The extreme poverty rate is projected to be 6 per cent in 2030, thus missing the global target to eradicate extreme poverty. Hunger is on the rise for the third consecutive year and little progress is being made to counter overweight and obesity among children under the age of 5. Biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate, with roughly 1 million species already facing extinction. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase. Globally, youth are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Children are over-represented among the poorest people – one child in five lives in extreme poverty. Rural and urban divides are also evident in areas such as education and healthcare. People with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS continue to face multiple disadvantages, denying them both life opportunities and fundamental human rights. The data suggests that 60 per cent of countries are unlikely to reach the target of full implementation of the SDGs by 2030.

Key highlights and gaps

About 8 per cent of the world's workers and their families were still living in extreme poverty according to 2018 estimates. Around 4 billion people (55 per cent of the world's population) remain unprotected under any social security scheme. Only 22 per cent of unemployed people receive unemployment benefits and only 28 per cent of people with disabilities have access to disability benefits. 35 per cent of children worldwide enjoy effective access to social protection and only 41 per cent of women giving birth receive maternity benefits.

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It is estimated that around 821 million people, or nearly 1 in 9 people globally, were found to be undernourished in 2017, which is an increase from 784 million in 2015. This poses a concern for government and development actors in relation to the worrying rise in world hunger for the third consecutive year. Africa remains the continent with the highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting one-fifth of its population (more than 256 million people). Meanwhile, around 770 million people faced severe food insecurity in 2017.

Government spending on agriculture compared to agriculture's contribution to the total economy has declined by 37 per cent. In addition, aid to agriculture in developing countries fell from nearly 25 per cent from the 1980s to 2017, representing a decrease of US\$12.6 billion. An estimated 303,000 women around the world died due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth in 2015. Almost all of these deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries. In 2017, the world witnessed the death of 5.4 million children under 5 years of age. 262 million children and youth aged 6 to 17 were still out of school in 2017, and more than half of children and adolescents are not meeting the minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. Although declining, the practice of child marriage is still occurring at an alarming rate, primarily in South Asia. Over 700 million people still lacked even basic drinking water and sanitation services in 2017. The data suggests that achieving universal access to even basic sanitation services by 2030 would require doubling the current annual rate of progress. The global electrification rate rose from 83 per cent in 2010 to 89 per cent in 2017. However, 840 million people around the world still lack electricity. It is of significant concern that today, the bottom 40 per cent of the world's population receive less than 25 per cent of overall income and consumption.

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In many places, the increasing share of income is going to the top 1 per cent of earners. Women represent less than 40 per cent of the employed, occupy only around a quarter of managerial positions in the world, and (according to data available from a limited set of countries) face a gender pay gap of 12 per cent today. Conflict and instability in many parts of the world have intensified. In 2017, around 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced.

South Asian SDG Status

South Asia shares 36 per cent of the world's poor, and nearly half of all undernourished children. Considering the significance of the region in relation to world population, and the extent of poverty and other deprivations, global progress on the SDGs depends on the progress made in South Asia. South Asia must create opportunities for decent jobs without jeopardizing environmental sustainability. The economic dynamism and promising prospects of South Asia provide confidence in its ability to transform itself and build a sustainable future for all. In order to expeditiously adopt and implement the 2030 agenda, a determined political will to improve the service delivery mechanism is required. Achieving the SDGs will not be possible without mainstreaming the agenda into national development plans and budgets as well as reorienting growth frameworks to be inclusive and equitable, and to promote low-carbon development pathways. Structural transformation therefore needs to focus on promoting diverse environmentally friendly industries.

Sustainability in South Asia must therefore rest on a core foundation of diversification. The table below (Annex A) indicates that the only goal for which all South Asian countries appear to be at either a moderate or good level and on track to meeting the SDG goals is that of eliminating poverty.

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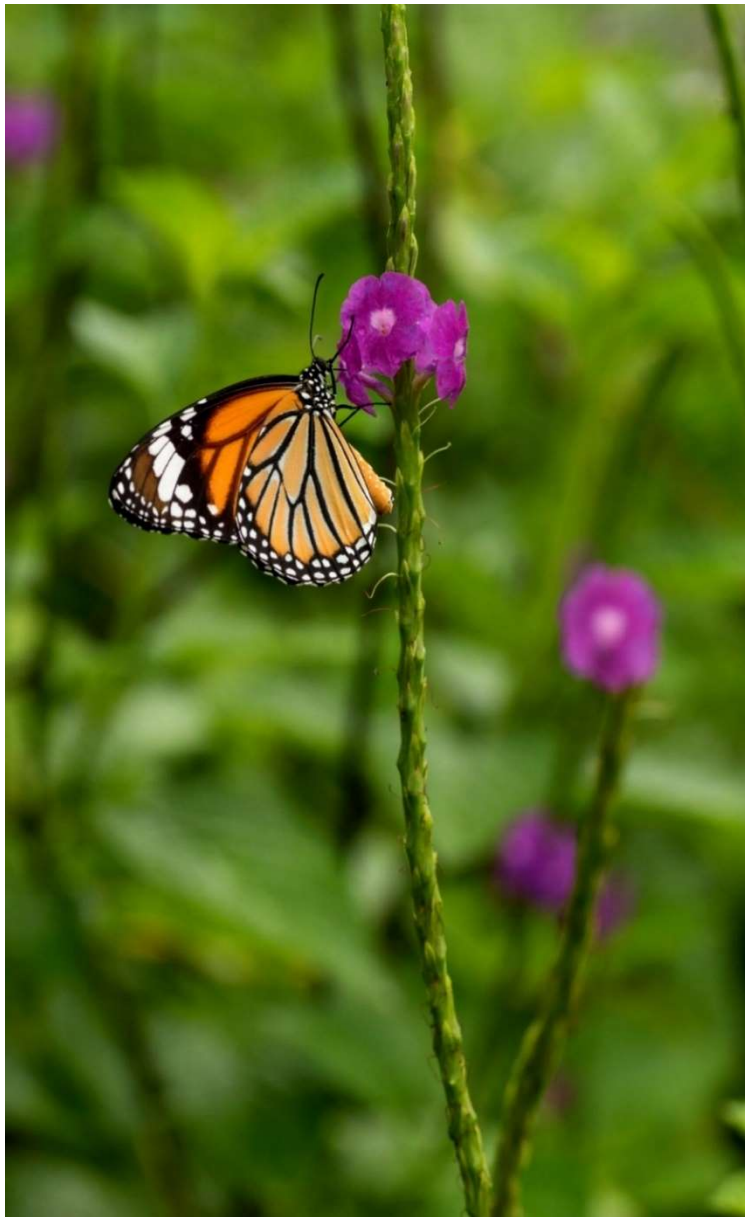




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The prevailing concern is that there is no other goal that South Asian countries are on the desired level of progress to the target by 2030 (other than Sri Lanka for Goals 6 and 8). The absence of data and information to measure progress on some goals is another problem that indicates the importance to be given by the countries for developing a strong monitoring system. It is estimated by UNESCAP that a regionally coordinated sustainable industrialization strategy in South Asia could generate more than 56 million new jobs by 2030 and lift 71 million additional people out of poverty relative to a business-as-usual scenario. The success in implementing the SDGs in the region, however, hinges on addressing current capacity gaps and strengthening service delivery mechanisms.

The current investment levels required to achieve the SDGs

The report reveals that the magnitude of the financing challenge to achieve the SDGs far exceeds the capacity of any single organization and demands strong partnerships between governments, the private sector, and development organisations. The SDGs will have very significant resource implications worldwide. At the global level, the total investment required to achieve the SDGs (according to UNCTAD) is USD 5 to 7 trillion per year. Total investment needs in developing countries alone could be about USD 3.9 trillion per year, mainly for basic infrastructure (roads, rail and ports, power stations, water, and sanitation), food security (agriculture and rural development), climate change mitigation and adaptation, health, and education. Current investment in these sectors is around USD 1.4 trillion, leaving a gap of around USD 2.5 trillion and implying an annual investment gap of between USD 1.9 and 3.1 trillion (UNCTAD, 2014).

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In 2017, the global growth rate of real GDP per capita was 1.9 per cent and is expected to remain at 2 per cent until 2020. The real GDP growth rate for the least developed countries is expected to increase from 4.5 per cent in 2017 to 5.7 per cent in 2020, which is less than the 7 per cent envisioned by the 2030 Agenda. It is also clear that public finance alone would be inadequate to make up the gap, and even the private finance available may not be able to meet the shortfall. There is a need to reassess financial requirements from a perspective of innovative policy strategies to address the core needs of poverty eradication, gender equality, governance issues, sustained growth, and investment in fundamental natural resources and climate response, in a synchronised and systematic manner.

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SDGs	Bhutan	Sri Lanka	Nepal	Bangladesh	India	Pakistan
1. No Poverty	Good, on track	Good, on track	Moderate, On track	Moderate on track	Moderate on track	Moderate on track
2. Zero Hunger	Poor, improving	Poor, improving	Poor Improving	Moderately Poor improving	Poor Improving	Poor Improving
3. Good Health and Wellbeing	Poor, improving	Poor, improving	Poor Improving	Moderately Poor improving	Poor Improving	Poor stagnating
4. Quality Education	Moderate maintaining	Poor, improving	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	Insufficient data	Poor stagnating
5. Gender Equality	Poor, improving	Poor, improving	Poor Improving	Moderately Poor improving	NA	Poor stagnating
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	Insufficient data	Good, on track	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	Poor Improving	Insufficient data
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	Insufficient data	Poor, Stagnating	Poor Improving	Moderately Poor improving	NA	Poor Improving
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	Insufficient data	Good, on track	Poor Improving	Poor Stagnating	Moderate on track	Poor Improving
9. Industry Innovation and Infrastructure	Insufficient data	Poor, improving	Poor Improving	Moderately Poor improving	Poor Improving	Poor Improving
10. Reduced Inequality	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Insufficient data	Poor Stagnating	Poor Stagnating	Poor Stagnating	Poor Improving	Poor Worsening
12. Responsible Consumption and Production	Insufficient data	Insufficient data	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data	Insufficient data	Insufficient data
13. Climate Action	Good maintaining	Good maintaining	Moderate, Stagnating	Poor Stagnating	Poor stagnating	Moderate Stagnating
14. Life Below Water	Insufficient data	Poor Improving	Insufficient Data	Poor Stagnating	Poor improving	Poor stagnating
15. Life on Land	Poor, maintaining	Poor Improving	Poor Stagnating	Very Poor Worsening	Poor Stagnating	Poor Worsening
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Insufficient data	Poor Worsening	Poor Stagnating	Poor Stagnating	Poor stagnating	Poor stagnating
17. Partnership for Goals	poor maintaining	Poor Worsening	Poor Improving	Poor Stagnating	Poor stagnating	Insufficient data

Source: SDG index and Dashboard report 2018

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The commitment of the South Asian Institute of Sustainable Development (SAISD) to achieving the SDGs

The South Asian Institute of Sustainable Development is a non-profit research and development organization which is committed to working with communities, governments, academic institutions, and others to achieving the SDGs at the global level. The efforts of the SAISD is designed to model a unique approach to achieving the SDGs and supporting government and other stakeholders for upscaling. The SAISD is committed to continuously working with communities to contribute towards global 2030 SDGs

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Impact Focus:

The Hummingbird Foundation & Equal Community Foundation – Agents of Change

By **Aparajita Dhar**, India Country Head, The Hummingbird Foundation

The Hummingbird Foundation was established in 2014 by the Mathias family to support innovative community action to prevent human trafficking in West Bengal, India. Hummingbird's aim is to reduce human trafficking by targeting attitudes and processes that create or exacerbate vulnerability. This aim is embodied in the creation of a Prevention of Trafficking Model as a key methodology to evolve and replicate Hummingbird's work. With dedicated teams in India and the UK, Hummingbird's approach is to foster robust partnerships with non-government organisations, community-based organisations, and relevant government bodies.

Hummingbird sees itself as an enabler that can convene, communicate, and collaborate with these stakeholders for maximum impact. Hummingbird partners with local organisations to build communities that promote gender equality and resilience against the core drivers of human trafficking.

Hummingbird and its seven field-based partners in West Bengal are developing a Prevention of Trafficking Model comprised of four distinct and mutually supportive pillars. Through a series of deliberations and workshops, Hummingbird and its partners have identified three programmatic pillars that form the foundation of the Model, which the partners have been implementing since January 2017.

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Through the initial project cycle, Hummingbird's partners are developing programmatic content and training programmes around these three pillars, building evidence of good practice, and analysing the effectiveness of implementation in a rapid manner that promotes adaptability and responsiveness.

The three programmatic pillars are:

- The Collectivisation of Children and Youth
- Forming and Strengthening Community-Based Institutions
- Access to Rights and Entitlements

In the world, 40 per cent of trafficked victims are from India (16.6 million people are trafficked in India), and from this number, 44 per cent are trafficked from West Bengal, India. The main objective of the Hummingbird model is to create overall systemic change within a local network of stakeholders to address key vulnerabilities that can lead to trafficking. In line with **Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls**, Hummingbird believes that if young people – both boys and girls – are provided with equitable opportunities to challenge inequitable social, cultural, and religious practices and gender norms, and if consciousness can be raised among them about their fundamental human rights with the active support of their parents, these young boys and girls can become agents of change in their community. The Hummingbird Foundation promotes child-friendly environments and behaviours, and assists with the building of community-owned programmes in active collaboration with key community-based institutions such as village-level Child Protection Committees, self-help groups, youth clubs, religious leaders, and so on, thereby creating a multi-stakeholder community child safety net working in close collaboration with accountable local government.

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They have 2,000 youth members who are actively involved in the intervention process of child rights violation cases in collaboration with the village-level Child Protection Committees. In one incident, a local youth group heard about the marriage of a 15-year-old girl. The group intervened and made the family members understand the negative effects of child marriage. They stopped the marriage and enrolled the girl in her village school.

One of the other projects is known as **Hummingbird Raise**.

Hummingbird Raise was both a programme and a coalition. The goal of Hummingbird Raise was to ensure that the largest possible number of adolescents in 24 north and south Parganas in West Bengal were given the knowledge, skills, peer support, and leadership to bring about change in themselves, their family and peers, and their communities to prevent gender-based violence and trafficking.

This programme was implemented in 68 villages and reached out to 4,984 adolescent boys. Towards the end of the programme, 65 per cent of the boys demonstrated gender-equitable attitudes. The project was partnered by the **Equal Community Foundation (ECF)**. Their mission is to raise every boy in India to be gender-equitable. Two main projects of the ECF are **Action for Equality** and **Project Raise**.

Action for Equality is a behaviour change programme that is designed to work with boys in the 13 to 17-year-old age group. Over a period of one year, we equip the boys with knowledge, skills, peer support, and leadership abilities to challenge gender norms, change their own behaviour, and advocate for such change in their families and wider communities.

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Project Raise is a national collaborative programme designed to support organisations across India in raising gender equitable boys. The programme provides its members with access to resources, training, peer learning opportunities, and collective evidence. Using the provided support, organisations can independently deliver programmes, evaluate progress, and accelerate progress towards the common outcome of raising gender equitable boys.

The ECF believes that not every male is part of the problem, but that every male can be part of the solution. Gender equality is always talked about from the female perspective, hence the ECF wants boys to know that gender equality is also a male issue. Through their intervention, 12,599 boys across India have participated in their programmes and begun their journey towards becoming gender equitable, and 199 collective actions are taken by the participants each year to challenge gender norms in their communities.

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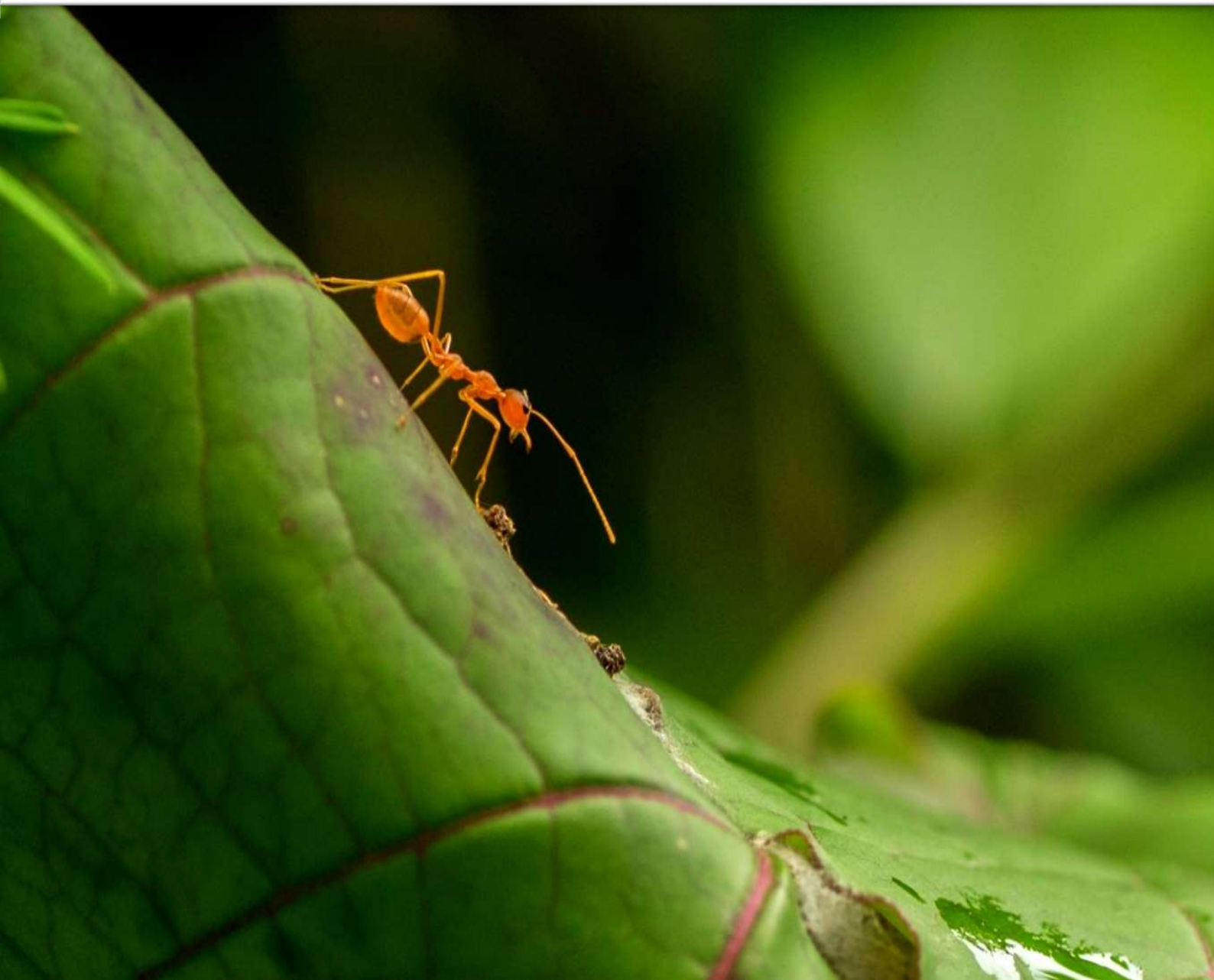




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Photography by Indranil Mukherjee, India



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Short Essay: Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Goal (SDG-5): Indian Perspective

By Dr. Neelmani Jaysawal, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, PO-Sriniketan, Distt.-Birbhum (West Bengal); Email ID: neelmanijaysawal@gmail.com

“If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a family (nation)” – Dr. James Emmanuel Kwegyir-Aggrey (Ghana)

The Sustainable Development Goal-5 (SDG) seek to achieve gender equity and empowerment of women. Gender inequality is prevalent across the globe. However, it is one of the most challenging policy agendas in South Asia. The South Asian countries face feminization of poverty which is manifested in lack of employment opportunities for women. Even if employment is available in the informal sector, work condition is not women friendly. In many instant women gets only low or under paid jobs. Therefore, achieving gender equity has become one of the essential targets of the SDGs.

After a sustained effort of the UN Women's Committee and other gender equality champions, a stand-alone Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Goal (SDG-5) was adopted within the SDGs (Dhar, 2018). SDG-5 encompasses a multi-dimensional approach towards gender equality with a wide range of targets that include ending discrimination and violence against women, eliminating trafficking and sexual exploitation; ending child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; recognizing unpaid care and domestic work; promoting women's participation and opportunities for leadership; ensuring universal access to sexual health and reproductive rights; enabling ownership of land and other property, including natural resources.





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Gender equality and women's empowerment consists of various priorities such as enhancing women's capabilities including their health and education, facilitating women's access to assets, income, and employment, and enabling women to make their own choices. A comprehensive view of gender equality includes both personal and social development which has positive effects on social norms, attitudes, and behaviours towards women.

But gender empowerment cannot be corralled into a single goal or target. The evidence shows that poverty in the urban environment among women is profoundly acute. The competition for urban land and the mushrooming growth of urban slum settlements leaves urban women exposed to unhygienic living conditions. Therefore, many women's organisations have argued that to reduce gender inequalities ownership of land, property, and in access to credit and technology should be considered as remedial measures. Mostly ownership of land is in the hands of men, therefore, increasing ownership of property and land for women can be a solution for reducing gender inequality.

The Indian perspective:

In the Indian context, it is important to understand how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be applied. The key challenge for India is to understand why gender inequality remains persistent despite constitutional guarantees on women's equality and rights, and the adoption of a wide range of policies and programs over the years. Dhar (2018) mentioned that patriarchal mindsets and misogyny are the key reasons for gender inequality, and these factors limit women's freedom, voices, and dignity. In addition to this, in India's informal employment sector, working conditions for women are largely insecure and precarious with little or no access to social protection. Rigid gender norms have a negative impact on employment opportunities and mobility patterns.

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According to the 2011 Indian census data, there were 149.8 million female workers, of which 121.8 million were in the rural workforce and 28 million in the urban workforce. Studies have indicated that female workforce participation is also affected by the need for childcare, and this situation is more acute among urban women with children younger than five years of age.

To reduce gender inequality and to promote women's empowerment, the Indian government has launched the *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* programme (Save Girl Child and Teach Girl Child). In addition, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) has been launched and another 500 crore rupees has been set aside for the Stand-Up India scheme (to promote entrepreneurship among women from scheduled castes and tribes) (Dhar, 2018). Other new initiatives include the Central Victim Compensation Fund Scheme to support victims of sexual assault, acid attacks, and human trafficking.

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Sustainability Practice in European Union: An Educational Tour Reflective Essay

By Ravindranath Srinath Amingad, Master of Finance and Business Economics (2nd year)
University of Adelaide, South Australia

Sustainable development is one of the fundamental policy foundations of the European Union. Over the years, Europe has put in place some of the world's highest environmental standards and ambitious climate policies. EU also championed the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The EU has undertaken actions to accomplish the SDGs. Using the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a compass, the EU has outlined three step roadmap on how to progress towards sustainable development:

- An overarching EU SDG strategy to guide all EU member states
- Mainstreaming the SDG objectives in all relevant EU policies
- Consolidating current sustainability ambitions at the EU level

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During my visit, I learned that Stuttgart is the leading German sustainable city. In the overall rankings of the WirtschaftsWoche Sustainable City Indicator (WWSCI), Stuttgart achieved above average results among 50 largest Germany's urban locations in all categories (economic strength, environment, human capital, social affairs, energy and transport, and transparency and commitment).



I also learned about the German work culture when I visited the **Mercedes Benz engine plant**. The company gives immense importance to efficiency. They do not distinguish between simple and complex tasks and provide equal importance to both. To improve efficiency, they monitor workflow constantly to avoid repetition of same mistakes and perfected *just-in-time* management practise. I have learned that the company is working towards producing more than 50 per cent of its new vehicles as plug-in hybrid or fully Electric Vehicle model by 2030.

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To reduce its carbon footprint, Mercedes Benz is planning beyond its manufactured vehicles, they are also aiming to make its factories and manufacturing units more efficient. By 2022, all of Mercedes' European plants will achieve carbon neutrality. All of its' new plants will be built as carbon-neutral unit from the start.



I also visited **Weberhaus**, a company that makes prefabricated houses. The company has received numerous awards for : making creative use of building materials, innovation, building energy-efficient homes, making smart homes, using materials that provide excellent thermal insulation, and creating a solar energy system and a controlled ventilation system.





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WeberHaus's homes use 90 per cent less energy than a conventional home and have built 29,000 houses since the company started in 1960. They have become an expert in harnessing "passive" sources of energy – solar energy, geothermal energy, and otherwise wasted energy from residents' body heat, and also using heat generated by electrical appliances. These passive houses are also fitted with ecologically sound fixtures.

On my visit to another company named **FM Logistic**, I learned about their strategic commitment towards sustainable development. FM Logistic places sustainability at the heart of its mission and strategic vision - "*Teams creating solutions for a sustainable supply chain enabling a better quality of life*". In 2018, FM Logistic embarked on a new sustainable

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development programme based on three pillars: *taking care of its employees, improving the environmental footprint of its activities, and developing services for a sustainable supply chain.*

The company has taken several initiatives such as installing LEED and HQE, carpooling and shared transport as a preferred means of transport for internal transport requirements to reduce emissions, fine particles, and greenhouse gas emissions generated by FM Logistics.



My educational tour provided significant insights into recent innovations in sustainability technology, and the commitment to sustainable development among European companies.

