

Challenges in Sustainable Development Goal Four in India

1. Dr A Vinayagam

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics

Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advance Studies,Pallavaram,Chennai

2. Dr.R.Poongothai

Assistant Professor

Department of Business Administration

Peri Art and Science College Manivakkam

3. Dr.S.Bhuvaneswari

Assistant Professor

Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advance Studies,Pallavaram,Chennai

4. Dr.V.Murugan

Assistant Professor

Department of Economics

Pachaiyappas College for Men (Kanchipuram)

5. DR.JASPER JEMIMA G.D

Assistant Professor and Research Supervisor,

Department of Economics,

Vels Institute of Science, Technology and Advanced Studies, Chennai – 117

Abstract:

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), also known as "Quality Education," aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, recognizing the transformative power of education for sustainable and equitable development. Sustainable Development Goal 4 in India faces significant challenges, including socioeconomic disparities, inadequate teacher training, and limited access to quality education for marginalized communities. Addressing these issues requires enhanced public-private partnerships, technological integration, and community involvement.

Key: Socioeconomic Disparities, Inadequate Teacher Training, Gender Inequality

Introduction:

SDG4 is a commitment to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." This goal is a pivotal driver for positive change, emphasizing the transformative power of education in fostering a sustainable and equitable world. Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims at ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all the people in India. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. Education liberates the intellect, unlocks the imagination and is fundamental for self-respect. It is the key to prosperity and opens a world of opportunities, making it possible for each of us to contribute to a progressive, healthy society. Learning benefits every human being and should be available to all.

Target:

Everyone can help to make sure that we meet the Global Goals. Use these ten targets to create action to ensure quality education.

Objectives of the study

1. To analysis the free primary and secondary education in india
2. To study the equal access to quality Pre-Primary Education in india
3. To Eliminate discrimination in all education in india

TARGET 4.1

FREE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

TARGET 4.2

EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

TARGET 4.3

EQUAL ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

TARGET 4.4

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

TARGET 4.5

ELIMINATE ALL DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

TARGET 4.6

UNIVERSAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY

By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

TARGET 4.7

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

TARGET 4.8

BUILD AND UPGRADE INCLUSIVE AND SAFE SCHOOLS

Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

TARGET 4.9

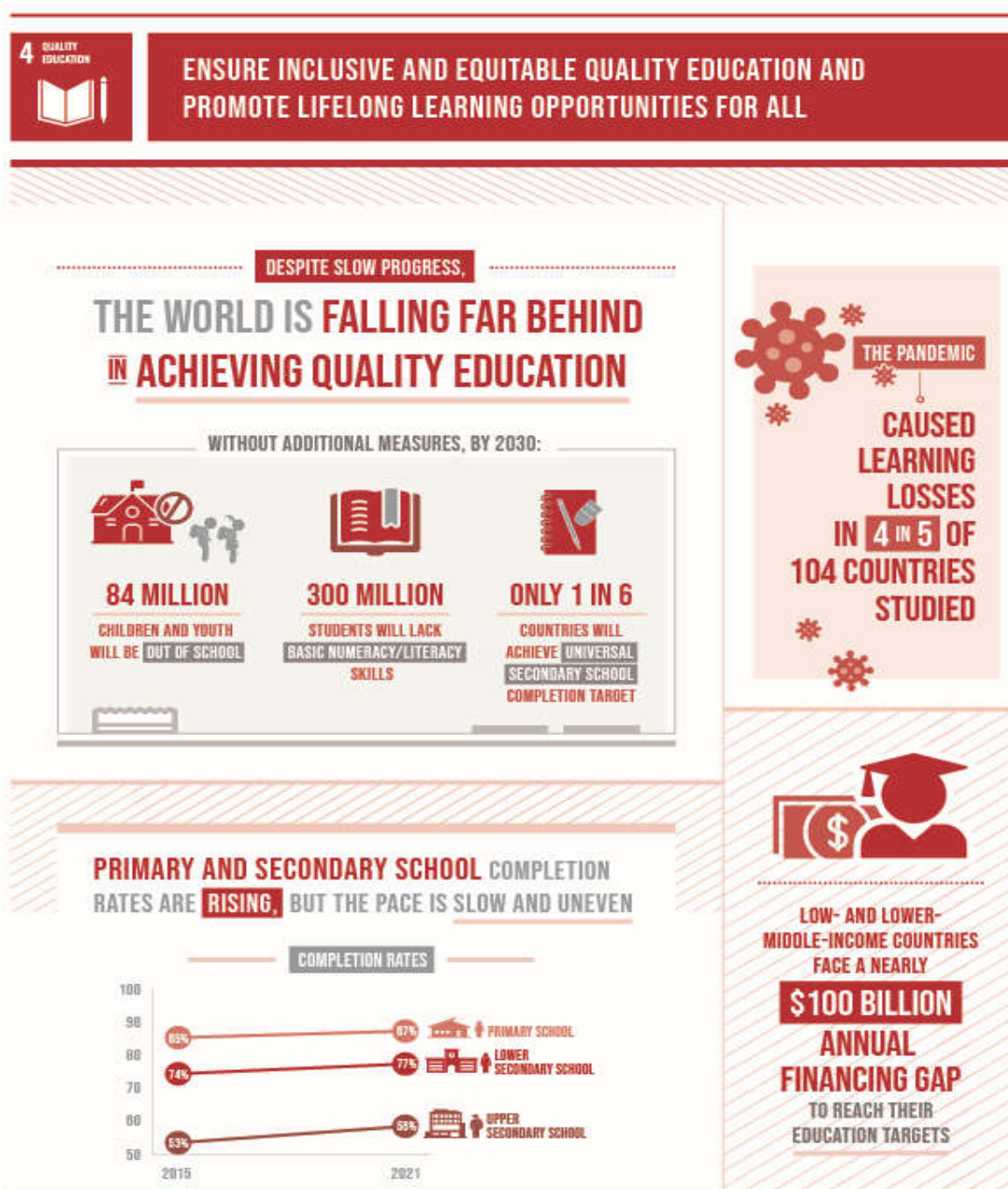
EXPAND HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

TARGET 4.A

INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and Small Island developing States.



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2023: SPECIAL EDITION- [UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2023/](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/)

Sources: Sustainable Development Goal Report 2023

Sustainable Development Goal 4 in relation to India

Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on education and ensures inclusive and equitable quality education for all. In the Indian context, Goal 4 aims to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Progress Made by India to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 4

To achieve this goal, India has been working on various initiatives and strategies to enhance access to education, improve the quality of education, reduce disparities in education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities.

This includes efforts to increase enrollment rates, improve the quality of teaching and learning, enhance infrastructure in schools, and address issues related to gender and social inclusion in education.

Features of Sustainable Development Goal 4

Sustainable Development Goal 4 focuses on the following parameters:

- **Target 4.1 and 4.2:** Free, equitable, accessible and quality primary and secondary education with childcare development.
- **Target 4.3:** Affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university.
- **Target 4.4:** Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills.
- **Target 4.5:** Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure access to all levels for the vulnerable population.
- **Target 4.6:** Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy.
- **Target 4.7:** Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

Initiatives Taken by the Government of India to Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4

The Government of India has taken several initiatives to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 4** (SDG 4), which focuses on ensuring inclusive, accessible, and equitable quality education. It is also aimed at promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Some of the key initiatives and programs aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 in India include:

1. **Target 4.1 and 4.2: Free, equitable, accessible, and quality primary and secondary education with childcare development.**

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA): SSA focuses on providing free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA): RMSA aims to enhance the enrollment rate in secondary schools and improve the quality of education by providing resources, infrastructure, and teacher training.

1. **Mid-Day Meal Scheme:** This scheme aims to improve school attendance and nutrition among students by providing free midday meals in government schools.
2. **Target 4.3 and Target 4.4: Affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university. Increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills.**
 1. **National Skill Development Mission (NSDM):** NSDM aims to provide skill development and vocational training opportunities to equip the youth with relevant skills for employment. It includes schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and Skill India Mission.
 2. **Community Colleges:** The concept of community colleges has been introduced to offer vocational and skill-based courses at an affordable cost. These colleges collaborate with local industries to provide practical training.
 3. **Polytechnic and ITIs:** Polytechnic colleges and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) offer technical and vocational courses at the post-secondary level. These

institutions focus on skill development and prepare students for a wide range of technical careers.

3. **Target 4.5: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure access to all levels for the vulnerable population (People with disabilities etc.)**

1. **Gender Sensitization:** Gender sensitization programs in schools and communities have been taken to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in education.
2. **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP):** While primarily focused on gender equality and female empowerment, BBBP also promotes girls' education as a means to empower women and ensure their participation in society.

4. **Target 4.6 and 4.7: Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults achieve literacy and numeracy. Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.**

1. **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** The NEP 2020 is a comprehensive reform in the education sector that aims to transform the Indian education system. It emphasizes holistic development, flexible curriculum, technology integration, and increased funding for education.
2. **Digital India Initiative:** The Digital India campaign seeks to enhance digital literacy and access to information and communication technology (ICT) in schools and rural areas. This initiative aims to improve the quality of education through technology.

Progress of India in Sustainable Development Goal 4

1. Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Secondary Education (2021-22): 58 percent.
2. Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for tertiary education: 27 percent.
3. Free and Compulsory elementary education up to class 8.

Challenges in Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4

1. **Lack of basic Infrastructure:** The absence of basic amenities such as classrooms, furniture, sanitation facilities, and clean drinking water remains a formidable impediment to education in numerous parts of the nation.
2. **Education Quality and Relevance:** The quality of education, as prescribed by the curriculum, sometimes fails to align with the demands of the job market.
3. **Rote learning pedagogy:** The traditional teaching methods and focus on rote learning often fall short in fostering critical thinking, creativity, and innovation among students.
4. **Gender Disparities:** Girls frequently confront discrimination and violence within and around educational establishments.
5. **Digital Divide:** The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated the digital divide in India, rendering millions of students unable to participate in remote learning due to limited access to digital educational resources.

Conclusion:

In India, Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, focusing on improving access to education, particularly for girls, and enhancing the quality of education to create a more equitable and prosperous future.

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