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Research Article

Localising Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats: An Overview

Pankaj Kamal Shankar Kumbhar*

Assistant Professor, Centre of Excellence in Sustainability, Environment and Climate Change, MIT-World Peace University, Pune, Maharashtra, India

***Corresponding Author**
pankajksk28@gmail.com,
pankajaapk12@gmail.com

UN has adopted SDGs in 2015, to address poverty, inequality, hunger and environmental sustainability with an agenda of No One Has to Leave Behind. Effective implementation of SDGs right from global to local level should be one of the major priorities' the governing system of respective countries to ensure the inclusiveness and address the fundamentals of the local community especially in rural areas. Since India is a land for Village communities and Villages are the basic unit of administration this is an urgent call to take seriously to enhance the integrated and inclusive community development in rural areas through localising SDGs in Gram panchayat level with convergence of various schemes and programmes. **Methods**: In this present paper focus would be to explore the ground realities, issues and challenges in Localising Sustainable Development Goals at gram panchayat level through an analytical approach. The paper also focuses on progress and process of village gram panchayat in terms of localising SDGs and its various metrics. Gram panchayats at village level are the developmental centres of villages to deliver basic services, infrastructure and developmental activities to its people under the provisions of constitutional 73rd Amendment. **Findings:** Somehow most of the gram panchayats are lagging behind in order to implement the 29 subjects under the 243G in alignment with SDGs at village levels. This paper examines the role of local self-governance and leadership in localising SDGs at local level and tries to understand the core issues and barriers in response to gram panchayats. **Conclusion**: In this analytical study existing reports would be used for analysing the response and status of localising SDGs in gram panchayat level in India. This paper concludes with suggestions for local actors and stakeholders to strengthen collective efforts towards localising SDGs to achieve its targets in a meaningful way.

Keywords
Local self-governance, response, localising SDGs, analysis and 73rd amendment

INTRODUCTION

United Nation, in the year 2015 accepted SDGs to address poverty, inequality, hunger and environmental sustainability with an agenda of Leave No One Behind. To ensure inclusivity and meet the requirements of the local population, particularly in rural regions, the governing systems of each country should priorities the effective implementation of the SDGs at all levels, from the global to the local (Carol, 2022).

Since India is a land for Village communities and Villages are the basic unit of administration this is an urgent call to take seriously to enhance the integrated and inclusive rural community development through localising SDGs in Gram panchayat level with convergence of various schemes and programmes. Gram panchayats at village level are the developmental centres of villages to deliver basic services, infrastructure and developmental activities to its people under the provisions of constitutional 73rd Amendment (Ansell, Sørensen and Torfing, n.d.). But somehow most of the gram panchayats are lagging behind in order to implement the 29 subjects under the 243G in alignment with SDGs at village levels (Schedules 11 and 12).

The village Panchayati is considered as a development centre of villages administered by the elected bodies and administrative body of Panchayati Raj to ensure the fundamental services and provide basic amenities to its people. Several centrally and state sponsored schemes are directly implemented through Local Self-Government to lead quality of life among the rural people(Baqir, Banerjee and Yaya, 2019). The improvement of rural residents' quality of life is largely dependent on rural development plans and initiatives. Enhancing public participation in decision-making and fostering local decentralisation are the dual goals of local self-government, which aims to improve socioeconomic development in rural areas. It is anticipated that panchayati will effectively participate in the planning and execution of activities pertaining to the 29 subjects mentioned in the Constitution's Eleventh Schedule (Bank, 2022). Most of the Rural Development schemes aligned within these subjects. But somehow the execution and outcomes of the schemes and Localising SDGs are still not measurable at Gram Panchayati Level.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was envisioned as a global blueprint for fostering dignity, peace, and prosperity for both people and the planet, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (*Toolbox Voluntary Local Reviews, VLR*, n.d.) with their 169 targets aim to bring about transformative change. Rooted in the three pillars of economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, these goals aspire to ensure access to decent work, quality healthcare, and education while promoting sustainable natural resource management to prevent environmental degradation (United Nations, 2023).

According to World Economic Forum, India's population is set to rise to 1.515 billion in 2030, from 1.417 billion in 2022 with the global population forecast to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, more than one in every three people on Earth will live in India or China (Myers, 2022).

This demographic reality intertwines (*Aligning South Africa's National Development Plan with the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals: Guidelines from the Policy Coherence for Development Movement - Fourie - 2018 - Sustainable Development - Wiley Online Library*, n.d.) India's challenges and aspirations with the SDGs, especially considering that more than 900 million people reside in rural areas and 500 million in urban regions (Statista, 2023). India's robust economic growth, marked by the upliftment of millions from poverty between 2005 and 2016, converges with the national development vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' or 'Collective efforts, Inclusive growth', aligning with the SDGs (Aayog and Nations, 2019).

Experts stress the importance of local action in *Institutionalising SDG Localization in Multi-Level Governance Settings* (n.d.) achieving these global objectives. Stefan Bonaccini, President, European Council of Municipalities and Regions, argued 'the achievement of all the SDGs require local action and implementation' (PLATFORMA and Council of European Municipalities and Regions, 2018). Further, Bardot et al. (2020), Marche (2017), Elamon et al. (KILA Thrissur) suggested 'many of the SDGs touch on many of the daily activities of local and regional governments: education, health, water and sanitation, waste management, public transport, housing, gender inequality, participatory urban planning, disaster risk prevention, environmental impacts, pollution and climate change, migration and adaptation, decentralized cooperation etc., regardless of whether they explicitly use the SDG framework or vocabulary or not' (Jones and Comfort, 2019; Gupta, 2023).

Additionally, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (2018) highlights the significance of community ownership and the pivotal role of local governments in integrating diverse agendas to drive SDG implementation and territorial cohesion. This paper dives into the necessity for policy interventions in collaboration with local governance to effectively localise and achieve the global aspirations of the SDGs.

METHODS

The data and statistics of this present paper is derived from a comprehensive array of secondary sources encompassing official data, reports from national and international conferences, planning and monitoring agencies, along with case studies. Sources include secondary literature, credible online resources, newspaper articles, books, and authoritative opinions from individuals well-versed in SDGs and local governance. This study consolidates diverse information from legitimate reports and perspectives from individuals holding authoritative positions in matters pertaining to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and local government, thus ensuring a robust and well-rounded exploration of the subject matter. The aim of present paper is to discover the advancement and system of village Panchayati in terms of localising Sustainable Development Goals and to analyse the role and functions of gram panchayat in Localising SDGs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

73rd Constitutional Amendment and 11th Schedule

The 73rd change, a 1992 constitutional change, established the elector system for

Table 1: Approach of Decentralisation towards Localising SDGs

Approach	Description
Bottom up plan from the people	People should be a centre point of any development initiatives at grassroots level. Local Self Government should involve maximum people participation from all aspects of the society to localise the SDGs and achieve it in meaningful way (*Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs: Implementation and Monitoring at Sub-National Level | ICCROM | Our Collections Matter*, n.d.).
More responsive to needs and aspiration of the people	Local Self Government at grassroots level should be a responsive to address the local issues and problems at grassroots level in systematic way. This includes the transparent decisions with active participation of the local peoples. Local government have to execute the policies and programmes align with SDGs in efficient manner to address the issues and concerns of local area. The major accountability of the local government is to provide equal access of services and benefits to all its citizens (Jones and Comfort, 2020).
Efficient and reliable administration	The prime duty of gram panchayat is to utilise the available resources in meaningfully to fulfil the needs and aspiration of the village community. The proper planning people should be done through local self-governance in consultation with village council.
Improves local development and Ensure the rights of local population	The prime responsibility of the local self-governance is to ensure the welfare and well-being of the local people and should prepare the effective planning of village development involving local people in decision making process (Kumar and Sharma, 2023).

choosing the members of local governments below the state, which became effective on 24 April 1993. As a first tier of Panchayati Raj Institutions, the village-level local Panchayati was established to meet the developmental requirements of the community by implementing a systematic administrative framework (*(PDF) Grass Root Democracy and Empowerment of People*, n.d.). The Indian Panchayati Raj system, which guarantees an efficient system of local self-government in the nation's rural areas, has this historical memorial (planningcommission.gov.in/plans/stateplan/sdr_hp/sdr_hpch14.pdf). It focusses on empowering grassroots democracy and establishing decentralisation at the local level.

Significance of Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs are significantly important at the grassroots level because they drive local action, Ensure Inclusivity, and foster community ownership of development initiatives.

1. Localised Impact and Ownership
2. Enhanced Participation and Empowerment
3. Fostering Innovation and Sustainability
4. Bridging the Gap between Global Goals and Local Action
5. Complementing Government Efforts

Table 2: Significance of 73rd Constitutional Amendment

Features of 73rd amendment	Description
Gram Sabha	As per the constitutional article 243(b), Gram Sabha is the local council of local people who are registered in the electoral rolls within the Panchayati areas. Gram Sabha is a permanent body in local self-government which monitors functions of local self-government and get things done through collective decisions through Gram Sabha. • Raising the voice and Social Audit of development programmes. • Identification of Individual Beneficiaries • Development Plan for the Panchayat and Approval for Payment of Bills. • Implementation and Monitoring of Development Programme.
Structure of PRI	Three tier system called as Gram Panchayati, Block Panchayati and District Panchayati executed in each and every states as per the 73rd Amendment Act 1992.
Reservation	Equal representation of each member of the society is a fundamental of Panchayati Raj Institution in which reservation for Dalit's and Adivasis at every level of Panchayati is given. 50% women representation in Panchayati Raj is one of the major achievement towards the political empowerment of women's.
Duration of PRI	The term of five years has been given for the Panchayati and accordingly elections haven been taken place before the term end of Panchayati.
Financial Provision for PRI	State finance commission was set up as per the provision under 73rd Amendment to ensure smooth funding flow to local gram Panchayati for the development.

Table 3: 11th Schedule of Panchayati under 243 G

S.No.	Subjects
1	Agriculture, including agricultural extension.
2	Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land Consolidation and soil conservation.
3	Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development.
4	Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry.
5	Fisheries.
6	Social forestry and farm forestry.
7	Minor forest produce.
8	Small scale industries, including food processing industries.
9	Khadi, village and cottage industries.
10	Rural housing.
11	Drinking water.
12	Fuel and fodder.
13	Roads, culverts, bridges, ferries, waterways and other means of Communication.

Table 3 contd...

S.No.	Subjects
14	Rural electrification, including distribution of electricity.
15	Non-conventional energy sources.
16	Poverty alleviation programme.
17	Education, including primary and secondary schools.
18	Technical training and vocational education.
19	Adult and non-formal education.
20	Libraries.
21	Cultural activities.
22	Markets and fairs.
23	Health and sanitation, including hospitals, primary health centres and dispensaries.
24	Family welfare.
25	Women and child development.
26	Social welfare, including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded.
27	Welfare of the weaker sections, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
28	Public distribution system.
29	Maintenance of community assets (https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s316026d60ff9b54410b3435b403afd226/uploads/2025/02/20250219868964551.pdf)

Table 4: Rural Development Schemes at Gram Panchayat Level

Scheme	Feature
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY)	Up skilling rural Youth Skill
Swacha Bharat Mission (SBM)	Cleanliness and Sanitation in rural areas.
Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)	Ideal Village
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)	Right to Work
National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Women Power
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	Rural Connect
Atal Pension Yojana (APY)	Unorganised Security
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)	Housing for all
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)	Light to Life
UJJWALA	Cook for Health
MUDRA	Credit Facility
Sukanaya Samrudhi Yojana (SSY)	Saving for Girls

Table 4 contd...

Scheme	Feature
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	Financial Inclusion
Pradhan Mantri Swastha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)	Life Insurance
Mid-Day Meal (MID D M)	School Nutrition
Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sinchaya Yojana (PMGSY)	Per Drop More Crop
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Crop Insurance
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	Post Small Saving
Soil Health Card (SHC)	Soil Health Condition
Swarna Gram Swayam Rojgar Yojana (SGSY)	Self-Employment
National Social Assistance Program (NSAP)	Social Security
Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana (DDAY)	Subsidise Grain
Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)	Digital Payment
Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)	Child Protection

Table 5: Thematic Areas, Targets and Broad Indicators for the PRIs

Theme No.	Theme
1	Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods Panchayati
2	Healthy Village
3	Child Friendly Panchayati
4	Water Sufficient village
5	Clean and Green
6	Self Sufficient Infrastructure Gram Panchayati
7	Socially Secured Village
8	Village of Good Governance
9	Engendered development in Village

Table 6: Sustainable Development Goals

Goal	Theme	Target
1	No Poverty	Elimination of extreme poverty in all forms.
2	Zero Hunger	Ensure the free from the hunger and access the food security in and around the society to cater the needs of poor people.
3	Good Health and Well-being	Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.
4	Quality Education	Ensuring high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education while encouraging opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone.
5	Gender Equality	Empowering all women and girls and achieving gender equality.
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Ensuring universal access to water and sanitation, as well as their sustainable management.

Table 6 contd...

Goal	Theme	Target
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Ensuring that everyone has access to modern, affordable, dependable, and sustainable energy.
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Encouraging full and productive employment, decent work for all, and consistent, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth
9	Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	Building robust infrastructure, encouraging sustainable and inclusive industrialisation, and stimulating innovation.
10	Reduced Inequalities	Reducing inequality within and among countries.
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities.	Creating inclusive, secure, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements
12	Responsible Consumption and Production.	Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns
13	Climate Action	Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14	Life Below Water	Conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15	Life on Land	Preventing and reversing land degradation, stopping biodiversity loss, managing forests sustainably, preventing desertification, and preserving, restoring, and encouraging the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (*These Will Be the World's Most Populous Countries by 2030 | World Economic Forum*, n.d.).
16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Fostering inclusive, peaceful societies for long-term growth, ensuring that everyone has access to justice, and creating inclusive, accountable, and successful institutions at all levels.
17	Partnerships for the Goals	Strengthening implementation strategies and reviving the international collaboration for sustainable development (https://www.coursehero.com/file/232137234/EDUC-3-OUTPUTdocx/)

Table 7: SDGs Performance in India

Year	Goal	Score	Performance
2023–2024	SDG 1 –No Poverty	72	Front Runner
	SDG 2 – Zero Hunger	52	Performer
	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well Being	77	Front Runner
	SDG 4 – Quality Education	51	Performer
	SDG 5 – Gender Equality	49	Aspirant
	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	89	Front Runner
	SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	96	Front Runner
	SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth	68	Front Runner

Table 7 contd...

Year	Goal	Score	Performance
2020–2021	SDG 1 –No Poverty	60	Performer
	SDG 2 – Zero Hunger	47	Aspirant
	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well Being	74	Front Runner
	SDG 4 – Quality Education	57	Performer
	SDG 5 – Gender Equality	48	Aspirant
	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	83	Front Runner
	SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	92	Front Runner
	SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth	61	Performer
2019–2020	SDG 1 –No Poverty	50	Performer
	SDG 2 – Zero Hunger	35	Aspirant
	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well Being	61	Performer
	SDG 4 – Quality Education	58	Performer
	SDG 5 – Gender Equality	42	Aspirant
	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	88	Front Runner
	SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	70	Front Runner
	SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth	64	Performer
2018	SDG 1 –No Poverty	54	Performer
	SDG 2 – Zero Hunger	48	Aspirant
	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well Being	52	Performer
	SDG 4 – Quality Education	58	Performer
	SDG 5 – Gender Equality	36	Aspirant
	SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	63	Performer
	SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy	51	Performer
	SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth (http://dspace.kila.ac.in:8080/bitstream/123456789/654/1/Fact%20Sheet%20of%20SDG%20Final.pdf)	65	Front Runner

Source: SDGs Report UNDP (http://dspace.kila.ac.in:8080/bitstream/123456789/654/1/Fact%20Sheet%20of%20SDG%20Final.pdf)

Table 8: Overall Progress of SDGs in India

Year	SDGs Score
2023–2024	71
2020–2021	66
2019–2020	60
2018	57

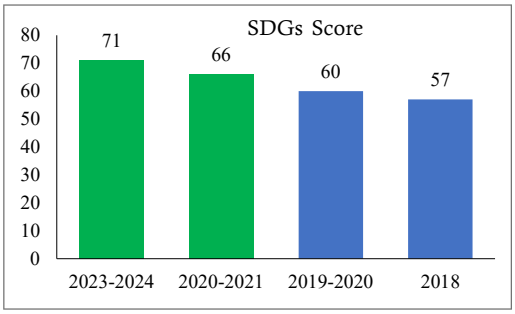


Table 9: LSDG Themes and Ground Realities

LSDG Theme	Number of Villages Covered	Percentage of total villages
Theme 1: Poverty free and enhanced Livelihoods villages	82,940	14.82
Theme 2: Healthy Village	100,506	17.97
Theme 3: Child Friendly Panchayati	66,973	11.97
Theme 4: Water Sufficient village	116,128	20. 76
Theme 5: Clean and Green Village	122,371	21.87
Theme 6: Self Sufficient Infrastructure Gram Panchayati	116,128	6.0
Theme 7: Socially Secured Village	12,237	2.18
Theme 8: Village of Good Governance	20,096	3.59
Theme 9: Engendered development in Village	4,481	0.80

Analysis of Localising SDGs at Local Community Level

The commitment of the Government of India towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) integrates these goals with ongoing developmental and social inclusion schemes and programs. A detailed action plan necessitates mapping central and state government schemes crucial for SDG attainment. Local governments, alongside line departments, play pivotal roles in scheme implementation, urging a comprehensive understanding of duty bearers' roles and the involvement of Panchayats/Municipalities in these schemes. Panchayati Raj Institutions are 'genuine institutions of local self-government' who derive its autonomous power from the 73rd Amendment, specifically Art. 243G read alongside Art. 243ZD (Menon, 2007).

They epitomise the collective will and wisdom of rural communities.

PRIs' roles in SDG attainment encompass five transformative drivers: Sensitisation, Accountability Mechanism, Participatory Planning and Service Delivery, Local Economic Development, and Partnerships. While PRIs have a substantial role in realising SDG aspirations, several challenges hinder the localisation of global goals. Capacity gaps among local leadership, including technical, human resource, and financial management skills, pose a significant hurdle. A renewed vision of capacity building is crucial to transform governance in line with sustainable development needs, especially in developing countries.

Capacity gaps pose a significant obstacle, highlighting deficiencies in technical, human resource, and financial management among local leadership. A comprehensive vision of capacity building is crucial to transform governance and meet sustainable development needs, especially in developing countries (Zarrouk, 2014). Strengthening national and local government capacity for sustainable development management) (Zarrouk, 2014).

Additionally, inadequate finance further hampers PRIs' efficacy, reliant mostly on external funds with limited discretion over spending. A dedicated, secure funding

mechanism is imperative to empower PRIs in localising SDGs.

Accountability gaps within PRIs manifest as they predominantly function as implementing agencies, lacking direct accountability to the people. Strengthening their accountability through civil society and community-based organisations is vital. Furthermore, corruption levels remain high, necessitating stringent measures and the introduction of social audits to curb malpractices. Access to local-level data stands as another critical challenge, hindering effective planning and monitoring of developmental initiatives. Ensuring access to data and sensitising communities about SDGs' local impact are imperative steps towards progress measurement.

The success of SDGs 2030 necessitates integrating PRIs into the broader framework of goal attainment, similar to urban local governments. Overcoming these challenges requires a holistic approach, focusing on capacity building, access to data and funds, and transparency mechanisms for PRIs. Coordinated efforts among stakeholders are vital, recognising PRIs as indispensable contributors to SDG realisation. Addressing challenges through capacity building, data empowerment, and governance transparency is imperative for realising the potential of PRIs in achieving SDGs (Jha, 2020). Global goals and local institutions: Understanding pries in the context of sustainable development goals (Jha, 2020).

Local Self-Government and SDGs

SDG 1: Poverty Free

Social security programs, effective MGNREGS implementation, and income production through skill development, increased agricultural productivity, and basic service provision are all components of PRI's multipronged strategy. The GPDP aims to reduce vulnerability and establish social care and security networks for marginalised communities.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

It focusses on nutrition and food security and is related to environmental balance. Gram Panchayats oversee agricultural and animal husbandry aspects, addressing hunger and malnutrition. Eco-friendly farming practices, diverse crops, modern techniques, and animal husbandry integration enhance sustainable agriculture. Land banks activate unused land, while post-harvest infrastructure and local consumption curb market fluctuations. Educational programs, Public Distribution Systems, and targeted nutrition schemes empower Gram Panchayats in effectively tackling hunger and malnutrition (*Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Sustainable Development Management*, n.d.).

SDG 3: Health and Well-being

Following WHO's definition, 'Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity', SDG 3 recognises health's multidimensional impact on individuals and resources. Under the 73rd Amendment Act, Panchayat Raj Institutions purview encompasses Family welfare, Health, and sanitation, including healthcare facilities. Achieving a healthy life involves individual and social behaviour, emphasising amenities

like sanitation, water, and power. Access to immunisation, nutrition, and maternal healthcare is crucial for societal well-being. Addressing early marriages, pregnancies, and lifestyle diseases requires collective efforts, highlighting the interconnectedness of individual health and overall village development.

SDG 4: Inclusive Education

Local self-governments operationalise SDG4 through crucial initiatives, ensuring access by eliminating financial barriers and fostering inclusive education for special needs and gender inclusivity. PRI focuses on ensuring education access and quality through scholarships, infrastructure development, and participatory planning. Establishing educational facilities, engaging stakeholders, and fortifying foundations through literacy programs and oversight committees drive continuous quality improvement. Implementing strategies like collaboration, awareness, and support systems enhances enrolment and educational quality, facilitating effective alignment with SDG4.

SDG 5: Gender Equity

Local governance holds a pivotal role in addressing gender disparities and empowering women within communities. At the grassroots level, social institutions significantly impact women's empowerment by combatting various forms of violence, child marriage, trafficking, and undervaluation of women's domestic work. Leveraging constitutional empowerment via the 73rd Amendment, Gram Panchayats can mitigate these issues, promoting initiatives against gender discrimination, preventing child marriages, and engaging women in economic activities and local governance. Ensuring access to facilities, eradicating discriminatory practices, and fostering education and skill development are critical in reinforcing gender equality and women's empowerment within local governance frameworks ADDIN ZOTERO_ITEM CSL_CITATION {"citation ID":"d7iuLgea", "properties": {"formatted Citation":" ({\\i{}Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Sustainable Development Management\\uc0\\u8239{}:}, n.d.)"," plainCitation":" (Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Sustainable Development Management/:, n.d.)"," noteIndex":0} ,"citationItems": [{"id":1479,"uris": ["http://zotero.org/users/local/NM49inmZ/items/MNR479TV"],"itemData": {"id:1479, "type":" webpage","title":"Strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management :","URL":"https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/765989?v=pdf","accessed":{"date-parts": [["2025",8,30]]}}}], "schema":" https://github.com/citation-style-language/schema/raw/master/csl-citation.json"} (*Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Sustainable Development Management/ :*, n.d.).

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Local governance significantly influences community hygiene and water management, vital for public health. Water source contamination requires vigilant measures. Gram Panchayats, under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, aim to eradicate open defecation, ensure sanitation, and provide safe drinking

water. Their role spans identifying households lacking toilets, waste management, optimising water use, and integrating water issues into their development plan. Active promotion of hygiene education, local environmental safeguards, surveillance of water bodies, and robust management frameworks are crucial. Ensuring year-round high-quality water, sanitation, and community education are focal points. Gram Panchayats drive these goals via zero-waste strategies, female-friendly sanitation designs, and local-level water management frameworks. PRI initiatives target sanitation, hygiene education, and rationalised water usage to ensure a clean environment.

SDG 7: Sustainable Energy

Given our dependence on a variety of energy sources for day-to-day operations, local governance in particular, Gram Panchayats plays a critical role in the adoption and use of sustainable energy. Empowered by the 73rd Amendment, Gram Panchayats address multifaceted energy needs, spanning household to industrial requirements. Tailoring goals to their responsibilities, they select energy sources like electricity, solar, biogas, or LPG, informed by local needs. Comprehensive energy programs are pivotal, integrating households into energy initiatives, emphasising electrification, LED usage, and biogas technologies. Collaboration with various agencies at state, national, and international levels supports these efforts, ensuring effective energy management within the Panchayat's purview through implementation oversight and post-execution troubleshooting.

SDG 8: Social Inclusion and Economic Development

Local self-governments play a key role in fostering sustainable economic growth, vital for SDG 8's objective of enduring prosperity. They scrutinise natural resources, augment productivity, and promote an entrepreneurial ecosystem to create jobs. Endorsing Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) underscores nuanced agricultural development. Critical infrastructural provisions and multifaceted strategies, including agricultural mechanisation, exemplify their efforts. These grassroots initiatives align with SDG 8, emphasising the significance of localised endeavours in achieving sustainable economic development. PRI fosters sustainable infrastructure, self-help groups, and agricultural development to spur economic growth.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Local self-governance assumes a critical role in addressing climate change, an outcome of human-induced activities like deforestation and excessive energy consumption. This responsibility, per the 73rd Amendment, rests with Panchayats. Sensitising communities through Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) strategies is pivotal, disseminating weather forecasts and educating on climate hazards. Their multifaceted strategies span alternative agriculture plans, conservation for wetlands/forests, and aiding vulnerable populations during climate-related events. Establishing local climate monitoring systems fortifies readiness in managing extreme events. These proactive measures

align local governance with global sustainability goals, contributing significantly to climate action.

SDG 15: Ecosystem Preservation

Local self-governments, especially in Panchayat areas heavily reliant on local ecosystems for agriculture, play a pivotal role in preserving life on land. The delicate balance among soil, plants, and water is crucial, disruptions leading to catastrophic consequences. Activities aligning with concerns of forest conservation and soil improvement under the 73rd Amendment address these intricate issues. Engaging in participatory land mapping, forming empowered committees, and fostering community involvement in conservation are key roles. Proactive engagement with appropriate agencies ensures comprehensive support, enabling sustainable land management aligned with SDG 15.

Within the spectrum of SDGs 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 17, Gram Panchayats enact localised actions aligning with sustainable development. Addressing SDG 9, they prioritise sustainable infrastructure, small-scale industries, and disseminate employment information, echoing aspirations for sustainable growth.

While primarily a national focus, Gram Panchayats embed SDG 10's principle of reducing inequalities into village planning and community ethos, fostering integration within local processes.

Gram Panchayati prevent urban migration through enhanced habitats, despite SDG 11's urban focus. They also support SDG 12 by promoting sustainable practices and increasing awareness of waste reduction.

Additionally, in engagement with SDGs 16 and 17, Gram Panchayati foster peaceful communities, prevent violence, promote justice, ensure governance transparency, and forge collaborative partnerships. These localised endeavours underscore Gram Panchayati' pivotal role in fostering cooperative alliances to achieve sustainable development targets. (Handbook on Sustainable Development Goals and Gram Panchayati)

Role of Local Self-Government in Localising SDGs

Understanding Local Context: Local governments are well-versed in the particular difficulties, possibilities, and assets of their localities (*A Commentary on the Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals - Jones - 2020 - Journal of Public Affairs - Wiley Online Library*, n.d.).

Planning and Prioritisation: Local self-governments can develop local-level SDG plans and prioritise targets that align with their specific needs and circumstances. They can also integrate SDG considerations into existing local development plans.

Resource Mobilisation and Allocation: Local governments can mobilise resources, both financial and human, to support SDG implementation. They can also allocate resources strategically to address the most pressing local challenges.

Community Engagement and Participation: Local self-governments can actively involve community members in planning, decision-

making, and implementation processes. This fosters ownership, builds social capital, and enhances the sustainability of development initiatives.

Roles of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat

1. Determine the work priority by conversion of LSDG themes with SDGs and 29 subjects of panchayat.
2. Monitor and evaluate the execution of SDGs within the Gram Panchayati.
3. Aware the people about SDGs, Localisation Themes of SDGs and 29 subjects.
4. Organise the Gram Sabha meetings, especially for Localising SDGs themes in effective and transfer manner.

Way Forward to Localising SDGs through LSG

- Local self-government's responsibility to ensure the 29 subjects and GPDP are being executed properly by convergence of all central schemes to achieve 9 themes of LSDG.
- Maintain Transparency and Accountability: Right Information about Schemes, Programmes, and frequent social audit of the all schemes needs to be done through village Gram Sabha.
- To ensure the accomplishment of 29 issues through the specified SDG themes, the Gramme Sabha and local Panchayati must implement the localising SDGs management committee.
- Mass promotion through print and electronic media to sensitise and educate rural masses. SDGs campaign and competitions need to be organised at local level to make SDGs popular among the rural people.
- Local youth clubs, Self-help groups need to be sensitise and strengthen to get involved under localisation of SDGs.
- Empowerment of Village Self-Council: Gram Sabha is watch dog at village level to get things done properly. Gram Sabha needs to empower and monitor the activities of localisation of SDGs on regular basis.

To effectively localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level, states must strategically choose between establishing or strengthening either the SDG monitoring or implementation mechanisms, or both, based on resource availability and priorities. It is imperative that interventions be both long-term (institutional) and citizen-centric to ensure sustained impact and engagement. Based on the research by Gupta (2023), there are five strategies which can be developed to enhance the localisation process of the SDGs at the grassroot level.

One suggested mechanism is the Sector-Gap-Action-Plan framework, emphasising targeted interventions. Departments requiring intervention are identified based on low-scoring SDGs, and resources are allocated for capacity building and program implementation. This involves quantifying identified gaps, setting monthly sub-targets, and creating a resource flow pipeline, all subject to regular monitoring and culminating in social audits to ensure transparency and accountability.

Another framework, the Process-Reengineering framework, emphasises process

optimisation. After identifying low-scoring SDGs and relevant state ministries, processes and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are assessed. Inefficiencies are rectified through stakeholder consultations, and re-engineered targets are established, holding officials accountable.

Recognising the disconnect between higher-level policies and the needs of local bodies, an Inverted Policy-Implementation framework is proposed. Local bodies identify necessary legal and policy changes, reviewing the roles of state ministries to align with SDG implementation. This collaborative approach ensures that local needs are reflected in state laws, fostering effective SDG implementation.

The fourth suggested framework involves implementing SDGs in mission mode, focusing on the least performing districts in the state. Mission mode interventions, executed within a three-month timeline and monitored at the highest level with weekly frequency, allocate maximum resources to achieve SDGs. After successful completion, the cycle repeats for the next district. While this mission mode approach is selective in its SDG targets, it promises to achieve significant progress within a span of two years.

Finally, an approach involving leveraging private sector efficiency to drive SDG transitions. Local bodies receive proposals from private entities, scrutinised by state planning departments, allocating resources upon approval. Facilitating implementation through local bodies culminates in a social audit, ensuring accountability and transparency.

However, the success of these frameworks hinges upon their institutionalisation, sustained commitment, and flexibility to adapt to local nuances. Institutional integration of these strategies into policy frameworks, accompanied by a citizen-centric approach, is paramount. Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and stakeholder engagement are pivotal to navigate the complex terrain of SDG localisation (*Research Assistant - Bohrium | AI for Science with Global Scientists*, n.d.). To achieve the transformative agenda of the SDGs, these mechanisms must be embedded within the fabric of governance structures, ensuring long-term sustainability and citizen empowerment. Ultimately, their success lies in fostering a collaborative ecosystem that integrates diverse stakeholders, mobilises resources effectively, and remains responsive to the evolving needs of the local context (Gupta, 2023).

CONCLUSION

Examining the localisation of the SDGs through the perspective of local governments reveals the critical role that decentralised governance plays in achieving global sustainability goals. Focusing on the Indian context, this study explains the complex relationship between the 17 SDGs and the grassroots level, highlighting the importance of policy interventions in sync with local governance structures.

The core of this study highlights the imperative of integrating the SDGs into local governance frameworks. It highlights how local governments, particularly Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), serve as fulcrums for effectively translating global aspirations into actionable strategies at the grassroots level. This study carefully identifies the capabilities

of the PRI and its alignment with specific his SDG goals, demonstrating the potential of decentralised organisations to drive change.

The proposed strategic approach highlights the adaptability required to tackle various obstacles that hinder the achievement of the SDGs, including focused initiatives and leveraging private sector resources. However, the success of these interventions depends on organisational integration, sustained efforts, and continued stakeholder engagement. Ensuring that these strategies are embedded in governance structures is critical to sustainable progress and empowering citizens.

Reflecting on this research, it becomes clear that localising the SDGs requires a multifaceted approach that combines global aspirations with local context. India's demographic importance and economic ambitions underline the urgency of effective localisation and underline her PRI's central role in this transformation journey. In the future, it will be essential to foster a collaborative ecosystem where local governance, community engagement, and global goals converge. Sustained commitment, flexibility, and stakeholder engagement remain critical to addressing the complexities of SDG localisation.

Ultimately, incorporating these strategies into governance structures will be central to sustainable progress and ensure communities are empowered and actively contribute to the transformational agenda of the SDGs at the global level.

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