

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES



INTRODUCTION

- Income inequality is on the rise—the richest 10 percent have up to 40 percent of global income whereas the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 to 7 percent. If we take into account population growth inequality in developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent.
- These widening disparities require sound policies to empower lower income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity.
- Income inequality requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide.

TARGET

- Goal 10 presents to the international community the following task: ensure that the income growth of the bottom 40% of their population is higher than the national average by the year 2030. To reduce inequality, policies should be universal in principle, paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised populations.
- Inclusion has to be promoted actively, in social as well as political spheres, for all ages, sexes, races, religions and ethnicities to create conditions of equity within countries. To create a fairer international system globally, global financial markets will require improved regulation, and developing countries will have to have a greater voice in international decision making.

INDIAN APPROACH

- Inequality takes on many forms in a large and diverse country like India. There are inequalities in income and consumption; structural inequalities based on gender, religion, caste and social groups as well as regional inequalities, all of which manifest in inequalities of opportunities and access.
- However, India remains committed to championing social, economic, and political equality through legislation and well-designed multi-sectoral interventions. Some of the key initiatives and their impact are detailed below.

TARGET IN INDIA

- ◉ By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average.
- ◉ By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
- ◉ Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.
- ◉ Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.
- ◉ Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such

ACTION TAKEN

- To create an enabling mechanism for achieving a higher income and sustaining it in the long run, India has adopted a multi-pronged strategy that aims to address not only poverty but also various forms of deprivations.
- Through the various interventions in social protection and safety nets such as MGNREGS, access to basic services through the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile), and pensions for those in need through the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) the government has put in place robust mechanisms to reduce poverty and inequality.
- In terms of reducing regional inequality, the Aspirational Districts Programme plays a considerable role.

- To ensure equality of access to education, one of the critical determinants of human development, the Right to Education (RTE) Act was enacted which made education a fundamental right for every child aged 6 to 14 years.
- The National Achievement Survey (NAS), which monitors the learning outcomes of school children, is one such intervention
- Through the umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, concrete efforts have been dedicated to bridging the gap between industry demands of skill and the labours' skill-set thereby aiding even the unskilled persons to develop necessary skills to improve their employability.

- By making banking services accessible to the historically unbanked population on a large scale, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has been the most potent instrument for financial inclusion for the vulnerable groups.
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) supports entrepreneurs by providing credit to micro and small enterprises. These schemes target breaking the barriers to easy finance and financing services, thereby empowering everyone, especially the vulnerable.

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), and Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) for persons with disabilities are some of the initiatives in this category. The initiatives focus on the Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe communities include educational scholarships, coaching and guidance, livelihood opportunities, and Stand Up India to promote entrepreneurship.

Allocated
funds utilized

77.67%
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES



82.98%
OF TRIBAL SUB-PLAN

28.33%

REPRESENTATION OF
SC/ST PERSONS IN STATE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES



46.14%

SEATS IN PANCHAYATI RAJ
INSTITUTIONS HELD BY WOMEN



Household expenditure
(per capita) grew by

13.61%

among the bottom 40% of
rural population in 2011-12
with respect to 2009-10



13.35%

among the bottom 40% of
urban population in 2011-12
with respect to 2009-10



TRANSGENDER LABOUR FORCE
PARTICIPATION RATE IS

64%

OF THAT OF THE MALE LABOUR
FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Gini coefficient of
Household expenditure



0.283

RURAL HOUSEHOLD
EXPENDITURE



0.363

URBAN HOUSEHOLD
EXPENDITURE

CHALLENGES

- One of the pressing challenges faced by policymakers in identifying solutions to reduce vulnerability is the absence of disaggregated data.
- The challenges of implementation persist. Public service delivery, especially to the vulnerable, gets impeded due to a range of issues including human resource capacity

- Migration is a factor which intensifies the problem of inequality, caused by rapid growth and urbanisation. Efforts to make the cities and towns more inclusive must remain a priority, with a particular focus on basic infrastructure provision.
- The elderly account for 8.6 per cent of the population of the country. With increasing life expectancy, this share is projected to increase in the coming years. This calls attention to improving geriatric care services, especially in rural areas, where their presence is negligible currently.

CONCLUSION

- To fully commit to the core SDG principle of 'Leaving No One Behind', it is imperative to identify all groups which deserve special attention, owing to the existence of historical impediments to progress.
- Efforts at the grass-root level with the participation of local bodies and civil society organisations will be instrumental in this endeavour.