VNR People's Scorecard 2021: Narrative Report

This is a narrative report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030, the processes of Voluntary National Review 2020 leading to High Level Political Forum 2020. For 2021's review process People's Scorecard process was initiated to get a metric of goal achievement and pace of work for each SDG for the target communities. The whole process has been detailed in the upcoming sections.

Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals 2030 were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and envisioned to be achieved by 2030. SDGs comprise of a set of 17 interlinked goals aiming to achieve a better and a more sustainable future. The United Nations Resolution 70/1 : Transforming our world- the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains these 17 goals. The UN put 5 P's, i.e., People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership at the core of this resolution. These core principles also are the underlying theme for the Sustainable Development Goals. While sustainability is the key theme, considerable attention has also been paid to the human development while recognising human dignity and her right to life.

These goals and targets were produced after a series of consultations with civil society, representatives of the poorest sections of the world and other stakeholders by the United Nations. The UN Agenda 2030 and further adoption of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 are also important because they have been able to synthesise several distinct international agreements and resolutions into a single collective document aimed for an all-round human development. The previous resolutions which guided these goals include, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Declaration on the Right to Development, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, etc. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was the precursor to the Sustainable Development Goals. MDGs (adopted in 2000) were a set of 8 goals to be achieved by the year 2015. Even though considerable progress was made on MDGs, the goals fell short of their targets. The concerted effort made by the stakeholders in achieving the MDGs paved the way for the passage of SDGs.

17 Goals

As discussed, Sustainable Development Goals-2030 is a set of 17 interlinked Goals. They are,

1. *No Poverty*

2. *Zero Hunger*

3. *Good Health and Well-Being*

4. *Quality Education*

5. *Gender Equality*

6. *Clean Water and Sanitation*

7. *Affordable and Clean Energy*

8. *Decent Work and Economic Growth*

9. *Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure*

10. *Reducing Inequality*

11. *Sustainable Cities and Communities*

12. *Responsible Consumption and Production*

13. *Climate Action*

14. *Life Below Water*

15. *Life on Land*

16. *Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions*

17. *Partnerships for the Goals.*

For each goal, there are specific sub-goals/targets and indicators to measure the progress. These goals may appear to be only broad guidelines, but, when seen with the indicators, it becomes increasingly clear how the progress made on any indicator also defines the scope of the work that needs to be done. Apart from that the original declaration also provides for a set of policy measures required to achieve these goals. For e.g., Table-1 describes all the goals and targets (policy actions) for Goal-1. As can be seen, the goal description and indicators are well-thought and the measurement mechanism is also clearly defined. This in turn guides the policymakers to make better and more-effective policies.

Sub-Goal	Description	Indicators

1.1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty	eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.90 a day.	1.1.1 Proportion of Population Below the International Poverty Line Aggregated by sex, employment status, age, and location
1.2 Reduce poverty by at least 50%	reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line
		1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable
1.4 Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology, and economic resources	Ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including micro-finance.	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services.
		1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally

Target	Description	Indicators
		recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure.
1.5 Build resilience to environmental, economic, and social disasters	Build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters.
		1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP).
		1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
		1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies.
Target	**Description**	**Indicators**
1.a Mobilisation of resources to end poverty	Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation in order to provide adequate and predictable	1.a.1 Proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes.

	means for developing countries particularly least developed countries	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection).
		1.a.3 Sum of total grants and non-debt-creating inflows directly allocated to poverty reduction programmes as a proportion of GDP.
1.b Establishment of poverty eradication policy frameworks at all levels	Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.	1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

Table-1

Voluntary National Review (VNR) and High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Agenda 2030 as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly also describes the monitoring and the follow-up process. The monitoring process on the progress made w.r.t the goals and the follow-up processes are separate. Point 79 of the Agenda demands that each member nation must conduct regular and inclusive reviews of the progress at the national and sub-national levels which should draw contributions from the indigenous people, civil society and other stakeholders. The national reviews become a basis for the regular reviews by the High Level Political Forum to be conducted under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council as stipulated by Point 84 of the agenda. With participation as the underlying value, HLP invites the official and non- official (civil society and private sector) actors to be represent the issues of any given country.

India VNR 2020

The VNR process is usually a government-led one. A VNR Forum was set up late in 2019 consisting of officials from NITI Aayog, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, UN in India, Wada Na Todo and Confederation of Indian Industries to hold consultations with different stakeholder groups.

The CSOs, NGOs, community organisations and the private sector play a major role in ensuring the success of the SDG agenda in the country. Therefore, consultations with them are critical to the VNR preparation process. One of the first steps taken towards the report preparation was mapping of all the key stakeholders in the CSO, NGO and private sector space. This was done as early as November 2019. Fourteen specific population groups were identified, including a regional group, with whom focused consultations were conducted, in line with the core principle of 'Leaving No One Behind.' Over a thousand CSOs were part of this consultation process, organised in tranches across the country. From December 2019 to February 2020, these CSO networks led and conducted consultations in seven cities across the length and breadth of the country. This resulted in documenting their challenges, expectations and commitments. These insights and voices from grassroots provide heft to the VNR report. The inputs from CSOs, private sector, central ministries and the governments at the State and UT levels were collected, collated and finalised by the end of April 2020. In addition to the feed-back and inputs of States/UTs and other stake-holders, government reports, credible research documents and official data were used to prepare the VNR report. Figure-1 describes the consultative process:

(Figure-1)[1]

The main message here was in line with the idea governing Agenda 2030- Leave No One Behind. This idea is of particular importance in the Indian context. Starting with the Constitution, which envisaged an egalitarian society, India has a well-endowed arsenal of laws and statutes and a robust tradition of jurisprudence to protect the rights and entitlements of those at risk of being left behind. A host of legal institutions have matured to protect the specific communities against violation of their rights – National Human Rights Commission; National Commission for Women; National Commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities; National Commission for Protection of Child Rights; etc. In addition, legal as well as policy instruments (e.g. the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, the Transgender Persons Act, 2019, etc.), have been institutionalised to address infringement of rights and entitlement of various social groups. The mandate of the legal entities and effective implementation of these policies and laws are directly boosted by the Constitutional provision against any discriminatory practice based on caste, religion, race, sex and place of birth (Article 15, Constitution of India), with the exception of initiatives for affirmative action. 14 groups were identified in for India's 2020 VNR, and their challenges and recommendations were added in the report, but key groups like religious minorities, refugees, etc. were left out. Also, in the year since then legislations impacting farmers and labourers have come without consulting them, scholarships for children from marginalised groups has been drastically reduced and the pandemic has exposed the inadequacy of government systems to cater to the need of those most marginalized.

Scheduled Castes (Dalits), Scheduled Tribes and Religious Minorities are some groups that have been recognised by the government as marginalised and more likely to experience poverty, exclusion and violence in spheres of life, education and work. These groups also majorly comprise of the informal workforce making them further vulnerable. Along with this there are those made vulnerable due to their gender, sexual orientation, health conditions, age, and remote locations.

---

[1] https://www.niti.gov.in/node/1242

People's Scorecard

As a critical milestone in the SDGs journey, India presented its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2020. NITI Aayog, the nodal government body anchoring the SDGs in India, coordinated the preparation of the VNR Report as a multi-stakeholder process, and expressed interest in including inputs from the vulnerable communities. The Indian civil society welcomed the initiative to hold a series of consultations with vulnerable communities in India to hear from them directly how they viewed their progress on the SDGs, the challenges they faced and the recommendations they had for the future.

The CSOs, in consultation with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), identified 16 such vulnerable communities: Adivasis; Adolescents and Youth; Bonded Labour and Victims of Human Trafficking; Children; Dalits; De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes; Elderly; Farmers; Migrants and Urban Poor; North-Eastern Region; Persons Living with HIV; Persons with Disabilities; Refugees and Asylum Seekers; Religious Minorities; Sexual Minorities-LGBTQIA+; Women.

Organisations with expertise and long-term working experience with these communities anchored 36 subnational and 16 national consultations, engaging a broad audience ranging from the vulnerable community members to policy formulators in each domain. The inputs from the consultations were taken onboard by NITI Aayog in drafting a standalone chapter on 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB) in the 2020 VNR Report.

The consultations indicated some overarching directions and approaches to centre-stage the LNOB principle in SDG implementation in India. It was expected that governments at all levels would consider the learning points from these consultations, and evolve strategies and mechanisms to translate the recommendations into action on ground. These recommendations-both specific to, and cutting across communities- hold more force than ever now, with the pandemic exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and resulting in even more people now at the risk of being left behind.

Thus, the 2021 People's Scorecard for India will be used to assess the government's follow-up on the VNR process to promote more equitable achievement of the SDGs for vulnerable communities and ensure speedier, inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The anchor and co-anchor CSOs (total approx. 100) who coordinated the 16 VNR consultations will be asked to score the progress along the following lines:

- The anchor organizations will rank the progress made on each of the overarching and specific recommendations made for their community on the scale below

Category and Score (1-50)	1 (1-10)	2 (11-20)	3 (21-30)	4 (31-40)	5 (41-50)
Level and quality of Commitment/ achievement	Very low (no policy/plan in place)	Low (Initial planning phase)	Medium (Plans/ actions started)	High (Delivery underway)	Very high (Successful implementation)
Speed / Trend of implementation and delivery	Off the Track	Slow Track	On the Track	Right Track	Fast Track

- The scoring would be encouraged to come based on a consultation with anchors, but each of the anchor organisations will submit an individual response
- The recommendations will be sorted based on the relevant SDGs
- The final score for each SDG will be calculated based on the scoring submitted by anchor organisations

For each different community, a separate questionnaire was prepared which converted the goals into actionable points for their respective community. E.g., for Adivasis, Goal-1 was reframed as "Tribal Sub Plan Fund should not be diverted to other programmes and additional budgets under the same must be provided for focused interventions for the development of Adivasis".

Similar questionnaires were prepared for 16 communities. As the members of the community rated the progress of each goal, we started getting an idea of the progress made by the government w.r.t each goal vis-à-vis the public perception. Average score for each goal was calculated which gives an indication of the extent of achievement for each goal. More details have been discussed in the findings below. There were questions w.r.t each goal. Following figure (Figure-2) is a snippet from the questionnaire for Adivasis.

Figure-2

Adivasi VNR Recommendations Scorecard

The purpose of this scorecard is to to assess the government's follow-up on the VNR 2020 process through a scoring of the progress made on the recommendations submitted by the civil society. Request your organization to score based on the criteria given below.

This survey would go on to contribute to the 'People's Scorecard' being prepared by Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) which would offer comparative global trends on the progress made on Sustainable Development Goals so far.

Please answer only with number between 1 to 50 as per the scoring criteria given below.

☁

Email *

Your email address

Scoring Criteria

Category and Score (1-50)	(1-10)	(11-20)	(21-30)	(31-40)	(41-50)
Level and quality of Commitment/ achievement	Very low (no acceptation to client)	Low (Initial planning phase)	Medium (Plans/ actions started)	High (Delivery underway)	Very high (successful implementation)
Speed / Trend of implementation and delivery	Off the track	Slow Track	On the Track	Right Track	Fast Track

Tribal Sub Plan Fund should not be diverted to other programmes and additional budgets under the same must be provided for focused interventions for the development of Adivasis. *

Your answer

Long-term investment in customized, quality and accessible health services that incorporate elements of traditional nutrition, health and wellness practices will help improve healthy living practices. *

Your answer

Capacity building of the human resources engaged in tribal areas as a prerequisite for accelerating program outcomes *

Your answer

Findings

In this section each goal will be discussed along with the score that it has achieved and what it means for the goal.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Recognizing and eradicating multi-dimensional poverty is at the core for achieving SDGs for the world and the vulnerable communities it pledges to take along. Therefore, the foremost target of the SDGs is to bring all people everywhere above the limit of extreme poverty that was recognized as $1.25 per day within the goals. The current international poverty line, the value needed to sustain an adult person, is recognized as $1.90 per day.

Cumulative Score for Goal-1: **14.6**

This means that collectively the communities feel that the poverty alleviation efforts are still in planning phase and have a slow pace.

In India, a considerable portion of the population live below the poverty line. The figure shoots even higher for the marginalised communities who responded to the survey. Nearly 30% of Scheduled Castes and 44% of the Scheduled Tribes live below the poverty line[2]. Most policies recognise poverty as the single biggest deterrent to the human development.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Food security for all persons, especially the economically excluded and the vulnerable population groups is the foremost target under Goal 2. Hunger being a constant challenge for India, there have been several concerted efforts from governments since before 1947 to provide subsidized grains through a Public Distribution System (PDS). Multiple modifications have been introduced in the system to make it more efficient and focused for vulnerable populations over the years.

In 2013, due to continuing high levels of hunger and malnutrition, PDS was revived under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to create an umbrella frame for various food assistance

---

[2] Working Paper No. 2013-02.Poverty by Social, Religious & EconomicGroups in India and Its Largest States1993-94 to 2011-12 (Pages 6-7)

subsidies to improve food and nutritional security through the life-cycle approach. Institutions for monitoring and grievance redressal were put in place to ensure legal entitlements reach the beneficiaries. Eventually, Aadhaar and Electronic Point of Sale (EPoS) system were also integrated with PDS to make the process more transparent and trackable.

Goal 2 also targets meeting the nutritional needs of children, adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women (P&LW). Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) are two key government programs working towards achieving that target by focusing on vaccination, cognitive development from early childhood, providing cooked nutritional meals until class 8th for children and also for P&LW.

Cumulative Score for Goal-2: 15.85

This means that collectively the communities feel that the hunger aversion efforts are still in planning phase and have a slow pace. With the introduction of NFSA, India moved one step closer to giving all her citizens right to food. Despite the legislative backing, the Public Distribution System is broken and deteriorating by the day. There have been reports of several starvation related deaths as people couldn't get their food entitlements. The worsening trend is captured by India's lowly ranking of 94 (out of 107) in Global Hunger Index[3].

Goal 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Good health is essential to the fulfilment of basic human needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown the country's health infrastructure in a state of disarray. With health systems unprepared to deal with the onslaught of the virus, and no parallel processes in place to look after the routine healthcare needs of the population, the pandemic threatens to undo the progress made in working towards good health and well-being for all.

Such a situation particularly impacts the most vulnerable communities, already incurring significant out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on health. With the diversion of public health resources to tackle the pandemic, these communities are unable to access alternative sources of healthcare. Their health indicators, anyway off-track Agenda 2030, have derailed further.

Cumulative Score for Goal-3: 17.8

---

[3] https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html

As indicated above, the importance of healthcare cannot be stressed more. Right to Healthcare forms an important element in a human's right to live a dignified life. The inadequacy of healthcare system was visible during the multiple waves of Covid in India which claimed the lives of millions.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Quality education for all is a crucial sustainable development goal, and in countries with diverse social fabrics such as India it also becomes crucial to ensure equity with opportunities that enable people to overcome their inherited generational disadvantages. The Constitution of India has thus put the much-needed emphasis on education and several schemes and programs have been put in line with it to promote equitable access to education for all, especially the socio-economically vulnerable population.

Cumulative Score for Goal-4: *15.6*

Right to Education was introduced as Article 21A where everyone below the age of 14 was guaranteed education. There have been several reports to say that the learning outcomes and the coursework has been diluted to make sure children reach the age of 14. A substantial percentage of students drop out or repeat Class 9th due to lower learning levels at previous levels[4]. The other problem of education is that of access, adequacy and affordability. As the government run schools struggle for infrastructure and teaching staff, people are moving towards private schools which end up extorting money in the name of education. This is visible to people working with communities, hence the reason for a lowly score.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality is not only a standalone goal in the SDGs, but is a cross-cutting theme across Agenda 2030. Gender-based discrimination and violence remains prevalent in India, with power and decision-making predominantly in the hands of men.

However, women are not a homogenous group, and national aggregates tend to hide the intersectional vulnerabilities of women from marginalized communities. Given the pre-existing

---

[4] https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/simply-put-the-no-fail-policy-may-have-failed-what-now/

gender inequalities in India, women have disproportionately borne the brunt of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Removing barriers to gender equality and inclusion is critical to the achievement of the SDGs. The findings from our study lend credence to the fact that women from vulnerable communities face a double burden of discrimination and violence. Without taking into account their contextual realities and development challenges, we cannot hope to achieve Agenda 2030.

Cumulative Score: 13.9

Goal 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

Access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities have far-reaching impacts on sustaining a safe and healthy livelihood. Universal and equitable access to drinking water and adequate, non-discriminatory sanitation facilities that facilitate an end to open defecation by 2030 is a key target within the SDGs.

There have been concerted efforts by the national government in the recent years to achieve these targets through a renewed focus to make India open defecation free (ODF), to convert unsanitary toilets, and also to nudge a wave of positive behavioral change[5]. In October 2019, government of India declared all of rural areas as ODF and 100% of rural and urban households were stated to have individual toilets [1].

With the world's second large population, India has only 4% of potable water across the country [1]. Government has thus recognized water management as a priority area for intervention and also set up a new dedicated ministry[6] to manage effective governance for all water-related issues. According to the government's figures on National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), 81.07% of rural **habitations** have been provided access to water[7]. The Jal Jeevan Misson, which was launched in August 2019 to provide a functional household tap connection (FHTC) in every household, leaves a lot to be desired in implementation in Jharkhand with close to 90% of the target beneficiaries yet to be reached[8]

---

[5] Swachh Bharat Mission was launched in 2014 with these aims and the target to achieve them by 2019. Under the scheme each beneficiary got a sum of Rs 12,000 to get a functional toilet constructed for their household use.

6 Ministry of Jal Shakti was formed merging the previously existing Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in May 2019.

7 40 liters per capita per day

8 Around 68% of the target beneficiaries are yet to be reached across India

Cumulative Score: 15.4

Goal 7- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Energy is vital for economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability. However, there is a stark imbalance in vulnerable communities' access to electricity and clean fuels. Concerted efforts must be taken to address this imbalance, taking into account the contextual reality of the community.

Cumulative Score: 9

Guaranteeing sustainable and modern forms of energy to the population comes only after getting electricity to each house. This abysmally low score in this sector indicates that the claim made by the Government that each village has electricity is half the truth. Our staff has observed that even though the village has electricity, the marginalised sections continue to live without it.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Sustained economic growth is critical to the achievement of the SDGs. However, economic growth that is not cognizant of the needs of the most vulnerable sections of society is inherently unfair and unequal. It is here that the importance of decent work gets highlighted.[9] However, while there have been concerted efforts towards economic growth and employment generation in India, decent work remains out of reach for a majority of our population.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, India was experiencing slower economic growth. The rate of unemployment was at a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2018.[10] While the unemployment rate improved to 5.8% in 2018-19[11], the pandemic has had a debilitating economic impact, particularly on those engaged in vulnerable employment.[12]

---

9 As per the International Labour Organization (ILO), decent work involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all.

10 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2017-18. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

11 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2018-19. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

12 As per the International Labour Organization (ILO), vulnerable employment is defined as the sum of the employment status groups of own account workers and contributing family workers. They are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and are therefore more likely to lack decent working conditions, adequate social security and 'voice'

Cumulative Score 13.2

This score is expected to decline even more. A large chunk of the Indian unskilled workers consists of the marginalised sections. During the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, this section was the worst hit. Large number of people still haven't returned to the cities after the mass exodus in March 2020. The nature of unemployment is expected to change to disguised unemployment.

Goal 9- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of accessible, affordable technology and infrastructure for all. However, there remains a sizable population on the wrong side of the digital divide. Without concerted efforts to bridge that divide, the cycle of disadvantage for the community will not only continue, but proliferate even further.

Cumulative Score: 14

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

India has always secured a place in the medium category of the Human Development Index (HDI) and same despite progress in indicators over the years[13]. When adjusted was inequality though, it is apparent that there hasn't been much growth since the index started documenting development in 1990[14]. There exist long-standing divisions based on gender, caste, creed and class along with regional inequalities across regions in India, which makes recognizing and planning interventions to tackle inequalities critical to achieving development and that is the focus of Goal 10.

Cumulative Score: 15.8

India suffers from plethora of divisions – based on caste, gender, race, region, religion, etc. All of these have produced a section which dominates over the other. These have created disparities in the development of different communities as only a select few are able to grow. There have

---

through effective representation by trade unions and similar organizations. Vulnerable employment is often characterized by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers' fundamental rights.

[13] HDI 2020 (Released in December 2020) put India in the 'Medium Human Development' category which has been a constant for India since 1990. The index ranks countries on a relative-basis.

14 HDI value of India in 1990 = 0.431; Inequality-adjusted HDI in 2018 = 0.477

been provisions made by the government on the lines of positive affirmation but they haven't changed anything on the ground as the oppressed sections continue to struggle for space and equality.

Goal 11- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

As part of the Government of India's mission of "Housing for all by 2022", the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) was launched in 2016 to provide a *pucca* house to all rural households that are homeless or live in *kutcha* and dilapidated houses. Under the scheme, these households would also be entitled to basic amenities like piped drinking water, electricity, toilets within the household premises, and LPG connections. With COVID-19 compelling people to stay at home, the right to adequate housing is key to living a life with dignity.

Cumulative Score: 14.4

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Development and progress cannot sustain in a society without peace. Prosperity and effective governance cannot be aspired for, if not together with peace, security and protection of social and political rights of the people. SDG 16 lays down the basic framework for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and institutions for accessing justice. The diverse social fabric of India is made of different population groups with predominant social hierarchies and dynamics of exclusion which is why promoting social justice for vulnerable populations is also at the heart of Constitution of India[15].

Cumulative Score: 13.9

Similarly, score can be calculated for each community as well. An average of the scores that the community gave to each goal becomes the score for that community. It indicates a community's perception on the overall work on the SDG's. Below is the table with the score for each community (table-2)

---

15 The founding principles in the Constitution – stated through Article 14 to Article 21 – are directed to ensure equality, prohibit discrimination, and promote socio-economic equity by law.

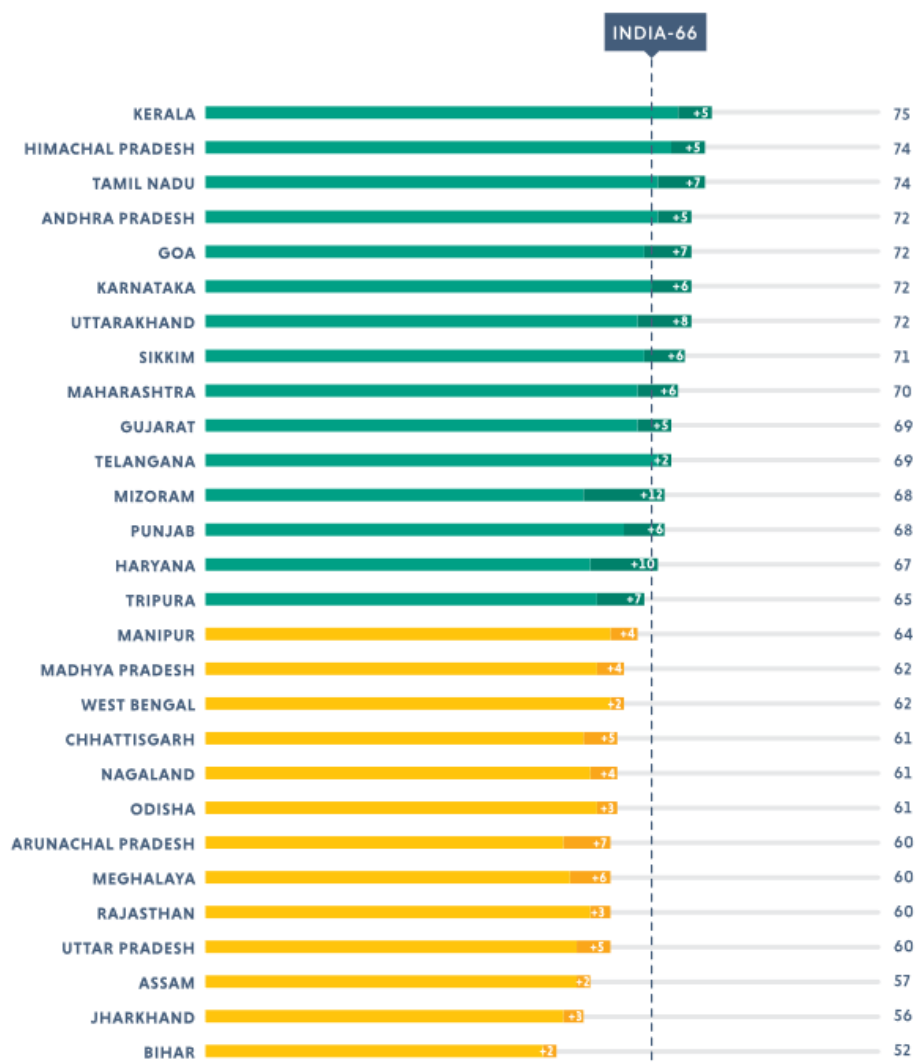| Community	Score
Adivasis	22.83333
Youth	18.66667
Bonded Labour	13
Children	17.85714
Dalits	14.13889
DNT–NT–SNTs	4.688889
Farmers	18.83333
Migrants and Urban Poor	15.375
North East Region	9.627451
PL-HIV	17.76667
PwDs	18.9375
Refugees	12.625
Religious Minorities	3.166667
LGBTQIA+	15.89583
Women	10.33222

(Table-2)

As can be observed, the satisfaction of the communities is very low for most communities. Due the positive affirmation policies mandated by the Constitution, considerable progress has been made for Dalits and Adivasis indicating their better scores in satisfaction. But, the communities which have thus far not been given adequate representation or priority in policies, the satisfaction is quite low. Members from the religious minorities, De-notified Tribes, women groups and North East groups feel left out of the process. A low score means that there certainly haven't been policies looking forward to their progress in the society. Even if there are policies, the goals are far from being met.

People's Scorecard vs SDG Index

SDG Index and Dashboard has been prepared by the Government of India. In 2021 they have launched the third version of the SDG Index. This index apart from the achievement of the goals, also aims at improvement of governance through competitive federalism as the states are awarded points for achievement of goals and pitted against each other in a competitive form.

There are indicators related to each goal which are already being assessed under the National Indicator Framework. These indicators are further normalised to reach a score between 1 and 100. This becomes a state's score for that particular goal. An arithmetic mean of all such indicators for a state becomes the score for the state. Following is a scoresheet from SDG Index 3.0[16]. Green values are front runners and yellows are medium performers

State	Change	Score
INDIA		66
KERALA	+5	75
HIMACHAL PRADESH	+5	74
TAMIL NADU	+7	74
ANDHRA PRADESH	+5	72
GOA	+7	72
KARNATAKA	+6	72
UTTARAKHAND	+8	72
SIKKIM	+6	71
MAHARASHTRA	+6	70
GUJARAT	+5	69
TELANGANA	+2	69
MIZORAM	+12	68
PUNJAB	+6	68
HARYANA	+10	67
TRIPURA	+7	65
MANIPUR	+4	64
MADHYA PRADESH	+4	62
WEST BENGAL	+2	62
CHHATTISGARH	+5	61
NAGALAND	+4	61
ODISHA	+3	61
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	+7	60
MEGHALAYA	+6	60
RAJASTHAN	+3	60
UTTAR PRADESH	+5	60
ASSAM	+2	57
JHARKHAND	+3	56
BIHAR	+2	52

---

[16] https://www.niti.gov.in/reports-sdg

Similarly, an average score can be calculated for each goal as well. This explains the extent of target achievement done for each goal across the country. Green values indicate exceptional performance, yellows indicate medium performance and reds are laggards.

As can be seen that the SDG Index indicates that 8/16 goals have shown exceptional performance in achieving their targets. There is a lot of variation between the results shown by the government and perception of the civil society on the ground. The People's Scorecard is a perception-based tool. It tries to capture the sense of work rather than the outcomes. On the contrary the SDG Index is an outcome-based tool along with a tricky normalisation process, as has been mentioned in the report[17]. There is a need to humanise the indicators instead of normalising it.

---

[17] https://www.niti.gov.in/reports-sdg

Conclusion

Across the world, the civil society and the Governments have been at the loggerheads w.r.t the issues which should dominate governance. The perception and the aspirations of the civil society are less represented at the policy meets. With the Voluntary National Review and the subsequent HLPF Processes, the civil society of India at least got a voice to present their views and aspirations and work with the formal policy makers in a deliberative manner for the common cause. The People's Scorecard is an important step for the civil society of India. As has been seen in the last section that the government data shows that they are making good strides in achieving their targets for each goal. But, the marginalised sections of the society, as the People's Scorecard indicates, have not been able to make any progress at all. If the development is happening and it is not reaching the marginalised, the idea to 'Leave No One Behind' seems to be violated.

This Scorecard also gives the civil society motivation that they need to do a lot more to make the policies benefit the marginalised sections. This effort will go into working with the local administration to ensure the implementation of the key schemes such that the next phase of these policies benefit the left-out sections. The SDG Index aims at competitive federalism, but the People's Scorecard aims at cooperation. Almost all the communities report that the SDG targets are not being met in their areas which inspire all of these communities to work together and raise their demands collectively. India has a divided society where the means of production have always been occupied by a select-few. The Scorecard also gives the policymakers an idea of the groups who need support from the Government such that they are not left behind in the developmental processes.

People's Scorecard will be updated periodically to understand and map changing perception and figure out the states which are making strides in achieving their SDG Targets. This process has been able to motivate the communities and hence there is a need to evolve this and continue it.