

ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF TAMILNADU IN IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – A CONTENT ANALYSIS.

S. AMALA NATHIRA, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies,
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli - 627012, Tamilnadu, India
amalanatira@gmail.com

Dr. P. RAVI, Professor and Head, Department of Management Studies, Manonmaniam
Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli-627012, Tamilnadu, India
ravi@msuniv.ac.in

ABSTRACT:

Sustainable Development Goals are a wake-up call against the earth and well-being of people around the world. Sustainable Development Goals have 17 major goals and 169 targets, its aim is to reshape our world by 2030 and it was agreed by 193 member countries of United Nations by 2015. According to the Sustainable Development Report 2022 India's overall rank is 121 which indicate that still we need to take necessary actions which lead to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. According to this report, Since the 163 countries adapted Sustainable Development Goals the average growth rate was 0.5 per year. Still, after COVID-19 the average progress rate has declined by 0.1 per year. Hence, we need to create awareness among people all over the nation about Sustainable Development Goals and the necessity of Sustainable Development.

As India is categorized under a Low Sustainable Development Goal commitment country, the government must put lot more effort into changing the policies to take our country to reach High Sustainable Development Goal commitment country. To reach High Sustainable Development Goal commitment country, the people who live in a country must need to know what sustainable development is and what Sustainable Development Goal is, this could be achieved by Quality Education. Since all the Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected everyone must get quality education to understand Sustainable Development goals. Higher Educational Institutions plays a key role to reach Sustainable Development Goal.

The government has to assess each higher educational institution's efforts to reach Sustainable Development Goals.

Keywords: Awareness, Sustainable Development, Quality Education, Low Sustainable Development Goal commitment, High Sustainable Development Goal commitment, Higher Educational Institutions.

Introduction:

Tamil Nadu is a state of India with a population of 7,21,47,030 (as per 2011 census) and the area of 130058 square kilometers. It plays a major contribution in the attainment of sustainable development goals through various policies and development programs by the government of TamilNadu. As per the report of Sustainable Development Goals Index 2020-2021 TamilNadu has contributed better than the previous year, this report was released by NITI AAYOG. According to this report TamilNadu scored second rank among the 28 states of India which shows that it's going on a right track but it's not enough to reach the 2030 Agenda because the problem which the planet has been facing is so severe. Therefore, the higher educational institutions need to be always considered how we can contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 2030. There are many ways of integrating Sustainable Development Goals but in this study we focus only on higher educational institutions because states like Tamilnadu has large amount of student community who can predominantly influence the sustainable environment as well as the society. In order for students to comprehend the quickly changing environment where they live in, they need to be exposed to new knowledge and new viewpoints about the changing environment. These knowledge and viewpoints about sustainability could be largely provide by the educational institutions moreover this could be attained by providing Sustainable Education, which aims to mold students into global citizens who committed to the attainment of Sustainable Development. With respect of cultural diversity, education for Sustainable Development equips students to make wise and responsible decisions that may protect environment and society for the present and future generations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This is a conceptual Study which was carried out by the researcher with the help of Secondary source of data like university/college websites, and other websites. The researcher had gathered information from all the universities of Tamilnadu (including state universities,

central universities, deemed universities, and private universities) and the autonomous colleges of Tamilnadu who offering management /business administration courses. Overall the study has included 56 universities and 223 autonomous colleges of Tamilnadu.

Number of universities:

- State University – 22
- Central University – 02
- Deemed University – 28
- Private University – 04

Autonomous colleges - 223

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

This study is to understand the courses offered on Sustainable Development Goals among Higher Educational institutions in Tamilnadu. Through this study we can understand whether the higher educational institutions offering courses on Sustainable Development Goals or not. In this study an attempt is made by the researcher to know the below-mentioned details.

- Courses offered on Sustainable Development Goal by higher educational institutions.
- Campaigns, events conducted on Sustainable Development Goal.
- Publications regarding Sustainable Development Goal.
- Whether the institute has Sustainable Development clubs.
- Whether the institute has conducted conferences, seminars on Sustainable Development.

THE ROLE OF TAMILNADU IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

“Meendum Manjappai” is a scheme, it was inaugurated by the Honorable Chief Minister of TamilNadu Mr.M.K. Stalin on 23-12-2021 under “Plastic Pollution Free TamilNadu campaign”. Meendum manjappai, this campaign was started as an initiative of replacing the single use plastic bags. Before the invention of plastic bags people were used to use cloth bags. Especially in TamilNadu we used to use manjappai (manjappai is nothing but a yellow-colored cloth bag) while we go for shopping or any other places. Even in marriage functions people were used to offer manjappai as a token of love.

As times goes by people are started to think that people those who are using manjappai would have come from village part. We all know that using plastic bag is dangerous to health as well as to the planet. It collapses the ecology as it generates multiple disastrous changes in the environment. We all agree that we need development in every aspect of our life. But the developmental activities shouldn't harm the living creatures in the planet. We must give more importance to sustainable environment while we give so much importance on economic development. That is why the TamilNadu government has taken this as an opportunity to build awareness among public, students etc. to reduce the usage of single use plastics.

THE CURRENT TRENDS OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN TAMILNADU WITH RESPECT TO SUSTAINABILITY:

In this particular study the researcher has analyzed all the universities and autonomous college of tamilnadu to understand how the higher educational institutions are contributing to reach Sustainable Development Goals 2030. It has been clearly observed by the researcher that only limited number of institutions are contributing to the attainment of United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal. Out of 56 universities only 12 institutions are having sustainability in their curriculum. Only 11 institutions were conducted awareness programs and events in their institutions. Only 9 universities were published journals related to sustainable environment, only 5 institutions are having clubs related with sustainable environment, the seminars and conferences conducted by only 8 institutions.

From this study the researcher had understand that out of 223 autonomous colleges only 13 colleges are having sustainability in their curriculum. Only 19 institutions were conducted awareness programs and events in their institutions. Only 28 colleges were published journals related to sustainable environment, only 50 institutions are having clubs related with sustainable environment, the seminars and conferences conducted by only 9 institutions. This study is purely based on information which was uploaded in the higher educational institution's official websites. Most of the institutions has not uploaded any kind of information related with this study. Hence the researcher has not taken such kind of institutions to consideration. This study has been clearly indicating that higher educational institutions are still need to accelerate their actions into achieving Sustainable Development Goal Agenda2030. The actions which has been taken by them is surely not enough to reach Sustainable Development Goal. If this trend continues definitely we would not be reach Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.

Therefore, the Government has to take necessary actions to find the gaps with respect to achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Education related to sustainability must be provided to all the students by educational institutions, we must create the current generation with sustainable awareness which will lead them to be cautious about the sustainable environment.

CONCLUSION:

Through the quality education itself we can build the students to be more cautious about the sustainable environment, economic, and the society (ESD). To attain the Sustainable Development Goal, the higher educational institutions must adapt sustainable knowledge, abilities, and moral principles. Additionally, Educational institutions must accelerate the awareness programs, events, research activities into reach Sustainable Development Goals. We all know that without sustainable education we cannot achieve 2030 Agenda. Since the higher educational institutions are far more away from offering sustainable education, Educationalist and law makers may frame a holistic approach to attain Sustainable Development Goal which helps to equip the learners to take mindful choices without harming the environment.

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