

Situation of the Dalit Community in Bangladesh in the Context of SDGs

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এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ

Sustainable Developmental Goals: Background



- 8 Millennium Development Goals from 2000 to 2015
- Success Stories in Bangladesh in reduction of poverty, enrollment rate in primary education, increase of girl's enrollment, reduction of infant and maternal mortality rate

Why SDGs?

- MDGs failed to address
- Root causes of poverty
- Gender and other inequalities
- Human Rights and Economic Growth
- Developed countries as well as developing countries



17 SDGs

- 1. End poverty in all forms
- 2. End hunger
- 3. Ensure healthy lives & well-being
- 4. Ensure inclusive, equitable quality education
- 5. Achieve gender equality
- 6. Ensure availability & sustainable management of water and sanitation
- 7. Ensure access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy
- 8. promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth
- 9. Build resilient infrastructure & foster innovation
- 10. Reducing inequalities within and among countries
- 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe , resilient and sustainable
- 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- 13. Urgent action to combat climate change
- 14 Conserve and sustainably use of ocean and marine resources
- 15. Promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
- 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies access to justice and inclusive institutions
- 17. Strengthen means of implementation and revitalize global partnership

Principles of SDG

- Leaving no one behind
- Perspective of human rights and sustainable growth
- Addressing inequalities as root cause
- Addressing double burden of work



What needs to be done

- Implement inclusive methods like affirmative action policy
- Inclusive census and household data
- Uphold SDG principles nationally and internationally
- Construct a road map for achieving SDGs at national level
- Construct indicators for the most vulnerable and use it in all reporting



Categorization of the marginalized in Bangladesh

- ▶ Religious Minorities: Hindus , Buddhists, Christians, Ahmadiyas
- ▶ Socially excluded: Dalits , Rishi Harijans, Robidas, Shobdakar, Kaiputra, etc.
- ▶ Indigenous/ethnic minorities: Santal, Garo, Oraon, Khasia etc.
- ▶ Women; of all classes and castes
- ▶ Subalterns in majority religion: Nikari, Zola, Nagarchi, Choudhali
- ▶ Culturally excluded: Bedays, Hijras
- ▶ Linguistic minorities: Urdu speaking
- ▶ Economically marginalized : occupying remote areas, economically deprived

Constitutionality and Universality of SDGs

- Constitutional provisions of equality
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Policies of poverty reduction
- National Social protection Strategy (NSSS)



Dalits in Bangladesh



Recommendations

10

➤ # SDG 10 Reducing Inequalities

- Comprehensive and household census
- Include constitutional guarantees for Dalits
- Include budgetary provisions specifically for Dalits
- Enact anti-discrimination law on an urgent basis
- Enable and ensure cultural rights of Dalits
- **# SDG 1 Poverty Reduction**
- Preferential allotment of khas lands to Dalits

➤ #SDG 8 Sustainable economic growth

- Protection of jobs traditionally reserved for Dalits
- Ensure legal contracts for Dalits working in Municipalities
- Ensure proper working place for Dalit leather workers in municipalities
- Ensure minimum wages that give dignity to Dalit and Tea Garden workers
- Ensure free and secure grazing for Pig farmers
- Fishing rights in common water bodies and wetlands should be given to actual fisherfolks

Recommendations

➤ # SDG 3 and 4: Ensure quality education and health

- Ensure access to Dalit for quality and sustainable education.
- Ensure preferential treatment for Dalits in allocation of safety net services
- Make special arrangement to ensure standard education and health services in Dalit neighborhoods

➤ # SDG 5 Gender equality

- Address gender inequality among Dalit women by planning separate and targeted programs

➤ # SDG 16 Justice, peace and Sustainable Institutions

- Ensure fair justice for violation of Dalits human rights
- Establish National Dalit Commission
- Establish transparency of services through an enabled and effective Information Commission and NHRC

Tripartite Coordination

- ▶ # SDG 17 Strengthen means of implementation
- ▶ Ensure ownership of Dalits to all SDG implementation strategy and plans by establishing tripartite coordination between Government , non-Government service providers and Dalit Communities



