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The Role of Research in Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract- A study on the significant roles of research in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals was carried out to analyze the facts and figures gotten through secondary information's to determine the resultant effect of research in the pursuance of the SDGs. This research explores various opinions of several authors and researchers towards the concept of research in totality. This study gave clear indications that research as a full concept is not a cliché and it is revolving year-in year-out in our contemporary world of interest as the need for human survival on the planet earth gets more prioritized on the agenda of the various sustainability organizations like UNESCO, United Nations, UNEP, IISD. This is the present century's goal and it is all NGOs and other private parastatals are enjoined to be part of this move as it is a collective effort to seeing its realizations.

KEYWORDS: Research, Sustainable, Development, Goals, United Nation.

1. Introduction

The advent of the popularly known SDGs was birthed by the United Nations The concept of development has its significance with respect to its transformed approaches to the social and economic, and it took its root in the previously formed organization called the United Nations in the 1940s and 1950s. Guthrie & Humphrey, [1]. This was further propelled as it continued even during the period of the 1960s and 1970s, although during this period, there were two majorly opposing movements in development concept and they had gained relevant recognition. One was known with broadening the scope and premise of the strategies for development with full considerations for social factors as it includes employment, education, nutrition, health, income distribution, poverty reduction, basic needs, the environment.

In recent years, the United Nations have tried severally to make the world a better place for people to live including the destitute and rich. In pursuance of this, the United Nations had put various policies in place which are all poised towards achieving the set goals. In the documentations of Hwang & Jiwon, [2], Lennon, [3]. and UNDP, [4] it was recorded that owing to the ravaging challenges faced by a lot of people across the globe, ranging from rampant epileptic lifestyle of the people to poverty, gender segregation and dichotomy, ecosystem depletion, and the likes. This led to the conglomeration of leaders from 189 countries in a meeting that held in the UN headquarters in New York in September 2000. The resolution of the meeting birthed the popularly known MDG (Millennium Development Goals). Rahdari et al., [5]. This was meant to address the development bottlenecks round the various nations of the world. Upon the review of the MDGs made by the United Nation in 2015, several shortcomings were discovered pertaining the



effectiveness of the MDGs. This review eventually birthed the currently known SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Although the millennium goals that was way back established by the SDGs had some level of achievement, but notwithstanding, the Sustainable development goals was initiated to improve on the deficiencies of Millennium goals implemented earlier thus, covering 17 core necessities for living that spans through quality research to environmental sustainability. Several researches have worked on the various contributions made to enhancing the achievement of the SDGs thus far as stated by Ul et al., [6].

However, there cannot be substantial measurable contributions without research and that is why this study is carried out to investigate the significance or the roles of research to aiding the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

2. Conceptual Issues: History of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), Justification of Problem in Attaining the SDGS

Development according to the Cambridge Dictionary is defined as the process through which an individual or something would grows or transform and gets more advanced. Development in its simplest form is defined to be "good transformation" Boateng et al.,[7] . Development is also defined as a course or process of change and its dynamics, Remenyi, [8]. Development might happen as a result of certain deliberate steps or actions displayed by individual agents or through polices made and orders from some authorities by some authority with the aim attaining substantial improvement, in the utmost favour of surrounding circumstances, Bellù, [9]. Although sustainable development has been largely defined by several scholars, but according to Cerin, [10] and the proposed definition by the Brundtland Commission, Dernbach [11] says Sustainable development is an improvement that addresses the issues of the present without a compromise on meeting the needs of the generations to come the capacity of the future to address their peculiar issues. Stoddart, [12]. According to the National Assembly for Wales [13], It comprises of two ideas:

- ❖ The impression of 'needs', definitely the essential needs of the world's destitute, to which prevailing need ought to be given; and
- ❖ The likelihood of constraints forced through the state of innovation with social association on the condition's ability to meet the contemporary and forthcoming needs.

Sustainable Development as further classified by Hedenus, et al., [14] and Emas, [15] has three scopes: environmental, financial/economic, and social.

- ❖ The natural measurement includes maintaining the earth's creation limit and not surpassing the earth's assimilative limit.
- ❖ The monetary measurement includes effectively overseeing limited common assets and capital as long as possible.
- ❖ The social measurement includes societal establishments that are essential for human needs, for example, majority rules system, put stock in, law, and global associations.

2.1 History of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS)

In the year 2000, The UN Millennium Declaration was received, with eight objectives to be achieved by 2015. Every one of the 189 individuals from the UN and 23 global associations conceded to these objectives as reported by Hedenus et al., [14]

The eight Millennium Development Goals are:

- ❖ Cut outrageous yearning and destitution significantly
- ❖ Achieve widespread important training
- ❖ Promote sexual alignment correspondence
- ❖ Decline child death
- ❖ Improve maternal wellbeing

- ❖ Battle HIV/AIDS, intestinal sickness, and different ailments
- ❖ Guarantee ecological supportability
- ❖ Build up a universal organization for development

The Millennium Development Goals exhibited a more noteworthy spotlight on advancement contrasted with earlier dialogs; just a single objective (#7) had an immediate association with natural issues. Rather, issues with a greater amount of a natural concentration were tended to through other fora, for example, the worldwide atmosphere arrangements under UN Agenda Convention on Weather Change and significant condition and advancement traditions like the one held in the city of Johannesburg, in South Africa, in the year 2002.

The last came to be called "Rio+10" yet did not get as much consideration as the 1992 meeting and is viewed as less imperative. Be that as it may, concurrences on water what's more, fisheries came out of Johannesburg. Just like the case with different affirmations, the Millennium Declaration and the eight objectives have been viewed as pretty, yet void, words that are not official. In any case, a key distinction from different announcements lies in the work done to recognize quantifiable objectives that are anything but difficult to track and survey. The objectives have had several effects in how worldwide and national aids are taken care of. The outcomes have been blended. Certain objectives, for example, decreasing considerably the quantity of the world's poor, have been accomplished at the worldwide total level, while others, for example, expanding fairness between ladies and men, have not been accomplished and still appear to be far off.

In 2012, the time had wanted the following huge worldwide maintainability tradition, once again in Rio de Janeiro, "Rio+20." The event additionally denoted the start of arrangements on new objectives to supplant those of the Millennium Declaration after 2015. In light of the announcement, that "destitution is the best worldwide test" and Agenda 21 work in progress on new maintainable advancement objectives. In September 2015 the UN embraced the 17 supportable improvement objectives (SDGs) spreading over a wide cluster of branches of knowledge and taking natural issues back to the fore. Not at all like the eight objectives of the Millennium Declaration, have the new objectives incorporated particular focuses for urban areas, maintainable utilization, atmosphere affect, marine assets, and land-based biological systems. Sachs, [16] said from a logical perspective that the MDGs also had a reasonable feat of accomplishment across some of the stipulated scope of the goals during the span of its existence. Some of the efforts made were significant to a measurable extent as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was well appreciated. However, there were some short comings that made the MDGs not effectively achieved owing to several factor cut across various scopes of influence. Some of the shortcomings were result effects of the basis upon which the goals set initially and some modifications that came alongside the process of execution and pursuance of the goals. Some of the carefully observed shortcomings of the Millenium Development Goals of the United Nation are listed thus;

- ❖ Lack of Intermediate objectives and milestone
- ❖ Outdated data
- ❖ Non-participation of private sectors
- ❖ Lack of societal investment/contribution

While the Millennium Declaration objectives were for the most part centered around the poorest countries, this time the reason for existing was to incorporate objectives that draw in and urge all countries to act. As recorded by UNDP, [4], leaders from 193 countries of the world came together in a forum in the year 2015 to face the supposed realities of the future.

Furthermore, what they saw was overwhelming. Starvations. Dry spell. Wars. Diseases. Destitution. Not simply in some faraway place, but rather in their own urban communities and towns and towns. They knew things didn't need to be like this. They knew we had enough nourishment to sustain the world, yet that it

wasn't getting shared. They knew there were pharmaceuticals for HIV and different illnesses, yet they cost a considerable measure. They knew that seismic tremors and surges were inescapable, yet that the high passing tolls were most certainly not. They additionally realized that billions of individuals overall shared their expectation for a better future. So, the various representatives from these nations arranged and eventually came to a consensus of what is called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This arrangement of 17 objectives envisions a future only 15 years off that would be freed of neediness and yearning, and safe from the most exceedingly terrible impacts of environmental change. It's a goal-oriented arrangement. Be that as it may, plentiful confirmation we can succeed. In the previous 15 years, the worldwide group cut outrageous neediness down the middle. Presently we can complete the activity. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is one of the main associations attempting to satisfy the SDGs by the year 2030. The realistic achievement of the SDGs will not just be as a dream of the night nor a rocket science, but it will require a very robust contribution from various individuals, groups, organization (both private and non-private), A consolidate effort from almost 170 nations and regions will earnestly enable countries to make the Goals a reality. The requirement of the conscious efforts from the various nations of the earth is to attain and achieve progressive improvement from the previously known MDGs to the presently known SDGs. These goals as stipulated by UNDP, [4] in Hwang & Jiwon, [2] are listed thus;

- ❖ End poverty in the entirety
- ❖ Termination of hunger, accomplish sustenance security, progressed nourishment, and economical horticulture
- ❖ Guarantee sound lives and advance prosperity for all at all ages
- ❖ To assure evenhanded and comprehensive quality training what's more, advance deep-rooted learning opportunities for all
- ❖ Achieve voluptuous orientation equity and enable ladies.
- ❖ Guarantee maintainable and accessibility of water and effective sanitation for all.
- ❖ Guarantee sufficient access to reasonable, dependable, maintainable vitality for everyone
- ❖ Advance maintained, comprehensive and reasonable economic development, profitable and full. business, also, not too bad work for all
- ❖ Construct versatile framework, improved industrialization, and cultivate development
- ❖ Decrease imbalance amongst nations and within nations
- ❖ Make urban communities and human settlements comprehensive, strong, safe, feasible.
- ❖ Guarantee reasonable utilization and creation designs
- ❖ Make critical move to combat change in the environmental and effects (observing understandings made by UNFCCC)
- ❖ Ration and economically make use of the seas, marine and oceans assets for reasonable developmental progress.
- ❖ Ensure, reestablish, advance manageable utilization of earthbound biological systems, economically manage woodlands, battle desertification, turn around arrive corruption, and put an end to biodiversity disaster
- ❖ Peace promotion and good social orders for feasible advancement, give room for equity for all, assemble viable, responsible, comprehensive establishments at all levels
- ❖ Fortify the approaches for execution and reintroduce the worldwide organization for maintainable advancement

2.2 Justification of Problem

Dhahri and Omri, [17] stated that a causality test that was carried out affirmed the connections among business enterprise and these three dimensions of the SDGs in both small and large. It was basically found that business in these nations emphatically adds to the financial and social measurements of SDGs, but had limitations through negative commitment to the ecological measurement.

Blum et al., [18] discussed the Concept of Sustainable Chemistry and the role it plays in assisting all on-screen characters with identifying doable specialized choices in combination and generation with less unsafe synthetic substances by considering maintainability criteria in zones past the extent of sound administration of synthetic concoctions, as for example asset and vitality productivity, the utilization of inexhaustible feedstock, and the effect on groups of the creation of synthetic concoctions. Along these lines, in every single significant angle towards sustainable development. Bevan et al., [19], represent 0.98 on percentage of development associations in the Australia and 0.80 On percentage of development yield in the UK. In this manner in the direct of development business, they have high effect to build social obligation Upstill. Nonetheless, in spite of the fact that there are confirmations to help the execution of the Cooperate Social Responsibilities in SME for the development business the level of usage is still very low. Barthorpe said that in the UK setting, there were numerous SME that do not have remorse to insert or formalize CSR into their standard business exercises. Regularly, the SME take part in CSR as occasional accomplices to the bigger development associations in the development store network. The expansive development associations have colossal duty in such manner to support, guide and give assets to the SME to expand their level of CSR Loosemore, [20]. It was expressed that the very known SDGs are specifically significant to social responsibility in business. Suitable inspiration ought to be given to the SME to expand CSR hones.

Elimination of poverty is the first, basic target of sustainable development objectives Ul et al., [6]. Supportable improvement is a vital issue for the provincial territories of Pakistan for the most part connected with expectations for everyday comforts, horticulture and nonagricultural resources, and condition pointers. The measurements of hardship have been distinguished by analyzing the accompanying components: farming and nonagricultural resources, lodging, instruction, vitality sanitation, access to clean drinkable water. The examination reports that 0.44 on percentage of family units in provincial Pakistan are inhabiting the poorest and poor levels, persevering through an absence of unadulterated drinking water, insufficient sanitation offices, poor lodging conditions, dirtied vitality sources, and privation of financial assets. The locale level investigation exhibits that the rustic populaces of Hyderabad. In this manner, to accomplish reasonable advancement and destitution decrease, extra subsidizes from the elected, common, and nearby governments ought to be distributed for social welfare, training, sanitation, water supply, and horticulture improvement in country zones of Pakistan.

3. Summary of Some Method in Carrying Out Research to Attain the SDGS

This study basically focused on the pedigree of the Sustainable Development Goals with a germane route from the critical analogy of the antecedent of the contributions that has been made by several researches though various studies. Amongst many other things, this study further espouses the state on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals thus far, why it has not fully succeeded, and those that have played active roles till date.

This paper made use of secondary information's from various articles cut across various fields but targeted towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. The benefit of utilizing sets of secondary data or information is that it has been created by groups of master scientists, regularly with vast spending plans what's more, broad assets path past the methods for a solitary understudy, so it removes the requirement for tedious hands on work. Information that has been gathered over an extensive stretch of time will give the chance to complete a longitudinal report (following the improvements after some time), unthinkable to do with information gathered in short tasks Nicholas, [21]. For the scope of the study, the role of research in the attainment of the SDGs is the primary focus. To clearly juxtapose the significance of research in our contemporary world as a tool to positively catalyze the achievement of the clearly defined 2030 agenda of the United Nations.

3.1 The Concept of Research

Research has been defined by various scholars and authors in series of correspondence, proceedings, publications, research extract and the likes. Amongst others are the few definitions considered for the purpose of this study. Iowa, [22] defined research from a logical point of view a deliberate examination, advancement in research, assessment, poised to create a generalizable fact or information. Research also implies a look for actualities – answers to inquiries and Solutions to Issues. It is a Purposive examination. It is a "Sorted out request" (It looks to discover clarifications to unexplained marvel, to order the dubious suggestions and to revise the misconstrued realities). Exercises which meet this definition constitute explore for motivations behind this strategy. Kothari, [23]

3.2 Types of Research

According to the indications from the study done by Kothari, [23] and the basic types of research are listed thus;

- ❖ Descriptive: it incorporates reviews and actuality discovering inquiries of different types. Real reason for engaging examination is depiction of conditions of issues as it is at present.
- ❖ Applied: it is a kind of research that goes for locating a solution for prompt issues confronting a general public or industry
- ❖ Quantitative: It depends on amount estimation or on the other hand sum. It is appropriate to marvels that can be communicated as far as amount
- ❖ Qualitative: it is worried about subjective marvel, i.e., wonders identifying with or including quality or kind
- ❖ Conceptual: is the kind of research that is identified with some abstract idea(s) answers hypothesis. It is for the most part utilized by rationalists and scholars to grow new ideas or to reinterpret existing ones.
- ❖ Empirical Research: it depends on understanding or perception alone, often without due reverence for context and hypothesis. It is information-based research, concocting conclusions which are equipped for being checked by perception or investigation.

3.3 Research Approaches

Kothari, [23], highlighted two approaches to research. These approaches are discussed below;

- ❖ Qualitative Approach; it is fully focused on the opinion and attitude assessment. The impression and insight of the researcher is a key factor in the kind of research approach.
- ❖ Quantitative Approach; it is focused on generating quantifiable data that can be analyzed quantitatively in a seemly rigid and formal way or fashion

3.4 General Significance of Research

Research assumes a key part in forming the world. Through research, we pick up a superior comprehension of the present most squeezing and complex social and logical issues for example, social decent variety, human rights, malady avoidance, and environmental change. Leaders, general society, and even analysts themselves, must believe in how research is directed, what's more, the resulting discoveries. The advantages of the examination undertaking can't be acknowledged unless the information created is both precise and dependable. Opportunity, [25]

Research has its unique significance in solving several operational and planning related problems of business and industry. Kothari, [23]

3.5 Research and the Sustainable Development Goals

The importance of research in various fields of human endeavor cannot be over emphasized as it relates

with literarily all that pertains to man and the entire makeup of his existence. At earlier stated, that applied research is one of the types of research that majorly focuses on solving practical real-life problems of different scenarios in the society, organizations, industries, various locality and the likes. Since the sustainable development goals of the United Nation it targeted towards making the world a very conducive and suitable place for humanity to stay in. This means that the seventeen (17) SDGs were born out of a passion to solve the generic problems of humanity. Hence, the role of research becomes extremely germane to positively catalyzing the processes and procedure required to attain the reality of it. The SDGs talks about the level of poverty, the standard of living the people, the ecosystem. All of these are the make ups of the human survival mission.

Research will aid the decision-making process of the policy makers at various cadre of the managerial leadership of the SDGs all around the world where the goals intended for. The essence of research in enhancing growth and development of any system or organization is considerably significant. However, the place of quality and good research is not to be compromised because good research work in any sphere of influence, area of specialization, field of endeavor, for any purpose in the regard of solving relevant and related problems is of utmost importance and significance. Hence, quality research work will birth better result and improved situation.

4. Conclusion

It was discovered during this study that research will forever be a very important ingredient of development and its significance will forever remain relevant for any system that want to grow and merge up with her counterparts across the world. Every improvement is traceable to research because there was a problem and the cause of the problem was consciously and effortful discovered, the required solution was effectively appropriated and the system eventually salvage and something new is being added to knowledge. This is traceable to research because that is all about research.

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