



Millennium Development Goals – India's step Forward towards Inclusive Growth

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Abstract:

Economic developments has always remained the aim or target of every economy of world and have also made efforts accordingly. Obviously, world has put forward efforts in the direction of economic development. But in the present time, economic development seems insufficient yardstick to measure real development of the country. Strategies and policies need to be revised or rethink to guide economy even in the field of social development as well as inclusive growth. World at present is facing many problems and passing through difficulties of different forms and need to find solutions for the same. Inclusive growth is the only way to distribute fruits of economic development to huge mass of world. Research article tries to study the step taken by United Nations meet towards inclusive growth through Millennium Development Goals.

Keywords: *Child mortality, Economic development, Education, Effects and efforts, Environment, Equality, Gender gap, Health, India, Infrastructure, Millennium development goals, Poverty, Programs, United Nations*

1. Introduction

Millennium Development Goals are international development goals framed at Millennium Summit United Nation in 2000 and accepted as United Nations Development Declaration. All 189 United Nation Member countries and 23 international organizations committed themselves to help to achieve these International Development Goals by 2015. These International Development Goals or Millennium Development Goals are listed below.

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality and empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development

2. Objective

Objective of this research paper is to evaluate how far efforts of government of India succeed to be in line with Millennium Development Goals as per United Nations Development Declaration. Effort is made to access the real essence of Millennium Development Goals and its execution so far in Indian economy.

3. Methodology

Secondary data from United Nations portal and report of Indian government of 2014 for Millennium Development Goals are used for study and analysis for the stated objective.

If economic development of India is concerned with previous stage or for the phase after independence, progress is eye-catching. Even at a great pace after adoption of economic reforms by the government. It can be considered as half picture of Indian economy or Indian society. Economic

Indicator	Year	MDG target	Likely	Latest
	1990	2015	Achievement	Status
Goal 1 : To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger				
Proportion of People living below poverty line	47.8	23.9	20.74	21.92(2011-12)
Goal 2 : To achieve universal primary education				
Literacy rate(15-24 years Old)	61	100	100	86 (2007-08)
Goal 3 : To promote gender equality and empower women				
1.% of girls to boys in Primary Education	0.73	1	1	1.01 (2011-11)
2. % of girls to boys in Secondary Education	0.6	1	1	0.88 (2010-11)
3. Share of Women in wage employment in Non agri. sector	12.7	50	23.1	19.3 (2011-12)
Goal 4 : To reduce child mortality				
Child Mortality (Per 1000 live Births)	80	27	41	42 (2012)
Goal 5 : To improve maternal health				
Maternal mortality rate (Per 1 lac Births)	437	109	139	178 (2010 -12)
Goal 6 : To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases				
1. Annual parasite Incidence (Malaria)	2.57			0.88 (2012)
2. Prevalence of TB (including HIV) Per 1 lac Population	338			249(2011)
3. Death due to TB (Per 1 lac Population)	43			24 (2011)
Goal 7 : To ensure environmental sustainability				
1. Area covered under forest as % of Geographic Area				21.05 (2011)
2. % of area protected to maintain biodiversity to surface area				5.06 (2013)
3. Carbon dioxide emission per capita				1.14 MT
Goal 8 : To develop a global partnership for development				
1. Telephone per 100 Population				73.5 (2013)
2. Internet Subscribers (Per 100 Population) including wireless				15.1 (2013)
3. Personal Computer per 100 Population				3.29 (2007)

dimension will be inadequate as a yardstick to check out the real progress of the country. Not only India, every country in the world as tried a lot to achieve economic targets but unfortunately fall short of distributing benefits of economic development to every classes of people. Same way, India has also realized this fact and agreed to work according to United Nations agenda of Millennium Development Goals to work in this direction and to reach every class of people. India has taken step forward in the direction of inclusive growth and started working for the same by setting certain targets in different fields. India has also tried to come out with great outcomes but since targets set in UNDO declaration is far beyond the reach till date for India as well as other countries. However, it's better to be late than

never for any country. For this purpose, research has tried to use available data of targets set by the government as well as present condition. It helps to access how far India stands in keeping its promises towards inclusive growth as well as helping every section of the society. Following details can be more helpful to access the targets set as Millennium Development Goals and progress of India with this reference. This can be more helpful for the research to access whether things really go according to approach of inclusive growth as well as reaching out to all sections of society.

4. Millennium Development Goals and Targets

4.1 Summary of Progress achieved by India

1. As far as the problem of poverty is concerned the target set was 23.9%, latest status shows poverty ratio around 21% (2011-12). It means India is moving in the right direction.
2. As against the target of achieving universal primary education and setting 100% literacy in India, government so far succeed to achieve 86% (2007-08). It means further measures can help country to proceed towards realization of targets set.
3. Target set for child mortality rate is 27 still target picture is very far from the reality. Because latest status shows child mortality at 42. So, government needs to frame more effective programs in the area of health and medical facilities for children.
4. In case of maternal mortality, India has achieved 178 (2010-12) against the figure of 437 (1990). However target set by the government is 109.
5. Even government has framed certain plans and policies for environmental sustainability. Government has come out to cover and protect more geographical area under forest. Over and above that government tries to maintain bio diversity.
6. Telephone users, Personal computer users and internet users are continuously growing which means basic and advanced communication facilities are available to masses of people.

Above facts support research that India has taken step forward towards inclusive growth and has achieved targets set up to certain extent. Further measures and policies will surely help the government to work effectively in this direction. Allocation of funds and effective execution can make Indian society better and to satisfy all classes of people.

5. Conclusion

1. These objectives can be realized as targets set, but local authority involvement and support can make it more feasible.
2. Government needs easy availability and accessibility of reliable data to make regular appraisal of performance.
3. When it is about inclusive growth, government needs to work for agriculture and environment more effectively.
4. Certain results achieved through measures and policies are hard to measure as consequences are qualitative and not quantitative.
5. It will also be the difficult task for the government to check out realization of targets benefit different regions equally.

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