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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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PREFACE

“There is no Planet B”, as said correctly by the famous writer, Mike Berners-Lee.

Human beings are constantly expanding their power and with an increase in power comes an increase in greed. This greed has come to a very large extent and is going to increase, if things are not settled at this point in time.

What has Mother Nature not given us? Her love, her passion for our living, her kindness, and everything has been impartial. She is the foremost, who helped us civilize, gave resources for all our insatiable desires, helped us grow and use our full potential for our growth. She never asked us for anything in return. But now, when we are harming her, not realizing and she is calling out to us, why are her cries falling on deaf ears?

This project of mine will demonstrate how we can expand our powers, through **Sustainable Development**, even without harming Mother Nature and the future generations. If we continue with our methods of greed, our end is not quite far away. It will provide certain analysis on our harm caused to her and what can we do to stop this.

Although, we take pledges every year on World Environment Day but it does not take time for them to be broken. It is high time that we realize our mistakes and correct them for things learnt from mistakes can never be forgotten.

As correctly said by Rabindranath Tagore, “You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.”

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

According to the Brundtland Report of 1987, “Sustainable development refers to the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to fulfill their needs.”

IS IT JUST LIMITED TO ENVIRONMENT?

Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development, but its focus is much greater than just the environment. It also aims at creating a strong, healthy and just society, with the promotion of personal wellbeing, social cohesion, and creating equal opportunities.

STEPS BY THE UNITED NATIONS

Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)

In the year 2000, from September 6 to 8, the **Millenium Summit**, took place. This Summit established the 8 Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) that were to be met by 2015. These 8 MDGs were as follows:-

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On 25 September, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), adopted Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in the form of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with 169 associated targets, that succeeded the MDGs.

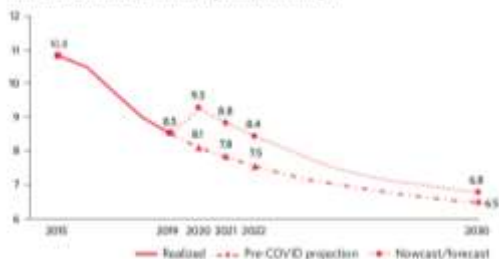
These 17 SDGs are as follows:



Goal →

By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, which was measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day (2015), which is now \$2.15 per day.

Proportion of the world's population living below \$2.15/day, 2015-2019 realized and 2020-2030 forecast and projected (percentage)



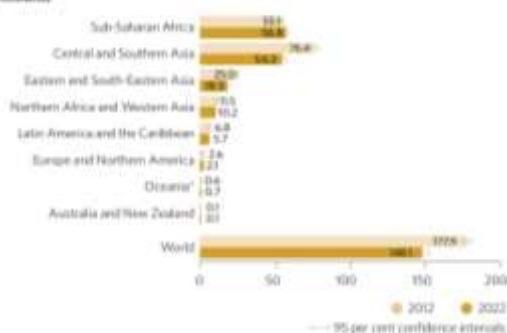
Above line graph depicts the percentage of the world's population living below the poverty line, i.e. earning less than \$2.15/day. As per the earlier estimates by 2020, 8.1% of the world's population would have been below the poverty line. But, the Covid-19 pandemic made the people to lose their livelihoods due to which their earning sources were put to a halt. This produced a devastating impact on the economy. As a result 9.3% of the world's population remained below the poverty line.



Goal →

By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Number of children under age 5 who are affected by stunting, 2012 and 2022 (millions)



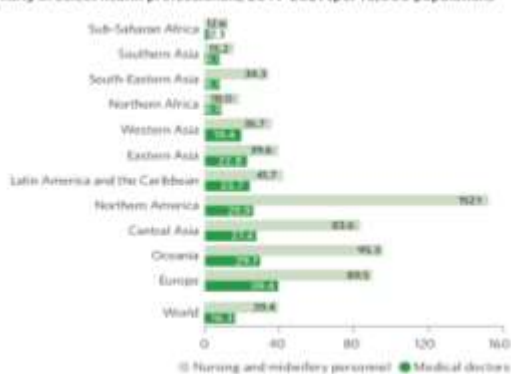
The above bar graph gives information about the number of children who are affected by stunting (under the age of 5). From the above figure, it evinces that the cases of stunting are at a higher number in poor countries than those of rich countries. In most of the countries, the number of children affected by stunting has improved since 2012. But, in the Sub-Saharan African region, the cases have increased by 1.7 million. Overall, in the world the cases of stunting have been improved, from 177.9 million in 2012, it has reached 148.1 million in 2022, a 29.8 million reduction.



Goal →

By 2030, taking concrete steps for substantially reducing global child/maternal mortality ratio, narcotic drug abuse, deaths/injuries from road accidents, deaths/illnesses by hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and end the epidemics of AIDS, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

Density of select health professionals, 2014-2021 (per 10,000 population)



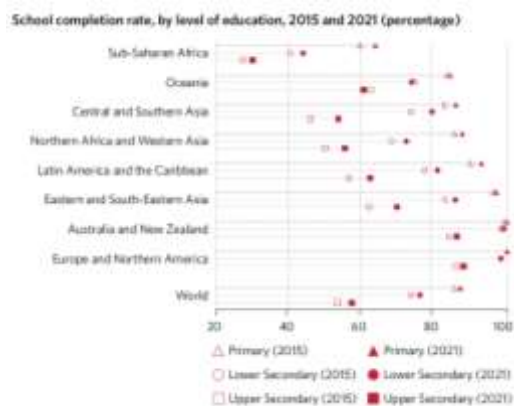
Above figure highlights the density of doctors and nurses available per 10,000 population in a region. It is clearly evident that in poor and disease-prone regions like, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, etc, the number of medical doctors and nurses available are significantly less as compared to those in rich regions, like Europe, Centra; Asia, etc. Sub-Saharan Africa has the least number, with only 12.6 nurses and 2.3

doctors per 10,000 population, whereas Europe has the highest number of medical doctors (39.4) and Northern America has the highest number of nurses (152.1)



Goal →

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

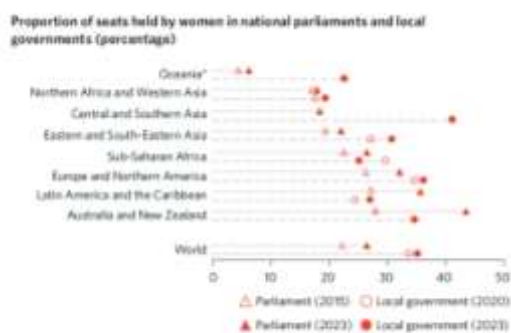


Above chart shows the rate of school completion of students in different regions, with Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary levels. As we can see, in the poorer regions of the world, there is serious lack in awareness about education. In Sub-Saharan Africa, people are not having enough resources to pursue education. In contrast, wealthy regions, like Australia, New Zealand, Europe and Northern America, percentages of Primary and Lower Secondary schools completion have reached the 100% mark already.



Goal →

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere and Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.



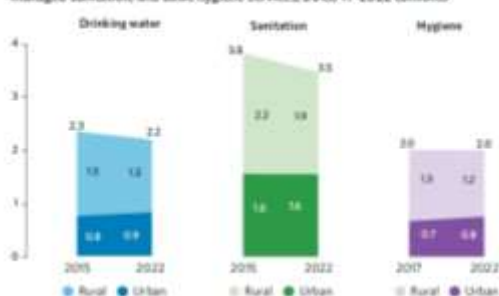
Above chart displays the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliaments and local governments. It is evident from this chart that gender inequality is mostly present in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where the environment is not conducive for women to enter into these fields. On the other hand, rich countries, like Australia and New Zealand are very close to reaching the 50-50 mark in the representation of women in the national parliaments, which is a significant achievement. In Central and Southern Asia, though, women are stuck at the 20% mark in national parliaments, but they have crossed the 40% in the representation at local levels.



Goal →

By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all.

Global urban and rural population without safely managed drinking water, safely managed sanitation, and basic hygiene services, 2015/17-2022 (billions)



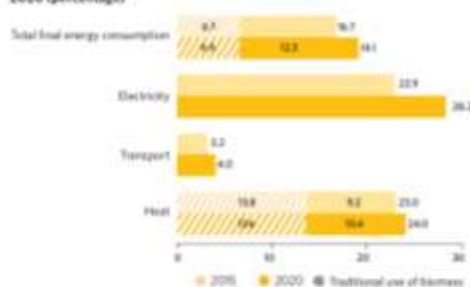
Above graph speaks about the global urban and rural population without safely managed drinking water, sanitation and basic hygiene services. It is clear from the chart that there has been no significant improvement in any of the fields. People living in the rural areas lack these facilities as compared to the people living in urban areas.



Goal →

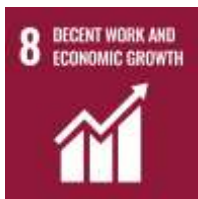
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Share of renewable sources in final energy consumption and by end use, 2015 and 2020 (percentages)



Above figure propounds the share of renewable sources of energy in different consumption areas. There has been a significant change in the percentage use of renewable sources of energy in the electricity sector with a 5.3% increase, between 2015 and 2020. There has been a 2.5% increase in the use of renewable

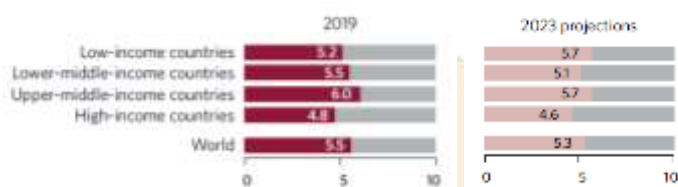
energy sources in total final energy consumption but the traditional use of biomass still accounts for approximately one-third of the share. However, utilization of renewable sources in the Transport and heat sector is very slow.



Goal →

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

Unemployment rate, 2019 and 2023 projections (percentage)

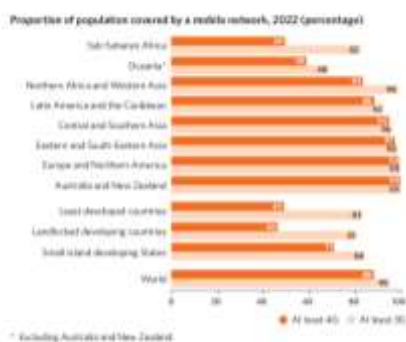


Above graphs narrate about unemployment rates in different countries. In the Low-income countries, 0.5% increase in the unemployment rate has been shown, whereas, in the High-income countries, 0.2% decrease is visible, from 2019 to 2023. Overall, if we see, the unemployment rate may decrease by a margin of 0.2% in the world, in 2023.



Goal →

Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.



Density of mobile network is one of the parameters for gauging development of a country. Above graph illustrates the proportion of population covered by a mobile network. From the above chart it is obvious that the most developed countries, like Australia and New Zealand have a 99% population covered by either a 4G or a 3G network, whereas, in the least developed countries, 83% of the population has access to 3G network but only about half of the population has access to a 4G network. This is because a 4G network is costlier to maintain than a 3G network.

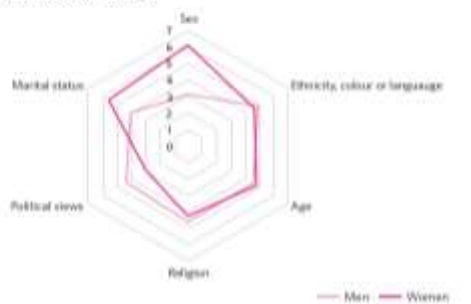


Goal →

By 2030, reduce inequality within and among countries in the spheres of income, social, economical and political inequalities.

The latest available data show that close to one in six people globally experience discrimination based on any grounds. Among both women and men, racial discrimination, rooted in factors such as ethnicity, colour or language, is among the most common grounds. Discrimination based on age and religion, though slightly less widespread, also affects women and men almost equally. Women are twice as likely as men to report instances of discrimination based on sex and almost twice as likely as men to experience discrimination on the basis of marital status. Persons with disabilities also encounter high levels of discrimination, with one in three reporting such experiences, twice the rate encountered by individuals without disabilities.

Proportion of the overall population experiencing discrimination, by selected grounds and sex, 2015-2022 (percentage)



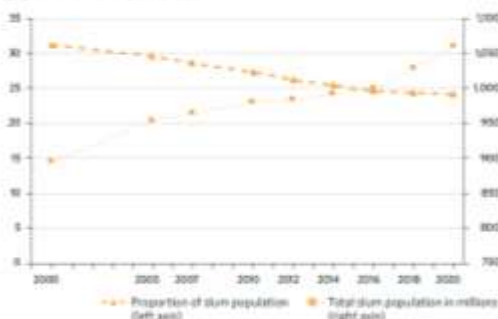
The above chart throws light on the proportion of males and females experiencing discrimination on different grounds. Among both males and females, discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, colour or language is the most common. Grounds like age and religion also affect, both men and women equally. But a heart-breaking fact is that women are twice as more than men that face discrimination on the basis of sex and martial status. On the other hand, political views affect more men than women.



Goal →

By 2030, make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Proportion of global urban population living in slums (percentage) and total slum population (millions), 2000-2020

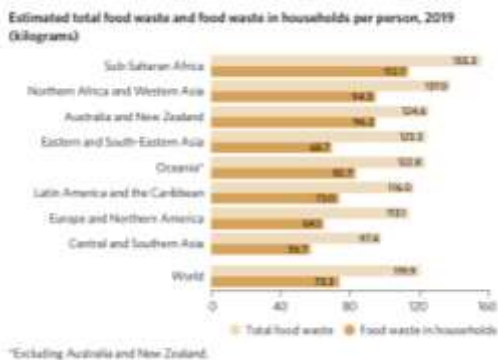


Above line chart cites information about the global urban population living in slums (proportion and numbers). The proportion of slum population in the world has decreased by approximate 5%, from 30% in 2000 to 25% in 2020. On the other hand, the total slum population increased manifold. It was just 15 million in 2000, but has now reached a whopping, 1050 million (approximate), i.e. 70 times increase.



Goal →

Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle, especially in the field of management and efficient use of natural resources, reduce food losses, management of wastes and public procurement policies, etc.

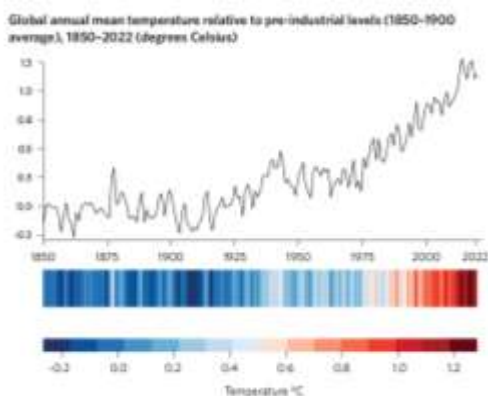


It is clear from glancing at the chart that in 2019, Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the most food waste, with a total food waste of 155.3kg/person and household food waste of 112.7kg/person. On the other hand, people in Central and Southern Asia are the most food-conscious, with a total food waste of 97.4kg/person and household food waste of just 56.7kg/person. Overall, the world accounts for 119.9kg/person total food waste and 73.3kg/person household food waste, in 2019



Goal →

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and Integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.



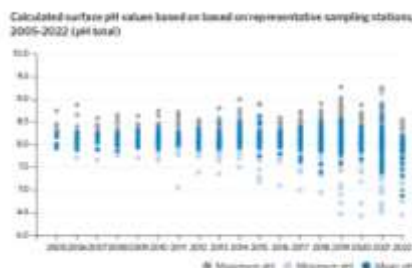
Climate change is the most disturbing issue for the whole world. It can be understood from the above chart that the temperature levels have been significantly rising from 1850 to 2022. From 1850 to 1975 (125 years), the rise in temperature was at a nominal pace and gradual increase. But, from 1975, the earth

started becoming more hot. Between 1975 and 2022 (47 years), the increase in temperature shot up by 0.3°C to 1.3°C.



Goal →

By 2030, conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



As greenhouse gas emissions soar, the oceans are silently absorbing a quarter of annual carbon dioxide emissions. While this mitigates the impact of climate change on the planet, it comes at a great cost to the careful balance in ocean acidity, damaging organisms and ecosystems. Long-term observation sites in the open ocean have shown a continuous decline in pH levels over the last 20 to 30 years, with far-reaching impacts. Currently, the ocean's average pH is 8.1, about 30 per cent more acidic than in pre-industrial times and changing rapidly. Ocean acidification threatens the survival of marine life, disrupts the food web, and undermines vital services provided by the ocean and our own food security. Moreover, this phenomenon weakens and destroys corals and shoreline defenses, degrades habitats and endangers fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. Increased acidification also reduces the ocean's ability to absorb CO₂ and to mitigate climate change.



Goal →

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Trend in forest area as a proportion of total land area, 2015-2020

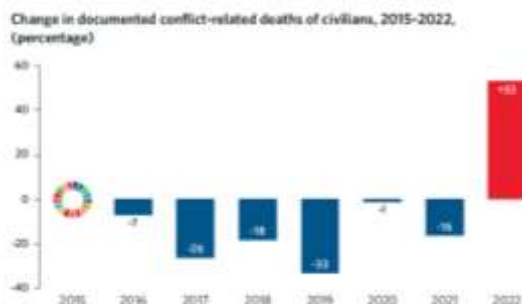


Above world map declares the proportion of forest area in total land area. It is clearly evident, that in more than half of the countries in the world, especially in South America and Africa, there has been a significant deterioration in the forest cover, whereas, in Southern Asia and Australia there is a noticeable improvement in the forest cover. There are many countries with no improvement at all.



Goal →

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

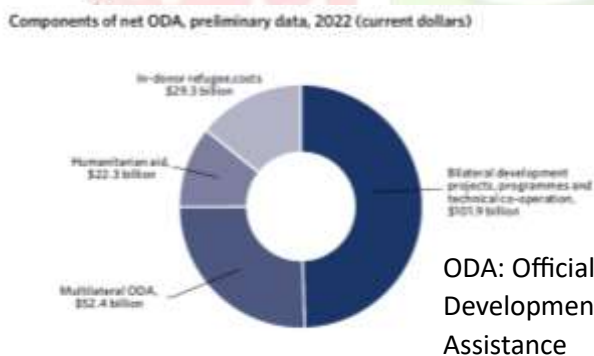


The above chart puts forward the change in conflict-related deaths of civilians, either due to war or other reasons. The world was on a very good path with a -16% improvement in these cases in 2021 and -33% in 2019. But, after the Russia-Ukraine War, started in 2022, the rate of change of conflict-related deaths has increased by a significant 54%.



Goal →

To create a cohesive environment by facilitating coordinated efforts and procedures by the developed nations, primarily in the field of Finance, Technology, Capacity-building, Trade and Systemic Issues.



It is clearly visible from the above circle infographic that a large amount of money has been spent in different fields, by countries all around the world, in 2022, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. There had been \$29.3 billion investment in serving refugees. There was \$22.3 billion investment for the provision of humanitarian aid like, shelter, education, food, medicines etc. Another \$52.4 billion had been spent for improvements in other fields. \$101.9 billion was spent on bilateral projects and for technical assistance, which accounts for almost half of the money spent.

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