



Sustainable Development Goal - 10

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Dear Friends,

This month we shall discuss the 10th Sustainable Development Goal: Reducing Inequality. In this blog, we shall try to explain:

- What it is and why is this relevant
- What are its indicators and targets
- Where do we stand in India
- What can we do to support the goal

As stated earlier, I have little to contribute on my own.

I have attempted to provide a few references, so that if anyone is interested in probing deeper, you could do so.



What is SDG 10? [1]

The purpose of SDG 10 is to reduce inequalities within and between countries. There are different facets of inequality. Inequalities within a country arise with respect to income, wealth, life expectancy and access to services like healthcare, education and other public services. Inequalities occur between genders, social groups, and differently abled persons. Inequalities between nations pertains to migration, development assistance and representation in regional and international bodies. Here is a quotation from UNDP:

“Inequalities persist and grow, intersecting and reinforcing each other and perpetuating intergenerational poverty and exclusion”. <https://sdgs.undp.org/2019-inequality/en/>

Why is this important? [2]

Inequalities matter, simply because we live in an inter-connected world. The absence of wellbeing within a segment of society is bound to have its impact in due course on the wellbeing of the rest of the society. It is like the fire in the ground floor of a multi-storey building. Anyone on the tenth floor can ill afford to feel safe, an analogy offered by the humanitarian leader, Sri Mata Amritanandamayi. In spite of the global efforts to reduce inequalities, it is ‘growing for more than 70% of the global population’. Inequalities hit at the very root of the idea of ‘Leave no one behind.’ Poor people continue to remain poor, and become vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. The impact of Covid-19 is felt disproportionately higher by the disadvantaged segments of society. Even otherwise, inequalities lead to preventable death due to measles, tuberculosis or in childbirth. Women and children are affected more than men. Differently abled persons face higher incidence of discrimination, especially women and children. All the societal SDGs, aimed at reducing poverty, eliminating hunger, ensuring proper education, healthcare, water and sanitation, clean

energy for all cannot be achieved unless the prevailing stark inequalities are removed. Here are some data [2]:

“16,000 children die each day from preventable diseases such as measles and tuberculosis. Rural women are three times more likely to die while giving birth than women in urban centres. Persons with disabilities are the world’s largest minority. 80 per cent of them live in developing countries. Women and girls with disabilities face double discrimination. These are just a few examples, but it is an issue that affects every country in the world”.

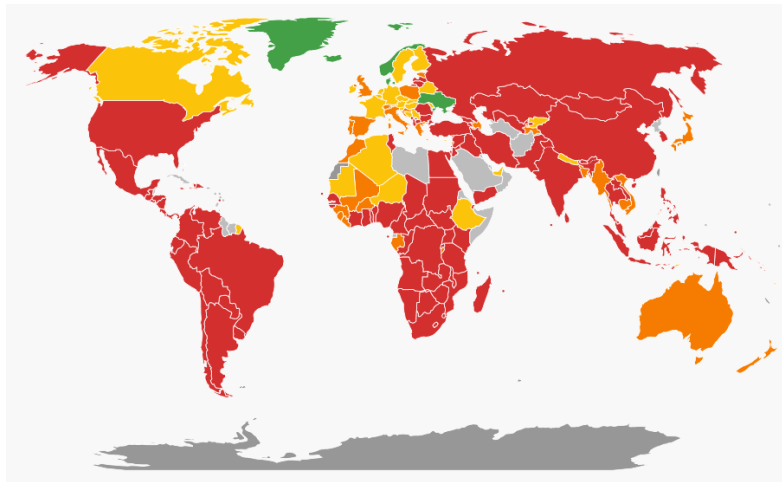
What are its indicators and targets? [3]

The targets for SDG-10 are as under:

- 10.1** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.5** Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 10.6** Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.A** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- 10.B** Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.C** By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

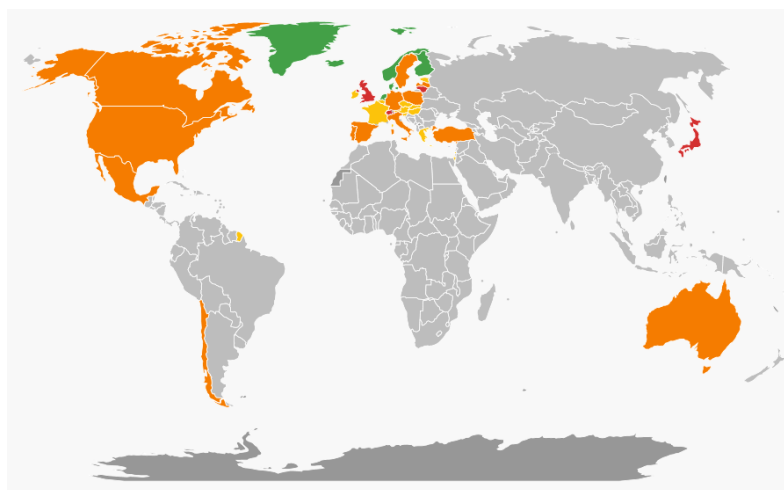
Where do we stand in India?

The following images [4] offer some national as well as global status on SDG-10 and trends:



Status of SDG-10 in 2020

The above figure shows that the status in India and most of the world, comes under the category 'Major challenges remain' while the trend information (below) shows that it is not available for most of Asia and South America and all of Africa.



Trends SDG-10 in 2020

Specifically, India's standing in 2019 [5] is shown below:

SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities

Gini Coefficient adjusted for top income (1-100)

45.6 ● ●

The standing in 2020 [6] is as under:

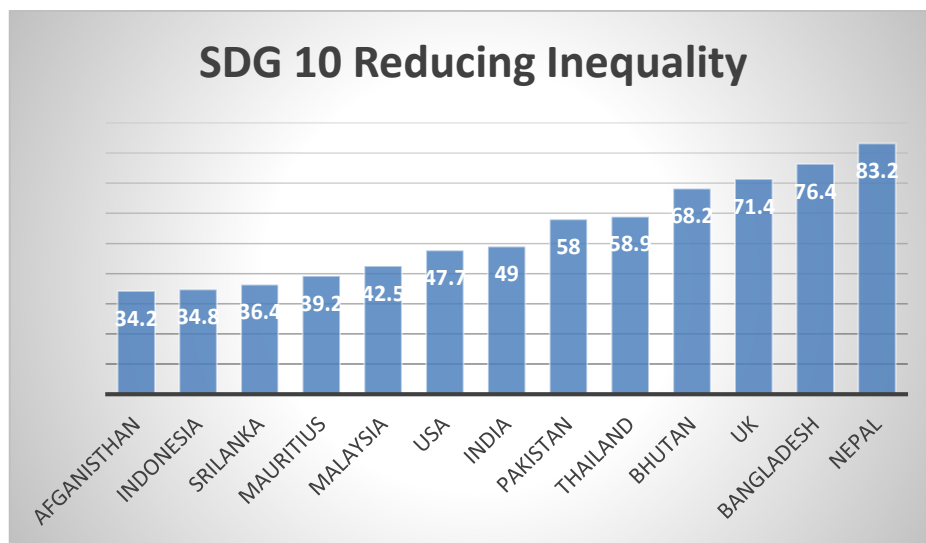
SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities

Gini coefficient adjusted for income

43.2 2011 ● ●



In the following graph we offer a comparison of SAARC nations, 3 ASEAN countries and UK, and USA on the performance on SDG-10 in 2019, based upon adjusted Gini coefficient. Adjusted Gini of 0 represents perfect inequality, while that of 100 implies perfect equality. Within this comparison group, Nepal has the best score followed by Bangladesh. Interestingly, India scores in the middle, better than USA, Afghanistan, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Malaysia, on this count. Some of the key indicators are: income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population, proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, labor share of GDP, redistributive impact of fiscal policy, Financial Soundness Indicators and proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations.



If we look at the indicators level, the comparison is shown below [5]:

This data should be cited as: Sachs, J., 2019

Country	Adjusted Score	Dashboard Color
Country	sdg10_adjgini	sdg10_adjgini
Afghanistan		
Bangladesh	76.38	orange
Bhutan	68.21	orange
India	48.96	red
Mauritius	39.16	red
Nepal	83.18	yellow
Pakistan	57.96	red
Sri Lanka	36.43	red
Indonesia	34.76	red
Malaysia	42.51	red
Thailand	58.89	red
United Kingdom	71.40	orange
United States	47.66	red
China	59.52	red

Adjusted Gini index

What can we do to support the goal?

Here is a brief summary of the central government schemes for addressing the inequalities in the country, as reported in the Voluntary National Report [7] submitted by India in 2020:

- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - guarantees income for at least 100 days in a year for rural households.
- *Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi* (PM-KISAN) - supports the small and marginal farmers to the tune of INR 6,000 annually
- Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) is a targeted programme for women in vulnerable situations in the sectors of education, health, livelihoods, skills, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. The Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) is a similar targeted program for persons with disabilities.
- *Ayushman Bharat* Scheme provides free and quality healthcare services under an annual insurance cover to 100 million families (500 million people) from the economically weaker sections. The scheme now covers testing and treatment for COVID-19 as well.
- Social security support has been greatly supplemented by three major programmes, i.e. *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* (PMJJBY) for life insurance, *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana* (PMSBY) for accident insurance and *Atal Pension Yojana* (APY) for monthly pension for unorganised sector workers.
- There has been a massive mobilisation of 67 million rural women into 6.1 million entrepreneurship-based Self-Help-Groups. The *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* (PMJDY) has been a potent instrument for financial inclusion. Since its inception, around 382.5 million bank accounts have been opened, with more than half belonging to women. The *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana* (PMMY) supports entrepreneurs by providing credit to micro and small enterprises. These schemes help break barriers to easy credit and other financial services, thereby empowering the people in vulnerable situations.
- Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act aims at promoting sustainable migration and a migrant-friendly support system.
- *Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana* provides loans to disadvantaged segments like SC/ST, OBC and women entrepreneurs, who accessed 12, 26 and 62 per cent of all loans in 2018-19 respectively.
- *Samagra Shiksha* programme integrates all aspects of education from pre-primary to higher secondary levels and seeks to materialise all children's right to quality education
- *Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana* provides direct cash transfers for the most vulnerable, including unemployment protection for job losses, and income support.
- Code on Wages, 2019 strengthened the minimum wages and equal remuneration entitlement of workers across formal and informal sectors

As mentioned earlier, each one of us could take it upon ourselves to assist at least one targeted beneficiary to avail of any one of these benefits in a year. We may call it 'Each One Reach One Each Year Scheme' or simply '1-1-1 Scheme'. This would go a long way in implementation of these schemes, and reduce inequalities.

References:

1. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/> Accessed on October 09, 2020.
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5. Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2019): Sustainable Development Report 2019. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
6. Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. 2020. The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7. India VNR 2020.pdf 'Decade of Action – Taking SDGs from Global to Local'.

