

4th International Conference on SDGs 22nd to 24th November 2024 Chitrakoot, INDIA



**A discussion on Family as the Fulcrum for
Achieving '*Gramodaya se Sarvodaya*';
and also SDGs V & VII.**

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



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CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE 4th INTERNATIONAL SDG CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD AT CHITRAKOOT FROM 22nd – 24th NOVEMBER 2024.

Deendayal Research Institute (DRI), founded by Bharat Ratna Rashtrarishi Nanaji Deshmukh in 1968, is an independent “think-and-do tank” devoted to rural upliftment and empowerment of all!

With the support, co-operation, help and inputs from like-minded individuals and organisations, we have been able to inch forward in our agenda to provide grassroots organisations and individuals to gain access to a platform where their views, concerns and solutions can reach a wider audience, with Governmental Agencies, multinational Agencies and fellow non-governmental organisations for experience sharing.

The Conferences firstly looked at the SDG framework as a whole and launched a knowledge platform, www.sdginterventions.org to showcase validated interventions to achieve the SDGs. These templates require slight tweaks to incorporate local variations as required to make them replicable and sustainable.

A World SDG Forum was also launched, and a ‘Chitrakoot Declaration, that is the preamble for action under this initiative was also adopted. The 2nd and 3rd Conferences examined SDGs 1 & 3, and 2 & 4 respectively.

Taking forward the conclusions of the 3rd International SDG Conference and the Chitrakoot Declaration, the 4th Conference will look to delve on strategies for a new narrative laying emphasis on family as the fulcrum of solutions in the spirit of ‘*Gramodaya se Sarvodaya*’ (From Rural Upliftment to Upliftment of All); and from ‘*Sarvodaya to Abhyudaya*’ (From upliftment for All to the Rise of All).

In keeping with the objectives of the Conferences to cover social sector SDGs, its technical sessions will discuss imperatives for accelerating progress with regard to SDGs 5 & 7 – gender equality and sustainable energy.

The issues of Gender Equality are the most critical of the SDGs.

Across cultures and civilisations, women have played a prominent role in the course of history. However, patriarchy persists, and women continue to face cultural, social, and economic barriers that have prevented them from fully sharing the fruits of progress. As Deendayal ji said, “Developing a civil society is impossible without educating the mothers.”

Equally germane is the imperative of energy transition. Despite initial political commitment for the Paris Treaty target to limit the rise in mean global temperature to below 1.5 degrees

Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), the switch away from fossil fuels is not happening at the requisite pace. Furthermore, Tech, Blockchain and AI are driving power consumption to unimaginable levels. IT energy demand accounts for approximately 2% of global CO₂ emissions, approximately the same level as aviation, and represents over 10% of all the global energy consumption. A ChatGPT query consumes 10 times the electricity of a Google search enquiry. Microsoft, Google and Blockchain consume more electricity than countries with a 30 million population. Fossil fuels still account for over 80% of electricity production. This is untenable and unsustainable.

The 4th International SDG Conference will therefore explore out-of-the-box strategies for accelerating the implementation of SDGs 5 & 7 with an emphasis on ensuring women's participation in all spheres of public life (economy, management and leadership) and increasing access to energy while transitioning from fossil fuel (coal and hydrocarbons) toward cleaner sources of energy (solar, wind, geothermal, green hydrogen and nuclear).



Sustainable Development Goals 5 & 7 Brief & Tentative Schedules

Day 1: Inaugural 4.00 -6.00 pm.

Day 2: SDG 5 & 7.

Day 3: Valedictory and Generic Closing and Outcomes.

SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Empower. Ensure. Enable.

Progress towards gender equality is clearly off track. Harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation are decreasing, but not fast enough to keep pace with population growth. Gender parity, especially in women's participation in public life and managerial roles, remains distant. At the current rate, achieving gender parity in managerial positions will take 176 years. Many women still lack control over their sexual and reproductive health, and violence against women persists. Urgent action is needed to challenge biased social norms, eliminate harmful practices, and change discriminatory laws. Increasing women's leadership roles and investments in gender equality are crucial at national, regional, and global levels.

Target 5.1: Based on data collected in 2022 in 120 countries, 55% of the countries lacked non-discrimination laws that prohibit direct and indirect discrimination against women and half of the countries continued to lack quotas for women in the national parliament.

Target 5.3: o Globally, around 640 million girls and women were married before age 18, with India accounting for one-third. While progress has reduced child marriage, still, one in five young women (19%) are married before 18, down 22% in 2013. Despite averting 68 million child marriages in this period, the pace isn't sufficient to eliminate the practice by 2030.

o Over 230 million girls and women worldwide are estimated have undergone female genital mutilation as of 2024, an increase of 30 million compared to the last estimate in 2016.

Target 5.4: On an average day, women spend about 2.5 times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care work as men, according to the latest data between 2000 and 2022.

Target 5.5: Progress in women's political participation remains slow. As of January 1, 2024, women held 26.9% of seats in national parliaments worldwide, marking a modest increase of 4.6 percentage points since 2015 (22.3%). In local governments, the participation was higher at 35.5% as of 1 January 2023. While global employment sees nearly 40% representation from women, they only held 27.5% of management positions in 2022, a notable decrease from 28.5% in 2021.

Target 5.A: In one in three of the 49 countries with data, less than 50% of women and men have ownership or secure rights over agricultural land. Furthermore, there is a notable disparity between women and men's agricultural land ownership, with men owning land at

least twice as often as women in almost half of the countries. Legal protections for women's land rights are low or not existent in approximately 58% of the reporting countries.

Target 5.B: In 2023, 78% of the global population aged 10 and above owned a mobile phone. Women were approximately 8% less likely to own a mobile phone than men in 2023, a decrease from 10% in 2020.

Target 5.C: Data from 105 countries and areas for the period 2018–2021 show that 26% of countries globally have comprehensive systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality, 59% have some features of a system, and 15% do not have minimum elements of these systems.

SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Access. Expand. Innovate.

In 2022, global electricity access declined for the first time in a decade, primarily due to disruptions from COVID-19 and the Ukraine conflict. Despite improvements in energy intensity and renewable energy growth, international financial flows for clean energy in developing countries remain insufficient. At the current rate, 660 million people will still lack electricity and 1.8 billion will not have access to clean cooking by 2030. To achieve universal access to energy by 2030, we need to expedite electrification efforts, boost investments in renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and establish supportive policies and regulatory frameworks.

Target 7.1: o In 2022, global electricity access remained at 91%, but the number without access increased by 10 million from 2021 to 685 million people. Factors such as COVID-19 and the Ukraine conflict disrupted progress. Projections suggest that by 2030, 660 million will still lack electricity. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 83% of deficit in 2022. However, Central and Southern Asia reduced their gap from 235 million in 2015 to 33 million in 2022. Annual progress slowed to 0.4% between 2020 and 2022, requiring a 1.08% increase until 2030 to meet the target.

o In 2022, around 74% of the world used clean fuels for cooking. Yet, about 2.1 billion still relied on polluting fuels and technologies such as charcoal, coal, crop waste, dung, kerosene, and wood. The global access deficit decreased from 36% to 26% since 2015. However, current trends suggest a 21% shortfall in achieving universal access by 2030, leaving 1.8 billion without access to clean cooking by 2030.

Target 7.2: In 2021 the global share of renewable sources in total final energy consumption stood at 18.7%. Excluding traditional use of biomass, the share of modern renewable sources rose gradually from 10% in 2015 to 12.5% in 2021. The electricity sector led the charge with renewables, contributing 28.2% to total final electricity consumption. However, insufficient progress in the heat and transport sectors underscores the need for stronger conservation

measures and policy actions. Tripling world's installed renewable energy generation agreed at the COP28 is an important step aligning with the SDG7.

Target 7.3: In 2021, the primary energy intensity improved by 0.8%, falling below both the 1.2% five-year average and the SDG 7.3 target of 2.6%. To meet the 2030 target, annual improvements must now average around 4%. The robust economic recovery in 2021 led to the largest annual rise in energy consumption in 50 years, exceeding 5%. This surge was driven by a shift towards energy-intensive industries and the resurgence of other demand sectors after lockdowns were lifted.

Target 7.a: In 2022, international public financial flows supporting clean energy in developing countries rose to \$15.4 billion, a 25% increase from 2021 but still half of the 2016 peak of \$28.5 billion. However, in 2023, it was anticipated a decrease in global five-year average flows by \$450 million. The decreasing trend in these flows may hinder SDG 7 achievement, especially for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Target 7.b: Installed renewable energy capacity is on the rise worldwide, reaching 424 watts per person globally in 2022. Developed nations averaged 1,073 watts per person, while developing countries averaged 293 watts per person. This represents an 8.5% increase from 2021, maintaining a steady compound annual growth rate of 8.1% over five-year periods.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The Chitrakoot Declaration

Preamble,

The Government of India launched the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” initiative to commemorate 75 years of Independence and its achievements, growth, and leadership across sectors over the last seven decades. This celebration of ‘India @75’ has coincided with India taking over the G20 presidency - one of the powerful international forums where 20 member countries discuss, deliberate and resolve the pressing issues of the time, prioritizing global economic and developmental parameters. During its tenure as G20 president, India aims to project the agenda of equitable and inclusive development along with a shared future highlighting the principle of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (One Earth, One Family, One Future).

While the G20 had earlier predominantly been a forum for discussion on economic and financial concerns as witnessed during the 2008–09 global financial crisis, it has expanded its domain over the years. One such key area of expansion has been the linking of its efforts to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals like Global Health and Wellbeing for All (SDG3). The resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25th September 2015 emphasises that ‘the interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realised. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.’

The concept of “sustainable development” is a vital amalgamation of three interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars: economic development, social development, and environmental protection. The existing inequality in the capacity and capability to fund, manage and monitor the actions are major hindrances. Thus, a combination of collective and individual action through transformative policies by both developed and developing countries, is essential. While promoting strong, sustainable and balanced growth as key agenda of the G20, its efforts in achieving SDGs could act as a benchmark to steer the world order towards a positive direction.

The idea of “Integral Humanism”, based on Bharat’s world view and propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, was translated into action by Rashtriarishi Nanaji Deshmukh, with Chitrakoot as its epicentre.

The first international seminar on experience sharing process of SDGs was held at Chitrakoot on 15th-17th April 2022. One of the outcomes of that successful conference was the decision to make it an annual feature with a view to stocktaking of the progress in movement towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

This second International SDG Conference held on 26th–27th February 2023, at Deendayal Parisar, Chitrakoot unanimously adopts the following “Chitrakoot Declaration”:

- Having realised the need to learn from experience and experiments on realising the SDGs, this conference endorses the decision to hold such an international gathering every year till 2030. A suitable decision can be taken thereafter on continuation of the conference series.
- Having given the civil society sufficient space in determining the SDGs, it is now necessary to provide a framework for the involvement of the civil society in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs.
- Realising the inadequacy of the present global economic binaries in the progression towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative for India and the global South, to initiate efforts for a new and inclusive world economic order, which will hasten the process of fulfilling SDGs in a cooperative economic architecture.
- Recalling the experiences and experiments of institutions such as the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI), especially at Chitrakoot, it will be relevant to delve on a new narrative laying emphasis on family as the fulcrum of solutions in the spirit of ‘Local to Global’ — Gramoday to Sarvoday (village to the universe); from grassroots to global. Thus, the World SDG Forum (WSF) will eventually transform into a global forum for all, with every stakeholder as a partner, participant and beneficiary.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS




5 GENDER EQUALITY ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

18% 
OF EVER-PARTNERED
WOMEN AND GIRLS
AGED 15 TO 49 YEARS
HAVE EXPERIENCED
PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL
PARTNER VIOLENCE

IN SOUTHERN ASIA,
A GIRL'S RISK OF
MARRYING IN CHILDHOOD
HAS DECREASED BY
40% SINCE 2000

 STILL, **30%**
OF WOMEN AGED
20 TO 24 YEARS
WERE MARRIED
BEFORE AGE 18
(2018)


AT LEAST
200 MILLION
GIRLS AND WOMEN
HAVE BEEN
SUBJECTED TO
FEMALE GENITAL
MUTILATION

 HALF OF THEM
IN WEST
AFRICA


24% OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS
ARE WOMEN (AN INCREASE FROM 18% (2010)) 

WOMEN REPRESENT **39%** OF THE WORKFORCE
BUT ONLY **27%** OF MANAGERIAL POSITIONS 

9 OUT OF **10** PEOPLE WORLDWIDE
HAVE ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY 

 **87%**
OF THE
840 MILLION
PEOPLE WITHOUT
ELECTRICITY LIVE IN
RURAL AREAS

ON AVERAGE,
2.3%
LESS ENERGY
WAS NEEDED TO CREATE
\$1
OF ECONOMIC OUTPUT
EACH YEAR
(2010-2016)

 **17.5%**
OF TOTAL FINAL ENERGY
CONSUMPTION COMES FROM
RENEWABLE ENERGY


3 BILLION
PEOPLE LACK
CLEAN COOKING FUELS
AND TECHNOLOGY

