



Research Paper

Kailash Satyarthi: Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals in India

Surjya Kanta Bhunia¹ and Deb Prasad Sikdar²

¹Research Scholar, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India

²Professor, Department of Education, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India

Corresponding Author: Dr. Deb Prasad Sikdar

Professor, Department of Education

University of Kalyani, Dist. Nadia Pin. 741 235, India

ABSTRACT:

Some problems in the world are similar in every country. These same types of problems include child labor, child trafficking, child abuse, child marriage, poverty, lack of education, child mortality, gender inequality, malnutrition etc. These problems need to be eradicated for the overall progress and peace of the country. In this regard, the United Nations announced the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) in the year 2000. This decision was announced in the presence of representatives of different countries, with each country will taking different programmes in this regard. After the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015-2030) were announced by the United Nations. India signed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Kailash Satyarthi has undertaken various programmes in India to protect child rights. Kailash Satyarthi founded the non-profit organization Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) in 1980. Kailash Satyarthi's Association for Voluntary Action, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), Mukti Ashram, Global March, Rugmark International, Bal Ashram organizations are very important in protecting child rights and child education. He has played an important role in meeting the goals of MDGs and SDGs in India.

KEYWORDS: MDGs, SDGs, AVA, KSCF, Education.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations has taken various programs from time to time to achieve the overall development and peace of the world. In this context, two important initiatives of the United Nations are the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030). Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight goals. Most of the Millennium Development Goals are related to the holistic growth and development of children. Every country should provide some necessary services including education, food, shelter health, security etc. to the children. Providing proper services like education, health, food, cloth, shelter etc. to the children is very important for the improvement and development of the country. Most of the countries in the world have not adequately provided the services that are very necessary for the normal development of children. The Millennium Development Goals were announced in 2000 by the United Nations. One hundred and ninety three countries around the world signed the resolution to meet this goal [1]. Eight issues of the Millennium Development Goals are included. Most of the Millennium Development Goals are related to health and education of children. Six of the eight Millennium Development Goals are directly related to children [2]. Initiatives towards developing SDGs were started in 2012 for maintaining the momentum initiated by MDGs and to take the global development agenda forwarded. SDGs evolved from MDGs [3]. SDGs are related to the development action including ending poverty and hunger, achieving gender equality, providing healthy lives and quality education reducing in equality etc. till the year 2030. India has taken several programs to achieve these eight goals. Kailash Satyarthi's organizations have a special role in achieving the MDGs and SDGs.

II. OBJECTIVES:

Following are the objectives of the study:-

- i) To know about Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015).
- ii) To know about Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030).
- iii) To find out the role of Kailash Satyarthi in fulfilment of Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals in India.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (2000 – 2015):

Many countries around the world have similar problems. These problems are child labor, child trafficking, child abuse, child marriage, poverty, lack of education, child mortality, gender inequality, malnutrition etc. These problems are major obstacles in development of human being. The United Nations became particularly active in eliminating these problems worldwide. Under the initiative of the United Nations, various countries of the world collectively take decisions on several issues. The United Nations adopted a joint resolution in 2000 with 189 countries. Later, the number of countries increased to 193 [1]. These decisions collectively determine the level of achievement of eight goals. Collectively these eight goals are called the Millennium Development Goals. Signatory countries are required to meet eight goals by 2015. India has undertaken several programs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Eighteen targets have been set to meet the eight Millennium Development Goals [4].

Table 1: The different goals of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its targets

MDGs	Details	Number of Targets
MDG1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	2
MDG2	Achieve universal primary education	1
MDG3	Promote gender equality and empower women	1
MDG4	Reduce child mortality	1
MDG5	Improve maternal health	1
MDG6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	2
MDG7	Ensure environmental sustainability	3
MDG8	Develop global partnership for development.	7

[Source: 5]

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (2015 – 2030):

After the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the announcement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets is an important initiative of the United Nations [3]. Sustainable development is essential to build a prosperous and peaceful world for all. The United Nations announced the 17 goals of the SDGs in 2015. One hundred and ninety three countries around the world agreed to meet this goal. The goals of the SDGs are to be achieved by 2030. One hundred and sixty nine targets have been set to meet the 17 goals of the SDGs [6].

Table 2: The different goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its Targets

SDGs	Details	Number of Targets
SDG1	No Poverty	7
SDG2	Zero Hunger	8
SDG3	Good Health and Well-being	13
SDG4	Quality Education	10
SDG5	Gender Equality	9
SDG6	Clean Water and Sanitation	8
SDG7	Affordable and Clean Energy	5
SDG8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	12
SDG9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	8
SDG10	Reduced Inequality	10
SDG11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	10

SDG12	Responsible Consumption and Production	11
SDG13	Climate Action	5
SDG14	Life Under Water	10
SDG15	Life on Land	12
SDG16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	12
SDG17	Partnerships for the Goals	19

[Source:7]

ROLE OF KAILASH SATYARTHI IN FULFILMENT OF MDGS AND SDGS IN INDIA:

Kailash Satyarthi was born on 11 January 1954 in Bidisha district of Madhya Pradesh in India [8]. He is popular and known worldwide for his movement to protect the rights of children. He has established several organisations and institutions to protect children's rights [9]. These organizations are Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), Global March, Rugmark International, Mukti Ashram and Bal Ashram. The major activities of these organisations are to protect child rights. In 2014, Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their struggle for the protecting child rights and education [10].

Association for Voluntary Action has a special role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in India. Association for Voluntary Action is a non-profit organization in India. This organisation is known as Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA). It was founded by Kailash Satyarthi in 1980 [11]. This organization continues to play an important role in protecting child rights. This organization is playing an important role in the overall growth and development of India. Kailash Satyarthi's multi-faceted activities are particularly important in achieving the goals of the MDGs and SDGs.

The second goal of the Millennium Development Goals is to achieve universal primary education. Among the eight main goals of the MDGs, the second goal is very important. Education is the most essential thing for mankind and every country. People overcome all their problems through education. Every country in the world, therefore, gives importance on education. In this reason, every state is conscious about child education so that no child of their country is deprived of education. Overall development of the state is not possible without education. But unfortunately, many countries of the world are still unable to include all boys and girls in primary education. The Government of India has taken several programs to ensure that no one in the country is deprived of education. Even after 75 years of Independence, it has not been possible to provide education to all the children of India. Right to Education Act 2009 is also very important step in India.

Association for Voluntary Action undertakes several programs to ensure that no child in India is deprived of education. This organization rescued children from various factories, agricultural fields etc. and brought them in light of education. This organization has been undertaking several programs to eliminate various social barriers such as child trafficking, child abuse, child marriage etc. Kailash Satyarthi rescued children from various dark worlds and arranged for their rehabilitation through his organizations. He rescued many children and placed them in the rehabilitation center. He established the Mukti Ashram in 1991 and Bal Ashram in 1998 [12]. Mukti Ashram is a short-term rehabilitation center and Bal Ashram is a long-term rehabilitation center. Mukti Ashram was the first rehabilitation centre for rescued children in Delhi of India [12]. These two rehabilitation centers provide food, cloth, residence, education for the rescued children. Children are rescued from various factories, hotels, fields and farms and are first kept at Mukti Ashram. The rescued children are given first aid and counselling at Mukti Ashram.

Attempts are made to contact with the parents of the rescued children but when no contact is made, the children are shifted to Bal Ashram. Various types of vocational training are given to the children in the rehabilitation center. Here, the children are provided different types of education (formal and non-formal) and through this program, many children have got back their normal life. Through Kailash Satyarthi's programme, many children have regained their right to education. This program has played an effective role in meeting the second goal of the MDGs. The second goal of the MDGs is to achieve universal primary education.

Another important organization founded by Kailash Satyarthi is the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation [12]. This organization has a significant role in India to fulfil multiple goals of the MDGs and SDGs. Child marriage is an important issue at present. Eradication of social barriers like child marriage is very important for the overall development of the country. Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation is undertaking several programs to build child marriage free India. Important activities of this organization are prohibition of child marriage, solving multiple problems of adolescent girls, creating awareness about health and nutrition and 100% enrolment of girls in school etc. Along with this, self-help groups and multiple vocational trainings are being arranged for the empowerment of girls. The activities of this organization are significant in achieving the goal of the MDGs and SDGs.

Two other important works of Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) are development of Child Friendly Village and Child Friendly Urban Slums. This organization has undertaken several programs to improve selected villages and urban slums in various states of India. KSCF organization has given back all the rights of children who are deprived of multiple rights in these village and urban slums. The first Child Friendly Village program was launched in 2001[13]. Kailash Satyarthi has established approximately above 400 child friendly villages in India [13]. Efforts are made to ensure that all children living in these villages are enrolled in school. Campaigns are made to ensure that no one is deprived of the services provided by the Government. Kailash Satyarthi's the most important thing in this program is to protect children's right to education. As a result of this work of Kailash Satyarthi, student enrolment in school is increased. And in view of this, it can be said that Kailash Satyarthi has an important role in meeting the MDGs and SDGs in India.

Global March created by Kailash Satyarthi [14] continues to play a particularly effective role in protecting children's right to education at the national and international levels. In this global march, head of different countries of the world and various eminent persons have joined the march. Global March has taken awareness programs to protect children's right to education worldwide. As a result of this campaign, people of different countries have been inspired. Various countries have adopted several programs to promote child rights and education. This program has helped to achieve universal primary education, the second goal of the MDGs.

The different organisations founded by Kailash Satyarthi provide the following services-

- i) Education for both boys and girls,
- ii) Vocational training for both boys and girls,
- iii) Promoting gender equality,
- iv) Providing food and nutrition,
- v) Providing medical care to victim children,
- vi) Preventing harmful practices such as child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, child sexual abuse etc.
- vii) Formation of self help groups empowering girls and enhancing their home based skills and life skills.

The above mentioned activities of the different organisations founded by Kailash Satyarthi help in fulfilment of some goals of MDGs and SDGs.

III. CONCLUSION

In today's world, the problems of poverty, education, health, gender inequality, malnutrition, child labor, child trafficking, child abuse, child poverty etc. are very unfortunate. If these problems cannot be removed, the progress and peace of the country will not be possible. The Millennium Development Goals initiated by the United Nations and other countries is important to solve this problem. India has taken various programs to meet its goals. Kailash Satyarthi has helped to achieve the goals of the MDGs and SDGs. The institutions established by Kailash Satyarthi provide rehabilitation center to the children. These rehabilitation centers provide various services including accommodation, education, food, cloth, empowerment, health, etc. to the children. Over the past 40 years, Kailash Satyarthi has rescued around one lakh ten thousand children and brought them back to normal life. Kailash Satyarthi has developed many child-friendly villages. In Child Friendly Villages, he has taken programs to protect multiple rights of children. There are also various Government schemes which are taking awareness programs for public awareness. Efforts are being made to ensure that all children are admitted to school in these villages. It also works to create awareness about child marriage, enrolment in schools, gender discrimination etc. Another major initiative of Kailash Satyarthi is to develop child-friendly urban slums. Here, the rescued child labourers are provided education and training for empowering them. These works of Kailash Satyarthi are closely related to the goals of MDGs and SDGs.

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