

Women and Sustainable Development Goals - An Indian Context

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Abstract

The status of women has been subjected to many changes over the period of Indian history. In India women are worshiped as Goddesses and nature is compared to mother. Women's role which had four-fold sequences traditionally (as a daughter, wife, homemaker, mother) is now experiencing far-reaching changes and is a hot issue of debate even today. Women play a strong role in educating and socializing their children by making them understand the importance of using and protecting natural resources. Though they constitute nearly half of the population, Indian women are still untapped resources to achieve inclusive sustainable development. Sustainable development depends upon the equitable distribution of resources for today and for the future. The present paper aims to understand the status of women concerning to each of the sustainable development goals and to find out the schemes or programmes initiated towards the welfare and empowerment of women in India since the adoption of sustainable development goals. This study is purely descriptive in nature and is an outcome of secondary data. The major results of the study reveals the most necessary challenges to be met immediately which are right from the gender gap in financial inclusion, issues of health and wellbeing in the form of undernourishment, education, employment, access to modern energy sources, workforce participation, women trafficking, violence against women to other escalating conflicts. Women must be heard and considered at all levels of decision-making for a shared and sustainable future of a diverse country like India.

Key words – Women, Sustainable Development, Empowerment, Gender Equality.

Introduction

Yatra Naryastu Pujyante ramante tatra devatah;

Which means the divine is extremely happy where women are respected;

Yatraitastu na pujyante sarvastatraphalah kriyah.

where they are not, all actions are fruitless.

India is a land of customs, tradition and practices which have been developed through centuries to centuries. These customs, tradition and practices become the consciousness of our society. We

worship female Goddesses, give importance and respect to our mothers, daughters, sisters, wives, friends, etc. But at the same time, we can't ignore the patriarchal system of our society and male superiority. In fact, principles of gender equality are enshrined in our Constitution. The Constitution of India not only grants equality to women but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women.

Indian society is a traditional society which holds on to the vestiges of the past in terms of age old beliefs and customs. In India, women are considered as mother-goddesses. Women play a critical role in all of the SDGs, with recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. Indian population constitute 48.1% of women and in 2018 49,392,654 fewer women than men. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 as a part of the resolution, 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. At the central Government level, National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country.

Review of Literature

Shailaja R (2000) examined the role of women in bio-fuel management and also discussed about the strategy that the government and other organizations adopted to alleviate rural energy problems and how it benefited women. The importance of incorporating the concept of gender and development in alternative energy strategies to achieve the objectives of sustainable development are discussed in this paper. **Oparaocha S and Dutta S (2011)** explained the implications of existing energy poverty for women in developing countries and they also highlighted about how to address gender issues in energy sector and make specific recommendations towards gender mainstreaming in the energy sector. **Balakrishnan R and Dharmaraj K (2018)** observed that it is critical to unpack the relationship between existing economic policy and violent conflicts and to consider how women are disproportionately affected in order to examine the issues surrounding women, peace and security. **Meenakshi Lohani and Prof. Loai Aburaida (2017)** identified dual rationale for promoting gender equality among which the first is gender equality is a matter of human rights and social justice and second is gender equality is a precondition for sustainable people centered development. **Raju Kowsalya and Shanmugam Manoharan (2017)** examined the factors responsible for high maternal mortality and health concerns among Indian women. They identified the problems faced by Government associated with implementation of appropriate interventions to solve those problems

Objectives

1. To Understand the status of women in relation to each of the sustainable development goals.
2. To find out the schemes or programmes initiated towards the welfare and empowerment of women in India since the adoption of sustainable development goals.

Research Methodology

This paper is purely based on secondary data and it is collected through secondary sources. This study is descriptive in nature. This study has been carried out by referring various journal articles, newspapers and websites.etc

Sustainable Development Goals and Women

1. NoPoverty –

As an employed wage earner, to creating jobs as an entrepreneur, to taking care of her family and elders Women make significant contributions every day in bringing an income to her household.

One of the best steps towards elimination of Poverty is Financial Inclusion which includes increased means of savings and borrowings. It indirectly contributes to fulfill the first SDG. More stress towards financial inclusion was given from the introduction of Jan Dhan Yojana in India and unfortunately it is suffering from a Gender gap. According to World Bank Survey results published in 2017, 77% of Indian women owned a bank account which was 43% and 26% in 2014 and 2016. The gender gap in account ownership in 2017 was 6.4% as against 19.4% in 2014. But the savings and borrowing functions carried out by women are very low. Among the women who have bank accounts, only 16.7% of them were saving formally at banks in 2017 which was only 10% in 2014. Even after Demonetization 9% of women who have bank accounts started to save semi-formally (savings groups, clubs) or informally (relatives and friends). And in case of Borrowing the data is unchanged between 2014 and 2017, only 5% of women account holder took a formal loan and 30% of them continued to borrow informally (friends and relatives). The gender gap in bank borrowings is 3.3% in 2017 which was 2.8% in 2014. Among the total entrepreneurs in India, about 10% are women due to lack of access to formal credit. The women in India are less financially included and only 22% of them own debit cards as against 43% of men and credit cards holders were only 2% in 2017. There exists female exclusion in finance.

Reasons for gender inequalities in finance include large gender gaps in unemployment, wages, average years of schooling, unpaid care work; world's lowest female labor force participation, safety concerns, socio-cultural restrictions prevent their empowerment, bargaining and decision-taking strength; lack of collateral makes many of them high-risk borrowers; these inherent disadvantages discourage many from approaching banks.

2. Zero Hunger –

Around the world, Women prepare up to 90% of meals in households yet when times are tough, women and girls may be the first to eat less. Hunger is measured by the number of undernourished people. Nourishment is all about the quality of food and not quantity. According to UN Report 2017, 23.4% of people in India suffer from Hunger and 51.4% of women in their reproductive ages (15-45 years) are anemic. Malnutrition indicates that people are either too short for their age or too thin. People whose height is below the average for their age are considered to be stunted and whose weight is below the average for their age are considered thin for their height are wasted. Malnutrition affects survival chances, increases illness, decreases learning ability, intellectual development, mental capacity and people become less productive. According to United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), among the adults 23% of women are considered undernourished in India against 20% of men and 21% of women against 19% of men are overweight or obese. The simultaneous occurrence of over nutrition and under-nutrition indicates that women in India are suffering from abnormal thinness and obesity. This implies that about only 56% of women against 61% of men are at normal weight for their height. Amongst the total population in the World, India considered as a home to largest undernourished population of 194.4 million that is 14.5%.

3. Good Health and Well Being –

Health is a fundamental right of every person. Gender-based discrimination, however, undercuts this right. It makes women more prone to sickness and less likely to obtain care, for reasons ranging from affordability to social conventions keeping them at home. women's health needs more attention

women in India are facing health issues in the form of maternal mortality whose ratio is officially 212 per every 1 lakh births and most of Indian women die from labor, pregnancy and insecure premature births. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW) report in 2009; one in 70 Indian women, who achieve reproductive age dies this way. Sex based brutality is one among the other health issues which results in mental health sicknesses, including depression, sexually transmitted diseases like HIV and AIDS. Sex ratio (940 females per 1000 males as on 2011 census) is been declining in India due to access to sex-specific abortions openly.

Cervical cancer is the reason for death of one women in every 8 minutes in India. And out of every 2 women newly diagnosed with breast cancer, one woman dies. About 3500 persons die every day due to use of tobacco in India leading for 3,17,928 deaths (approx) in men and women in 2018.

Regarding female suicides India has the sixth highest female suicide death rate in the world. There were 36.9% female suicide deaths as a percentage of world's as per UN medical journal report 2017. Nearly two (40%) in every five women in the world who kill themselves are Indian, according to a Lancet study 2017 and the major reasons for their suicides were Violence against women, early marriage, male violence and patriarchal culture.

4. Quality Education –

Education is a right which empowers individuals to increase their well-being and contributes to broader social and economic gains. Efforts must be made to tackle those factors that limit schooling or channel women and girls into 'acceptable' areas of study or work.

According to World Bank Report, the average female literacy rate in India is 65.46% in 2017 and female labor force participation in the market at 31.2 percent and more than 50 million young women in India are idle who neither study nor work. According to Economic census report 2011, India's female literacy rate was 64.64% with Bihar having the lowest female literacy ratio in the country that is 63.82%. Though female literacy rate in India is the highest since independence, it is less when compared to world's average female literacy rate with 79.7%. And around 63.5 percent female students quit school during adolescence.

The problem is that female population is still considered as second-class citizen in the country. Access to tools enabling a healthy life – education, health, and wealth – for a female is disproportionate to males and the other reasons are lack of facilities in schools like toilets, safety of girls, eve-teasing or other forms of harassment. Conservative and orthodox families in India prefer spending on their daughter's marriage than their education, especially higher or specialized education.

5. Gender Equality –

According to Oxfam report, January 2020, in the workplace, women still receive 34% less wages than their male counterparts for the same work. In India, 20% girls belonging to top families get nine years of education on average, while 20% girls from bottom families doesn't get education at all. Among

the girls who make it to school they are often pulled out due to financial problem, the report said. In addition, every year more than 23 million girls drop out of school because of a lack of toilets in school and proper menstrual hygiene management facilities.

Rural Indian women are prone to 320 minutes of unpaid work per day and in case of urban women is 290 minutes per day in 2019. This unpaid work of women is leading to gender based violence in India as per Oxfam report 2019. Women still receive 34% less wages than their male counterparts in the workplace for the same work.

According to National Crime Records Bureau, in 2015 a total of 327,394 cases of crime against women were reported and Women face violence mostly in the private sphere like domestic violence, marital rape and from the very relations. According to National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS) issued by Union Ministry of Health, 27 per cent of women in India have experienced physical violence since the age 15. About 31 per cent of married women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their spouses. The most common type of spousal violence is physical violence (27%), followed by emotional violence (13%) and for women who are not married, the experience of physical violence is from mothers or step-mothers (56%), fathers or step-fathers (33%), sisters or brothers (27%), and teachers (15%). Among married women who were victims of sexual violence, over 83% faced violence from their husband and 9% from former husband. And in case of unmarried women it was from other relatives (27%), by a current or former boyfriend (18%), their own friend or acquaintance (17%) and a family friend (11%).

6. Clean Water and Sanitation –

A safe and affordable drinking water sustains human life. 99 million people in India lack safe and affordable drinking water and 541 million people lack access to improved sanitation. According to Water Aid Survey in 2015, India has more than 600 million people who are forced to practice open defecation. India is facing challenges in providing and maintaining basic services of safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

7. Affordable and Clean Energy –

From the light that allows a child to do her homework to streetlamps allowing women to travel safely home at night sustainable modern energy fuels development. Energy has to be affordable and reliable for universal access and its generation must not affect the environment. Women are the primary energy managers in households. With non-availability of modern sources, they spend hours each day collecting fuel to cook and heat their homes. Many women suffer from health issues through indoor air pollution generated, for example, by a rudimentary stove that smokes heavily as it burns wood or animal dung. However, only 20% of the workforce in the industries that produce modern sources of renewable energy are women. Women could play powerful roles in extending sustainable modern energy as primary energy managers in households. Barriers to women executives, entrepreneurs and employees must fall in energy industry. With around one-quarter of the total, India is projected to be a significant contributor to the rise in global energy demand. As of 2016, more than 207 million people in India do not have access to electricity.

Nearly 70% of Indian households use traditional energy sources such as firewood, twigs and dried animal dung as their primary fuel for cooking as on 2013. In collecting twigs or drying flat cakes of cow dung in the sun, Indian women spend from one to five hours a day.

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth –

Employment is the key for economic well-being of people. A living wage, workplace safety and protection against discrimination are the key components of decent work in an inclusive economy.

According to World Bank report as on 2017, 19.6 million women dropped out from the workforce out of which 53% were rural women. And only 23.7% (which has most illiterates and college graduates) of Indian women are in the workforce which is lowest among the south Asian countries as per the report. Even though more girls are being educated than boys, but their education is not leading to jobs. Sectors with the fastest growth and maximum hiring like telecom, banking and the core sectors are dominated by men. In telecom, 83.84% of all employees are men; 78.79% in banking, financial services and insurance and 74.75% in core sectors like oil and gas, power, steel and minerals, according to the India Skills Report 2017.

In a country like India with around 49 per cent of women in the population, the political participation of women has been low as per the survey for 2017-18 tabled in the Parliament . India has less than 15% representation of women in Indian Parliament. Among the total elected representatives (ERs) in PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) as on December, 2017, women constituted 44.2% " the survey added. The reasons for their low participation are domestic responsibilities, prevailing cultural attitudes regarding roles of women in society and lack of support from family, lack of confidence and finance were among main reasons that prevented them from participating in the labor force and also entering politics.

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure –

Infrastructure like roads, bridges and facilities that allow businesses to operate and people to obtain essential services is the key contributor to economic development. Infrastructure construction and use needs to be sustainable through environmentally sound technologies. Innovation and upgraded technology are the key elements to pursue sustainability for new and existing industries. In order to ensure facilities and services which are required for needs and rights of women, planning, building and financing must take gender dimensions into account.

The number of Indian women in engineering, physics and computer science – and other areas of knowledge and innovation – is on the decline. India is making slow progress in regard to advancing women in science. Only 14% (39,389) of 2.8 lakh scientists, engineers and technologist employed in R&D institutes in India are women and the global average for the same is 28.4%. Among the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) technical staff, only 8% constitute women and no women has headed ISRO since its inception (1963).

- 10. Reduced Inequalities** -Gender discrimination makes women prone to deeper disparities in health, education, employment etc
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities**– The growing urbanization rate which was 34% in 2019 is leading to migration of men and women to cities for a better life, more income, employment, comfortable residence and access to modern amenities. But life becomes dangerous with many obstacles in the urban economy. Gender discrimination adds more risks to women such as overbuilt slums, poorly connected public transport, harassment and amenities like clean water.
- 12. Responsible consumption and production** – Irresponsible consumption and production leads to loss of resources forever, climate change resulted by greenhouse gas emissions, food loss at every stage

from field to table, deforestation etc. Women have to be given equal access in consumption and production through land and technology that can boost their standard of living. Women at large must assume equal leadership in striking a better balance in parliaments and boardrooms, in their communities and families.

13. **Climate Action** – The impacts of climate change are more for women and they are likely to bear the greater burden in situations of poverty. Climate change increases risks for many poor women which can be reduced by adequate education and employment of both men and women. Many women spend long hours hunting for food, fuel and water, or struggling to grow crops and women are more likely to perish when disasters strike. Women can offer valuable insights into better managing the climate and its risks through their experiences and traditional knowledge as stewards of many natural resources. They also have a right to protect themselves, and to participate in decisions with profound implications for people and the planet.
14. **Life below water** – Destructive fishing has posed a threat to marine eco-systems and increased sea levels which directly impacts coastal communities and people who depend on oceans for livelihood. 24% of Indian women are in fisheries and fish farmers who does works like net mending and preparation, sorting, cleaning, drying, marketing, fishing by land, and beach seine fishing particularly in small scale fisheries.
15. **Life on Land** – Deforestation is a fast spreading problem which reduces carbon-dioxide absorption and biodiversity. Reckless land use practices have led to land degradation and desertification, droughts, including those linked to climate change reduce resources that helps to sustain environmental health and human well-being in which women can be most affected with making up shortfalls in food and fuel. Their limited ownership of land reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or make decisions about how land is used—for the benefit of themselves and the environment. women play a critical role as stewards of the land, comprising much of the agricultural labor force in developing countries as primary collectors of resources such as wood for fuel, as well as wild foods and herbs for medicines. Their knowledge about traditional practices are inherently sustainable, however, is often excluded from decisions about sustainable ecosystems.
16. **Peace justice and strong institutions** – Peaceful and inclusive societies uphold the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice by protecting women from gender based violence. During wars or conflict, women often have fewer resources to protect themselves and they frequently make up the majority of displaced and refugee populations and war tactics such as sexual violence specifically target women. The human trafficking phenomenon is considered as a complex problem in any society, Almost 20,000 women and children were victims of human trafficking in India in 2016, which was nearly 25% compared to 2015 and there are approximately 10 million sex workers in India as per Government data. In addition to trafficking for prostitution, girls and women are also bought and sold into forced marriages in women deficit areas due to female infanticide and they are subjected to physical and sexual abuse and treated as slaves. In many cases, trafficked women are at risk from unwanted pregnancy, HIV/Aids, cervical cancer, severe physical injury, violence, drug abuse and more, not to mention the emotional trauma and long-run psychological impact.
17. **Partnerships for the goals** - The SDGs will mean little without the means of finance, technology, capacities, partnerships and data to implement them. Their success also depends on the ability of each country to make policy choices aimed at achieving all of the goals. Gender equality is central to all of the SDGs, but often, women end up on the short end of the means of implementation, while governments increasingly use gender-responsive budgeting to direct funds to programmes that benefit

women. A gender budget is not separate budget for women but an attempt to assess and examine how the government priorities are impacting men and women.

It was introduced for the first time in the 2001 Union Budget with a vision to address the massive gender inequality in India. Since 2005, the union government releases the Gender Budgeting Statement consisting of two parts. The first part reflects the women-specific schemes in which 100 percent allocation is only for women. The second part reflects pro-women schemes in which 30% of the allocation is earmarked for women.

List of Schemes and Programmes by Government of India towards Empowerment and welfare of women in India After Adopting Sustainable Development Goals

Women Empowerment can be defined as the process which allows women to take decisions of their own, provide fair laws and rights without gender bias, etc. No doubt the empowerment of women is Nation's empowerment.

Table 1.1

Sl No	Scheme and Year of Establishment	Objectives
01.	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao 2015	To provide education to girls' and their welfare, to prevent the violation in the interest of girls, to celebrate the birth of a girl child.
02.	One Stop Center Scheme 2015	To provide support and assistance to women affected by violence at private or at any public place, irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status.
03.	Women Helpline Scheme 2015	To provide 24 hour emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence including sexual offences and harassment both in public and private sphere, including e family, community, workplace, etc.
04.	Nand-Ghar Yojana 2015	To provide supplementary nutrition to children and to pregnant/lactating mothers to fight the problem of malnutrition.
05.	Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana 2015	To ensure financial independence of women by encouraging them to invest in a savings scheme that would enable them to fulfill their long-term life goals and dreams and ensure financial stability.
06.	Mahila E-Haat 2016	To help women to make financial and economic choices that enable them to become entrepreneurs and a part a part of Make in India and Stand Up India Initiatives.
07.	Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 2016	To protect the health of women like curbing health issues resulting from usage of fossil and fuels for cooking, reducing casualties resulting from usage of unclean fuels for cooking, controlling respiratory issues occurring due to indoor pollution resulting from usage of incompletely burnt fossil fuel and empowering women.
08.	Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme 2017	To enhance women's quality of life and promote community participation for empowerment of rural women.

09.	Maternity benefit Program 2017	To promote, encourage and provide appropriate practice, care and institutional service utilization during pregnancy, delivery and lactation, nutrition and feeding practices.
10.	e-Samvad Portal 2018	To allow NGOs to contact the Union Ministry of Women and child development and share feedback, suggestions, grievances and their best practices regarding women.
11.	Nari-Web Portal 2018	To access information regarding 350 different schemes offered by state governments for women welfare.
12.	She-Box Portal 2018	To report complaints on sexual harassment at workplace that goes directly to concerned jurisdiction to taking action in the matter.
13.	New Draft National Policy 2019	To address needs of women in areas of health, food security, sanitation, education, agriculture industry, labor, employment, NRI women, soft power, service sector, science and technology, violence against women, governance and decision making, housing, shelter, infrastructure, drinking water, media, culture, sports, social security, environment and climate change.

Findings

1. Existence of Female exclusion in Finance - The scheme which was introduced by Government of India as a tool for financial inclusion is suffering from Gender gap of 6.4% as on 2017. There was also a gender gap in bank borrowings which was 3.3%. Among the total entrepreneurs in India, women were about only 10%. Women and nature are largely invisible in mainstream economics.
2. Largest Undernourished population - 23% of women in India are undernourished and 21% of women suffer from Overweight. 51.4% of women are anemic.
3. Non-Existence of Good Health and Wellbeing - Sex Ratio in India is declining due to sex specific abortions and maternal mortality ratio 212 per every 1 lakh births. Women in India suffer from sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, AIDS due to sex based brutality. India has highest female suicide death rate with 36.9% as on 2017. Every year more than 23 million girls drop out of school due to unhygienic facilities.
4. Absence of Quality Education – Though female literacy rate in India as on 2017 is highest since independence, 63.5% female students quit school during their adolescence and female labor force participation in India is only 31.2%. Only 23.7% of women are in work force and 19.6 million women dropped out from work force in 2017.
5. Gender Discrimination – At workforce as on 2019, women receive 34% less wages than men for same work. Rural women do 320 minutes of unpaid work and 290 minutes of unpaid work per day in 2019.
6. Violence Against Women – In 2015, 3,27,3394 cases of crime against were reported and 27% of women in India experienced physical violence since the age 15. 31% of married women experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence by their spouses.
7. No Access to clean water and sanitation – 99 million people in India lack safe and affordable drinking water and 541 million people lack access to improved sanitation. 600 million people are forced to practice open defecation.
8. Education not leading to jobs – In major sectors, men dominate women in terms of employment with at least 75% of them and less than 15% of women participate in politics in India as on 2017-18. Only 14% of 2.8 lakh scientists, engineers and technicians employed in Research and development institutes in India are women. And only 8% of Indian Space Research Organization's technical staff are women.

9. Growing Urbanization which was 34% in 2019 and increased migration are making women life more riskier due to gender discrimination.
10. About 20,000 women and children were victims of Human Trafficking in India and 10 million sex workers in 2016.
11. Gender Equality is central to all SDGs and only 13 programmes were implemented for welfare and empowerment of women since adoption of SDGs.

Suggestions

Active efforts must be made both by the Government and society by framing policies and initiatives that -

1. Initiate to provide training, loans and practical skills to empower women economically and increase their access to basic financial services through Women economic empowerment programs.
2. Stop hunger by supporting women's role in food security as cornerstones of food production and utilization. Active efforts to end gender stereotypes that limit schooling and channel women and girls into acceptable areas of study and work.
3. Health systems which are fully responsive to women and girls offering higher quality, more comprehensive and readily accessible services. Societies must end practices that endanger women's health and wellbeing.
4. Educational Curriculum to prevent violence against women and girls. assisting women to secure decent jobs, Engage with private sector to create equal opportunities for women at work, for building a shared and sustainable future.
5. Advocacy plans focusing on ending early pregnancies and child marriages. Increasing women's participation in the design, planning and implementation of climate actions can lead to improved environmental and development outcomes for all. At a political level, women's participation results in greater responsiveness to citizen needs, often increasing cooperation.
6. Advancing women's political participation and leadership, accumulate assets and influence institutions and public policies while underlining the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute burden on women for unpaid work.
7. Gender responsive budget can channel funds towards measures to improve easy access to safe drinking water. clean and green energy initiatives.
8. safe migration and social protection policies and actions, promote disaster and risk reduction planning and training to help women become more resilient to mitigate efforts of climate change, redress imbalanced consumption and production by advocating for policy reforms that back equitable ownership and use of property and resources.
9. Women to be heard at all levels of decision-making from households to political arenas, women representation in marine science must be increased.
10. Women, and indigenous women in particular, need to be included in decision-making on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.
11. All elements of energy planning and policy-making need to factor in gender dimensions and actively advance women leadership. Gender Audit can act as a tool to keep track of Gender Equality.

Conclusion

An Ancient Indian phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' meaning 'the world is one' highlights the spirit of India's approach to all aspects of life which are the part and parcel of India's tradition and heritage. Gender equality is a crucial one of achieving sustainable development for the reason that women are

sustainability saviours and are still untapped resources for achieving SDGs. It is the moral imperative and can play a full part in society and decision-making. Women Empowerment integrates Sustainable Development.

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