



# Towards Sustainable Transition

Holistic Development and Inclusive  
Transformation of Indian Society

Prof. Zeba Aqil | Dr. Khurshed Alam



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**Towards Sustainable Transition:**  
*Holistic Development and Inclusive  
Transformation of Indian Society*

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## Preface

The journey towards a sustainable future is a shared endeavor, marked by the aspiration to create a harmonious balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity. India, a nation defined by its diversity and dynamic evolution, stands at the cusp of profound transformation as it navigates the intricate pathways of development in a globalized world. This book, *Towards Sustainable Transition: Holistic Development and Inclusive Transformation of Indian Society*, seeks to unravel the multifaceted dimensions of this transformation, offering insights and perspectives to chart a progressive and inclusive course.

The need for sustainable transition has never been more urgent. India faces the twin challenges of rapid urbanization and industrialization alongside the imperative to preserve its ecological heritage and uphold social justice. This book examines these pressing concerns, exploring themes of environmental sustainability, social inclusion, economic resilience, and governance reforms. It aspires to provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the interconnectedness of these dimensions, emphasizing that true progress is achievable only when development is equitable, inclusive, and sustainable.

A central premise of this book is the recognition that India's diversity is both its strength and its challenge. From rural hinterlands to bustling metropolises, the narratives of development are as varied as the cultures they emerge from. This diversity necessitates a holistic approach that values local knowledge systems, prioritizes marginalized voices, and fosters community-driven solutions. The chapters herein present a blend of theoretical insights, empirical studies, and case analyses to highlight practical strategies for achieving sustainable development goals tailored to the Indian context.

In addressing these themes, the book also underscores the critical role of governance and policy frameworks. Transparent, accountable, and participatory governance is the cornerstone

of sustainable development. Innovative policy interventions, coupled with the active involvement of civil society and the private sector, are pivotal in bridging gaps and ensuring the fruits of development reach all segments of society.

This book is the culmination of collaborative efforts, drawing on the expertise and experiences of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. It is my hope that this work will not only contribute to academic discourse but also serve as a guide for decision-makers and change agents striving to create a just and sustainable India.

As we embark on this exploration of India's sustainable transition, I express my heartfelt gratitude to all contributors, colleagues, and mentors who have enriched this endeavor with their knowledge and encouragement. I also extend my deepest thanks to readers, whose engagement and critique will ensure that this work remains a living document, reflective of the evolving realities and aspirations of our society.

Let us collectively work towards a future where development is synonymous with dignity, equity, and sustainability.

**Prof. Zeba Aqil**  
**Dr. Khurshed Alam**

# Contents

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Preface</i>  | <i>iii-iv</i>  |
| <b>1. Safeguarding Mental Health of India's Youth Today for the Realization of Prospective Sustainability</b> | <b>1-12</b>    |
| <i>Prof. (Dr.) Zeba Aqil</i>  |                |
| <b>2. Role of Civil Society to Bring Good Governance in India</b>   | <b>13-31</b>   |
| <i>Dr. Khurshed Alam</i>  |                |
| <b>3. Handicraft and Social Group Contribution to the Informal Economy in Uttar Pradesh</b>                   | <b>32-49</b>   |
| <i>Dr. Manjur Ali</i>   |                |
| <b>4. Concept, Importance and Redesigning the Welfare State</b>   | <b>50-60</b>   |
| <i>Dr. Md. Tarique Anwer</i>  |                |
| <b>5. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>      | <b>61-75</b>   |
| <i>Dr. Vandana Mishra &amp; Dr. Pallavi</i>   |                |
| <b>6. Beyond Engagement: Employee Flourishing as the New Frontier in Workplace Well-being</b>                 | <b>76-84</b>   |
| <i>Dr. Farah Shoaib</i>   |                |
| <b>7. Role of Local Governance in Sustainable Rural Development</b>   | <b>85-95</b>   |
| <i>Dr. Mohd. Shamsheer Khan</i>   |                |
| <b>8. Prime Minister Modi Regime and its Response Towards Life on Land in Amrit Kaal</b>                      | <b>96-108</b>  |
| <i>Dr. Ram Pratap Yadav &amp; Dr. Arun Kumar Singh</i>  |                |
| <b>9. Human Rights in Islamic Perspectives</b>  | <b>109-118</b> |
| <i>Prof. (Dr.) Ghazanfar Ali Khan</i>   |                |

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>10. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing Unesco's Five Pillars of Education</b>                  | <b>119-134</b> |
| <i>Dr. Vinod Kumar Kanwaria &amp; Ananta Ana Tigga</i>  |                |
| <b>11. Role of Social Media in Social Transformation from Ancient to Modern</b>                                 | <b>135-142</b> |
| <i>Dr. Smita Srivastava &amp; Mr. Jahangeer Alam</i>  |                |
| <b>12. From Vision to Reality: Uttar Pradesh's Successes in Sustainable Urbanization</b>                        | <b>143-158</b> |
| <i>Dr. Utkarsh Mishra</i>   |                |
| <b>13. Sustainable Development Goal 8: Economic Growth and Employment Strategies in India</b>                   | <b>159-175</b> |
| <i>Dr. Avinash Kumar</i>  |                |
| <b>14. Bridging Divides: Social Justice in the Multicultural Fabric of India</b>                                | <b>176-192</b> |
| <i>Dr. Anas Jameel &amp; Dr. Anshal Tiger</i>   |                |
| <b>15. The Politics of Gender &amp; Good Governance in India: A Critical Discourse</b>                          | <b>193-203</b> |
| <i>Dr. Faizan Haque</i>   |                |
| <b>16. Zionism: Inception, Transformation and Developments</b>  | <b>204-212</b> |
| <i>Dr. Khwaja Danish Hameed</i>   |                |
| <b>17. Social Transformation of India from Ancient to Modern</b>  | <b>213-222</b> |
| <i>Dr. Pallavi Sharma</i>   |                |
| <b>18. The Role of Positive Psychology for Sustainable Development and Well Being in Education</b>              | <b>223-233</b> |
| <i>Dr. Pavitra Bajpai</i>   |                |
| <b>19. Ensuring a Sustainable Future Through Advancements in Renewable Energy and Environmental Engineering</b> | <b>234-246</b> |
| <i>Dr. Priyanshi Gupta</i>  |                |
| <b>20. Artificial Intelligence: Boon or Curse for Humanity</b>  | <b>247-261</b> |
| <i>Dr. Shoaib Hasan</i>   |                |

21. **The Intersection of Positive Psychology and Sustainability: Fostering Eco-friendly Happiness** 262-269  
*Renuka Panchal*
22. **“Social Innovation in Sustainability Transition: Approaching Sustainable Development through Social Innovations.”** 270-279  
*Dr. Zia Afroz & Dr. Neha Singh*
23. **Investing in Human Capital: An Imperative to Sustainable Organizational Employability in India** 280-289  
*Aisha Zaheer & Faisal Ansari*
24. **Mental Health Interventions for LGBT Populations: Effective Practices and Strategies** 290-302  
*Neha Roshni Yooshing*
25. **Navigating Identity and Equality: Contemporary LGBT+ Issues and Challenges** 303-312  
*Faisal Ansari & Aisha Zaheer*
26. **Status of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Education: A Policy Perspective on Global Trends and Indian Initiatives** 313-325  
*Dr. Vinod Kumar Kanwaria & Mr. Ritesh Kumar*
27. **Cross-Border Socio-Cultural Sustainability: A Case of India and China** 326-337  
*Roshan Jahan & Dr. Mohd. Shahwaiz*

## "Social Innovation in Sustainability Transition: Approaching Sustainable Development through Social Innovations."

Dr. Zia Afroz\* & Dr. Neha Singh\*\*

### Introduction

#### *Introduction to Social Innovation:*

Social innovation refers to the development and implementation of novel solutions to social and environmental challenges. These solutions aim to be more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just compared to existing ones. The concept involves collaboration among various sectors, including non-profits, businesses, governments, and often engages the community in the problem-solving process. Key aspects of social innovation include the introduction of new ideas, effective implementation, measurable impact, cross-sector collaboration, and sustainability.

### Literature Review

The study of social innovation and sustainability has gained significant attention in recent years, with various scholars contributing to the understanding of how innovative approaches can address complex social and environmental issues. Mulgan (2006) provides a foundational understanding of the process of social innovation, emphasizing its role in addressing social

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