

POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG'S): AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE



DR.TAHIR HUSSAIN ANSARI

About the Editor



Dr. Tahir Hussain Ansari is presently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (Economics), Integral University, Lucknow. He received his Ph.D. degree in Economics from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. He also qualified UGC-JRF in 2016. He has several publications to his credit in National and International Journals of repute. He is teaching economics for the last two years in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Integral University, Lucknow.

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DR. TAHIR HUSSAIN ANSARI
DEPT. OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY
LUCKNOW- 226026

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Dr. Tahir Hussain Ansari

Preface

The journey of the book, “**Poverty, Inequality, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): An Indian Perspective**” has been both challenging and deeply rewarding. Scholars deeply invested in understanding the socioeconomic fabrics of India, this work is a culmination of research, observations, and experiences over the years.

The primary motivation for this book stems from the belief in the transformative power of knowledge and the urgent need to address pressing global challenges. India, with its vast population and diverse socio-economic landscape, presents unique challenges and opportunities in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This book aims to explore these complexities and offer insights into the pathways toward achieving a more equitable and sustainable future.

This book is structured to provide a comprehensive overview of poverty and inequality within the Indian context and the role of SDGs in addressing these issues. It begins with an analysis of the historical and contemporary landscape of poverty and inequality in India, followed by an examination of specific SDGs and their relevance to the Indian scenario. The final sections offer policy recommendations and strategies for achieving these goals, drawing on successful case studies and best practices.

I hope this book serves as a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and anyone interested in the critical issues of poverty, inequality, and sustainable development. By shedding light on these challenges and proposing actionable solutions, I aspire to contribute to the ongoing efforts to create a more just and sustainable world.

Thank you for embarking on this journey with me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tahir Hussain Ansari

Abbreviations

APMC	:	Agricultural Produce Market Committee
BPL	:	Below Poverty Line
CA	:	Conservation Agriculture
CT	:	Conservation Tillage
FAO	:	Food and Agriculture Organization
GVA	:	Gross Value Added
IFC	:	International Finance Corporation
IHD	:	Institute for Human Development
ILO	:	International Labour Organization
KCC	:	Kisan Credit Card
LL	:	Lakdawala Lines
MFIs	:	Microfinance Institutions
MGNREGA	:	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
Mha	:	Million Hectares
NCF	:	National Commission on Farmers
NFSA	:	National Food Security Act
NMSA	:	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
NSSO	:	National Sample Survey Organization
NT	:	No-Till
PKVY	:	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana
PMFBY	:	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
PM-KISAN	:	PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana
PMKSY	:	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichayee Yojana
RBI	:	Reserve Bank of India
SDGs	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SEWA	:	Gujarat Self-Employed Women's Association
SHG-BLP	:	Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme
TL	:	Tendulkar Line

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An Analysis of Agricultural Labor Productivity, Food Prices towards Sustainable Development in India

Aleena Alam Khan

Ph.D. Scholar, Dept. of Humanities (Economics), Integral University,
Lucknow

Dr. Mohd Shahwaiz

Assistant Professor (Political Science), Dept. of Humanities, Integral
University, Lucknow

Corresponding author email: aleenaakh@student.iul.ac.in

Abstract

Agricultural labor productivity, defined as the efficiency of converting labor inputs into agricultural outputs, is crucial for increasing agricultural yields, fostering economic growth, and enhancing food security. However, fluctuations in productivity and food prices can significantly affect both producers and consumers, exacerbating food insecurity and socioeconomic disparities, particularly in low-income regions. This study explores the intricate relationships between agricultural labor productivity, food prices, and sustainable development, emphasizing their combined impact on social justice, environmental sustainability, and economic stability. The guiding principle of sustainable development demands a balance between current resource use and future availability, incorporating social, economic, and environmental dimensions. By addressing the complex dynamics of agricultural systems and food markets, this study contributes to the development of resilient and equitable food systems that support long-term sustainability.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Food Security, Poverty

Introduction

The relationship between agricultural labor productivity and food costs is critical to the global quest for sustainable development. The complex relationships that exist within these fields have a substantial impact on social justice and environmental sustainability in addition to

influencing the economic climate. Global food production systems rely heavily on agricultural labor productivity, which measures how well and efficiently labor inputs are converted into agricultural outputs. In addition to increasing agricultural yields, labor productivity optimization promotes economic growth and the reduction of poverty as well as food security. However, a detailed study of the variables affecting productivity levels is required due to the complexity of agricultural labor systems, which include a range of skill levels, resource accessibility, and technology improvements. Meanwhile, food costs have a significant impact on both producers and consumers, as they are a key factor in determining accessibility to wholesome food. Price fluctuations for food can cause hardships to families, worsen food insecurity, and widen socioeconomic gaps, especially in emerging and low-income areas. Furthermore, the interaction of market forces, trade dynamics, and agricultural policy with food pricing highlights the delicate balance needed to guarantee fair access to reasonably priced, wholesome food while sustaining livelihoods along the agricultural value chain. The relationship between food prices, agricultural labor productivity, and sustainable development emphasizes how urgent it is to implement comprehensive strategies that take into account social, economic, and environmental factors. Sustainable development aims to build an equal society where ecosystems flourish and agricultural systems are robust. It achieves the goal by encouraging inclusive economic growth, protecting natural resources, and encouraging ecological resilience. Thus, this study analyses and policy formation as it explores the complex linkages between agricultural labor productivity, food prices, and their far-reaching effects on sustainable development.

Database and Methodology

The groundwork of the research involves gathering data on agriculture labor productivity, food prices, and sustainable practices from books, well-known websites, surveys, publications, news outlets, and NITI Aayog the World Bank's database. The descriptive form of research design was chosen to study the objectives.

Analysis and Discussion

Table 5.1 presents trends in agricultural labor participation from 2000-01 to 2020-21, delineated by the percentage of females, males, and the