

[Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3]

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Introduction

International Relations is one of the social sciences which is considered as an emerging and developing discipline. There have been the various ways and different methods of defining this diverse and dynamic academic discipline and the theorist who are considered as pioneers in this field, have defined it in their way. According to the London School of Economics and Political Science, International Relations is a vibrant discipline that includes the study of an international system. This international system is composed of different territorial states acknowledging no higher and superior authority for the matters that are considered as having avital interest. The nature of the international relations as a discipline is as such that it deals with the relationships between non-state and state atoms and focuses on their nature. Besides that, the international relations is also defined as a discipline which focuses on the study of functioning of different things including international system, institutions, organizations, forces, interests, customs, traditions, norms, rules and factors, where they contribute a lot to the political environments of the states(Anon., 2014).

If the context of subtopics under the field of international relation is discussed, we may come to know that this subject has different primary aims behind it. These targets may include the globalization, working for the betterment of international relations, solving the international conflicts, solving the major geographical or border issues between different countries, working for the development of various countries, international developmental goals and meeting with those developmental objectives.

For the international developmental objectives, United Nations Organization develop eight developmental objectives in the year of 2000. These goals were established following the millennium summit, and they were eight in number. These international developmental goals

were termed as “Millennium Development Goals” and United Nations Millennium Declaration Adoption was followed by them. All of the countries, which are members of United Nations and 23 different multinational organizations decided to follow this plan and to help the UNO in order to meet with these goals till 2015. The goals included:

- Reduction of the hunger and poverty
- Attaining and achieving the primary education universally
- The women empowerment and the gender equality
- Reduction in the mortality rate of children
- Improving the maternal health
- combating themalaria, HIV/AIDS and some other disorders
- To save the environment
- Global partnership development(Anon., 2014).

Each goal was planned to achieve in a specific timeframe, and it included some specific targets to achieve, with it. In the year of 2005, the finance ministers of the G8 planned to provide the funds to the related corporations such as international monetary fund and the World Bank, etc. The goals were designed to achieve under specific criteria and by following some predefined paths and ways (Anon., 2014).

In this research study, we would not cover mainly all of the developmental goals but the millennium development goals number 1 and 3 will be the main point of discussion in this study. These objectives are about eradicating the hunger and poverty and to promotion equality in terms of gender and, respectively. These two-millennium development goals will be the primary center of the study of this dissertation.

Every year some research studies are conducted in the field of international reactions and specifically about the millennium development goals. Focusing on these objectives by the United Nations Organization, different countries from around the world introduced their developmental goals to develop in a best possible manner. The primary objective of this research study is to find the developments made by focusing on these objectives, by different countries of the world.

Countries such as India and Sub-Saharan African region countries are considered as the third world countries, and these are also known as the underdeveloped countries. These countries have always been the main focus of the millennium development commission of the United Nations Organizations and a particular focus was put on improving the life standards of these countries. Poverty is one of the biggest issues in these countries and it may be considered as that almost half of the population of these countries is suffering from this problem. Keeping the first millennium development goal in mind, which is about eradicating the poverty and to work for the betterment of life standards of sick individuals, this research dissertation will include two different case studies (Anon., 2014).

The case studies may include the studies from the India and one other country, discussing the progress in the millennium development goals 1 and 3 and will find to explore that how much these goals have changed the life of local individuals in those countries. Moving further, the study will also include the conclusions drawn from those cases and some recommendations will also be noted, given the writer.

In the context of gender equality, the condition of the third world countries is so poor, and there is no concept of gender equality, it can be said. Besides that, the women are always downtrodden and forced by the men in these countries. This was also one of the primary focus of

United Nations Organization termed as the millennium development goal 3, and it was primarily about the promotion of the concept of gender equality and to empower the women. This will also be one of the primary focus of this research study and case studies regarding this issue will be quoted from the countries like India and African countries.

Hence, summarizing the introduction part, it can be concluded that the primary objective of the paper will be about finding the developments made in the above-mentioned sectors and the progress of different countries on the scales of millennium development goals. The document will include a background study of development objectives, the literature review and two case studies including the introduction, methods of conduction, results, the main points of discussion and that what can be concluded from those points.

Background

The background study of the millennium development goals may include the history of these objectives and the progress made till the date. In the year of 2000, the United Nations Organization planned to have a look on to the conditions of the individuals living in the third world countries. Following that, the organization focused on developing and defining some global developmental goals to facilitate the countries that are underdeveloped and are unable to meet the needs of the current era. Focusing on that thing, these objectives were termed as Millennium Development Goals and these were eight in number. The UNO initially and mainly focused on the development goals 1 and three which were about the eradication of the poverty and the empowerment of women by promoting the concept of gender equality (Anon., 2015).

Every millennium development goal was developed in such a way that all of them had their specific objectives and the dates to achieve those goals. In order to boost and accelerate the

progress of the development of these goals, the G8 finance ministers decide to provide more revenues and financial resources to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund and African Development Bank etc. for this thing and keeping this stance in mind, the debt of around 55 billion dollars was canceled from the poor countries who were unable to pay that debt back. This thing not only helped those countries to work for the development of MDGs but also they introduced some grass root level steps for eradicating the poverty, for promotion of education and to empower the women (Anon., 2015).

The Millennium Development Goals were also criticized by the critics as they claimed that there is a lack of analysis and research behind these objectives. Besides that, it was also a point of criticizing that there is a lack of measurement and to check the progress of the countries on the scales of Millennium Development goals. In the start of the year of 2013, the progress on the goals of MDGs was uneven. Somewhere many goals were achieved in different countries and somewhere the primary track to achieve those objectives was missing. In the year of 2010, a conference of the United Nations Organization was arranged in order to find the progress on these objectives by different countries and to achieve these goals by the date settled as a target date. New and different commitments were made about the health of children, diseases, the women empowerment, to promote the education and to eradicate the poverty and misery.

The non-governmental organizations also played their part to the world's most advanced and most well planned millennium development goals by the United Nations and contributed significantly to achieve the targets under these objectives. Hence, in the context of these objectives, the primary focus of all the countries and organization was limited to the eradication of poverty and the gender equality leading to women empowerment. In this view, it can clearly and easily be stated that these targets were planned under the development goals 1 and 3.

The United Nations emphasized the part of the world about helping and aiding the countries who are developing, and it was also covered and outlined in the G8. The G8 also establishes the goals for the developing countries to achieve MDGs. The basic aim of this thing was to make the global partnership for development by mutual aids between countries, fair trade, debt reliefs, sharing the technological advancements and to provide the essential but affordable medicines. Hence in this regard, it can be said that developing countries joined hands with the developed countries to eradicate the poverty and to empower the women.

In the context of the Global developmental goals, these were developed as a result of several forms of commitments focusing on the Millennium Declaration that was signed in the year of 2000's September. There is a total of eight goals in number, and these objectives had 21 targets in total and different indicators to indicate the achievement of each goal.

The Millennium Development Goal 1 is about eradicating the hunger and poverty and it had the three targets under it known as target 1A, 1B and 1C. Target 1A was halving between the 1990 and the year 2015 and was focusing on a specific proportion or number of people who live on lesser than 1.25\$ dollars in a day. The target focused on decreasing the target gap ratio for poverty. This objective was also focused on the share of the poor people in the quantity of national consumption (UNO, 2015). The target 1B actually focused on the employment opportunities for the women, youth and men. The target mainly focused on the growth of GDP per an employed individual, the rate of employment under this MDG, the proportion of the working people who earn lesser than 1.25 dollars per day. Besides that, the last point under the target 1B was about the percentage of family based workers in the population of employees. The final target under the first Millennium development goal was also circulating around the years of 1990, and it was about the proportion of people suffering from hunger in between these years.

For 1C, the first point of focus was the prevalence of children who were underweighted and were under the five years of age. In addition to that, the goal target also included the proportion of the population whose dietary consumption was below the minimum level considered as significant (UNO, 2015).

The third-millennium development objective was about the promotion of gender equality and to empower the women. There was only one target put under this development goal, and it was termed as the 3A at that time. The target was with the title “eliminating the gender inequality in the schools of secondary and primary education by 2005 and all terms, by the year of 2015. The ways designed and defined to achieve this target were about the ratios of boys and girls in the schools and the primary, secondary and tertiary education. In addition to that, the next way to empower women was about their share of wages in the lands which are non-agricultural. The last way, in order to promote and ensure gender equality, was about the proportion of seats in the national parliaments of different countries, by women (Anon., 2008).

The background studies of this topic also suggest that there have been some criticisms on the announcement of millennium development goals by the United Nations Organization, in the year of 2000. The very first criticism was about the lack of research and analysis behind those objectives. In addition to that, it is also said that Millennium development goals don't have the sufficient and enough objectives for the in-country financial and social equality among individuals. Another criticism states that the United Nations opened the ways of financing and aids for the developing countries from the developed ones. This thing may lead those countries to be dependent on the developed countries and to look for more financial resources and help, even in future for any other issues faced. This thing may not help these countries to achieve these goals and as a result, they may not be able to eradicate the poverty and to work for the gender

equality to empower the women. The critics suggest that there would have been the better alternatives to the situations mentioned above and that could have been on the initiative of local communities, building from the local resources and the local growth. The critics cannot be termed either as right or wrong. The fundamental reason for this thing is that every critic has his / her view, and same is the case with the United Nations Organization. The United Nations organization has some workers who work for the planning and developing new strategies. Keeping this thing in mind, it can also be concluded that the strategies for millennium development goals were properly planned, and the targets for each objective were settled by those professionals and strategy building experts. Hence, as a general conclusion, the proper strategies developed were made focusing on the human rights, the infrastructure development and the provision of necessary facilities to the residents of underdeveloped countries (ODI, 2012).

To meet these objectives, it was not possible for the United Nations to start the development projects individually in every underdeveloped country, by themselves. Focusing on this thing, the organization planned to provide the necessary financial resources and other related things to countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, African countries and many other countries from different regions around the globe. This strategy was used in the way that, by using those provided resources, the governments of those countries introduced some initiatives and came up with some serious steps to the grass root level. As a result, the global progress was started to achieve the goals developed by the United Nations Organization and the steps were taken to finish the hunger and poverty and to promote the equality in terms of gender.

Literature Review

In the year of 2000, the UNO introduced 8 global Millennium development goals. These objectives were planned to reduce the hunger and poverty and promote the gender in terms of equality. To achieve these objectives, UNO adopted some particular and critical approaches. By the date of announcement of these objectives, many researchers have been trying to explore the relationship between these objectives and a number of researches have been carried out in order to explore the topic of Millennium development goals in details. Some research studies state different things, and other come up entirely different findings. Hence in this hustle bustle of researches, it is hard to find a significantly valid study that discusses the MDGs in details.

Different research studies considered the topic if these goals can be attained or not. Such a research study was conducted in the year of 2004 with the title of “Can millennium development goals be attained?”. The article describes that in order to find the best possible ways to achieve the millennium development goals, the governments of the target countries need to focus on addressing the weaknesses in different sectors such as health, food and security (Cassels & Haines, 2004). Besides that, the policy makers also need to focus on looking beyond the national figures of the gender inequality and poverty. In the month of September, in the year 2000, the heads from 189 member countries of United Nations were gathered under the largest ever gathering of UNO. In that gathering, the millennium development goals were introduced by following the Millennium Declaration of United Nations (Cassels & Haines, 2004). The statement was then translated and developed into the form of goals and targets known as millennium development goals in the United Nations. The goals were focusing on the eradication of hunger and poverty, getting rid of gender inequality and empowering women, working for the promotion of education and many other related goals. Other important points of concern included

the lack of clean water, the global development and the environmental degradation(Cassels & Haines, 2004). The article states that these development goals were quite different from the previous developmental goals because the developed countries were asked to facilitate the developing countries in terms of fair trade, provision of cheap medicines, debt relief, assistance on different issues and financial help. The fundamental reason behind this thing was thought to be that, if poor countries would not be capable of achieving these goals if they are not financially assisted and they will face a lot of problems in this journey. Thus as a general decision, the developed countries were there to help the poor countries in order to make them developed and to help them to move on a path of progress(Cassels & Haines, 2004).

JD Sachs is the author of an article titled as “The Millennium Project: a plan for meeting the MillenniumDevelopment Goals”. As per words by him, he considers the year of 2000 as the most pivotal and crucial year in the history of the global developmental practices. He states that the millennium development project can indeedbe termed as the real development goal because of its focus on eradication of poverty and the women empowerment (McArthur & Sachs, 2005). According the article, some of the primary targets of the United Nations under these developmental goals are the women empowerment, the education development, and the lack of water resources, global financial resources and many more such things. Besides that, the United Nations has also mainly focused on arranging different session in order track the progress under these goals and to see that how many tries have been made in order to achieve these targets of Millennium development goals (McArthur & Sachs, 2005). The article states that MDGs are still achievable, and the lives of hundreds of millions of people can be improved by taking necessary actions under the belt of these goals. The essay has also focused on finding the appropriate conclusions made on the UNO millennium development projects and has also tried to keep a

record of achievements on this project. The project of the MDGs was implemented in such a way that a task force was developed to establish the strategies and to implement them in the target countries (McArthur & Sachs, 2005).

The research studies are found not only in finding the positive impact of the millennium development goals but there are a number of research studies and article that criticize the analysis of this developmental project and question its reliability and validity. The topic titled as “The Millennium Development Goals and urban poverty reduction: high expectations and nonsense statistics” has been written by David Satterthwaite and it challenges the statistical analysis and the validity of the project of MDGs. The article generally outlines the importance of these goals about the reduction and eradication of the poverty from the urban areas but at the same time, this article questions the implementation of different strategies also (Satterthwaite, 2006). The article argues that the plans developed by the United Nations organization about the financial resources sharing and the institutional approaches to the implementation of these strategies are not that much effective which could reduce the poverty at the urban level. Besides that, the author also challenges the effectiveness of the statistical analysis of the implementation and progress of the MDGs at the municipal level (Satterthwaite, 2006). According to the words of the author, the goals have their primary focus set on the goals one and three which are about the reduction of hunger and eradicating the poverty and to promote the gender equality in educational and workplaces. Instead of that, there would have been some more main focuses of the MDGs also which could have included the provision of proper sanitation system and the water resources in the urban areas. The author claims that these statistics need to be revised in the way that facts and figures should be found. In this way the income owners can be aware of the

real income poverty in the urban areas and that how it can be avoided with what statistical figures (Satterthwaite, 2006).

The criticism of the Millennium development goals is not only limited to the points mentioned above but the research studies state that it is a clear cut unfair attitude to the different countries, and some countries are treated unfairly. According to the article “how the millennium development goals are unfair to Africa” written by William Easterly, the above mentioned is clearly explained. The article argues that the MDGs are not made for the African countries and the entire Africa will miss this development plan because they are not capable of implementing different strategies as described and developed by the United Nations Organization (Easterly, 2009). The article states that the availability of the resources in the African countries and a series of the arbitrary choices has left the Africa downtrodden and undeveloped and the countries of this region have not been able to implement the MDG plans successfully. Thus, it can clearly be stated that these developmental goals are not made for the Africa and can be considered as a failure of United Nations in this region (Easterly, 2009).

The literature review and the careful study of different research articles written by the professionals from the field of International Relations quite different things under their topic of research. In the context of the practical implementation of the MDGs, it is easier to find that the countries who are under developed have made numerous trips and have introduced some individual steps in order to eradicate the poverty and to get rid of the hunger from their regions. Besides that, some approaches have also been adopted, and different grass root level initiatives have been taken by the governments of these countries to promote the gender equality. Hence in the context of its practical results finding, there is a need to conduct some research studies in

order to check the progress of these countries to find if they have met the targets defined by the UNO.

However, in the context of criticism, the researchers also claim that the MDGs are a total failure and a waste of time. According to such critics, the goals are primarily focused on the eradication of the poverty following the empowerment of the women in the context of gender equality. However, there should also be a primary focus of the UN to develop such goals that may discuss some other issues that are secondary. In addition to that, it is also stated that United Nations have not been lucky to implement the strategies and its operational plans in the best possible manner in different countries of the world and as a result, the actual targets have not been achieved. In this context, it is clearly evident that research is wide open to both ends of the topic.

Case Study One – An Indian Study

Introduction

India as a country, is having the second largest number of population in the world. It is said to be the largest democratic state of the world and also considered as one of the most quickly and rapidly developing countries. In the year of 2000, the United Nations Organization produced eight-millennium development goals and the main reason behind their announcement was about the global progress in fields of education and health. India was one of the countries that was the main point of attention of the United Nations developmental strategy because of the conditions of the people living over there. The main focus about the India was the eradication of hunger and poverty and to empower the women in terms of gender equality. Everyone of use is aware of the fact that India is one of the countries where women face a lot of problems, and they do not have the equal rights as like the men. Keeping this thing in mind, the primary focus was put by the United Nations Organizations on the MDG 1 and MDG 3 and India was helped to work in these sectors (UNDP, 2015).

The case study discusses the essential details about the progress of India in achieving the MDGs and that whether it has been successful in this achievement or not. In the start, when Millennium development goals were announced, it was thought that India will achieve some goals and some will not be reached due to the current economic trajectory (RAGHAVAN, 2015). The research study states that it is very good news that India is making a lot of development in the sector of eradicating the poverty and hunger, but there is also one issue faced by the officials and which is about the exact measure of the extreme poverty. All the indicators of the measures of the reduction of poverty state that India has progressed a lot in getting rid of

debt. Some statistical analysis state that India has less than half of the poverty rate in current years as compared to that of 1990. This scale proves the achievement of the first target of the Millennium development goal one.

On the other hand, at the same time, India may miss the other objectives of the first-millennium development goal that are about the eradication of hunger. India has a high proportion of those children who are suffering from severe hunger issues, and they are undernourished. This thing seriously and forcefully challenges the achievement of the Millennium development goals and the claims of the United Nations to establish the world as a good place. The reason behind this thing is that India has not been able to achieve some of the MDGs such as the third one. The third Millennium development goal is about the empowerment of women in terms of the gender equality. The United Nations and all of the developed countries of the world have been emphasizing the women empowerment and to provide them the equal rights as like men. However, in India, the condition of the gender equality is worse as it has not been able to achieve this goal and the women are not safe in different terms (UNICEF, 2015).

Methods and Results

Poverty and Hunger

In the year of 1990, long before the announcement of Millennium development goals by the United Nations Organizations, the conditions of the poverty were very alarming and threatened the entire world. A large number of populations were living behind the poverty level, and they didn't have the necessary utilities and facilities of life. The poverty was not only about not having the basic facilities, but it also opened the mouths of diseases, crimes and hunger in those areas (UNO, 2015). Keeping this thing in front, the India was one of the countries that had

the primary focus of United Nations and the Millennium Development Goals were specifically implemented in this region. However, after the implementation of these goals, there was also a need to track the progress made to eradicate the poverty. For this thing, some of the implemented methods and their results were as below (Bakshi, 2015).

It is believed by the United Nations and the MDG commission that India will more likely to cut the level of poverty in the half until the end of the year 2015. In the year of 1990, there were around 37% of India's total population living below the poverty line but this number decreased to around 27% till the year 2000 started (Bajpai, 2005). Being on the track of this early success can be attributed to being on the path of the achieving the first-millennium development goal to eradicate the poverty. These statistics helped the India to maintain a minimum of 6 percent of the GDP and to flourish on the path of success. To meet the goals and targets of the MDGs, the Indian government set some ambitious plans and objectives to reduce the poverty. The five-year plan to reduce poverty was launched in the year 2002, and it was to be ended in the year of 2007 (Sachs, 2005). It was the tenth five year's plan of the Indian government to eradicate the poverty, and it was entirely based on the advanced strategies developed and suggested by the United Nations. The goals of this plan were to reduce the poverty by five percent till the year of 2007 and by 15 percent points by the year of 2012. Historical studies of the poverty statistics of the India state that the India has run well on the grounds of growth acceleration, and it is enjoying the achievement of its poverty reduction goals. The annual growth rate of the India also increased in the previous decade, and it is just because of the implementing the millennium development strategies (Sachs, 2005).

The hunger poverty can be considered as more pervasive as compared to that of the consumption poverty in India. The reason behind this statement is that the people have been

facing the hunger problems a lot in the previous years and the rate of people not having adequate food resources has also increased. The food intake is determined by the calorie intake of anybody, and the statistical analysis of the calorie intake of the people in the India shows that people are suffering from the hunger issue. The health specialists around the world and the FAO of the South Asia have prescribed a minimum of 2110 calories per capita and it is much lower than the typical calorie intake considered in the Indian environment, which is about 2400 calories per capita per day (Volavka, 2005). This prospect makes it clearly visible that India has not been successful in achieving the other targets of the first-millennium development goals. Though it has not even been successful in reaching the first goal to eradicate the poverty in a complete manner, but as an overall conclusion, it can be stated that India is moving on the right path in terms of reducing the poverty from (UNDP, 2013).

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

Women empowerment and the gender equality were the third goal from the millennium development goals, and it is said to be one of the most important objectives. India is a country where women face a lot of issues in terms of gender equality, and they do not get proper and equal chances as like men. However, focusing the third-millennium development goal, India is on path to achieve and attain the goal of gender equality followed by the empowerment of the women at different educational levels. Basically, the very first thing to know about the progress of India in terms of gender equality is that India has already achieved it on the primary educational level. But at the same time, the literacy rate of women is lesser than the men who show the inequality in these terms (Kishor & Gupta, 2005-06). To promote the gender equality, the Indian government has introduced some particular methods including the immediate measures to support the girl's education. Besides that, it has also been initiated to make the

school and educational institutes a safe place for all women and attractive with mandatory improvement in sectors of water and sanitation, teacher training, gender sensitive curriculum and the safety of women. Besides that, the Indian government has also planned to introduce more awareness raising campaigns at the medium terms to promote the secondary and tertiary education for girls. The access to the education facilities was considered as a valid barrier for women and girls, hence it was decided that safe and private transport would be provided to these women in order to promote the gender equality (Morgan, 2005).

Different research scholars believe that though India has implemented different methodologies in order to promote the gender equality, but it has not been very much successful to get the required results and has not been achieving the women empowerment with best of its outcome. As the MDG's women empowerment strategies were focused on a limited set of plans, hence it is needed for India that these interventions for the promotion of the gender equality should be widened. It is believed that women in the India lack social, economic and political empowerment (Anon., 2015). The proportion of the women who work on decent jobs is still very small except the jobs in the sector of agriculture. Besides that, the women are poorly facilitated in the rural areas and they are labors on the lands instead of having any ownership. In terms of the representation in the parliament, the women are also very much misrepresented, and they do not have their rights on the basis of equality.

Keeping the above mentioned statements and the statistical analysis in the mind, it is not easy to conclude that India has not been very much advantageous in adopting the women empowerment and gender equality strategies following the millennium development goals (MDGIF, 2014). Hence, as a result, it can also be said that the India has not been successful in achieving the targets of the third-millennium development goal. Hence, focusing on these facts

and figures, it is needed that Indian government should introduce some severe and necessary steps to facilitate the women and to promote the gender equality. It is necessary that the government should make the medium term plans to achieve the goals of women empowerment. These plans can be about making the workplace safe and attractive for women (UNO, 2015). In addition to that, the entrepreneurship practices of women should also be supported and promoted on the governmental level by providing them the chances to participate in the individual capacity building programs, different credit provisions and self-help groups. This thing can not only help the Indian government to achieve the targets of the Millennium development goal three but also they can promote the gender equality to empower the women. As a result, the women will have the adequate and proper but equal chances by changing the discriminatory social norms (UNO, 2015).

Discussion

Though India has worked significantly to eradicate the poverty from the grass root level, but there is still a lot remaining to behind. More than a million people still live under the line of poverty and most of them are living in the villages and the rural areas. India is an agricultural country and around 30% of its populations are living in the urban areas. More than sixty percent of the workforce of the India is working in the agriculture sector, and the agriculture sector contributes around 27% of the total GDP of India. If we talk in the context of the India's growth in the agriculture sector, we may come to know that this sector is lagging a lot behind. In the years of decade of 2000 to 2010, the overall industry of the India was progressing at a rate of around 6% but the development in the agriculture sector was around 3% in total (Lal, 2015). Agriculture is always an important measure of the poverty scale and figures of any country. Any

country lagging behind in the agriculture industry is more likely to suffer from the issues such as poverty and hunger.

If we compare the growth level of India to one of its neighbor countries China, we may come to know that China has progressed a lot in the sectors of agriculture and has reduced the poverty level to a very low level. Hence, the discussion about the levels of hunger, poverty and their eradication can be made as below.

In the context of the poverty, India is one of the countries that have progressed a lot, and they have tried to reduce the poverty from the grass root level. A large number of strategies have been implemented by the Indian government and the United Nations millennium development council to eradicate the poverty (Anon., 2011). Focusing on those strategies, their results can also be seen by using some methodologies such as the MDG meter by the UNO or the overall percentage of poor people in the India. The careful analysis of the facts and figures about the poverty reduction level in the India shows that India is one of the countries that have most rapidly reduced its poverty level. In the start of the year 2000, around 26% of the total population of the India was living below the poverty line but now in the year of 2015, this ratio has reduced to a very low level (Anon., 2005). Though there are people who are still below this line, but in general and as an overall view of all this frame, it can be concluded that income per capita of the Indian people has increased in the previous years and the India has become one of the quickly progressing countries.

Though it may be found that the India has worked well in order to reduce the poverty but at the same time, the other targets of the first millennium development goals are not met in the best possible manner by the Indian government. In the context of the eradication of the hunger

from India, it is one of the targets that have not been ideally met by the Indian government. There are an enormous number of children who are still downtrodden, and they are not able to get a proper diet and the calorie intake (Swasti, 2012). The calories intake, they take daily is very much lesser as compared to the level that has been prescribed by the FAO of the South Asia. Hence keeping this thing in mind, it can apparently be found that the progress of India about eradication of hunger is not that much good. Though India is an agricultural state, and it produces most of its food by itself, but in the context of proper dietary intake, the children of poor people are suffering. Thus, the Indian government can be said as failed in meeting with this target of the first-millennium development goal and there is a need for it to eradicate the hunger and poverty.

Gender equality is one of the most threatening and alarming issues in the third world countries where women are treated very unfairly, and they are not provided with the basic facilities of life. The women suffer at different levels, and they don't have equal rights in terms of their social, economic and personal life (Anon., 2015). By keeping these much dangerous and alarming facts and figures in mind, the United Nations Organization designed the third millennium development goals specifically and primarily for empowerment of women by promoting the gender equality in the third world countries. India is one of the countries which has been mainly suffering from this issue and women inequality has been one of the questions which has been the main point of attention in the previous years. To achieve the targets of the third-millennium development goal, the Indian government has implemented some grave and individual strategies (Anon., 2015). The very first strategy was about the promotion and execution of gender equality in terms of educational institutes. India has already achieved its goals of having the gender equality in the primary educational institutes and now it has

introduced some awareness-raising campaigns to promote the gender equality in the secondary and tertiary educational institutes. Thus, as a result, the women are also presented with the policies that empower them in terms of the societal norms. However, it is also a fact that India is still considered as one of the most dangerous countries for women and Indian government still needs to do a lot of things to achieve the targets of third millennium development goal (BRAC, n.d.).

Conclusion

India is one of the rapidly developing countries, and it is known as the largest democratic state of the world. India was a principal part of the millennium development goals of the United Nations and some strategies and plans were implemented by the Indian government to achieve the targets of these objectives. In terms of the first-millennium development objective, the India has done well to reduce the poverty but it has not managed to eradicate it fully. On the other hand, if we talk about the hunger problems, India has not been able to deal with this issue and as a result, this target of the first millennium development goal has stayed completely unachieved by the Indian Government. However, the Indian government is working with the implementation of different kinds of strategies to minimize the ratio of people suffering from hunger problems. In terms of the gender equality, India has also not been able to meet with the third-millennium development goal. The women are not dealt equally in different aspects of life in India, and they are not empowered ideally. However, the Indian government is working to achieve this target of the millennium development goals by United Nations Organization.

Case Study Two – An African Study

Introduction

Africa is the most underdeveloped continent of the world. The Sub-Saharan African countries and the states from other regions of Africa are considered as the real third world countries and they are not making a remarkable progress in any sector. After India, the African countries were the main point of focus of the millennium development goals of the United Nations Organization because of the improper living conditions in that region. Most of the people living in Africa are living below the poverty line, and they are unable to make their part in achieving the millennium development goals.

It is not only that thing that no African is living in a good standard, but in some of the African countries, people are enjoying a high living standard and they have the basic living facilities and they can enjoy their life as like the developed nations. However the countries from the region of the Sub-Saharan Africa are living in such a state that it is thought that they should double their efforts in order to achieve the millennium development goals. The poverty and the hunger conditions are worse in this region of Africa and many people are deprived and do not have the basic facilities. Keeping this thing in mind, the governments of the Sub-Saharan African countries should work on the development strategies in order to make the living standards of their people better.

African countries have managed to implement some of the strategies as per the guidelines of the UNO, but the factors such as political instability, conflicts, natural and man-made disasters have made it quite hard for the local governments to continue their developmental policies. Charles AbugreAkelyira is the technical and specialist journalist writer of the development

progress organization in the Africa. As per his words, African are quite motivated about achieving the MDGs and the progress of the first four years of these objectives in Africa clearly states this stance. This can be termed as the public shift to the poverty reduction with regard to achieving this MDG (Akelyira, 2013).

As the millennium development goal number one is about reducing the poverty and to achieve the better living standard for every African, hence it is the duty of the local governments to come up with such approaches and strategies which may help the local organizations and people to maintain a particular but good living standard. The hunger is one of the major issues of the Sub-Saharan African countries, and it needs to be uprooted by taking some serious steps. But on the contrary, the local governments are found to be failed in achieving this goal. Hunger statistics of these countries state that a large number of the children are unable to find the proper dietary intake, and they do not get sufficient calorie intake that is necessary for their body growth.

Gender equality is also one of the development agendas of the millennium development goals and the targets to achieve these goals include the gender equality promotion and the women empowerment. The United Nations is dedicated in order to achieve all of the Millennium development goals in the Sub-Saharan African Countries and especially the gender equality.

Methods and Results

Poverty and Hunger

Africa is a fastest growing region of the world. This growth may be about the population, but the progress in the developmental sectors is not very much fast in this part of the world. In the year of 2000, Africa is one of the regions that was mainly put into attention while announcing

the millennium development goals by United Nations organization. Later words, when the time of practical implementation of the strategies to eradicate the poverty and hunger came up, Africa was also funded substantially by the developed countries of the world. In the year of 1990, the condition of the poverty was very much worst in the African countries, and a lot of people were living in the severe conditions. However, in today's era, the Africa has progressed a lot to eradicate the poverty from grass root level. Till the year of 2005, the Africa had improved a lot to overcome the poverty and hunger issues. Though a lot of progress was made in the previous years to eradicate the poverty of the African countries, but this progress was not that much fast to achieve the goals of the millennium development. A lot of people living in Sub-Saharan African countries are working on weak jobs and have inadequate and low wages followed by the reduced productivity level(ADBG, 2015).

Another issue in the African countries which has not allowed the governments to overcome the poverty is about the inequality in the economic growth of the countries. The reduction in the poverty has left lagging somewhere behind the economic growth. Though a large number of people believe that millennium development goals were an excellent opportunity for the African countries to overcome the poverty and to eradicate the hunger, but the governments have not managed to make the final cut in order to achieve the targets of MDGs. One of the indicators that shows the failure of the African governments to reduce the poverty to a significant level is that of the immense hike in the prices of food items and other usable (ADBG, 2015).

It was one of the targets of the United Nations to reduce the poverty to a minimum of 50% by the year of 2015. Focusing on this objective, it was planned that reducing the poverty starts with the children. The statistical analysis of the UNO state that more than 30% children of

the developing countries are involved somehow in child labor and earn lesser than 1 dollar per day. In every, 3.6 seconds, a child dies due to hunger and starvation and these dying children are aged more secondary than fiveyears (MDG, 2011). These alarming facts and figures clearly state the conditions of hunger in the developing countries. Africa is also one of regions where this issue is most found and persistent throughout the previous decades. In the context of the eradication of the hunger from the African countries, United Nations have implemented various strategies to the date. However, it is a sad fact that still there are a lot of children who are suffering from the hunger and starvation in the Sub-Saharan African region. South African is considered as one of the most developed countries of the Africa but the national estimates of the poverty and hunger of South Africa show that about 12% of people earn lesser than 1 dollar per day(Anon., 2012).These statistics show that the Africa has not been successful in reducing the poverty to a significant level, and it is still one of the central issues of the peoples of this region.

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

As this is not a new thing to mention that gender equality is the third MDG as defined by the United Nations Organization. Africa is a region where gender equality was one of the most serious issues in the early years of this century. However, the African government has worked a lot in this domain to achieve the third goal of millennium development.

Many research studies have been conducted focusing on the topic of the women empowerment and gender equality in the African countries. As per the statistics of the African development bank group, Africa is strongly achieving this target of the MDGs. As per these statistics, around half of the countries from the Africa reached the gender equality in their primary educational setbacks. The African Women are being more empowered, and they have

been given the basic facilities of life which promotes the concept of gender equality. The statistical analysis proves that there is a larger number of girls studying in primary schools of Africa as compared to that of the boys, and more women are holding the positions of political power. As it has already been mentioned that around half of the African countries have achieved the gender equality in their primary schools, and this thing is getting better in the secondary and tertiary educational settings.

The data analysis of the gender studies in the African countries shows that around 20 percent of the total seats in the African parliaments are held by the females which is the second largest ratio in the world. This thing is an indicator of the women empowerment followed by some other factors. The women empowerment in the African countries can also be seen by the slowing processes of early age marriages, household power, little economic problems and related things. Hence as a general conclusion, it can be stated that Africa is making a significant progress to achieve the third-millennium development goal (ADB, n.d.).

A decade ago, African women may have no reason to hope for the betterment of the gender equality and their empowerment but in the year of 2000, when United Nations announced the millennium development goals, the desire of the African women developed. Following the third-millennium development goal, some methodologies were adopted by the local governments to empower the women and to provide them with the necessary facilities of the life equally like men have. The research studies suggest that it is a sector where Africa has progressed a lot in the previous years, and the African women are more empowered like the women in other regions of the world. There have been some significant signs of improvement about the women empowerment that may include the household power, the fewer ratios of little age marriages and many more such things (Mutume, 2005). As per the facts and figures of the UNDP, the factor

that has defined the improvement in the gender equality in the African countries is the quota of women in the South African parliament. This thing clearly states that the conditions are getting better in African countries for the women. In addition to that, it can also be noted that most of the political powers in the Sub-Saharan African countries are held by the women (Africa, 2015).

The above-mentioned figures can be testified by checking the educational statistics of the African countries. These countries have adopted the gender equality in the primary education, and some strategies are being implemented to empower the women in terms of secondary and tertiary education.

Discussion

The Sub-Saharan African countries have been the primary focus of the United Nations' millennium development goals, and there have some strategies implemented to achieve the targets set under these objectives. In the context of these objectives, it is not possible for any country or region to achieve all of the goals with 100% results. However, there may be the possibility that a state may progress well on the scale of a particular target but may not be able to advance to the second goal.

Same is the case with that of the African countries. In the context of the eradication of the poverty, the United Nations designed many strategies for African countries and defined the ways to implement those policies. In the case of the elimination of the poverty, the African countries have not been able to achieve the targets set by the UNO and there are still a lot of people who are living below the poverty line. South Africa is a developed country of the Africa even that has not been able to eradicate the poverty thoroughly. Around 11% of the total South African population is living on a total earning of around 1 dollar per day and almost 34% of the total

population has their daily making to a maximum of 2 dollars per day. In other African countries, the condition is even worse as there are a large number of people who are deprived and don't have the necessary facilities of the life. Hence focusing on these facts, it is necessary for the local governments of the African countries that they should concentrate on implementing different strategies about meeting the targets of the Millennium development goals and to eradicate the poverty altogether.

In the context of hunger, it is closely related with that of poverty. The figures of the UNICEF state that in every 3.6 seconds, a child is dying due to the hunger and starvation. As African countries have not been able to reduce the poverty to a significant level, they have not been able to eradicate the hunger even. Hunger is one of the most alarming issues of the African countries, and they have not been able to meet with this subject in an advantageous manner. As a result, the first-millennium development goal of the United Nations can be considered as completely unachieved by the African countries. In terms of the eradicating the hunger, the African governments will have to focus on implementing such strategies that may go an extra mile for their country. The African countries need to focus on increasing their annual GDP rate and to maintain a balanced ration between their annual growth and to the implementation of new poverty reduction and eradication strategies. Such an approach can help these countries to overcome the issues of poverty and the hunger, and they can be able to achieve the first-millennium development goal.

Unlike the first millennium development goal of the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the African countries have successfully reached the third millennium development goal or it may be said like this that they are on a right path to reach this goal. Women empowerment has been mainly focused on the African countries in previous years, and they have been given

equal rights such as men have. Some of the indicators of the women rights in the African countries include their hold on political power and the percentage of their seats in the national parliaments which is about the 20% of the total seats. In the context of the educational settings, about half of the African countries have achieved the gender equality in primary schools, and this ratio is also increasing in the tertiary level and secondary level education. Some other indicators of the women empowerment include that there has been a decrease in the little age marriages of women in African countries followed by their power hold in the houses. In simple words, it can be concluded that African countries have been successful in achieving some of the targets of the third-millennium development goal, and they are still progressing on other scales.

Conclusion

Africa is one of the most underdeveloped regions of the world and the people living in this region are somehow depriving that they do not have access to the necessary living facilities. In the context of the MDGs by United Nations, Africa was the main center of focus on these objectives due to the conditions of people living over there. Talking about the eradication of poverty, Africa has not been very much successful in achieving this target because of their annual growth lagging behind the poverty statistics. This thing has led these countries to face some other issues such as hunger and starvation. Every day, some children die in Africa due to the famine and hunger and they do not have the proper dietary and calorie intake that may fulfill their body needs. Hence, in this regard, it can be stated that Africa has not been able to meet with the first-millennium development goal. However, in the context of the third-millennium development goal, the Africa has progressed well and their women are now empowered as compared to that of the previous years. The growth of the African countries is remarkably good about third-MDG of gender equality.

Recommendations and Overview

In the year of 2000, United Nations announced some goals for the betterment of the entire world and to provide the necessary living facilities to the people living below the poverty line. These objectives were eight in number, and they were termed as the millennium development goals. The first-millennium development goal was to vanish the hunger and poverty completely. The third-millennium development goal was about the gender equality and to empower women. These two objectives have been the central point of focus of the researchers and scholars around the world. Some research studies have also been conducted to find the efficiency and benefit of these goals. The careful analysis of these research studies and different case studies about India and Africa state that India has been able to reduce the poverty to a significant level. However, its progress to eradicate the hunger and to empower the women is not that much significant. While in the context of the Africa, the tables are turned in the way that African countries have progressed well about achieving the targets of the third millennium development goal but they have not been very much successful to reduce the poverty.

In the opinion of the writer, it is the need of the time that the United Nations should focus on the development of new strategies and should implement in the deprived countries of the world. The target countries have not significantly achieved the millennium development goals, hence the governments should introduce some operational plans that may go an extra mile to their countries and they may become able to achieve the first and third millennium development goals.

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