

# Gender Empowerment for Sustainable Development: Issues and Challenges

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**Abstract:** *The accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations encouraged the UN member countries to expand their target - specific strategies to include a more extensive and all - encompassing set of developmental goals in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A collection of 232 indicators, 169 targets, and 17 goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must all be accomplished by the year 2030. These were put into effect on January 1st, 2016. The success of sustainable development depends on governments' capacity to empower women in accordance with the criteria and indicators listed in the SDGs. Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls, " is the only SDG that is exclusively focused on issues relating to gender equality and women's empowerment. In addition, each SDG incorporates standards and goals that are fundamentally aimed at gender equality. The current research makes an effort to examine the condition of women in light of several indicators for the sustainable development agenda. The performance of India in general and the state of Himachal Pradesh in particular with respect to several gender - related criteria and indicators stated under the list of sustainable development goals has been examined in order to do this.*

**Keywords:** SDGs, Gender Equality, Women Empowerment.

## 1. Introduction

The MDGs were successful in helping more than a billion people escape extreme poverty, fighting hunger, and increasing the number of girls who attended school (Ilcan & Phillips, 2010; McArthur & Rasmussen, 2017; Sachs, 2012). The accomplishment of the Millennium Development Ambitions (MDGs) allowed the United Nations to increase its goals under "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, " or the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to reach more difficult targets by the year 2030. (SDGs). The Agenda aimed to promote global peace and abolish all forms of poverty in order to safeguard people, the environment, and prosperity. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have 17 goals and 169 targets, were approved by the UN in September 2015. The SDGs became enforceable on January 1st, 2016. The United Nations set 17 sustainable development goals, which are included in Table 1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's success depends on these goals, targets, and indicators being met.

Realizing everyone's human rights, attaining gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and accomplishing unmet MDGs are among the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which integrate the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social,

and environmental). All of the United Nations' member states had to create their own set of objectives, benchmarks, and performance measures in order to successfully accomplish these objectives. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, targets, indicators, and strategies must be established at the United Nations, the national level, and the state level.

India, the second - most populated nation in the world and a nation that experiences all types of human misery, can make significant contributions to these sustainable development objectives. It was judged necessary to assess how well state and national governments were performing in terms of achieving the SDGs after more than five years of Agenda 2030. Analysis of the current environment or government performance against all 17 goals, targets, and indicators is outside the purview of the current paper. The gender component of the sustainable development goals is the main topic of the paper. Being the most underprivileged group in society, women make up nearly half of the global population. One of the most traditional and lasting forms of discrimination in the world is the unequal treatment of women. The voices of women, their labour force contributions, and their place in society have all been undervalued in various periods throughout history.

**Table 1:** Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well - being for all at all ages
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

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- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Women are not only treated unfairly in this way, but also with regard to their access to education, proper nutrition, political position, salary, the quality of the work they do, the number of hours they put in, and the amount of unpaid work they perform. Despite their acknowledged contribution to the nation's social and economic success, they continue to be denied the benefits of development and are viewed as second - class people by society. Statistics that are released on a regular basis show how women are treated. Women continue to experience worse conditions related to development than men despite significant efforts on the part of various governments.

The SDG5—"Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls"—recognizes the significance of women in attaining the SDGs and is committed to all kinds of women's empowerment. Each of the sustainable development objectives depends on SDG 5's fulfilment, either directly or indirectly. Along with it, other SDGs also feature crucial elements for women's empowerment. This paper's focus is on those elements, and it examines the situation of women in India and Himachal Pradesh in relation to those standards and metrics. The evaluation of the status of women's empowerment in terms of the criteria and indicators for the sustainable development objectives was done in light of all customarily existing provisions, rules and regulations.

**Government Initiatives for Women Empowerment**

When attempting to analyse a government's initiatives, there are two approaches that can be taken. The first approach is through the existing plans and programmes, and the second way is through the laws and constitutional clauses relating to women's empowerment. In addition to giving women every opportunity for equality, the Indian Constitution also gives the government the authority to implement measures that positively discriminate against women. Equal rights for women are demanded by the Constitution Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, Directive Principles, policies, legislation, programmes, and

programmes. The Indian Constitution, through Articles 14, 15, 15 (3), 16, 39 (a), 39 (b), 39 (c), 39 (d), 42, 51 (A), 243 D (4), and 243 T (3 & 4) strongly explicitly prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth and ensures equal opportunity to all citizens in employment matters while acknowledging the existence of socioeconomic, educational, and political disadvantages faced by women.

In order to safeguard constitutional values, ensure equal rights, combat social discrimination and other types of violence and atrocities, and provide support services for women, the State has passed a number of legislative measures. While the Indian Penal Code's sections 302/304 - B, 354, 363 - 373, 376, 498 - A, and 509 deal with crimes such as murder committed for dowry, molestation, kidnapping and abduction for a variety of reasons, rape, and physical and mental torture, as well as the importation of girls, there are many other laws that have special provisions to safeguard women and their interests (for example: The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, The Plantation Labour Act, 1951, The Family Courts Act, 1954, The Special Marriage Act, 1954, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with amendment in 2005, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Amended in 1995), Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976, The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1983, The Factories (Amendment) Act 1986, Indecent Representation of women (Prohibition) Act, 1986, Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, The Protection of women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005). There are various additional specific efforts with a focus on women in addition to these constitutional and legal measures. Table 2 provides information on these efforts in more detail.

**Table 2: Special Initiatives of Central Government to Empower Women**

SN	Initiative	Detail
1.	National Commission for Women	It was established in January 1992 with the particular purpose of researching, observing, and reporting on all issues pertaining to the constitutional and legal protections for women. It also reviews current laws and recommends changes as needed.
2.	Reservation for women in Local Self - Government	The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Acts, passed by Parliament in 1992, guarantee that women will hold one - third of all elected positions in local governments, whether they are located in rural or urban areas.
3.	The National plan of Action for the Girl Child	The goal of the plan of action is to assure the female child's survival, safety, and growth in order to ultimately give her a brighter future.

4.	National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001	A "National Policy for the Empowerment of Women" was created in 2001 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development's department of Women & Child Development. This policy aims to empower and progress women by fostering their growth and development.
5.	Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005	The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act eliminates the discriminatory gender provisions in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, and grants daughters the following primary rights under Section 6: (a) The daughter has the same rights to the coparcenary property as she would have if she had been a boy; (b) The daughters will be held accountable for the coparcenary property in the same way as sons; and (c) The daughter receives the same share as a son.
6.	The Protection of women from domestic Violence Act, 2005	More effective protection of the constitutionally given rights of women who are victims of familial abuse of any type, as well as matters related to or incidental to such violence
7.	Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Places 2013	

Source: Women and Men in Himachal Pradesh, Department of Economics and Statistics Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.

Along with these constitutional and legal safeguards, India's union, state, and local governments are also putting in place a number of government programmes with a focus on empowering women. Numerous programmes to empower women have been launched by the Himachal Pradesh government. The state government is now implementing a number of programmes to improve the status of women in society, including education, support for widows and low - income women, heavy punishments for female infanticide,

etc. At the national level, these state government initiatives are also recognised. Table 3 provides a brief summary of various programmes and initiatives that the central government and the state government of Himachal Pradesh are implementing in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The list of central and state government programmes shown in Table 3 is not all - inclusive, but it shows the government's commitment to addressing the discrimination and inequality that women face in society.

**Table 3: Women Specific Schemes of State and Central Government in Himachal Pradesh**

SN	Name of Scheme	Eligibility	Details
<b>STATE SPONSORED SCHEMES</b>			
1.	Beti Hai Anmol Yojna	Girls of BPL families up to two girl children	Girls receive scholarships ranging from Rs.300 to Rs.1500 for their books, clothing, and other expenses from first to 12th grade. The department puts Rs.10, 000 each girl kid in the post office/bank account.
2.	Mukhya Mantri Kanyadan Yojna	Girls who are orphans, whose fathers are bedridden, physically or mentally ill, orphans, or whose mothers have fled or divorced & income below Rs.20, 000 per year.	If parents' annual income is less than rupees 35, 000, they will receive a grant of rupees 25, 000 for their wedding.
3.	Self - Employment Assistance for women	Women for establishing any project or venture	Women with annual incomes of no more than 35, 000 rupees are given rupees 2500 for starting any project or venture.
4.	Mahila Vikas Nigam		By offering loans with reduced interest rates, help women start their own businesses.
5.	Widow Re - marriage Scheme	Widows	Rehabilitating the widows is the plan's main goal. The widow is given a stipend of Rs.50, 000 under this programme on her remarriage.
6.	Mother - Teresa AsahayaMatri Sambal Yojna	BPL - affiliated widows who earn less than Rs.18, 000 per year & are responsible for raising and providing for up to two children until they turn 18 years old.	This programme gives widowed mothers rupees 3000 a year per kid toward the cost of educating and caring for their children, up to a maximum of two, until they turn 18 years old.
7.	State Home For women	Housing destitute, widow and the women who are in moral danger	Free housing and food at Mashobra (Shimla); several skill trainings in the state home; and after leaving the state home, a grant of Rs 20, 000 per inmate is provided by the department for her rehabilitation.
8.	VisheshMahilaUthaan Yojna	Rehabilitation sexually and physically abused women through technical and vocational training	This programme offers vocational training in selected State - approved ITIs, with a monthly stipend of Rs.3, 000 and a test fee of Rs.800 per student. 20% of the project's cost in the form of a subsidy, up to a maximum of Rs.10, 000 per recipient
9.	Financial Assistance & Support Service to Victim of Rape Scheme - 2012	Rape victims	Rs.75, 000 for victim support and other associated services, with a cap of Rs.1 lakh in exceptional cases.
10.	Himachal Pradesh Mahila Vikas Protsahan Yojana	individuals and groups working to promote and empower women in the fields of health, education, sport, social services, and the arts and culture	✓ A state level award
11.	Mata	Women who belong to BPL and SC	A LPG gas connection is provided under this programme, and the

	ShabariMahillaSashkikarnYojna	family or whose income does not exceed rupees 35, 000 per annum	government will provide a subsidy of Rs.1300 per beneficiary toward the cost of the connection. Each year, 75 SC BPL women will receive benefits in each Vidhan Sabha.
12.	Window/Destitute/Single Woman Pension Scheme	Widows; destitute, single women over 45 with an individual income of no more than Rs.9, 000 per year or a family income of no more than Rs.15, 000 per year	Pension[at]Rs500 per month
13.	Matri Seva Yojna	Expectant mothers irrespective of their income	Free institutional deliveries for pregnant mothers, regardless of their financial situation
14.	State Level Council for Empowerment of women	For effective implementation and monitoring of National Policy for Empowerment of women.	
15.	Women Development Corporation	Needy women willing to set up self - employment ventures	enables disadvantaged women to obtain low - interest loans from banks to start their own businesses.
16.	State Commission for Women		providing counselling services and legal aid; resolving women's complaints; educating women about their legal rights
17.	Self Help Groups	SHGs of women through Anganwari workers	SHGs have been formed and linked with banks
<b>CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES</b>			
1.	Indira Gandhi MatritavaSahyog Yojana	The pregnant and lactating women	Since 2010–2011, a pilot programme has been running in the Hamirpur district. Pregnant and nursing mothers receive a three - phased monetary incentive totaling Rs.6000.
2.	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls	Adolescent Girls (Ages) in the age group a) 11 - 14 years age – Out of school adolescent girls. b) 15 - 18 years age – all Ages	In place of the Kishori Shakti Yojana, the Central and State Governments will share funds in the four districts of Solan, Kullu, Kangra, and Chamba for the Financial Year 2010–11.
3.	Kishori Shakti Yojana	the improvement of adolescent girls' health, nutritional status, and home - based vocational skill status.	46 ICDS projects in state's eight districts—Shimla, Sirmour, Kinnaur, Mandi, Bilaspur, Una, Hamirpur, and Lahaul - Spiti—100 percent centrally sponsored.
4.	Integrated Child Development Services Scheme	Pregnant, Lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children of 6 month to 6 year	Six services are provided to children and pregnant/lactating women to improve their nutritional status and lower the mortality rate (IMR).1. Instruction in nutrition and health 2. immunisation 3. Additional nutrients 4. Health Examination 5. Early Childhood Education 6. Consultation Services
5.	Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension	Widows between the age group of 40 to 79 years and belongs to BPL household.	

Note: The list of schemes is not exhaustive. Financial assistance provided under each scheme is subject to change from time to time.

Source: Compiled from various sources.

Since the programmes and provisions listed in this part have been around for a while, their effects must be visible in the indicators of women's empowerment. Thus, the section that follows makes an effort to examine the position of women in India and the state of Himachal Pradesh. The sustainable development goals' criteria and indicators for women's empowerment were taken into account in order to accomplish this.

### The Status of Women in Himachal Pradesh in Relation to the SDGS

There are research studies and statistical indicators such as sex ratio, literacy rate, infant mortality rate, etc. that reveal that India has achieved a lot in improving the status of women in society. However, for the purpose of sustainable development goals (SDGs), there are parameters of women's empowerment on which there is still a lot to be done. The NITI Aayog in the year 2018 came up with a baseline report on the level of sustainable development in India. It has published the sustainable development index for each state and union territory in India. This index is a composite score of the performance of each state and UT on 13 of the 17 sustainable development goals. The score ranges between 0

and 100, where a score of 100 indicates achievement of the national target. As per the report, the sustainable development index score ranges between 42 and 69, with Kerala and Himachal Pradesh being the top scorers, revealing that these two states are front runners with a sustainable development index score of 69. When it comes to dissection of the scores attained by these two states, it was found that the main reasons for the high performance of Kerala were their better performance in providing health facilities, reduction in hunger, gender equality, and quality education, whereas in Himachal Pradesh, the highest contribution to its score came from clean water and sanitation, fewer inequalities, and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Therefore, the relative contribution of each of these 13 goals taken to compose the SDG index was diverse across the states of India. Despite leading the nation in terms of the SDG Index, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh fared much lower on goals relating to gender equity and empowerment (SDG 5) than they did on other SDG metrics. No Indian state falls into the category of an achiever or a front - runner, while only two states—Kerala and Sikkim, both of which had index scores of 50—and two union territories—Andaman & Nicobar Islands, with an index score of 58, and

Chandigarh, with an index score of 51—were included in the nation's performer states for Sustainable Development Goal 5, which is concerned with gender equality and empowerment. Himachal Pradesh, with SDG5 Index score of 42, is classified as an aspirant state. The state performance in political empowerment of women measured as the "percentage of seats won by women in the general election to the state legislative assembly, " in the state was lowest.

Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals is not the only goal whose indicators include a gender component. Other than goal 5, which is dedicated to gender equality and empowerment, there are other targets and indicators within the sustainable development goals. Table 4 provides a summary of the state's performance in relation to each of these indicators. The data used to determine the state's performance for the baseline year, 2015–16, are presented in the table and were derived from a publication by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

The table 4 shows that women in Himachal Pradesh are relatively more disadvantaged than the national average

when it comes to access to health services. According to the data, only 0.70 percent of female members of a family are covered by health insurance or a health scheme, which is significantly lower than the national average of 20.40 percent for females in India.

The performance of Himachal Pradesh, with 13.10 percent coverage, is far below the national average of 36.40 percent, as evidenced by the data on the percentage of the population getting social protection benefits under the maternity benefit. Similar findings are reported when other indicators of SGD1, SDG2 and SDG3 as shown in the table are compared. Although Himachal Pradesh performs slightly better than the national average in a number of SDG metrics linked to women, as indicated in the table, it is still far from being considered the ideal state for women's empowerment. The performance of Himachal Pradesh in terms of SDG8 indicators related to unemployment rate, workforce participation rate, wage differences, and unemployment shows that Himachal Pradesh is relatively in a better position than the average for all of India, even though much work still needs to be done to eliminate the gender disparities that are evident in the data.

**Table 4:** Gender Related Indicators of India and Himachal Pradesh in SDGs Other than SDG5

Target / Indicator involving Gender	India		Himachal Pradesh		
	Women	Men	Women	Men	
Indicator 1.3.1: Percentage of Households with any Usual Member Covered by a Health Scheme or Health Insurance	20.40	22.90	0.70	4.50	
Indicator 1.3.5: % of the population (out of total eligible population) receiving Social Protection Benefits under Maternity Benefit	36.40		13.10		
Indicator 2.2.3: Percentage of Women with Body Mass Index (BMI) Below Normal (BMI)	22.90		16.20		
Indicator 2.2.4: Percentage of Pregnant Women Age 15 - 49 Years who are Anemic (Hb <12g/dl)	50.40		50.40		
Indicator 3.1.4: Percentage of Women Aged 15–49 Years with a Live Birth (4 or More visit)	51.20		69.10		
Indicator 3.5.3: Percentage of Men 15 - 54 and Women Aged 15 - 49 Years Who Consumed Alcohol	1.20	29.50	0.30	41.20	
Indicator 3.7.1: Percentage of Currently Married Women Age 15 - 49 Years Who Use Any Modern Method of Family Planning	47.70		52.00		
Indicator 3.7.2: Percentage of Women Age 15 - 19 Years Who Were Already Mothers or Pregnant (2015 - 16)	5.20		1.80		
Indicator 3.7.3: Percentage of Institutional Deliveries	5 Years	78.90	76.40		
	1 Year	82.60	82.70		
Indicator 3.8.7: Percentage of Women Age 15 - 49 Years and Men Age 15 - 49 Years Who Are Currently using Tobacco	6.80	44.50	0.50	40.50	
Indicator 4.5.2: Gender Parity Indices (GPI) for	Primary	1.03	1.02		
	Secondary	1.02	0.97		
	Higher Secondary	1.01	1.02		
	Tertiary Education	0.93	1.20		
Indicator 8.5.1: Unemployment Rate	Rural	1.7	1.7	0.8	1.1
	Urban	5.2	3	1.9	9.9
	Total	2.2	2.2	1.3	1.2
Indicator 8.5.2: Workforce Participation Ratio (WPR)	Rural	24.8	54.3	52.4	54.1
	Urban	14.7	54.6	21.1	60.0
	Total	21.9	54.4	49.2	54.8
Indicator 8.5.3: Wages earned by male - female in Regular wage/ salaried employees	Rural	201.56	322.28	250.69	434.72
	Urban	366.15	469.87	306.55	426.03
Indicator 8.5.6: Share of Unemployed Persons in Population Aged 15 - 24 (Percentage)	Rural	1.3	3.7	1	2.7
	Urban	2.4	5.1	5	2.3
	Total	1.7	4.1	1.6	2.7
Indicator 8.6.1: Unemployment Rate among Person Aged 15 - 24 years	Rural	5.8	6.9	2.8	7.2
	Urban	16.9	11.2	35.5	4.9
	Total	8.2	8.1	4.7	6.8
Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing Employment as a Proportion of Total Employment	Rural	9.8	8.1	0.9	7.2
	Urban	28.7	22.4	35.1	32.7
	Total	13.4	12.3	2.5	10.4

Source: Extracted for the present paper from MoSPI, (2019), Sustainable Development Goals: National Indicator Framework Baseline Report, 2015 - 16, GoI.

Table 5 shows the status of women in India and Himachal Pradesh according to the indicators used for SDG5, dedicated to empowering women and achieving gender equality. The information in the table indicates that, despite Himachal Pradesh's performance being better than the national average on several metrics related to gender equality, the situation is still far from ideal. Indicators used to measure several aspects of the sustainable development goals for women demonstrate that they are in a less advantageous position than men in terms of gender inequality, access to education, and violence against women, as well as in terms of political and economic empowerment.

**Table 5:** Gender Statistics in India and Himachal Pradesh Based on SDG5 Indicators

Target / Indicator involving Gender Equality		India		Himachal Pradesh	
		Women	Men	Women	Men
Indicator 5.1.1: Rate of Crimes Against Women per every 1, 00, 000 Female		53.90		37.40	
Indicator 5.1.2: Proportion of Women Subjected to Dowry Related Offences to Total Crime Against Women		5.30		0.15	
Indicator 5.1.3: Sex Ratio at Birth	Rural	902		921	
	Urban	888		852	
	Total	898		917	
Indicator 5.2.1: Proportion of Crime against Women to Total Crime Reported		7.52		6.99	
Indicator 5.2.2: Proportion of Sexual Crimes Against Women to Total Crime Against Women During the Calendar Year		51.03		73.67	
Indicator 5.2.3: Proportion of Cruelty/ Physical Violence on Women by Husband or His Relative to Total Crime Against Women During the Calendar Year		34.58		18.61	
Indicator 5.2.4: Proportion of sexual crime against girl children to total crime against children during the calendar year		34.80		42.20	
Indicator 5.2.5: Proportion of trafficking of girl children to total children trafficked during the calendar year		90.29		Nil	
Indicator 5.2.6: Percentage of Ever Married Women Age 15 - 49 Years Who Have Experienced Violence by Their Husband in the Last 12 Months	Emotional Violence	12.70		4.50	
	Physical Violence	27.40		5.10	
	Sexual Violence	6.40		2.20	
	Physical or Emotional	28.60		5.50	
	Emotional, Physical or Sexual	31.00		7.00	
Indicator 5.2.7: Child Sex Ratio (0 - 6 years)	Total	919		909	
	Rural	923		912	
	Urban	905		881	
Indicator 5.3.1: Proportion of Cases Reported Under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act to Total Crime Against Children		0.31		0.21	
Indicator 5.3.2: Percentage of Women Aged 20 - 24 Years Who Were Married or in a Union Before Age 18		26.80		8.60	
Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in	Lok Sabha / Legislative Assembly	11.4		5.8	
	Rajya Sabha (2011)	12.8			
	PRI	46.14		50.11	
Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions per 1000 Person Engaged In Managerial Position		173		152	
Indicator 5.6.2: Percentage of Currently Married Women Aged 15 - 49 Years Having Unmet Need for Family Planning		12.90		15.70	
Indicator 5. a.2: Proportion of Female Agricultural Laborers	Rural	74.9		87	
	Urban	10.9		19.2	
	Combined (R+U)	62.8		83.9	
5. a.3: Wages of casual labourers (gender wise)	Public works other than MGNREG in Rural Area	110.62	127.39	117.01	135.37
	MGNREG public works in Rural Area	101.97	112.46	118.56	120.93
	Works other than public works in Rural Area	103.28	149.32	125.58	182.14
	Works other than public works in Urban Area	110.62	182.04	131.78	170.87

Source: Extracted for the present paper from MoSPI, (2019), Sustainable Development Goals: National Indicator Framework Baseline Report, 2015 - 16, GoI.

Overall, it can be argued that despite being one of the best performing states in the nation, Himachal Pradesh still has a lot of work to do in order to meet the goals of sustainable development. While Himachal Pradesh does better than other Indian states in terms of achieving the most of the 17 SDGs, it performs poorly in terms of achieving SDG 5, which is concerned with women's equality and empowerment. Changes in methods and means of achieving the goals and targets are required for the successful

achievement of sustainable development goals. It has been noted that government attempts have failed to achieve the desired levels of gender equality and women's empowerment. This necessitates a shift in the government's strategy with regard to the goal.

To acquire a respectable status in international fora through achieving sustainable development goals, it is vital to establish strategies and means to construct successful plans

and actions. Plans and initiatives for this transformation demand for participation from the commercial sector, civil society, institutions, knowledge communities, PRIs, domain experts, and state residents in addition to government initiatives. Of all these change agents, the government's participation is the most significant.

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