

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

— REVIEW AND WAY FORWARD

POLICY BRIEF



Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

Sustainable Development in India — Review and Way Forward

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Preface

India has been gaining prominence on the international stage as one of the fastest growing economies of the world and as a leader of the South-South Cooperation Framework. Through platforms such as BRICS, G20 and IBSA, India finds itself in a position to influence and shape the Post 2015 Development Agenda. In order to make its voice representative at these forums, it is imperative that the experiences and concerns of India's voluntary sector be taken into account. At the same time, the voluntary sector in India also needs to understand the intricacies of global issues and the debates and processes that have a cascading effect on it.

In this context, VANI coordinated studies on four thematic issues, namely, Inclusive Growth, Financial Inclusion, Sustainable Development and Corruption and Governance with its partner organisations. The four reports which were produced as a result of these studies are intended to provide critical inputs to the Post-2015 Development Agenda from the voluntary sector in India and for this purpose; they will be fed into line ministries and international networks.

It was felt that the reports be condensed into comprehensive albeit succinct policy briefs for wider dissemination. The policy briefs were further translated into Hindi. It is our hope that through these policy briefs, we can help engage, educate and impact small and grassroots organisations in India by addressing the lacunae that exist among them about the policies and decision making processes at an international level and present the voice of the sector, domestically and globally.

Harsh Jaitli
Chief Executive Officer

Sustainable Development in India — Review and Way Forward

Partner Organisation	Author/s	Thematic Issue	Title
Wada Na Todo Abhiyan	Mr. Rahul Banerjee	Inclusive Growth	Bringing People In From The Cold- Ensuring Inclusive Growth in India
Development Alternatives	Development Alternatives	Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development In India- Review And Way Forward
Society for Participatory Research in Asia	Mr. Manoj Rai	Corruption and Governance	Corruption and Governance In India- Current Status And Way Forward
Confederation of Voluntary Associations	Dr. Mazher Hussain, Mr. Roberto G. Le-srauwaet, Mr. M. Murali Krishna	Financial Inclusion	Critical Review of Financial Inclusion- In G20 Countries With Focus On India

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Challenges

The Brundtland Commission (1987) defined Sustainable Development as “development, which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

India’s International Commitments on Sustainable Development

Some of the major international agreements that India has been a signatory to and their relevance to the context of sustainable development are discussed below.

- 1) India has been designated the host country by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Convention for the Asian Regional Action Programme on Agroforestry and Soil Conservation, under the Thematic Network Programme (TPN). The UNCCD came into effect in 1997 and all member countries are obligated to prepare an action plan to address all issues concerning desertification and drought.
- 2) India enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 and notified the Rules in 2004, to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Act is to be implemented through a three-tiered institutional structure: National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level, in line with the provisions for decentralized governance contained in the Constitution.
- 3) India signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 10 June 1992 and ratified it on 1 November 1993. It acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in August 2002. Under the UNFCCC, developing countries, such as India do not have binding Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation commitments through application of the Principle of Common, but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capability (CBDR). As agreed in Copenhagen, India communicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat, its voluntary mitigation actions to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 20–25 percent by

2020 in comparison to the 2005 level, excluding the agriculture sector. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), released on 30 June 2008, outlines India's strategy to meet the challenge of climate change.

- 4) The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), was adopted in 2001 with the objective of protecting human health and the environment from POPs, and came into force in 2004. India signed the Convention in 2002 and ratified it in 2006.

In addition, India adopted The National Environmental Policy (NEP) in 2006 which articulates the spirit of 'sustainable development'; it states that only such development is sustainable, which respects ecological constraints and the imperatives of social justice. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was formed to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest-produce and the duty leviable on timber and other forest-produce.

The Government of India also set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.

India's Outlook on Post 2015 Development Agenda

India has also initiated steps for identifying the sustainable development challenges & issues and developing a framework for addressing them. During the national consultation on Post 2015 Development Agenda, Government of India presented a set of preliminary views on the issue of post-2015 Development Agenda.

1. The post-2015 development agenda must remain rooted at its core on poverty eradication, which was identified at Rio+20 as the greatest global challenge.
2. The 'development' agenda must remain 'growth-focused', aiming to

encourage and support robust economic growth in developing countries, which is important for employment generation and social inclusion.

3. It is of utmost importance that unlike the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the post-2015 framework should apply both to the developed and developing countries, so as to create a more equitable set of responsibilities and obligations.
4. The key problem of rationalizing the unsustainable patterns of consumption in the developed countries must be addressed meaningfully in the post-2015 development agenda.
5. Being an agrarian country, India is concerned about the increasing Climate Change issues, as it is affecting the agriculture economy of the country. Agriculture is directly connected with the livelihoods of millions of people dependent on it and India would resist any attempt to interrupt the national policy space to regulate agriculture.
6. Access to energy is a key enabler for development. Rio+20 committed support for universal access to sustainable modern energy services.
7. Gender empowerment, gender equality and gender mainstreaming remain important priorities for a global development agenda. Enhanced participation of women in decision-making, in particular in elected bodies at local levels, needs to be prioritized.
8. Education continues to be a key priority for developing countries, particularly access to education, both at the primary and also at the secondary (and tertiary) levels. Simultaneously, technical and vocational training is required for diversifying economies and creating productive employment for all.
9. Increase access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Rio+20 also noted that management of water ecosystems must be done within respective national boundaries.
10. Food security is fundamental to developing countries, especially those with large populations.

Given the cooperative nature of the Post-2015 development agenda, it should be ensured that it does not translate into conditionality for aid and financial assistance for developing countries, which was seen in MDG process.

India's involvement as a BRICS nation also substantiates this view of the post-2015 developmental agenda. The recent creation of a BRICS Development Bank of \$ 100 billion and another reserve currency pool worth over another \$ 100 billion is indicative of the view that aid conditionality often dilutes the large goal of MDG focus areas.

Sustainable Development Challenges

1. Poverty

The Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (percentage of population) in 2005 was 37.2 percent and it got reduced to 21.9 percent in 2012. Despite the country's meteoric GDP growth rate (about 9%), poverty in India is still pervasive; especially in rural areas where 70% of India's 1.2 billion population lives. It is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and yet its riches are hardly redistributed across the population. Urban poverty in India is a direct effect of rural migrants fleeing poverty. This creates a massive unemployment and

Poverty in India - Statistics

- 6.53% - Unemployment rate (2009-10)
- 50% of Indians don't have proper shelter;
- 70% don't have access to decent toilets (which inspires a multitude of bacteria to host their own disease party);
- 35% of households don't have a nearby water source;
- 85% of villages don't have a secondary school
- Over 40% of these same villages don't have proper roads connecting them

Sources:

- <http://www.poverties.org/poverty-in-india.html>
- http://planningcommission.nic.in/data/datatable/0814/table_112.pdf

underemployment issue but also a disproportionate housing problem.

Populations below poverty line are not provided with proper sanitation facility, good & quality food, safe drinking water. Because of which they become vulnerable and are exposed to health related problems. Also, nearly all possible effects of poverty have an impact on children's lives. Poor infrastructure, unemployment, lack of basic services and income reflect on their lack of education, malnutrition and may lead to child labor, vulnerability to violence, diseases of all kinds, transmitted by the family or through the environment.

Though the government spending on health has increased over the last years and has been an important element in reducing poverty, much more attention is required for the poverty-health linkage.

Both environmental degradation and poverty alleviation are urgent global issues that have a lot in common, but are often treated separately. However, there is often a mainstream belief that for poor countries to develop, environmental concerns have to be sacrificed, or is a luxury to address once poverty is alleviated. Therefore, the approaches to such issues require rethinking.

2. Insecurities of basic services – Energy – Food – Water

Striking rates of economic growth notwithstanding, more than half of the population is suffering from hunger and lack of access to safe piped water and electricity. Overcoming these problems requires a combined approach in which the inter-linkages between food, water and energy are recognised, rather than treating them as separate, standalone issues, which has too often been the case in the past since these linkages pose massive management challenges.

India is the world's largest groundwater user. The lack of appropriate energy policy and policy to deal with management of groundwater has not only contributed to over-exploitation of groundwater; it has also resulted into a nexus of mutual dependence where the growth of one sector (agriculture) is being supported by unsustainable trends in the other two sectors (groundwater and electricity), so much so that even growth in agriculture is now threatened. India has moved from 65 to

63 in the Global Hunger Index, making a marginal improvement since 2012, but continues to languish far behind other emerging economies. The score for the country improved slightly from 22.9 in 2012 to 21.3 this year. According to the Global Hunger Index Annual report, 2013 (GHI), 43.5% of children under five are underweight and the level of hunger in India remained at ‘alarming levels’.

In spite of this, much of the debate on water- energy nexus as an indirect approach for groundwater management has focused on the energy side of the nexus, ignoring the role of agriculture policy,

CASE STUDY

Successful Initiatives: Water Panchayat in Rajasthan, India

Rajasthan is one of the driest states in India with regular recurrence of drought. Large parts of the States were listed as dark zones as ground water table was extremely low. Responding to the crisis, Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS) was established in Alwar district in March 1975 with a mission to harvest and conserve water through revival of traditional water harvesting structures called johads and construction of new structures. The TBS mobilized people by undertaking pad yatras and holding Panchayat meetings. The organization extended its activities to a holistic treatment of the catchment area of its water structures by taking up afforestation work. Over the years, TBS has built more than 4500 water harvesting structures based on indigenous technology and with locally available material. The community maintains these structures. In the process, the carrying capacity of land for fuel, fodder and food grains has increased considerably. Agricultural land under cultivation in the villages falling in the watershed has increased from around 20 per cent in 1985 to close to 100 per cent at present. Diversification of livelihood opportunities especially dairy industry is clearly visible in the area. Five rivers of the area viz..Arvari, Ruparel, Sarsa, Bhagani & Jahajwali that had dried up earlier have become perennial.

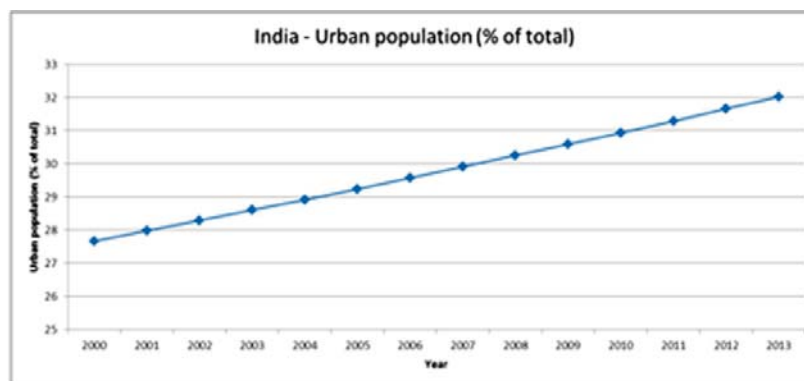
Source: South Asia Environmental Outlook– 2009, UNEP

especially that dealing with gaps in market linkages for agricultural products and role of minimum support price, which has a greater influence on farmer's choice of cropping pattern and hence excessive groundwater use. Policies governing agriculture such as the regime of power subsidies that India has evolved to support agricultural growth as well as policies governing energy are apparently dictated more by political doctrine rather than sound management strategies for sustainable resources development.

Adaptation assessments have suggested that options for reducing the negative impacts are wide spread adoption of resource efficient farming practices, promoting and reviving traditional drought coping mechanism and traditional water harvesting structures.

3. Rapid Urbanization and Industrialization

India has witnessed rapid urbanization in the last few years, it was 28.9 percent in 2004 and in 2013 it is 32 percent. 300 million Indians currently live in towns and cities. Within 20-25 years, another 300 million people will get added to Indian towns and cities. This urban expansion will happen at a speed quite unlike anything that India has seen before. The growth generates pressure on public infrastructure, including basic health and sanitation services creating a disorganized urban landscape, and constitutes a social crisis that can result in major health risks and pose threats to sustainable development.



Source: World Bank Data

Increased vehicular fleet, industrial expansion, persistence of older vehicles and technology, and lack of effective regulatory enforcement have contributed towards rising pollution levels in almost all Indian cities. The unprecedented rise of Urbanization and development activities, land degradation, and inadequate infrastructure for waste water disposal are major reasons that lead to rapid deterioration in water quality in the majority of rivers, streams, and lakes in India. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) during 2005–06, out of 115 sewage treatment plants in major Indian States, 35% continued to discharge polluted water beyond the stipulated norms. Inter-sectoral impacts may also arise when industrial effluents flow directly to agricultural land, affecting soil and groundwater while possibly contaminating drinking water wells.

One of the key challenges is the rapidly increasing amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Indian cities. Along with the increase in waste generation there is also change in the composition of waste generation (CPCB, 2005). Plastic waste is a growing environmental concern. According to recent estimates, 6.23 MT of hazardous waste are being generated by 36,135 units in the country, as compared to 4.4 MT reported for 26,566 waste generating units in 2006.

The growing trends of industries also depict a negative impact on environment, human health, surface & ground water and air. These alarming trends call for an urgent response through prioritizing the environment into developmental plans and processes, termed as Environmental Mainstreaming. Efficient and responsible use of natural resources will be a new engine to power a socially equitable and environmentally benign economic growth.

Decoupling the use of natural resources from economic growth is an essential guiding concept to utilize existing options to meet human and economic needs with fewer and cleaner resources. In business-as-usual scenarios, it is seen that human resource use in minerals, ores, fossil fuels and biomass could triple to 140 billion tonnes per year by 2050, unless the rate of resource consumption can be decoupled from that of economic growth.

In essence, two key aspects of decoupling are necessary for any national growth plan, namely, resource decoupling and impact decoupling. The relation between decoupling and development is that the rising economic and environmental costs of resource depletion and negative environmental impacts have affected the economic growth and development trajectories of some countries like South Africa, Germany, China and Japan. This has led to them adopting policies that commit both governments and industries to reduce the amount of resources used for each unit of production (to increase resource decoupling) and reduce negative impacts on the environment (to implement impact decoupling).

4. Ecological degradation and biodiversity loss

India alone holds about 8 percent of the world's biodiversity, high percentage of endemic floral and faunal species, and four biodiversity hotspots. This biodiversity is under severe threat both within and outside the protected area (PA) network, due to the loss and/or fragmentation of its habitat to competing uses. Critically Endangered species in India, according to the Red Data Book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), there are 47 critically endangered species in India (As of 5 September 2011).

India has taken a number of proactive measures related to biodiversity conservation. Since 1991, the government has committed funds, particularly in the field of PA management, for eco-development (integrated conservation and development), along with site specific package comprising measures for conserving biodiversity through local community development.

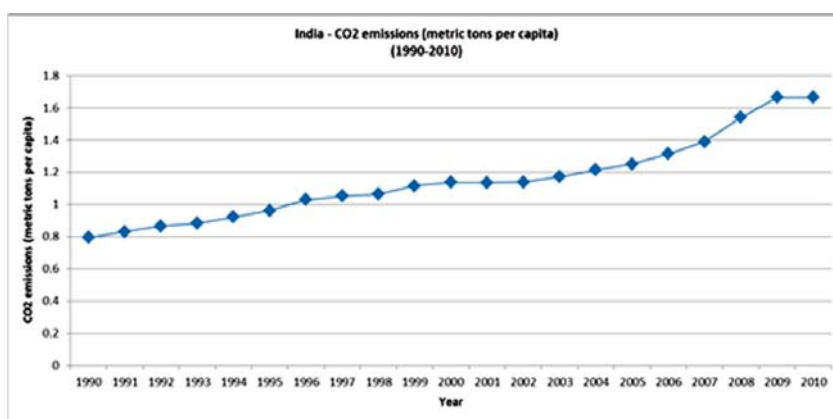
Ecological degradation can lead to a scarcity of resources, such as water and farmable land. Land degradation is a serious issue in the country. Deforestation, drought and improper or inappropriate agriculture are typically considered to be the main causes of land degradation. With India's food security under threat, with nearly 81 million hectares facing desertification, environment minister Prakash Javadekar said that the government was working on a plan to "stop and reverse" the "serious threat". The minister said that India would become "land

degradation neutral” by 2030 if all critical stakeholders — ministries of environment, agriculture, water resources and land resources — worked together on a common implementation strategy.

5. Vulnerability to Climate Change impacts, Natural Disasters and Hazards Risks

Climate change and natural disasters pose a key challenge to sustainable development. Climate Change is impacting the natural ecosystems and is expected to have substantial adverse effects in India, mainly on agriculture on which 58 per cent of the population still depends for livelihood, water storage in the Himalayan glaciers which are the source of major rivers and groundwater recharge, sea-level rise, and threats to a long coastline and habitations. Climate change will also cause increased frequency of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones. These in turn will impact India’s food security problems and water security. An increase in the emission of harmful CO₂ gases has also been observed; in 2004 it was 1.2 metric tons per capita and had increased by 40 percent approximately to 1.7 metric tons per capita in 2010.

Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters also has a strong linkage with poverty and has the potential to create multiple stresses over



Source: World Bank Data

the stresses that already exist. It is, therefore, essential that the country adopts measures aimed at building resilience to such risks.

Framework for Action

The significant issue before governments including our own is to integrate economic, social and environmental concerns within the national and sub-national policies and action programmes. The economic processes therefore need to address building up of the human capital and sustaining the natural capital, within a just and transparent governance system that guides and regulates our actions. It is therefore important that national goals and especially targets for a post 2015 development agenda are universal – useful and applicable for all sections of our society, integrated – these enable coherence across policies, programmes and sectors and transformative – enable rapid and cross cutting shifts towards sustainability.

Systemic transformation needs to happen at the level of both ends (development outcomes) and means (identifying risks; addressing root causes; and accelerating key drivers of change for inclusive and sustainable development). It is about transforming existing structures (physical and economic infrastructure), culture (collective set of values, norms, paradigms) and practices (behaviors, implementation modalities).

Eliminating poverty involves a complex paradigm of creating human security (Income, Health, Education and Natural Disasters) and managing population growth and its impacts. Some of the specific actions that are vital for creating human security in the country are outlined below. The measures for each of these are based on the three pillars of accessibility, affordability, and availability.

- Promoting Income Security
- Providing Health Security
- Provide Quality Education

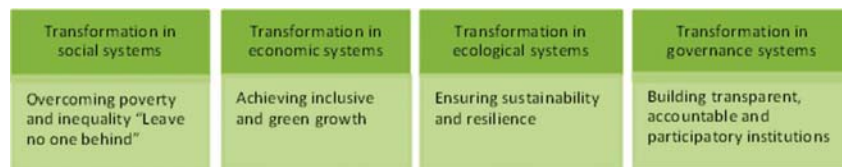


Fig: Systemic transformers for Sustainable Development

- Providing Security from Natural Disasters
- Managing Population growth

Managing Urbanization and Industrialization: Better policies should be in place to meet urban and industrial infrastructure needs through sustainable means and address growing urban poverty and inequality. Measures might include:

- Promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements ensuring balance development for cities with rural regions.
- Consider disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate risks in regional planning.
- Promote cost effective and technically and environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes
- Create public awareness about the health and environmental problems
- Introducing innovations such as “pay-per-use” regulations that promote water affordability for drinking, domestic use, livestock, irrigation, industrial use, and recreational purposes
- Enhancing the water availability by creating innovative financing and partnerships for effective extraction, treatment, storage and equitable distribution of water.

In a growing economy, sustainability is desired in both production systems as well as consumption patterns. Investments in research that look at decoupling resources from economic growth are critical so that innovations in construction, transportation, agriculture etc. can continue to provide the desired benefits for society while reducing their negative impacts on the natural resource base. Individual and community consumption too must come under the cross bar. Measures must include;

- Fiscal supports for greener cleaner production systems
- Decentralization and right scaling production and distribution systems
- Moving the burden of taxation from production to consumption

Mitigation of Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Hazards Risks - India's development plans should balance economic development and environmental concerns. A number of measures could be taken in this direction, including:

- Raising awareness amongst various stakeholders

- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) plans into development planning and budgeting process at community, sub-national and national levels.
- Promote regional and global cooperation for disaster forecasting and reduction and managing post disaster situation
- Strengthening disaster-preparedness through national and regional risk assessment, mapping, monitoring and vigilance systems

Securing Biodiversity - The loss of sub-regional biodiversity has a negative impact upon the people of India as well as the global community. Some of the key priorities for action by the country are outlined below:

- Introduction of Eco-System based natural resource management
- Continuing to assess, map and document the biodiversity wealth of the sub-region
- Reviving the traditional knowledge, especially among local communities, indigenous people and women
- Minimizing the losses from soil erosion, landslides and desertification by checking land degradation.

Managing Water-Food-Energy Nexus:

Ensuring food security - Measures might include:

- Improving access by strengthening public distribution systems
- Enhancing affordability through appropriate pricing instruments
- Nutrition and not just 'food'
- Strengthening of agricultural research system for developing new crop varieties and agricultural technologies in response to changing weather patterns

Enhancing Energy Security- Measures might include:

- Improving the access to reliable, economically viable and environmentally sound energy services for all
- Enhancing rural electrification, decentralized energy systems, and use of renewable energy sources through national initiatives and regional cooperation
- Regulate pricing to encourage renewable decentralized systems in the region
- Adopt clean energy / energy-efficient technologies that are climate

friendly and commercially viable

- Promote research on energy efficiency and the diversification of the energy mix

Providing Water Security- Measures might include:

- Strengthening of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Improving access to quality water for all by regulating consumption, managing ground water augmentation and adopting waste water recycling

Strengthening Policy Formulation Process and Institutions

There are few gaps in the policy formulating process and some of them are mentioned below:

- **Excessive Fragmentation in structure** - One of the main problems with policy-making in India, is extreme fragmentation in the structure. For example, the transport sector is dealt with by five departments/Ministries in the government of India and because of which it fails to recognize that actions taken in one sector have serious implications on another and may work at cross purposes with the policies of the other sector.
- **Excessive overlap between policy making and implementation** - Another problem is the excessive overlap between implementation, program formulation and policy making which creates a tendency to focus on operational convenience rather than on public needs.
- **Lack of non-governmental inputs and informed debate** - Often public policy is made without adequate input from outside government and without adequate debate on the issues involved.
- **Information Gap** – Policy making, necessarily, is based on data, and in India data in many spheres of social action is weak and unreliable.
- **Poor Implementation** – Implementation of policies is generally, very strongly & deeply affected by local politics.

Below are the proposed measures to further strengthen the policy making/formulation process.

- **Reduction in Fragmentation and enhanced Convergence** – It is very helpful to have a clear set of roles and responsibilities for all the

ministries and departments. The first reform would be to achieve a progressive decrease in fragmentation as one goes up the hierarchy. This would mean that fewer Secretaries, each of whom would handle more than one of the existing sectors. The result would be that coordination and integration will be achieved far more smoothly. It will also result in a clear understanding of the degree of interconnection and overlaps between sectors.

- **Strengthening Participation-** Participatory planning leads to generation of ownership which, in turn is crucial for sustainability of any development intervention. This can be done by involving various civil society institutions (CBOs, NGOs), corporate bodies, academic institutions, research organizations and trade unions.
- **Strengthening Governance Mechanisms:** To overcome and address the SD challenges of the country, it is very important to have an efficient, transparent and accountable government mechanism at the lowest unit of planning.
- **Strengthen the Information flow and create an Information system -** having a strong data and information base which will lead to transparency and better management of policies.

In global terms, sustainable development could only be achieved through international cooperation at the common points of intersection like trans-boundary environmental impacts, bio-resource management, a technology-sharing, and common marine issues. Sharing of sustainable development experiences at the local level would certainly go a long way in strengthening the sustainable development movement at the global level. Since the South or the developing nations face similar environmental and development problems as one single entity, it is all the more reason to present their problems collectively at global forums for acquiring sustainable solutions. It is also a must to evolve mechanisms that facilitate monitoring the compliance of individual nations towards their commitments under the different global agreements.

LIST OF VANI PUBLICATIONS

- Civil Society Accountability Principles and Practice (India Toolkit) (English)
- Enabling environment for Voluntary Organisations A Global Campaign (English)
- Model Policies for International Good Governance in Voluntary Organizations
- The Hand Book in Good Governance for the Voluntary Sector
- Status of the Voluntary Sector in India A Report
- Status of the Voluntary Sector in India (Primer) (English & Hindi))
- Civil Society Engagement in Aid Effectiveness Discourse
- Changing Dynamics Between VOs and Private Sector
- Involving Voluntary Organizations in Governments Plans and Projects
- India's Global Footprints
- India's Development Assistance: Trends, Challenges and Implications for CSOs
- India's Role in the G20: A Civil Society Approach
- Contribution and Challenges of Voluntary Organizations Working on Religious Minority A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Contribution and Challenges of Voluntary Organisations Working with Women A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Role and Contribution of Voluntary Organisations in Health & Nutrition A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Challenges of the Grassroots Voluntary Organisations A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Role and Contribution of Voluntary Organisations on Water & Sanitation A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Contribution and Challenges of Voluntary Organizations Working with Dalits A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Contribution of CSR on Thematic Issues of Education, Health and Nutrition, and Water and Sanitation A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
- Revisiting the National Policy on Voluntary Sector and Need for a National Policy on Volunteering (English & Hindi)
- Policy Brief of Revisiting the National Policy on Voluntary Sector and Need for A National Policy on Volunteering (English & Hindi)
- Enabling Environment of the Voluntary Sector in India A Study Report (English)



About Heinrich Böll Foundation

"The Heinrich Böll Stiftung / Foundation (HBF) is the Green Political foundation from Germany, affiliated to the "Greens/Alliance '90" political party represented the Germany's federal parliament. Headquartered in Berlin, and with 30 international office today, hbs conducts and supports civic educational activities and projects worldwide.

HBF understands itself as a green think-tank and international policy network, working with governmental and non-governmental actors and focusing on gender equity, sustainable development, and democracy and human rights.

With a presence in New Delhi since 2002, the HBF India office coordinates the interaction with stakeholders and partners in the country. Its programme focus areas include climate and resource policy, socio-economic policy from a gender perspective, the dynamics of democracy, and India's role in the new global order."

About VANI



Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) is an apex body of the Voluntary Organisations.

- Founded in 1988 to act as a promoter/Protector and collective voice of the voluntary sector.
- Base of 8000 non-governmental organisations spread in 25 states of India.
- Resource Centre for publications, research work, articles, important documents and information about and related to the voluntary sector.

Objectives:

- As a platform, to promote voluntarism and create space for voluntary action.
- As a network, attempt to bring about a convergence of common sectoral issues and concerns for building a truly national agenda of voluntary action in India. In addition, facilitate linkages of various efforts and initiatives of the Indian voluntary sector, which succeed in strengthening a united and sustainable movement of change.
- An an association, work towards fostering value based voluntary action and long term sustainability especially amongst our members.

Areas of work

- Promoting practices of good governance in the voluntary sector.
- Strengthening networks
- Articulating independent voices of the sector.
- Research and advocacy of policies and law effecting the voluntary sector.

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