

Identifying Barriers to SDG Awareness Among Scheduled Caste Youth in Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

Despite the sustainable development goals' (SDGs) emphasis on inclusion, marginalized youths are denied full participation due to discriminatory practices. Despite a few studies examining the SDGs and their social targets, none has examined young people's awareness of the SDGs in Scheduled Castes (SCs). In our study, we analysed the narratives of 40 SC youth in seven districts of Tamil Nadu, who have historically been marginalized. In this study, we examined how SC youth experience social exclusion and what factors contribute to their lack of awareness of schemes and programmes. We suggested ways to promote the involvement of SC youth in achieving Tamil Nadu's SDGs.

Keywords

SDGs, youth participation, Scheduled Caste youth, exclusion, inclusion, consciousness

Introduction

The United Nations introduced the term sustainable development in the Brundtland Commission Report (1987) due to emerging concerns over environmental degradation and exploitation of natural resources. The major aim of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) is to address the economic, environmental and social issues in developing and developed countries. All societal segments are strongly encouraged to participate in the adaptation, implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review process to achieve the SDGs. The 2030 agenda accentuates the major role of children and youth in achieving the SDGs. Youth participation in member states' implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been fairly limited up to this point, but it is now beginning to increase (United Nations, 2015). Young people

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