New Horizon

Volume 2 Issue 3

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POLICY ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Towards Improving School Learning Outcomes

In SDG India Index – 4.0 (2023-24), under *Goal – 4: Quality Education*, Tamilnadu has been ranked 1st particularly with respect to *Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education*; schools with basic access to infrastructure; percentage of trained teachers at secondary level. Despite the robust infrastructure, high enrolment etc., the performance of the State in 4.1. The percentage of students in grade VIII achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in terms of nationally defined learning outcomes to be attained by the pupils at the end of the grade in the SDG India Index – 4.0 with the composite score of 67 needs to be improved. Against this backdrop, SDGCC initiated a discussion with the Secretary, School Education Department to organise a Policy Round Table to deliberate on actionable strategies to further improve the performance of school students in terms of learning outcomes.

Also, SDGCC had begun identifying potential luminaries/experts in the field of education across India to deliberate on the following three thematic areas covering (i) Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment for improved learning outcomes; (ii) optimising teaching learning process: Use of digital technology / AI and (iii) Innovations and niche areas for making schooling effective. The outcome will enable the School Education Department to add on to its existing programmes towards strengthening school education.

DATA ANALYTICS, MONITORING AND EVALUATION PARTNERSHIP

Working Group Meetings for Finalisation of State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 2.0

A total of Five Working Group Meetings were held from July to September 2024. The details of the Working Group Meetings and the major discussion points that emerged from them are listed as follows.

a. Working Group – 3

Working Group – 3 covering goal - 4 (Quality Education) was conducted on 1st August 2024. The Secretary to Government, School Education Department chaired the Meeting. During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; and the performance of SIF – 1.0; draft indicators of Goal – 4 under SIF – 2.0, sample Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) and the strategic document of skills, employment and livelihoods. The Secretary, School Education Department reviewed the agenda and gained insight into it and asked the Departments to make necessary interventions for trailing indicators of Goal – 4 in particular to the Learning Outcomes (LOs) of students in Tamil Nadu. Also, in principle approval was given to the suggested indicators of Goal – 4 under SIF – 2.0.

> " Brought to limelight that in terms of Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education; schools with basic access to infrastructure; percentage of trained teachers at secondary level; Tamil Nadu has been ranked 1st in SDG India Index – 4.0 "

Working Group – 3 (Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education)						
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII- 3.0	SDGII- 4.0	NIF - 4.0	Newly Developed Indicators	Total Indicators (SIF - 2.0)
Goal: 4- Quality Education	14	1	1	7	4	**27**

b. Working Group – 1

Working Group – 1 covering goals – 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (Zero Hunger) was conducted on 19th August 2024. The Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department chaired the Meeting. During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; and the performance of SIF – 1.0; draft indicators of

> Departments must verify and enter data in the Dashboard regularly to fast track the performance of Tamil Nadu in SDGs progress.

Goals – 1 and 2 under SIF – 2.0. Also, SDGCC highlighted the importance of sample Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) with examples. ACS reviewed the agenda and gained an in-depth understanding of the SDG India Index, and the ranking of States on the performance of SDGs progress among others. ACS asked the Departments to update the data in the Dashboard. ACS accorded in-principle approval to the indicators considered for Goals – 1 and 2 under SIF – 2.0 with a recommendation to include State relevant indicators.

Working Group – 1 (No Poverty and Zero Hunger)						
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII- 3.0	SDGII- 4.0	NIF - 4.0	FBP	Total Indicators (SIF - 2.0)
Goal:1-No Poverty	19	1	0	3	2	**25**
Goal: 2-Zero Hunger	20	1	0	6	0	**27**

c. Working Group – 4

Working Group – 4 covering goals – 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities) was conducted on 28th August 2024. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department (SW&WE). During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; and the performance of SIF – 1.0; draft indicators of Goal – 5 and 10 under SIF – 2.0

and sample Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF). The Secretary, SW&WE reviewed the agenda and gained an in-depth understanding of the SDG India Index, the ranking of States on the performance of SDGs progress among others and asked the Departments to gather information on the metadata used in the SDG India Index and suggested the use of administrative data of Tamil Nadu State for the various indicators including Sex Ratio at Birth; percentage of women (aged 15-49 years) who own a mobile phone that they use, Percentage of currently married women (aged 15-49 years) who usually participate in three household decisions etc and accorded in-principle approval to the indicators considered for Goals – 5 and 10 under SIF – 2.0.

> " It was deliberated that Tamil Nadu State has a robust administrative data, therefore, wherever, National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data is used for indicators in SDG India Index – 4.0, the State data must be referred to, to have a real time as well as accurate reflection of data. "

Working Group – 4 (Women Empowerment and Issues of Inequality)						
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII- 3.0	SDGII- 4.0	NIF - 4.0	Newly Developed Indicators	Total Indicators (SIF - 2.0)
Goal: 5-Gender Equality	23	1	2	11	0	**37**
Goal:10-Reduced Inequalities	10	3	1	1	1	**16**

d. Working Group – 2

Working Group – 2 covering goals – 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) was conducted on 09th September 2024. The meeting was chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to the Government, Health and Family Welfare Department (H&FW). During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; and the performance of SIF – 1.0; draft indicators of Goal – 4 under SIF – 2.0 and sample Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF). The Additional Chief Secretary, H&FW reviewed the agenda and gained an in-depth understanding of the SDG India Index and the ranking of States on the performance of SDGs progress

> " It was discussed that the concerned departments to formulate strategies to address the prevalence of high incidence of suicide mortality rate, also, strict enforcement of traffic rules and acts to reduce the death rate due to road accidents, "

among others. The Chairman of Working Group – 2 asked the Departments to give more focus on the indicators which require improvements in the SDG India Index – 4.0 such as 3.3. Tuberculosis case notification against a target in percentage; 3.4. Suicide Rate (per 1,00,000 population) and 3.6. Death rate due to road traffic accidents (per 1,00,000 population) and to focus on indicators such as 6.4. stage of groundwater extraction (%) and 6.6. Percentage of blocks/mandals, taluka over-exploited where Tamil Nadu currently stands 25th position. Concerning SIF - 2.0, the chairman has given in-principle approval to the indicators covered under Goal – 3 and 6 under SIF – 2.0.

Working Group – 2 (Health Care and Sanitation)						
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII- 3.0	SDGI I-4.0	NIF - 4.0	FBD P	Total Indicato rs (SIF - 2.0)
Goal: 3-Good Health and Wellbeing	27	1	0	6	3	**37**
Goal: 6-Clean Water and Sanitation	17	1	0	0	0	**18**

e. Working Group – 6

Working Group – 6 covering goal – 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) was conducted on 09th September 2024. Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Department Chaired the Meeting. During the meeting, SDGCC presented the performance of Tamil Nadu on SDG India Index – 4.0; and the performance of SIF – 1.0; draft indicators of Goal – 4 under SIF – 2.0 and sample Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF). The Principal Secretary, A&FW reviewed the agenda and gained an in-depth understanding of the SDG India Index

> It was highlighted that Tamil Nadu State is implementing CM's "Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kapporm thittam" which aims to improve soil health with reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers and expected to bring down the use of nitrogenous fertilizer, resulting in improved percentage use of Nitrogen to total N, P and K, maintaining optimal ratio of N, P, and K in total fertilizers is 4:2:1

and the ranking of States on the performance of SDGs progress among others. The Chairman of Working Group – 6 indicated that concerning indicator 12.4 covered in SDG India Index – 4.0, "the percentage use of Nitrogenous Fertiliser", the State's performance can be better. To reduce the use of chemical fertilisers and improve soil health, the Tamil Nadu Government is promoting the "Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kappom Scheme" (CM' MKMKS).

This in the long run will reduce the use of Nitrogenous fertilizer, if not immediately. Also, the Principal Secretary requested the concerned Departments to validate/update the data regularly to ensure that SDG data are updated periodically to ease monitoring. The Principal Secretary accorded in-principal approval to the indicators covered under State Indicator Framework (SIF) – 2.0.

Working Group – 6 (Sustainable Consumption and Production)						
Goals	SIF - 1.0	SDGII- 3.0	SDGII- 4.0	NIF - 4.0	Newly Developed Indicators	Total Indicators (SIF - 2.0)
Goal:12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	14	4	0	3	0	**21**

III CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Embedding SDGs among MSMEs through adoption of ESG/Sustainability frameworks

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation Limited (TIIC) and Council of State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation of India (COSIDICI) conducted an ESG Compliance National Level Training Program for State Financial Corporations across India from 22nd to 24th July 2024 in Chennai. Tamil Nadu Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC)-UNDP was invited as a speaker on the topic of Embedding Sustainability in MSMEs. Mr Balasubramanian Munuswamy (Development Goals Specialist) on Skills, Employment and Livelihood as a Technical Expert, provided insights on Global Best Practices in Public Policies promoting sustainability amongst MSMEs through ESGs. The session encouraged SFCs to promote policies for MSMEs to adopt Sustainable Production and Consumption practices that contribute to Green Growth and the creation of green jobs.

TARGET 4·4
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

Contributing to SDG Target 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and

Tamil Nadu has the third-largest number of MSMEs in India and active hub for entrepreneurship. Investing in and supporting the sustainability of MSMEs will drive innovation, deepen markets, enhance competitiveness, strengthen supply chain resilience, and diversify their sources of investment.

Capacitating Assistant Statistical Investigators (ASI) on the importance of SDGs data

Tamil Nadu State Statistical Training Institute (TNSSTI) of the Department of Economics and Statistics (DoES), P&D, Govt. of Tamil Nadu organized a two-week In-Service Training for Assistant Statistical Investigators (ASIs) from 18th to 31st July 2024. ASIs from across the districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the Workshop.

Thiru. Alagappan Ramanathan, Development Goals Specialist (Sustainable Transport and Mobility) presented information about the SDGs, localization efforts and data monitoring to them on 24th July 2024. The session highlighted the importance of data collection and validating data related to SDGs and enabled ASIs to contribute to achieving SDGs while ensuring robust grassroots-level SDG implementation and data availability for various indicators covered under the State Indicator Framework (SIF). It is important to regularly capacitate them to make them understand the importance of data collection through SDGs lens and fast-tracking them.

Promoting Sustainable Cities and Communities through Green Mobility

ITDP - India organized an 'E-bus Awareness and Demand Aggregation Workshop' on 18th July 2024 in Erode for the Private Bus Operators Association. Tamil Nadu Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC)-UNDP was invited for this Workshop to deliver a special lecture which saw a humongous participation of 80 Private Owners.

It was discussed during the meeting that in Tamil Nadu, approximately 80,000 private buses operate for various purposes, including stage carriage, contract carriage, and school trips. The outcomes of the Workshop aimed at advancing sustainability in their day-to-day operations and also at advocating for electric buses and promoting best sustainable practices in procurement and operational planning. Mr Alagappan, Development Goals Specialist (Sustainable Transport and Mobility) delivered a lecture with a focus on operational and technical related information on the promotion of e-buses. This constructive Workshop is expected to pave the way for green and sustainable mobility.

Contributing SDG Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

Contributing to SDG Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
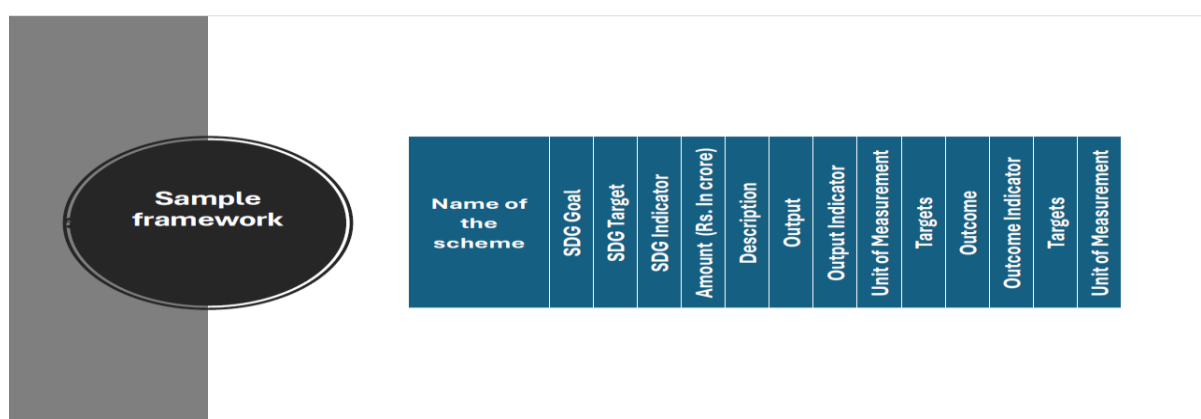
IV KNOWLEDGE CORNER

Why go for Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF)

The Output Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF) is a strategic tool used by Governments and organizations to track and evaluate the effectiveness of policies, programs and projects. It focuses on measuring both the outputs (the immediate results or deliverables) and outcomes (the longer-term impacts and changes) of various initiatives. Tamil Nadu, like other States in India, has ambitious development goals, many of which align with national and global targets like the SDGs. The OOMF is crucial for the Tamil Nadu Government for several reasons, including improving accountability and transparency, data-driven decision-making, enhanced Governance, and performance evaluation. Additionally, it helps departments in strategic planning and resource evaluation by linking outputs and outcomes with the SDGs. The OOMF enables continuous monitoring of project development, helping

departments identify gaps in implementation and make mid-course corrections, ensuring that the State remains on track to meet its SDG targets. Furthermore, it supports departments in evidence-based reporting, ensuring that Tamil Nadu's progress is properly addressed.

The OOMF supports departments in evaluating the long-term outcomes of policies and initiatives, enabling Tamil Nadu to better understand the real impact on its population. This facilitates better policy adjustments and future planning to meet SDG targets. In summary, the OOMF is a powerful tool for Tamil Nadu to manage its development initiatives efficiently, ensuring that the State's programs effectively contribute to achieving the SDGs and improving the quality of life for its citizens.

SDGCC prepared the typical OOMF for all the working group meetings and presented it. Moving forward, SDGCC will be working with one specific department to demonstrate the same to all the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) departments.

V ABOUT THE ISSUE

The Vol: 2 and Issue – 3 Newsletter covers the major activities that the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) under the Planning and Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu had undertaken from July to September 2024. This Newsletter aims to disseminate information on activities undertaken by SDGCC, TN.