



ISSN: 0976-3031

Available Online at <http://www.recentscientific.com>

CODEN: IJRSFP (USA)

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research
Vol. 11, Issue, 05(D), pp. 38592-38596, May, 2020

**International Journal of
Recent Scientific
Research**

DOI: 10.24327/IJRSR

Research Article

MAPPING OF SDG WITH THE ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT ACTION PLAN OF SUKMA (CHHATTISGARH, INDIA)

Rakesh Malhotra and Narayani Gupta

RGICS, New Delhi, India

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2020.1105.5341>

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 12th February, 2020
Received in revised form 23rd
March, 2020
Accepted 7th April, 2020
Published online 28th May, 2020

Key Words:

Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations, District Development Planning, Corporate Social Responsibility, Central Public Sector Undertakings, Aspirational Districts

ABSTRACT

Transformation of the Aspirational Districts Programme (TADP) is a highly ambitious initiative of Government of India, which intends to effectively transform some of the most backward districts in the nation in time bound manner. In total, there are 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog. Five themes have been identified as priorities under the initiative. Each Aspirational District is mapped to specific CPSEs for financial support through CSR. The Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all the United Nations Member States in 2015, stipulates a vision for universal peace and prosperity. There are 17 SDG and 169 targets. Under the requirements of TADP, every TADP district in the country has drawn up an implementable Action Plan. Paper attempts to map the Action Plan (2018-20) of Sukma district (in state of Chhattisgarh, India) with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). While undertaking the mapping, the concerned schemes under each 'budget head' of the action plan of Sukma were comprehended, and accordingly, the allocation was done for the different SDG. It is seen that there is a mismatch between the 'challenges' and the 'strategies' as defined in the Action Plan. There are some of the 'challenges' for which no strategy has been proposed. The SDG 1 (End Poverty) seems to attract maximum budget in Sukma. The SDG 3 (Health) seems to attract the next highest allocation of funds in the Action Plan. Despite this, the Delta Ranking of the Sukma for the Health Sector is quite alarming (96th out of 115). Though the Convergence activities have been prudently identified in the Plan, how to achieve the same is not spelled out. The SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 6 (Water & Sanitation); SDG 10 (Reduce Inequality) need more financial support than as allocated in the Action Plan.

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INTRODUCTION

Section 1: Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme (TADP)

The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme' (TADP) aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most backward districts in India. The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a mass movement. With States as the main drivers, this program focuses on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.¹

Institutional arrangement for the programme is a product of collective effort in which States are the main drivers. At the

Government of India level, the programme is anchored in NITI Aayog. Besides, individual Ministries have been given the responsibility to drive the progress of the districts. For each district, a central *Prabhari* officer of the rank of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary has been nominated. An Empowered Committee under the convener-ship of CEO, NITI Aayog has been notified to ensure convergence in schemes and address specific issues brought out by *Prabhari* officers. States have been requested to form a committee under the Chief Secretary to implement the programme. States have also nominated nodal officers and also State level *Prabhari* officer.²

In total, there are 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog. Five themes have been identified as a priority under the initiative i.e. (a) Health & Nutrition, (b) Education, (c) Agriculture & Water Resources, (d) Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, (e) Basic Infrastructure.

¹<https://niti.gov.in/about-aspirational-districts-programme>

²<https://niti.gov.in/about-aspirational-districts-programme>

For the financial support under this initiative, Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public enterprises GOI vide their order dated 10th December, 2018 outlined the course of actions for undertaking CSR activities by CPSEs in Aspirational Districts such as (a) each of the Aspirational district mapped with at least one CPSEs, (b) these CPSEs have been identified as the ‘funding agency’ for the Aspirational districts, (c) common theme may be identified for each year, (d) CSR expenditure for the thematic programme should be around 60 per cent of annual CSR expenditure of CPSEs, (e) Aspirational Districts to be given preferences, (f) *Prabhari Adhikari* both from GOI and State Government to be identified, (g) Niti Aayog will be responsible to roll out the programme. This programme is being monitored by NITI Aayog via dashboard ‘Champions of Change’ developed.

Section 2: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, stipulates a vision for universal peace and prosperity. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with 169 targets. SDG 2030 calls for an urgent global action to sustain the mankind and the environment.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at the global level strives to address the pertinent issues grappling the space and present the roadmap for a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient ecosystem to leave behind a better world for the future generation. SDGs in today’s world outline the optimism that the future holds for all us as a safe, resilient and sustainable ecosystem. The SDG framework addresses key systemic barriers to sustainable development, such as inequality, unsustainable consumption patterns, weak institutional capacity and environmental degradation. It sets out a roadmap for a more inclusive, holistic, sustainable economic, social, political and environmental environment, benefitting all irrespective of their caste, creed, color, age, race and sex.

Section-3: Mapping of Challenges and Strategies of Action Plan with SDG

Under the requirements of TADP, every TADP district in the country has drawn up an implementable Action Plan. The attempt is made to map the Action Plan of Sukma district with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

This section pertains to analysis and mapping of the total budget as given in the Actions Plan of Sukma drawn under TADP. Various SDG Goals were given due weight age after taking into consideration the objective and priority of the schemes/programs as given in the district Action Plan of Sukman.

This pertains to the various Challenges and Strategies as outlined in the Action Plan of the district. The relevant SDG Goals and Targets have been mapped there against.

Section-4: Mapping of Budget of Action Plan with SDG

This Section pertains to analysis and mapping of financial budget as given in the Action Plan (2018-2022). Various SDG Goals were given due weightage after taking into consideration the objective and priority of the schemes/programs as given in the Action Plan.

Mapping of SDG with Budget in Sukma Action Plan			
		Budget (in Rs. Crore)	Percentage to Total
SDG 1	End Poverty	45.69	22.36
SDG 2	End Hunger	24.14	11.81
SDG 3	Ensure Health	31.31	15.32
SDG 4	Ensure Education	17.43	8.53
SDG 5	Gender Equality	3.48	1.70
SDG 6	Water & Sanitation	2.98	1.46
SDG 7	Ensure access to Energy	12.37	6.05
SDG 8	Economy and Employment	16.23	7.94
SDG 9	Resilient Infrastructure	11.13	5.45
SDG 10	Reduce Inequality	2.81	1.37
SDG 11	Make Cities inclusive	0.86	0.42
SDG 12	Consumption and Production	1.76	0.86
SDG 13	Combat Climate Change	23.35	11.43
SDG 14	Conserve Marine Resources	0.00	0.00
SDG 15	Protect terrestrial ecosystems	10.81	5.29
SDG 16	Access to Justice	0.00	0.00
SDG 17	Strengthen Partnerships	0.00	0.00
Total		204.35	100.00

Analysis

Based upon the budget as defined in the Action Plan, the following could be inferred

The total budget of the district has been mapped with 17 SDG. While undertaking the mapping, the concerned schemes under each ‘budget head’ were comprehended and accordingly, the allocation was done for different SDG. A particular scheme could be addressing more than one SDG. It was estimated as to which component of the given scheme addressed which SDG and to what extent. Accordingly, after adequate research and analysis, subjective allocation of funds were mapped to different SDG.

Champions of Change: (Ranking as on January 2020)
Depicted below is the status of Sukma amongst the 115 Aspirational Districts of India.



S. No.	Theme	Challenges	Strategies	SDG Targets
1.	Health and Nutrition	Lack of existing health infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettering the health infrastructure • Health control room / call center at block level and district level • Setting up multi-purpose training center for mitanin and anganwadi worker • Establish 5 bedded nutrition and delivery points in 25 health centers • Monitoring of NRC bed occupancy rate to ensure full utilization of the facilities • Develop 100 model AWC to Suposhan Shakti Kendras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 3 (3.8) Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
		Lack of availability of quality HR to work in remote areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing specialist doctors in district hospital • Appointing HR in CHC and PHC • Mitanin and ANC worker/ capacity building • Improving Anganwadi attendance through incentivizing anganwadi workers for better attendance rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 1 (1.1) By 2030, Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day. • SDG 1 (1.3) Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all. • SDG 11 (11.5) By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative caused by disasters, including water-related disasters.
		Sparsely distributed population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District is predominantly rural with scattered population; hence the interventions that can be done in this area is more. With the convergence of NREGA and other schemes, major interventions can be carried out. • Promoting kitchen garden through training and awareness. • Assistance for SHGs in interior areas for making packaged nutritious food • Arrangement for bringing severely malnourished children to PHCs once in a month, conduct proper health check-up and provide supplements such as chicken, egg, milk. Provide packaged supplements as take home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 2 (2.1) By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round. • SDG 2 (2.2) By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025,
		Prevalence of malnutrition in children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offline biometric capture and follow up of children's data on nourishment. • Prepare local food menu list to tackle malnourishment and make it available to all parents • Periodic HB testing of women to treat anemic condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 3 (3.1) By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. • SDG 3 (3.2) By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, • SDG 2 (2.2) By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025,
		Prevalence of anemic condition in women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treating women with severe anemia in HCs providing nutrition supplements • Provision for early admission of severe anemic/other health complication pregnant women-10 days before the proposed delivery date. • Strong IEC regarding the benefits of Breastfeeding within 1 hour of delivery • Community monitoring of functioning of Anganwadi centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 12 (12.8) By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.
		Compounding effect created due to lack of awareness and other health facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Kendra for career guidance and counseling • Establishment of library and computer center in 15 locations in district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 4 (4.6) By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy. • SDG 4 (4.7) By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.
		The literacy rate is only 29%, and due to the presence of 4 local languages other than the administrative language, Hindi, dissemination of idea and information is very difficult.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening and capacity building of school management committee(SMC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 9(9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being. • SDG 4 (4.1) By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education. • SDG 9 (9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure. • SDG 17 (17.6) Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation
		Lack of willingness of teachers to work in remote areas and non-availability of quality HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for initiating the functioning of 120 suspended schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 2 (2.5) By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species. • SDG 8 (8.2) Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors • SDG 12 (12.3) By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels. • SDG 2 (2.3) By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers. • SDG 6 (6.4) By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors • SDG 8 (8.4) Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. • SDG 15 (15.3) By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil. • SDG 2 (2.3) By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers. • SDG 8 (8.1) Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances. • SDG 4 (4.5) By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training. • SDG 9 (9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure.
		Restarting of 120 schools destroyed due to LWE is a challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-month residential training of teachers on science and math by professionals 	
		Huge vacancy in Science Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage facilities to be constructed in interior villages and also shops for selling seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural implements. • Tractors are provided free of cost to farmers in interior areas for submitting their produce to government in MSP. • Farmers are registered with progressive farmer's societies and quality seed and fertilizer are provided to them. 	
3.	Agriculture and water resources	Farming is a traditional is nature for many in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work through NREGA-Strengthen diversion, stock dam and canal Lining. • Micro Irrigation facilities to augmented. 	
		Availability of vast tracts of arable land and presence of a perennial river. Quality of land is good for cultivation of paddy. However, there is lack of an cogent action plant to effectively utilize this natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special KCC camps are conducted to enroll maximum number of eligible farmers. • Administration is running a special campaign Summridih 20 for doubling the farm income in 5 years • Setting up a residential training college in District HQ 	
		Huge forest area and tribal collecting forest produce and selling the produce (Tendupatta, Imli, honey, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of livelihood colleges in block headquarters • Strengthening of Livelihood college. 	
		Lack of adequate infrastructure		

4.	Financial Inclusion and Skill Development	Number of youths requiring skill development, or any vocational training is considerable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and conduct trainings which are suitable for local context and for creating/enhancing local employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 4 (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 entrepreneurship.
		Very few number of bank branches in the entire district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free of cost infrastructure to start banking facility to be provided in interior areas As soon as internet connectivity picks up all the government scheme payments will be based on Aadhar Regular camps to be conducted for providing access to services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 4 (4.7) By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. SDG 8 (8.6) By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training. SDG 1 (1.4) By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, and financial services, including microfinance SDG 8 (8.10) Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking. SDG 9 (9.3) Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit.
		Only 15 branches and that too along the NH only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free of cost infrastructure to start banking facility to be provided in interior areas As soon as internet connectivity picks up all the government scheme payments will be based on aadhar Regular camps to be conducted for providing access to services Grade 2 road under NREGA (mittimurram road) is being constructed wherever possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 1 (1.4) By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, and financial services, including microfinance SDG 8 (8.10) Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. SDG 9 (9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.
		All interior villages are cut off by considerable distance from availability of financial inclusion services Lack of quality infrastructure in interior areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free of cost infrastructure to start banking facility to be provided in interior areas As soon as internet connectivity picks up all the government scheme payments will be based on aadhar Regular camps to be conducted for providing access to services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 1 (1.4) By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, and financial services. SDG 8 (8.10) Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services. SDG 9 (9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being.
5.	Basic Infrastructure	Due to restrictions out of LWE, mobile connectivity is hugely affected in most of the areas including district head quarter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to complete rural connectivity through PMGSY wherever feasible as per the security scenario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 9 (9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being.
		Only one service provider is active(BSNL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Govt. of Chhattisgarh is planning to provide smart phones to all households. Within two years the entire district will be connected through mobile network by BSNL and other private telecom operators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 11 (11.2) By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport. SDG 17 (17.8) Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity building mechanism. SDG 1 (1.4) By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services.
		Lack of transport facility to interior places which is a big hurdle for villager's movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 2 road under NREGA (mittimurram road) is being constructed wherever possible Grade 2 road under NREGA (MittiMurram road) is being constructed wherever possible. NH 30 Jagdalpur to Konta will be completed before July 2018 RRP 1 & 2 roads will be completed as per security scenario. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 9 (9.1) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all. SDG 11 (11.2) By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport.
		High number of unelectrified villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target to complete electrification of all the villages and households by September 2018 (excluding 74 villages – partially electrified) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 17 (17.8) Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017. SDG 7 (7.1) By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

1. There is a mismatch between the ‘challenges’ and the ‘strategies’ as defined in the Action Plan. Some of the ‘challenges’ as identified in Plan but for which no strategy has been proposed. Hence, budgetary allocation to address such challenges will also have to be made. Examples of Challenges for which no Strategies have been contemplated are:
 - a. Lack of willingness of teachers to work in remote areas and non-availability of quality HR.
 - b. High drop-out rates and low net enrolment ratio in primary and middle school.
 - c. Huge forest area and tribal are collecting forest produce and selling the forest produce (*Tendupatta, Imli, honey, etc.*)
 - d. Due to restrictions of LWE, mobile connectivity is hugely affected in most of the areas, including district headquarter.
2. SDG 1 (End Poverty) seems to attract the maximum budget. This is quite apt as the District Action Plan has the Vision statement “*To bring in holistic development in the aspirational district of Sukma by getting the people out of poverty and by providing them all basic facilities for leading a life with dignity thus improving the quality of life*”.
3. SDG 3 (Health) seems to attract the next highest allocation of funds in Sukma. Despite this, the Delta Ranking of the Sukma is quite alarming (96th out of 115). Effective implementation of ongoing schemes, innovations and higher allocation of funds are the need of the hour. Based upon the challenges and strategies proposed in the Action Plan, it appears that the District would require a substantial amount of money in the next ten years (till 31st December, 2030) to achieve all the targets of SDG 3.
4. Similarly, SDG 2 (Hunger), which attracts the third highest allocation of budgetary funds, would again require much higher allocation of budgetary funds if all the Targets of SDG 2 are to be achieved by the end of 2030.
5. SDG 16 (Access to Justice) and SDG 17 (Strengthen Partnerships) apparently do not have any budgetary allocations. The Action Plan also does not speak of these dimensions. The Planning exercise needs to take cognizance of this lacunae. The SDG 17 is the most potent conduit to achieve Vision 2030.
6. Since Sukma is a landlocked district there is no allocation of funds for SDG 14 (Conserve Marine Resources)
7. Though the Convergence activities have been prudently identified, how to achieve the same is a challenge and how would it be addressed is not spelt out. Convergence (Integration) is one of the three pillars of SDG Exercise, the other two being – (a) No One to be left behind, and (b) Universality.
8. The SDG 5 (Gender Equality); SDG 6 (Water & Sanitation); SDG 10 (Reduce Inequality) definitely need more financial support than allocated as per the Action Plan.
9. Sukma also fares relatively quite poor in terms of ‘Basic Infrastructure’. The relevant SDG to this issue could be – SDG 9 (Resilient Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Make Cities inclusive), SDG 15 (Protect terrestrial ecosystems), and SDG 17 (Strengthen partnerships).
10. There could be various means for raising funds to meet the shortfall in financial resources. Some of them could be:
 - a. Higher Budgetary allocations
 - b. Effective convergence of various schemes and programmes
 - c. Private Public Partnerships
 - d. Equity
 - e. Debit instruments
 - f. Community contributions
 - g. Floating of SDG Bonds
 - h. Central Public Sector Enterprises. For Sukma (a) HPCL and (b) NMDC are the identified PSUs from which considerable resources can be raised.

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How to cite this article:

Rakesh Malhotra and Narayani Gupta.2020, Mapping of Sdgs With the Aspirational District Action Plan of Sukma (Chhattisgarh, India). *Int J Recent Sci Res.* 11(05), pp. 38592-38596. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2020.1105.5341>
