

Gender as a Common Denominator for All Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons from COVID

Kirthi Jayakumar

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic showed the world that the idea of business as usual cannot continue: from international organizations to individuals and everyone in between, it was clear that every actor had suffered a personal, professional, and psychosocial setback with the outbreak of the disease. Underlying all these impacts, gender remained an enduring factor that complicated lived experiences of the pandemic, and impacted the broader socio-political dynamics that shaped policies and laws in response to the pandemic. One of the key policy goals for the world at large are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), intended to be achieved in 2030. This article reviews the current placement of the world vis-à-vis the SDGs, while clearly bearing in mind that gender is a cross-cutting issue that impacts both policy framing and implementation. In pacing the analysis, this article reviews the essays in **Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals: On a Quest for a Sustainable World (Law, Ethics and Governance)**, edited by Narinder Kakar, Vesselin Popovski, and Nicholas A. Robinson, to identify gendered gaps and challenges in place as the world strives to achieve the SDGs in a post-pandemic world.

Keywords: SDGs, Cross-cutting issues, Gender, COVID-19

Author Profile

Kirthi Jayakumar is a feminist researcher and practitioner who works on Women, Peace, and Security, Feminist Foreign Policy, and Transitional Justice. She founded and runs the Gender Security Project and the CRSV Observatory.

Gender as a Common Denominator for All Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons from COVID

Kirthi Jayakumar

The COVID-19 pandemic was unpredicted, and as a consequence bore unpredictable impacts. However, from the point of its declaration as a pandemic, it was deeply self-evident to the feminists world over that it would bear gendered impacts at the grassroots, in the everyday, and across the private-public and personal-political continuums. Policy and systems did not reflect this understanding until several months had passed, by which time enough women and non-binary people had faced domestic violence, workplace harassment, deprivation in healthcare, and an increased unpaid care burden.

Set up in 2015 and intended to be achieved by 2030, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) touch upon multiple facets of life on the planet, each replete with targets and indicators of its own. Even as a dedicated goal, SDG 5, was set up to achieve gender equality, the fundamental reality that every SDG has a gendered component cannot be denied. It is therefore important to understand that the pursuit of every SDG must include, incorporate, and embody a gendered approach to achieve gender-equal outcomes. For its part, the UN has acknowledged the fact that gender and gender equality are cross-cutting themes across all 17 goals (Firzi 2017, 2018) – a factor that has motivated it to call for the collection of as much sex-disaggregated data as possible (UNESCO 2019).

Gender is a Cross-cutting Issue

The 17 SDGs offer a blueprint for the world we envision: a world that is free of poverty and inclusive, accessible, and peaceful, and built on the edifice of partnerships and cooperation across various lines of division. The idea is best encapsulated by the “5 Ps” – namely people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships. Ultimately, the goal is to leave no one behind. In a deeply gendered world order, where lived experiences can best be understood through the lens of intersectionality to frame reasonable policy responses, it is a painful truth that swathes of population continue to be “left behind” as it were, on gender, caste, religious, ability, age, class, and several other lines.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly five years into setting the course toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the world had witnessed large-scale setbacks in each of these 17 goals, and these setbacks produced gendered impacts of their own. SDG 1 aims at ending poverty. A September 2020 study notes that poverty increased by 7 percent within a few months after the COVID-19 pandemic began, despite having decreased steadily for 20 years before that (BMGF 2020). Women faced heightened economic insecurity, as many engaged in the unorganized sector lost jobs as lockdowns were adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19. The incomes of informal workers the world over were estimated to

have fallen by 60 percent to 81 percent (UNDESA 2020). SDG 2 prioritizes the goal of achieving zero hunger. Women, especially in developing countries, are often in charge of feeding their families. Restricted food resources culminated in discriminatory norms in several households that paved the way for boys to be given a preference over girls in accessing food (UNDESA 2020). SDG 3 addresses Good health and wellbeing. Exposure to COVID-19 and its impacts differ across subgroups in highly gendered ways (Azcona et al. 2020). Gender has traditionally affected access to healthcare services and outcomes alike (Azcona et al. 2020) and structural inequalities prevent ease of access to healthcare resources during times of crises; the period since the COVID-19 pandemic began has been no different. Resources for sexual and reproductive health were often diverted to emergency responses in many contexts, which resulted in high maternal mortality, poor menstrual health management, and poor nutrition. Even as the disease unfolded and vaccines were developed, few studies focused on understanding the impact of the disease on women's bodies. SDG 4, which prioritizes quality education, also received a massive beating. As the internet became the site of engagement for education, many of the world's children were unable to access classrooms owing to a lack of access to devices and stable internet connections. Stories of young women dying by suicide (Bellizzi Saverio et al. 2022) spoke of the myriad ways in which girls were challenged by marginalization.

SDG 5, dedicated specifically to achieving Gender Equality, has arguably faced the worst setback with COVID-19. According to the World Economic Forum (Ng 2021), COVID widened the gender gap and it will now take 135 years to close that divide. Women and girls are responsible for water collection in 80 percent of households without access to water on premises (UN n.d.). With lockdowns to contain the spread of COVID-19, SDG 6, which addresses clean water and sanitation, also faced gendered impacts with more women finding it difficult to access water for their families. Almost every second and fourth household belonging to the lowest and second-lowest wealth quintile respectively had to find ways to arrange water from outside – the burden of which fell squarely on women (Mishra et al. 2020). SDG 7, which prioritizes affordable and clean energy, is understood through a gendered lens where its lack affects women and girls more adversely in comparison to men and boys – given that women are largely side-lined in industries that produce modern sources of renewable energy though they spend 18 hours a week on average gathering fuel in households that cook with solid fuels (UN Women n.d.a). SDG 8 prioritizes decent work and economic growth, an area where gendered impacts of the pandemic cannot be missed – an increase in unpaid care burden on the one hand, and on the other, a massive setback through unemployment as a result of businesses closing down (Ng 2021). The limited access to online educational and employment resources owing to the lack of technological infrastructure was a major gendered impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the achievement of SDG 9, which aims at industry, innovation, and infrastructure (Shulla 2021). COVID-19 has significantly increased global unemployment, slashed workers' incomes, and put at risk the limited progress that has been made toward reducing inequality. This is a cause for concern in the approach toward achieving SDG 10 on reduced inequalities (UNIC n.d.). SDG 11 aims at achieving sustainable cities and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified major

challenges in urban spaces, including how cities are unsafe for women and exacerbate existing vulnerabilities – the migrant crisis in India being a clear example of how spaces and living areas within our cities do not factor inclusion (Mishra et al. 2020).

Concerning SDG 12, the OECD reported that “Women are dependent for subsistence on strained natural resources, are affected by poor labor conditions in a ‘feminized’ workforce, provide a large amount of informal and sometimes unpaid work related to waste management, and are involuntarily and without their knowledge exposed to harmful products and chemicals” (OECD n.d.). With the spread of COVID-19, women’s engagement in these areas faced tremendous setbacks – especially in the context of unpaid work, and exposure to harmful products. SDG 13 has a gendered dimension, as well. Women and children bear the brunt of climate change and are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster (UN Women n.d.b). SDGs 14 and 15, speaking of life below water and on land, respectively, also produce gendered impacts (OECD n.d.) – however, neither has gender been factored into the indicators and targets nor has it been accounted for in strategic approaches in implementation.

Women and non-binary persons face violence and discrimination across the peacetime-wartime continuum, which puts them in vulnerable positions, especially in times of armed conflict, disaster, and mass violence. SDG 16, which speaks of peace, justice, and strong institutions, faced a massive setback the world over during the COVID-19 pandemic with increased violence targeting women and non-binary persons, as well as the devastating impact of combined disasters of climate change, conflict, and COVID-19.

A Snapshot of the Gendered Impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs

Exploring the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the folly of excluding attention to gender as a cross-cutting issue, this article will take a deep dive into the findings drawn out in a new compendium, titled *Fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals: On a Quest for a Sustainable World (Law, Ethics and Governance)*, edited by Narinder Kakar, Vesselin Popovski, and Nicholas A. Robinson. The book takes a look at the state of achievement of the SDGs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and offers a snapshot of where we stand, and where we might be headed given the setback that the world faced overall. At its root, the book makes a compelling case for the need to defy “isolationism, populism, ignorance, and skepticism,” and calls for the rebuilding of “an alliance of multilateralism” to achieve the SDGs. Written during the pandemic, the chapters offer a real-time picture of the world – wave after wave of COVID-19, preventive lockdowns and vaccination drives, and attempts at recovery across the crests and troughs of the period after March 2020. The gender lens appears in bursts and spurts in specific chapters, as opposed to an overarching narrative capturing the impacts of the pandemic-related setback on the SDGs. Accordingly, the section below positions some of the key findings in each chapter.

Gendered impacts are inherently wedded to SDGs that pertain to the “People” and “Peace” pillars. Although immeasurably side-lined owing to the normalization and adoption of male-centric, patriarchal, and capitalistic approaches to doing business, ‘prosperity’ and ‘the planet’ have deeply gendered connotations that are not addressed in most literature and strategic engagements in addressing or attempting to achieve the SDGs. In her “Special Introduction”, Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, acknowledges this by highlighting the interconnected nature of the goals. She affirms that the failure to achieve progress on one would spark a domino effect that would invariably affect all others. Given the gendered impacts, each area captured by the SDGs inherently has, it is a no-brainer to not acknowledge such impacts as that itself can prove to be a setback. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, the President of the 73rd UN General Assembly follows suit in the second chapter, acknowledging that the pandemic shone a light on the many ways in which the world was already in trouble before COVID-19 hit: We were lagging in our commitments to the goals – be that education or gender equality. In her carefully chosen words, “Things were not going well!” The pandemic inevitably held up a mirror to humankind and amplified all that wasn’t going well: where the numbers affected by the disease surged, it was matched with an equally – if not more – alarming rise in the number of instances of domestic violence world over. Where “stay home, stay safe” became a clarion call to contain the disease, several were forced to stay home where it was unsafe. Garces makes a clear statement of how closing the global gender gap was estimated to take 100 years in the pre-pandemic days – but also quickly follows up with the fact that “The promise of a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and empowerment has melted.” She goes on to explain how women constitute 70 percent of the healthcare workforce but are concentrated in lower-paid positions in comparison to their male counterparts. Three times more vulnerable to the risks of COVID-19 than men, Garces notes that women simultaneously also lost 20 percent of their health and social service benefits because of the pandemic. In sum, as she says, gender equality and women’s rights would be among the most negatively impacted components owing to the pandemic. She captures the paradox wherein women are agents of change while also being victims of discrimination, exclusion, and violence, and calls for attention to gender equality as the strongest predictor of peace.

In chapter 3, Joe Colombano and David Nabarro take a system of systems approach and find, through qualitative analysis, a dynamic symbiosis between COVID-19 and the SDGs. They find that the virus not only impacted the chances of meeting the goals, but also affected the extent to which progress has been made in achieving these goals, and determine the extent of societies’ resilience to the crisis. Advocating for resilience in the future, the authors ask to situate the SDGs at the core of the response to the COVID-19 crisis, and consider the “global reset triggered by the crisis as an opportunity for better recovery, to rebound forward toward realizing a sustainable world, rather than backward to the original system with its flaws, as we did, for example, after the 2008 financial crisis.” The notion of *building back better*, however, appears limited if it does not acknowledge the gendered impacts of the pre-pandemic and pandemic eras. The original system was indubitably flawed, and the pandemic exposed these flaws by placing them front and center in irrefutable ways. Although the

authors do not specifically draw attention to this area of concern, a systems approach must be committed to understanding the gendered impacts produced by tests of resilience, and by strategies to enhance that very resilience in a future-facing fashion.

Vesselin Popovski and Krassen Stanchev address the eradication of extreme poverty in chapter 4 and center the call for a conceptual evolution and policy challenges. Gendered impacts of poverty, though not specifically named by the authors, must be factored into any approach toward conceptual evolution. Gender inequality poses a major stumbling block in remedying poverty if left unaddressed. Without understanding how women and non-binary persons are hindered by a capitalistic system that normalizes making the rich richer at the cost of the poor – a chasm that continues to widen especially in times of crisis – policy challenges will continue to endure. In a critical assessment of the latest progress on the eradication of extreme poverty, Aisha Muhammed-Oyebode takes Nigeria as an example to perform a country-level assessment of specific targets under SDG 1 in chapter 5 of the book. Poverty has always had a woman's face and this image endures. With the COVID-19 pandemic, women bore the brunt of loss of work, lack of access to resources and sustained employment, and were even forced to leave their homes.

Smita Narula's chapter, "Achieving Zero Hunger Using a Rights-based Approach to Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture" acknowledges the link between food security and nutrition on the one hand and sustainable agricultural production on the other, and its associated call for the empowerment of rural communities as significant in three key ways. First, she argues that it is a reminder that most of those who live in poverty and suffer from food insecurity live in rural areas and rely on agriculture as a primary source of livelihood. Second, it is a tacit acknowledgment of the massive social, environmental, and health-related costs inherent in our industrial food system. And third, it points to the fundamental imbalance of power in the food system. Arguing for a rights-based approach, the author calls for the rejection of destructive agricultural practices, and a shift from industrial agriculture to more diversified agroecological food systems. Even as the chapter does not specifically acknowledge the gendered impact of hunger, COVID-19 created a massive starvation crisis in India (WEF 2021), and among the most vulnerable were women, especially from marginalized communities (Suchitra 2021).

Obijiofor Aginam explores two targets under SDG 3 in Chapter 7, titled "Health and Sustainable Development." The chapter includes two case studies – on the reduction of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through a health-trade policy coherence framework and access to vaccines and medicines, and the trade-related intellectual property agreements in light of COVID-19 and the achievement of SDG 3. The author acknowledges the progress made toward increasing life expectancy and reducing maternal and child mortality but rightfully affirms that the journey ahead to 2030 is fraught with challenges. Most of these challenges are heavily gendered and need solutions that place those bearing the brunt of these challenges front and center.

Chapter 8, titled “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment” focuses on evaluating SDG 5. Taking a deep dive into the many laws and international legal instruments in place to specifically address women’s rights and end discrimination against women, the chapter contextualizes the need for autonomous laws for gender equality at the country level to implement international gender equality standards within national frameworks. The chapter includes five key recommendations, namely: funding development, tech and innovation, review of legal frameworks, capacity building, and advocacy against harmful social practices as means to achieve gender equality. While designating gender equality as a separate goal is definitely important – as one may rightfully argue that it is the foundation for any attempt at an equal, peaceful, and prosperous future – it is important to acknowledge that there are more factors than mindsets and cultural notions that normalize gender inequality. This is what makes it vital to treat gender equality as a cross-cutting issue, rather than as a singular destination.

With the shift from “People” and “Peace,” to “Planet” and “Prosperity” section of the book, gender equality is barely talked about or addressed by authors, much less prioritized. It might seem distant to connect natural resources with gender, and perhaps a low-ranking priority to connect infrastructure with gender. However, without a gendered lens, the inequalities produced by these dynamics ultimately normalize the overt and more evidently manifest forms of gender inequality.

Zhou Di examines the level of achievement with regard to SDG 6, which deals with water and sanitation, in a chapter titled “Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation.” Through a case study of the Chinese water resource management mechanism, the chapter establishes that a lot remains to be done to achieve SDG 6 on sustainable water resource management. SDG 11 forms the crux of Chapter 10, “Inclusive, safe, and resilient cities and settlements” by Duan Cheche. The chapter offers a case study of Beijing as a successful example of collaborative control of air pollution and provides a reference model for cities in developing countries that are severely affected by smog. Anna Shostya asks why we are missing the mark in achieving inclusive and equitable quality education in Chapter 11. Her evaluation of progress toward implementing SDG 4 is drawn from four case studies from Finland, Burundi, China, and Mexico, and provides insights on the institutional factors that may curb or foster quality education. In Chapter 12, Lye Lin-Heng analyses the implementation of SDG 4 in 2020 and focuses specifically on Environmental Education (EE) and its evolution into Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The evaluation also calls for the linking of all goals to the objective of education for sustainable development and affirms that governments must prioritize this.

Joseph C. Morreale calls for partnerships toward achieving sustained and inclusive growth in Chapter 14 and assesses progress on SDG 8 concerning economic growth. Anna Shostya, in “The Road to Sustainable Industrialization” provides global and regional assessments of progress on SDG 9 and uses empirical evidence from three countries to draw recommendations for policymakers to ensure that the world is on the way toward “building resilient infrastructure, promoting industrialization and fostering innovation.” It uses South

Korea and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as case studies and discusses the short-term and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDG 9. Vesselin Popovski, in “Reducing Inequality and Sharing Opportunities” reflects on the debates about the inclusion of inequality as a separate SDG (SDG 10), and discusses various targets adopted to reduce inequality globally, and proposes routes to achieve those targets. In “Accelerating the Energy Transformation,” Minoru Takada, David Koranyi, Richard Ottinger, Bo Fu, and Pianpian Wang examine a Kenyan case study and make a case for promoting off-grid electricity access solutions to close access gaps. It acknowledges the role of gender roles and household dynamics in determining cooking practices. Anna Shostya and Narinder Kakar examine the progress made toward SDG 12 in a chapter titled “Toward Sustainable Consumption and Production.” They assess the global, regional, and income-based progress toward the goal and note that with some exceptions, few advances have been made toward targets prescribed by the 2030 agenda, and note that urgent actions must be taken especially in data collection and sharing. The chapter acknowledges that there is no universal solution as the policies toward SDG 12 may differ based on geographic characteristics, political systems, pressing existing issues related to their sustainable consumption and production patterns, and other SDGs and country-specific features.

SDG 13 forms the focus of Chapter 19, titled “Missing Climate Action Gaps in the Implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change,” by Vesselin Popovski. The chapter makes a compelling case for the adoption of a long-term strategic direction for a green economy to guide investment plans and support companies and industries. Drawing from life during the COVID-19 pandemic, the chapter acknowledges the key lessons for climate change that are “sharp and alarming:” “(1) delay is costly; (2) inequality can be exacerbated; (3) policy must overcome biases to human judgment; (4) climate change requires multi-faceted global cooperation; and (5) the transparency of normative positions navigates value judgments at the science-policy interface.” It calls for the immediate introduction of a synergetic policy to build back “green,” rather than focus on the pandemic alone and delay steps towards making a carbon-zero economy later.

In Chapter 20, titled “Climate Change and Small Islands,” Tessel van der Putte examines the major challenges that small island developing states face, and suggests how health and the COVID-19 pandemic might stagnate sustainable development, while also calling for a detailed and inclusive understanding of diversity in climate change narratives that must be considered while developing necessary actions. It ends with a call for a focus on multilateralism to achieve SDG 13 and on local dimensions of inequality as well as the inclusion of unexplored knowledge and value systems. Chapter 21 by Kristina M Gjerde and Marjo Vierros, titled “Achieving SDG 14: Time for a Global Ocean Approach” assesses progress made toward achieving SDG 14 based on a case study of the Costa Rica Dome, which is a dynamic and productive ecosystem, to explain how progress can be accelerated through reliance on an implementing agreement for the UN Convention on the Law of Sea toward protecting marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (the BBNJ Agreement).

Chapter 22, titled “Legal Tools in Combating Marine Pollution and Mitigating the Effects of Acidification” by Annick de Marffy-Mantuano, calls for forceful actions to implement SDG 14. It calls upon states to implement existing rules efficiently and highlights the importance of sufficient knowledge and understanding of relevant international instruments, especially those that enhance coordinated approaches between States to avoid duplicating efforts. Hiroko Muraki Gottlieb, in Chapter 23, titled “Marine Pollution: Maximizing Synergies for Transformative Changes,” offers a multifaceted route toward accelerating progress to address SDG 14. It calls for amplifying adequate, predictable, and sustained capacity building and technology transfer to ensure an enabling environment to address marine pollution. It also highlights the importance of the precautionary principle, ecosystem-based approaches, and the best available science to make informed decisions, while also making strong commitments to cooperation and collaboration. Chapter 24, titled “Using Terrestrial Ecosystems Sustainably and Halting Biodiversity Loss” by John G. Robinson and Federica Pesce focuses on SDG 15 and foregrounds the need for understanding the social, economic, and ecological conditions that enable the emergence of zoonoses, and investigates how the lack of progress on achieving SDG 15 targets is linked to the possible emergence of future zoonoses.

Ben Boer and Ien Hannam, in Chapter 25, “Restoration of Ecosystems and Land Degradation Neutrality,” speak about the need for appropriate enabling environments to ensure the successful implementation of LDN environments, and in doing so, highlights strategies from policy to practice that address land degradation. Chapter 26, titled “Peaceful Societies and Leaving No One Behind,” by Fatima Akilu, evaluates SDG 16 on sustainable peace. It explains that democratic governance, peace and security, and the rule of law are essential to sustainable development and highlights that efforts toward achieving them remain uneven to date. The chapter examines how violent conflict has surged the world over and calls for state action as well as appropriate interventions through policy measures to prevent conflict. In Chapter 27, titled “Nigeria’s Alternative Pathway to Peace,” Fatima Akilu presents the Nigerian response to radicalization and violent extremism, and foregrounds the need for the government to collaborate with a range of actors including the private sector and civil society to continue to develop a “cadre of practitioners in rehabilitation and reintegration.” It also notes that this should “include psychologists, peacemakers, educators, social workers, humanitarian-development workers, as well as researchers.”

Joe E Colombano, Marco Nicoli, and Aniket Shah, in Chapter 28, titled “Shift from Sustainable Finance to Financing Sustainable Development,” explain that global partnership is fundamental to achieving the SDGs. They explore the status of global partnership in the period since the adoption of the SDGs, and how the pandemic has changed the trajectory of sustainable development. It sees an opportunity to capitalize on the current widespread attention to sustainability and suggests that if the right steps are taken, by starting with investing in the resilience of our economy and our society overall, it can prove fruitful. In Chapter 29, titled “Private Corporations and Environmental Social Governance an Uneven Response” Mark E Meaney calls for narrowing the economic gender gap to ensure the

achievement of the SDGs and says that corporations can help end poverty by addressing gender equality. In Chapter 30, titled “From Means of Implementation to Implementation of Means Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals as If They Matter,” Mihir Kanade suggests that the first five years of implementation of the SDGs have been disappointing. However, the chapter goes on to demonstrate that operationalizing the normative framework that is encapsulated within the right to development is essential for the realization of the SDGs and indispensable for any prospect of success.

Joseph C Morreale explores the links between climate change, economic inequality, and human migration in Chapter 31, titled “31 Interlinkages between Climate Change, Economic Inequality, and Human Migration.” Chapter 32 focuses on indigenous communities. Anxhela Mile and Railla Puno, in a chapter titled “Indigenous Peoples, the SDGs, and International Environmental Law” calls for the international community to focus on ensuring that Indigenous Peoples’ rights and traditional knowledge are protected, recognized, and utilized responsibly. Chapter 33, titled “Codification and Implementation of Customary International Law” by Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo departs from the 2030 Agenda as a political consensus approved by the UNGA and calls for evaluating it as a part of the development of the juridical international legal discourse. Finally, Chapter 34 by Nicholas A Robinson, titled “Integrating the SDGs through *One Health* calls for the deployment of a wholesome, end-to-end approach to address the overarching *One Health Theme*.”

The areas covered by these SDGs have been governed inherently by male-centric and patriarchal formulations – be that the design of cities, inequalities in general, as well as land and water resources. From designing safe cities with accessible public spaces to ensuring equal access to clean resources, establishing and normalizing gender equality in these arenas are fundamental to achieving sustainability overall. When cities are safe for women and non-binary persons, when resources – be that water or clean energy – are accessible without restraint on any ground by women and non-binary persons, we also place in their hands the agency to engage with, consume, access, and use resources fairly and equitably. This holds within it the promise of a feminist future – where consumption is not a function of extractivism, and access is not a function of one’s gender identity.

References

- Bellizzi, S., Loretto, L., Nivoli, A., and Molek, A. 2022. "Suicide of Women and Girls during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics* 157, no. 3: 742-743. <https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ijgo.14146>
- Mishra, N.L., Kothiwal, K., Wairagade, S., Basu, A., and Shrivastava, A. 2020. "What COVID-19 can Mean for SDG-11, Sustainable Cities and Communities in India." <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/urbanisation/what-covid-19-can-mean-for-sdg-11-sustainable-cities-and-communities-in-india-72987>
- Ng, A. 2021. "COVID Widened the Gender Gap - It will now take 135 Years to Close that Divide, WEF says." CNBC, April 1, 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/04/01/wef-covid-worsened-the-gender-gap-it-will-take-135-years-to-close.html>
- OECD. n.d. "Gender and the Environment: Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs." OECD. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/7ff96708-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/7ff96708-en>
- Shulla, K. 2021. "The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Achievement of the SDGs." UNDESA. https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/05/Shulla_paper1.pdf
- Suchitra. 2021. "Dalit, Tribal Women among Worst Victims of India's Hunger Crisis." *Aljazeera*, October 13, 2021. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/13/india-dalit-tribal-women-malnutrition-hunger-crisis-pandemic>
- UN Women n.d.b. "SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts." UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-13-climate-action>
- UN Women, n.d.a "SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All." UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-7-affordable-clean-energy#notes>
- United Nations. n.d. "Goal 6: Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation for All." <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>
- UNRIC, n.d. "Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries." <https://unric.org/en/sdg-10/>
- Bhargava, Ruma, Bhargava, Megha. 2021. "COVID-19 is Creating a Hunger Catastrophe in India – Here's an Opportunity to Break the Cycle." World Economic Forum, June 15, 2021. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/06/covid-19-pandemic-hunger-catastrophe-india-poverty-food-insecurity-relief/>