

CSOS AND SDGS

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CSO and the SDG

- Greatest achievement of India : strong Democracy
- Independent Judiciary
- Very powerful media
- India shining in many fields: Growth rate very high
- Products made in India are getting popular: eg. drugs
- And yet a lot to be done

Gaps that loom large



- Children
- Women
- Underprivileged: SC & ST, Minorities, women
- Sanitation
- Urban life
- Income distribution gap
- Poverty / Hunger

MDGs: paid attention to some

- Achievement not unsatisfactory
- But to the CSOs- this is poor: (0.7% of GDP as ODA vs 0.2% in the US.)
- Gaps not justified
- Not much attention being paid: Different now
- CSOs ignored mostly
- Poverty – much more clinical approach needed.
Jeff Sachs

Role Of CSOs

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- For the clinical approach CSOs, specially localized ones, needed
- CSOs → are positioned between private sector and the government
- The functions and even the structure overlaps on both sides
- If government and private sector functions properly, then CSOs space is squeezed
- Unlike developed countries, government in India not without problems → too many problems.
- Private sector or the market forces full of imperfections too

Role of CSOs, continued...(1)

- ❑ Sometimes CSOs blamed for being a hindrance to development (Not progressive enough)
- ❑ But the one size fits all does not hold
- ❑ Target approach without looking clinically at the community : so many toilets
- ❑ Private sector too will ignore the poor without CSOs.
- ❑ Groups formed from higher classes to divert attention eg aam admi vs. the real poor.
- ❑ “Business at the bottom of the pyramid“ has failed too. eg. MF.

Role of CSOs, continued...(2)

- CSOs are not perfect, many black sheep
- That is because of lack of monitoring
- A huge arm of the Republic and yet not one ministry/ dept.
- The various regulatory stipulations not good enough
- Free entry for anybody and everybody: “I have an NGO”.
- Many people in power taking advantage of this.
People buy NGOs ??

Microfinance: Good, Bad and Ugly

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- ❑ After Prof Md. Yunus, Indian Institutions also took off
- ❑ Success stories of SHGs, NGOs, MFIs, made headlines
- ❑ Unregulated and hence manipulators jumped in
- ❑ The poverty alleviation goal sidelined
- ❑ Suicide, extortion, illegal pressure on the borrowers
- ❑ Finally RBI had to intervene
- ❑ CSOs/NGOs shunted out: NBFC's came →
- ❑ Slightly better than Banks in reach.
- ❑ In exploitation – many are worse.

WHY CSOs?

Why CSOs?

- Information asymmetry is a problem
- CSOs know more about the area
- Govt. must learn about the genuine CSOs
- Develop the CSOs: train them, regulate them
- CSR funds should go to the good CSOs
- Youth power: can be harnessed
- Retired but “young” officials can be given second stint.



Indian Perspective

Indian Perspective

- “Patience is a minor form of despair, disguised as a virtue”
- Tolerance → perhaps not given the plight of the downtrodden
- CSO → they speak on their behalf
- The CSO space is very blurry, confused.
- Let the CSOs act to their fullest to close the gap as partners
- Eg. PHED water supply: the community mobilization not done and is in disuse.
- Wells in Aamkota with no water in winter

SDGs and MDGs

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Assam SDGs and MDGs

- ❑ MDGs → CSOs were not really involved
- ❑ SDGs → consultation has involved CSOs
- ❑ Of course, pan- India CSOs – how much they appreciate the local differences.
- ❑ SDGs are straight out of CSO objectives / Jeff Sach
- ❑ 16th goal → institutions → yes the CSOs are institutions.
- ❑ 17th goal cooperation. Here too CSOs can play a big role
- ❑ Political empowerment vs eco – socio environment in a friendly “environment.”

Assam SDGs and MDGs

- SDGs must be part of the vocabulary
- Admn changes necessary for implementation.
- Smaller districts in the right direction. Eg. of Sikkim
- We need more roads through remote areas
- More stability for the DCs / DMs.
- The Panchayat workers must be sensitized.

SDGs and MDGs, continued...

- MDGs → achieved without difficulty
- The last mile will be difficult
- India → enough resources
- Assam –rural centric development is good
- NER- known for social capital : women especially
- Lastly, why 2030 – a country like India should do it by 2025.

THANK YOU!

