

অসম চৰকাৰ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

**CONCLAVE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4, QUALITY EDUCATION**

16-17 JUNE 2017

Organised by

**Department of Education
Govt. of Assam**

unicef  **for every child**



In collaboration with

**Transformation and Development Department
Government of Assam**

&

**Centre for Sustainable Development Goals
Assam Administrative Staff College.**

Guwahati



Assam's Endeavors in Achieving the SDGs

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were universally adopted in January 2016 as a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 Goals which are to be achieved by 2030, were designed based on the learnings from Millennium Development Goals, through a global consultative process, to include many more new areas of focus such as Climate Change, Sustainable Consumption, Peace and Justice, and Innovation among many other key areas. The SDGs are based on the principle of forging partnerships and setting clear guidelines to achieving these targets as per the needs of each region

The **Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi**, in his speech addressing the United Nations on 25th September 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit stated, 'Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals.'¹ Government of Assam, mirroring this commitment, under the leadership of **Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** strived to take forward the SDGs in Assam. Under the guidelines structured in the vision document called, '**Assam 2030: Our Dream, Our Commitment**', a strategy was created to start the process of inducting SDGs into the policy planning processes of the Government of Assam. It is one of the first states in India and globally to start bringing SDGs into the policy discourse of the state.

To take forward these goals in Assam the **Centre for Sustainable Development Goals (CSDGs)** was established by Government of Assam in the Assam Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati. The CSDGs as an institution, is a think-tank which provides research and technical support to all departments in the Government of Assam, to take forward their SDG targets. The Transformation & Development Department (T&D) is the nodal department for coordinating all the activities within departments for achieving the SDGs. An SDG Cell has also been established in the T&D Dept. to provide support to take forward SDG related activities.

SDG Goal 4 in Action

The work towards strategizing for the SDGs started with the Government Order (GO) dated 28th December 2015 issued by the **Chief Secretary, Government of Assam**. This was followed by an orientation conducted on 5th January 2016 and at the end of which 8 working groups were constituted to prepare the Strategy Paper and Action Plan (SPAPs) against the 17 SDGs. A second GO issued on 4th March 2017, by the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, reinstated governments initiative and plans for taking forward the SDG goals. In preparation for the finalisation of these SPAPs 8 conclaves (based on 8 groups) have been planned by the Centre for SDGs and T & D Department for covering all the 17 goals. This conclave is jointly being organized by **Department of Education in collaboration with UNICEF, CSDGs and T&D Department on Goal 4 'Quality Education' on 16th and 17th June 2017, at AASC, Khanapara, Guwahati.**

QUALITY EDUCATION: Why it matters?

Education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved. When people can get quality education they can break from the cycle of poverty. Education therefore helps to reduce inequalities and to reach gender equality. It also empowers people everywhere to live more healthy and sustainable lives. Education is also crucial to fostering tolerance between people and contributes to more peaceful societies.

Quality Education (Goal 4), which is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will help to address the major challenges facing in education sector in the state. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, and to eliminate gender and wealth disparities with the aim of achieving universal access to a quality higher education. The Education Department has prepared a draft Strategy Paper & Action Plan (SPAP) with a vision to "**All Children in School and Learning with Quality within and outside School**"

¹Government of Assam (2016): Assam 2030, Our Dream, Our Commitment: Vision and Strategic Architecture Document, July 12th, 2016. Extract from message from the Chief Minister.

Figure 1: State Approach to Achieve Goal 4: School Education



Under each priority / Mission, some strategies and High Impact Interventions were formulated to address the state specific issues & challenges (Figure 2). Each priority / Mission also clearly stated the baseline as well as the target / achievement for the year 2030, outcome of the interventions, output indicators to assess the impact of the interventions, responsible implementing agencies, source of finance and their link with other SDGs.

Figure 2: Focus Areas under Mission (School Education)



State vision of Higher Education to Achieve Goal 4: Higher Education

The Assam Vision 2030 envisions that the Government will “Ensure quality education relevant to social context to all children in school and outside schools.” As far as Higher Education is concerned this may be translated as “ensuring quality higher education for all to enhance employability and life skills through affordable technical, vocational and tertiary education.”

The above vision is transmitted through following mission statements:

MISSION 1: Ensuring that all children in all social groups continue their education after accomplishing the secondary stage

MISSION 2: Ensuring quality of education with equity and increased learning outcomes

MISSION 3: Ensuring enabling policy environment and system for quality education with equal emphasis on technical, vocational and tertiary education. Creating systems for lifelong learning, developing emerging fields of learning for employability and promoting ICT.

OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSIONS FOR GOAL 4

Goal 4	School Education	Expected Outcomes
Technical Session I- Free, equitable and quality education till Secondary level and effective learning outcome: Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberate and identify the existing gaps in providing quality education to all children Share evidence based interventions and best practices related to quality education Discussion on new interventions to ensure quality education for achieving SDG -4
Technical Session II- Pre-primary education and Ka-Shreni in Assam: 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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberate and identify the existing gaps in providing pre-primary education in the state Share evidence based interventions and best practices related to preprimary education Discussion on new interventions to ensure pre-primary education for achieving SDG -4

Technical Session III- School Environment & Facilities, Safe & Protective school environment in school: Safety & Security of Children in school (School Environment, Child Protection & DRR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the existing gaps in providing safe school environment Share evidence based interventions and best practices related to safety & security in school Recommendations to ensure safe school environment for achieving SDG -4
Technical Session IV- Vocational training for increase of employment and decent work: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliberate and Identify the existing gap in providing vocational training for skill development of the youths. Identify the Scope of employment for different skill persons in Govt. as well as private sectors Discussion on new interventions to ensure vocation training without any disparities for achieving SDG -4
Technical Session V- Use of ICT in teaching learning process: Effective IT infrastructure in schools to ensure ICT based teaching learning process for effective learning outcome, training and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the existing gaps of IT infrastructure in schools Share evidence based interventions and best practices related to ICT based teaching learning process

Higher Education

Goal 4	Expected Outcomes
Technical Session I: Addressing lifelong Educational needs of 21st century citizens in a knowledge driven, global economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endeavour of Group-I will be how to reorient higher education to address the educational needs to narrow down the mismatch between available educated human resource and the type of skills which are in demand from employers
Technical Session II: ICT as change agent for Higher Education and Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT has begun to have presence but its required impact needs to be adjusted for better quality of higher education system in Assam. This work group will work on use of technology in dealing with key issues of the state on access, management, equity, efficiency and quality of higher education This group will also work on integrating skill education in higher education
Technical Session III: Financing Higher Education in Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For improvement of quality in higher education, investment needed is high. This group will work on problems of financing Higher Education in Assam. The group will also recommend different scholarships designs for Higher Education to succeed in class room and beyond

TECHNICAL SESSION: CONVERGENCE AND PARTNERSHIP FOR PROMOTING SDG-4.

Convergence and partnership with other government departments is important at policy formulation and implementation level, considering cross cutting and multi sectoral issues. This session will highlight some of the critical issues in Assam, especially for areas which require special attention like TG areas, Hilly areas, Char areas etc. It will aim to create a pathway, through the SPAPs, for Inter-departmental convergence, reflecting in the policy planning for SDG – 4 related programme

Expected Outcome:

- ✓ Discussion and explore possibilities of convergence of policy and programme of Government Departments to achieve SDG -4
- ✓ Conceptualizing new partnerships and possibilities of collaboration between Inter and Intra Government Departments for achieving SDG -4
- ✓ Discussion on future convergence plan in the line of SPAPs and recommendations of the conclave.

VALEDICTORY SESSION :

The final session will take the inputs from all the technical sessions to finalize the SPAPs which were discussed throughout the day. It will use the inputs and recommendations made by experts to come out with a road map, through the 7 – year strategy paper and 3- year Action plan to achieve SDG -4 in Assam.

For any queries and feedback, please write: csdgs.aassam@gmail.com

