22

Human-Centric Development: Navigating Challenges and Embracing Opportunities in the G20 Global Agenda

*Dr. Tripti Vijaywargia**

This chapter explores the G20 human-centric development focus, highlighting key issues and challenges faced by the intergovernmental forum in its pursuit of inclusive and sustainable progress. It emphasizes the importance of translating commitments into concrete actions, addressing inequality, and fostering global partnerships to achieve the G20 human-centric development aspirations.

In a world increasingly interconnected, the Group of Twenty (G20), an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 sovereign countries and the European Union, has emerged as a pivotal force in shaping global development agendas. Recognizing the centrality of human well-being and sustainable progress, the G20 has placed human- centric development at the forefront of its endeavours, striving to address the multifaceted challenges that hinder the advancement of societies worldwide. Embracing a Human-Centric Approach, the G20 human-centric development focus is deeply embedded in its overarching theme, & quote; One Earth, One Family, One Future; This theme encapsulates the notion that the future of humanity is inextricably linked to the collective well-being of the planet and its inhabitants. By adopting a human-centric approach, the G20 seeks to ensure that development efforts prioritize the needs, aspirations, and empowerment of individuals, communities, and future generations.

Addressing Key Issues of Human-Centric Development

The G20 has identified several key issues that demand urgent attention in pursuit of human-centric development. These issues include:
1. Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Growth
2. Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection and Fight against Climate Changes Education, Skills Development, and Lifelong Learning

* *Assistant Professor, S. S. Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur.*

3. Gender Equality and Women & Empowerment
4. Healthcare and Universal Health Coverage

1. ***Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Growth***: The G20 is committed to eradicating extreme poverty and promoting inclusive growth that benefits all segments of society. This involves addressing income inequality, creating decent employment opportunities, and strengthening social safety nets.

   The G20 summit plays a crucial role in poverty eradication and inclusive growth through various initiatives and commitments. The G20 members, representing the world's largest economies, have the collective power to address global challenges and promote sustainable development. Here are some specific ways in which the summit contributes to poverty eradication and inclusive growth:

   a. The G20 summit provides a platform for member countries to discuss andagree on global agendas and targets related to poverty eradication and inclusive growth through commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), guide national policies and international cooperation.

   b. The G20 summit facilitates the mobilization of financial resources to support poverty eradication and inclusive growth initiatives. This includes commitments to increase funding for development assistance, enhance debt relief programs, and promote innovative financing mechanisms.

   c. The G20 summit encourages policy consistency and coordination among member countries to ensure that their domestic and international policies align with the goal of eradicating poverty and promoting inclusive growth.

   d. The G20 summit facilitates the exchange of knowledge and best practices among member countries to identify and implement effective strategies for poverty eradication and inclusive growth.

   e. The G20 summit advocates for open, fair, and inclusive trade policies thatsupport economic growth and job creation in developing countries. It also promotes responsible investment practices that contribute to sustainable development.

f. The G20 summit tackles specific challenges that hinder poverty eradication and inclusive growth, such as gender inequality, youth unemployment, and climate change.

g. The G20 summit recognizes the crucial role of women and girls in achieving poverty eradication and inclusive growth. It promotes policies and programs that empower women and girls economically, socially, and politically.

h. The G20 summit promotes financial inclusion to ensure that everyone has access to financial services, such as savings accounts, loans, and insurance. Financial inclusion can help individuals and communities break the cycle of poverty and achieve economic stability.

i. The G20 summit supports social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of economic shocks and natural disasters. Social safety nets can help reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth by providing essential support to those in need.

j. The G20 summit recognizes the importance of education and skills development in promoting inclusive growth and reducing poverty. It promotes policies that expand access to quality education and training opportunities for all, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The G20 summit's efforts to eradicate poverty and promote inclusive growth have a significant impact on the lives of billions of people around the world. By addressing global challenges, mobilizing resources, and sharing knowledge, the G20 plays a vital role in creating a more just and equitable world.

2. ***Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection and Fight against Climate Changes***: The G20 recognizes the inextricable link between human well-being and environmental sustainability. It aims to promote sustainable development practices, mitigate climate change, and conserve natural resources for future generations. The G20 plays a significant role in combating climate change by providing a platform for collaboration, facilitating policy coordination, and mobilizing resources.

a. Policy Coordination and Goal Setting: The G20 provides a platform for member countries to discuss, agree on, and implement policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. It has set ambitious goals for climate action, such as phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and achieving net-zero emissions by the second half of the century.

b. Financial Support and Resource Mobilization: The G20 has committed to providing significant financial support for climate action in developing countries, particularly in areas such as renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency improvements, and climate-resilient infrastructure. It also promotes innovative financing mechanisms to attract private sector investment in climate-friendly projects.

c. Technology Transfer and Capacity Building: The G20 facilitates the transfer of clean and efficient technologies to developing countries, enabling them to adopt sustainable practices and reduce their carbon footprint. It also supports capacity building initiatives to enhance the expertise of developing countries in implementing climate action policies and programs. Promoting Sustainable Development and Green Growth: The G20 recognizes that addressing climate change requires a holistic approach that integrates climate action with sustainable development goals. It promotes policies that foster green growth, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and ensuring a just transition for all.

d. Specific Initiatives and Achievements: The G20 has spearheaded several initiatives to combat climate change, including:
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF): Established in 2010, the GCF provides financial assistance to developing countries for climate change projects.
- The Mission Innovation: Launched in 2015, Mission Innovation aims to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.
- The Sustainable Infrastructure Investment and Climate Action Initiative (SIICA): Launched in 2018, SIICA aims to mobilize investments in sustainable infrastructure projects.
- The G20 Action Plan on Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Adopted in 2021, the Action Plan outlines specific commitments and measures to address climate change.

The G20's efforts to combat climate change have made a significant contribution to global climate action. It has helped to raise awareness, build consensus, and mobilize resources to address this pressing global challenge. While there is still much work to be done, the G20's leadership and collaboration are crucial to achieving a sustainable future.

3. *Education, Skills Development, and Lifelong Learning:* The G20 emphasizes the importance of education and skills development in empowering individuals to thrive in a rapidly changing world. It promotes access to quality education, lifelong learning opportunities, and the development of skills relevant to the 21st-century workforce.

The G20 plays a significant role in promoting education, skills development, and lifelong learning across its member countries and beyond. By leveraging its collective influence and resources, the G20 has made notable strides in expanding access to quality education, equipping individuals with the skills needed for the 21st-century workforce, and fostering a culture of lifelong learning. Key Strategies Employed by the G20:

a. **Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Education:** The G20 champions policies that ensure equal access to quality education for all, regardless of gender, socioeconomic background, or location. It promotes initiatives to address early childhood education, improve secondary education completion rates, and expand access to higher education.

b. **Enhancing Skills Development:** The G20 recognizes the importance of skills development in matching individuals' skills to labour market demands. It promotes initiatives to enhance vocational education and training, strengthen partnerships between education and industry, and develop skills for the digital economy.

c. **Promoting Lifelong Learning:** The G20 emphasizes the need for lifelong learning to adapt to the changing demands of the workplace and society. It supports initiatives to promote adult education, encourage retraining and upskilling, and facilitate access to lifelong learning opportunities.

d. **Addressing Digital Literacy and Access:** The G20 recognizes the importance of digital literacy and access in enabling individuals to participate in the digital economy. It promotes initiatives to bridge the digital divide, providing access to digital technology and developing digital skills.

e. **Enhancing Teacher Quality and Development:** The G20 recognizes the crucial role of teachers in providing quality education. It supports initiatives to attract, train, and retain high-quality teachers, promote professional development, and enhance teaching and learning practices.

f. **Promoting International Cooperation:** The G20 fosters collaboration among member countries and international organizations to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and develop effective education and skills policies.

The G20's commitment to education, skills development, and lifelong learning has made a significant impact on education systems and individual lives worldwide. By fostering collaboration, advocating for policies, and mobilizing

resources, the G20 continues to play a crucial role in building a more educated and skilled workforce for the future.

4. *Gender Equality and Women & Empowerment***:** The G20 is committed to achieving gender equality and empowering women to fully participate in all aspects of society. This involves addressing gender-based discrimination, promoting women & economic participation, and ensuring equal access to education, healthcare, and decision-making processes.

The G20 plays a prominent role in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment across various spheres. By fostering collaboration, advocating for policies, and mobilizing resources, the G20 has made significant strides in advancing gender equity and empowering women worldwide. Key Strategies Employed by the G20:

a. **Promoting Women's Economic Participation:** The G20 champions policies that increase women's participation in the labour market, entrepreneurship, and leadership roles. This includes initiatives to address gender pay gaps, provide access to finance for women-owned businesses, and enhance women's skills and qualifications.

b. **Bridging the Digital Divide:** The G20 recognizes the importance of digital literacy and access in empowering women. It promotes initiatives to bridge the digital divide, ensuring that women have equal opportunitiesto participate in the digital economy.

c. **Addressing Gender-Based Violence:** The G20 condemns gender-based violence and promotes policies to prevent and address it. This includes initiatives to strengthen legal frameworks, raise awareness, and provide support services for survivors.

d. **Empowering Women in Education and Healthcare:** The G20 advocates for policies that ensure equal access to quality education and healthcare for women. This includes initiatives to address gender in disparities in education and healthcare outcomes, particularly in developing countries.

e. **Promoting Inclusive Leadership:** The G20 encourages women's participation in leadership roles at all levels, including government, business, and civil society. It supports initiatives to identify, mentor, and promote women leaders.

f. **Concrete Examples of G20 Actions:** The W20 Engagement Group: The G20 established the W20 Engagement Group, a platform for women's civil society organizations to advocate for gender equality policies within the G20 agenda.

g. **The G20 Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative:** This initiative aims to increase women's participation in entrepreneurship by providing access to finance, mentorship, and training. The G20 Digital Gender Gap Initiative: This initiative seeks to bridge the digital divide by promoting digital literacy and access for women, particularly in underserved communities.

h. **The G20 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Action Plan:** This plan outlines specific commitments and measures to address gender equality and women's empowerment across various sectors. The G20's efforts have contributed to significant progress in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment globally. By fostering collaboration, advocating for policies, and mobilizing resources, the G20 continues to play a crucial role in creating a more equitable and inclusive world for women.

5. *Healthcare and Universal Health Coverage*: The G20 recognizes the importance of access to quality healthcare for achieving human-centric development. It promotes universal health coverage, strengthens healthcare systems, and combats infectious diseases and non- communicable diseases.

By leveraging its collective influence and resources, the G20 has made notable strides in addressing global health challenges, strengthening health systems, and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all. Key Strategies Employed by the G20:

a. **Strengthening Health Systems:** The G20 recognizes the importance of robust and resilient health systems as the foundation for achieving UHC. It promotes policies to strengthen health infrastructure, enhance workforce capacity, and improve access to essential medicines and technologies.

b. **Addressing Communicable Diseases:** The G20 prioritizes combating infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. It supports initiatives to expand access to prevention, treatment, and control programs.

c. **Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases:** The G20 recognizes the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart

disease, cancer, and diabetes. It promotes policies to prevent and manage NCDs, including measures to address risk factors like tobacco use, unhealthy diets, and lack of physical activity.

d. **Promoting Mental Health:** The G20 acknowledges the importance of mental health and well-being. It supports initiatives to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and improve access to mental health services.

e. **Enhancing Pandemic Preparedness and Response:** The G20 has taken a leading role in strengthening pandemic preparedness and response capabilities. It promotes initiatives to enhance surveillance systems, develop vaccines and treatments, and improve global coordination.

f. **Supporting Research and Innovation:** The G20 recognizes the crucial role of research and innovation in addressing global health challenges. It supports initiatives to foster collaboration among researchers, institutions, and industries to develop new diagnostic tools, treatments, and preventivemeasures.

Challenges and the Path Forward

Despite significant progress, the G20 faces challenges in fully realizing its human-centric development goals. The G20 is a forum for the world's 20 largesteconomies to discuss and cooperate on a wide range of issues, including economic growth, trade, and development. Over the next few years, the G20 will face a number of challenges in fulfilling its goals. These challenges include:

1. **The Rise of Populism and Nationalism:** Populism and nationalism are on the rise in many countries, and this is leading to a decline in international cooperation. This could make it more difficult for the G20 to agree on and implement policies that promote global economic growth and development.

2. **The Increasing threat of Climate Change:** Climate change is a major threat to the global economy, and it is becoming increasingly clear that the G20 needs to take action to address it. This will require member countries to make significant changes to their energy policies and invest in renewable energy technologies.

3. **The Growing Gap between Rich and Poor:** The gap between rich and poor is growing in many countries, and this is a major threat to social and political stability. The G20 needs to find ways to promote inclusive growth and reduce inequality.

4. The Increasing Complexity of Global Trade: Global trade is becoming increasingly complex, and this is making it more difficult for countries to agree on trade rules. The G20 needs to find ways to ensure that trade is fair and open, and that it benefits all countries.

5. The rise of New Technologies: New technologies, such as artificial intelligence and robotics, are having a profound impact on the global economy, and the G20 needs to find ways to ensure that these technologies are used in a responsible and ethical way.

The G20 has a long history of addressing global challenges, and it is well- positioned to overcome the challenges it faces in the years to come. However, it will need to be more creative and innovative than ever before in order to find solutions to these complex problems.

In addition to these challenges, the G20 will also need to continue to address its existing priorities, such as promoting economic growth, reducing poverty, and combating climate change.

Conclusion

The G20 human-centric development focus represents a significant shift in global governance, placing the well- being of individuals and communities at the heart of international cooperation. By addressing key issues such as poverty eradication, sustainable development, gender equality, and healthcare, the G20 has the potential to shape a more equitable, prosperous, and sustainable future for all. However, translating commitments into concrete actions, addressing inequality, and fostering global partnerships remain crucial challenges that the G20 must effectively address to fully realize its human-centric development aspirations.

The G20 summit aims to promote human-centric development by addressing global challenges that hinder the well-being of individuals and communities. It focuses on issues such as poverty eradication, inclusive growth, education, healthcare, climate change, and gender equality. The summit encourages collaboration among member countries to share knowledge, resources, and best practices in achieving sustainable and equitable development for all.