



AGEING POPULATION AND SDGS

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Abstract

Sustainable development goals had been introduced by the United Nation on 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

There are 17 SDGs integrated . They recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. The ageing of society has important implications for sustainable development and people's well-being. Older persons need to be recognised as the active agents of societal development in order to achieve truly transformative, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a promise to 'leave no one behind' and to reach the furthest behind first. This entails ensuring that every individual, including every older person is included in development efforts. Trends in population ageing are particularly relevant for Goals on eradicating poverty (SDG 1), ensuring healthy lives and well-being at all ages (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), promoting gender equality (SDG 5) and full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8), reducing inequalities between and within countries (SDG 10), and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11).

Keywords : Ageing population ,Senior citizen, Sustainable development goals ,SDGs

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development goals were introduced in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly held in its 70th session on 25th September 2015, to form a framework for a better and more sustainable future for everyone. It had adopted with the goal of advancing the Millennium Development Goals' success and adopted the document "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development," which includes 17 sustainable development goals and 169 associated targets with member nations.

Sustainable development goals had come into effect on January 1, 2016. The sustainable development goals are set as global goal that integrate social, economic, and environmental aspects of development. SDGs are universal, because every country is (developed, developing, and least developed) interdependent and indivisible, thorough and participative measures to bring everyone together are required to ensure that no one is left behind.

SDGs are recognises that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those farthest behind first. For ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met for all segments of society, at all ages, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable including older persons. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing 'zeros', including zero poverty, no hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

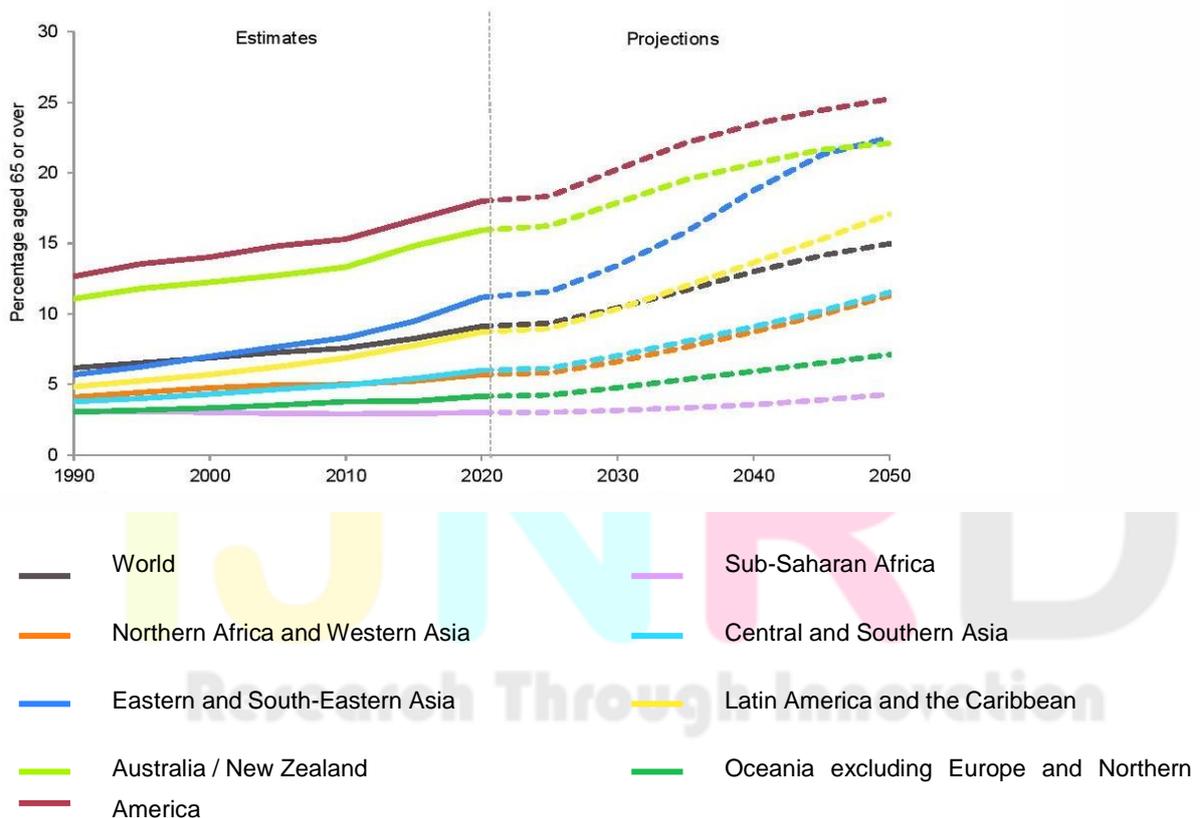
Older population is growing rapidly in the world. Population ageing is growing by decline in fertility and increase in longevity which will lead to rise in numbers of older persons as well as a continuously growing share of older persons in the population. Ageing population is an inevitable and irreversible demographic reality that is associated with improvements in public health, medical advancements, economic and social development over diseases and early deaths that have been limited. With increasing longevity and declining fertility rates, the population of older persons (65 years and above) is globally growing faster than the general population. According to World Population Ageing 2019 report, there were 703 million persons aged 65 years or over in the world in 2019. The number of older persons is projected to double to 1.5 billion in 2050. Globally the share of the population aged 65 years and above increased from 6% in 1990 to 9 per cent in 2019 that the proportion is projected to rise further to 16% by 2050 so that one in six people in the world will be aged 65 years or over.

Table: 1 Number of persons aged 65 years or over, by region, 2019 and 2050

Region	Number of persons aged 65 or over in 2019 (millions)	Number of persons aged 65 or over in 2050 (millions)	Percentage change between 2019 and 2050
World	702.9	1 548.9	120
Sub-Saharan Africa	31.9	101.4	218
Northern Africa and Western Asia	29.4	95.8	226
Central and Southern Asia	119.0	328.1	176
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	260.6	572.5	120
Latin America and the Caribbean	56.4	144.6	156
Australia and New Zealand	4.8	8.8	84
Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand	0.5	1.5	190
Europe and Northern America	200.4	296.2	48

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Prospects 2019*

Graph:1 Share of total population aged 65 years or over, by region, 1990-2050



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Prospects 2019*.

The above table and graph explains how ageing population is increasing in the world. This also projects the share of ageing group in future days in different region. The region of Eastern and South-Eastern Asia was home to the largest share (37 per cent) of the world's older population in 2019 and is expected to remain in that position through 2050. The second largest share of older persons in 2019 lived in Europe and Northern America (28.5 per cent), but this percentage is expected to shrink to 19 per cent in 2050. The region of

Central and Southern Asia hosted one sixth of the global population of older persons (17 per cent) in 2019, a figure that is projected to increase to around one fifth (21 per cent) in 2050. The regions of sub-Saharan Africa and of Northern Africa and Western Asia will likely see a further increase in the share of older persons between 2019 and 2050, rising from 5 to 7 per cent, and from 4 to 6 per cent, respectively.

With the rapid growth of ageing population government has to prepare policies to face and mitigate the consequences which have implications on the socio-economic and health status of the elderly. Every country is needed to reach ambitious targets. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society are necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Studies on SDGs and ageing are of quite recent origin. . The objective of SDGs is to raise awareness of the emerging challenges, as well as opportunities related to ageing and proposes initial recommendations for addressing them in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The study attempt to present insight view of the sustainable development goals and its relevance to the ageing population. The study also tries to shed light on the government initiatives under SDGs towards development of wellbeing of the elders.

REVIEWS OF LITERATURE

Charan Singh (2013) , in his article , “ Ageing Population in India: Select Economic Issues” analysed the citizens of India are enjoying a longer life and better living conditions as a result of increased life expectancy, increased standard of living as well as medical advancement. The longevity of life, if not planned well for retirement, could imply a high fiscal burden for the government on account of providing for healthcare of the elderly in the absence of proper insurance and inefficient public healthcare system. Despite the efforts by the Government to introduce new policies, the elderly lack the security needed in old age and live with a low social status with increasing reports of financial deprivation, abandonment and humiliation. The study recommends a number of initiatives that can be undertaken in time for the care of the elderly by the government, so that addressing financial burden can be better planned and addressed. The paper, more importantly, suggests that financial literacy and a variety of financial instruments should be considered by the government to address the issues of ageing population in India.

Crystal Kwan and Julie Drolet (2015), in their article, “Towards age-inclusive sustainable development goals: Exploring the potential role and contributions of community development” examined worldwide, societies are experiencing unprecedented shifts in their age compositions. The great shift in demographics demand that sustainable development efforts are age-inclusive and support the well-being of people throughout their life course including the later life years. The purpose of this article is 2-fold. First, we

delineate the linkages between the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) and development issues related to older persons and an ageing population, arguing that the success of the SDGs also rests on the ability to address such issues. Second, we explore community development's role in the implementation of the SDGs and addressing age-related development issues, proposing that community development's unique perspectives, values and approaches contribute to innovative development pathways conducive to age-inclusive sustainable development.

Subho Roy (2019), in his article “On Development and Sustainability: The Issue of Ageing in India” analysed population ageing is not only humanity's greatest triumphs but also one of our greatest challenges. It is a demographic imperative which has socio economic and political consequences across the globe. In the form of changes in demographic scenario and family structure, leaving fewer older people with families to care for them. So we are at crossroads. The real issue is, therefore, how older people can sustain themselves, remain healthy, be an integral part of society and enjoy a good quality of life, without impeding the pace of development. The response to the challenges of ageing should take into consideration the realities of an individual country or region, avoiding the trap of a 'one size fits all' model, and importantly, should have strong analytical understanding of underlying demographic processes and factors.

Carole Cox (2020) The Sustainable Development Goals and Aging: Implications for Social Work “ analysed the SDGs developed by the United Nations in 2015 provide targets that the world must meet by 2030 in order to ensure well-being and prosperity for all with each person living with dignity and security in society. The underlying pledge is that no one is left behind. By committing to erasing inequalities, these SDGs are closely linked to human rights. Around the globe, older people are among the most vulnerable to marginalization, poor health, poverty, and income insecurity. This paper discusses the five of the goals pertinent to the inclusion and well-being of older people and the roles that social workers, using a rights-based approach to practice, can use at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels to assure that the SDGs are met and that policies and services promote the well-being and inclusion of older people in society.

Khairiah Salwa Mokhtar , Nurulhasanah Abdul Rahman and Mahmud Sabri Haron (2020) in their article , “Complying with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals: A case of the Malaysian ageing population” examined the rapid growth in the ageing population necessitates a more intensified effort to include patients of all ages in global sustainable development. While many countries struggle to manage their ageing populations, efforts to ensure adequate health are alarmingly unconvincing. In fact, the spread of infectious diseases, especially Tuberculosis (TB), within the ageing population remains a threat to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Studies related to the ageing population in Malaysia are rather limited and their perspectives on infectious disease patients are often neglected. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the perspective of ageing tuberculosis patients on preventive measures and to what extent their behaviour helps Malaysia to comply with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Marcin Pawel Jarzebski, Thomas Elmqvist, Alexandros Gasparatos, Kensuke Fukushi and others (2021), in their article “Ageing and population shrinking: implications for sustainability in the urban century” examined population ageing and shrinking are demographic phenomena with far-reaching implications for sustainability in the current context of extensive and rapid urbanization. This Perspective rationalizes their interface by (a) identifying the challenges and opportunities that ageing and shrinking urban populations will have for implementing the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and (b) discussing some emerging interventions to capitalise on the opportunities and reduce the challenges to achieving sustainability. They argue that a diverse set of context-specific technological, socioeconomic, institutional and governance interventions would be needed to leverage effectively the opportunities and minimize the risks posed by ageing and shrinking urban populations for long-term sustainability.

Yi Liu, Zhen Liu, Shuang Hu & Qun Wang (2022), in their article , “Ageing Population and Sustainable Development: Evidence from China” analysed that many decades China enjoyed its demographic dividend with an abundant supply of young workers that enabled the country to grow into a world superpower. This vibrant economy, however, could be damaged by China’s ageing population, with a projection of over 345 million people aged 60 years or above by the end of 2030, and this number is expected to increase rapidly beyond 2030s. The demographic shift towards an ageing working population could hamper China’s economic growth and create social challenges including building an adequate social welfare system, strengthening health care services, and sustaining long term employment. The chapter discusses ways to reduce the impacts of the ageing workforce in China in the context of SDG 8 – sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Sanjeev Kumar, Verma Prikshat, Jayanta Chakraborti and Parth Patel (2022) in their article “Sustainable Development Goals and Ageing: Status, Challenges, and Strategies for Policy Implications for India” examined like most countries around the world, India faces the challenge of an ageing population. According to the most recent report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the share of India’s population over 60 years of age is likely to increase from 8.5% in 2011 to 19% of the total population by 2050. This can be attributed to increased life expectancy and falling fertility rates. These changes in demographics present economic, social and health challenges which need urgent and timely interventions by government, business, and society as a whole. Given that the United Nations has laid down 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that aim to achieve wellbeing and healthy living for all, the ageing population requires special attention as they are more vulnerable to poor health, unemployment, and financial insecurity. It becomes imperative to develop a robust framework of policies that addresses the challenges that are likely to arise due to the ageing population in different countries. This chapter presents the changing picture of India’s demographics, and in the light of relevant SDGs discusses the extent, growth, trends and policy challenges of an ageing population in India.

RESEARCH GAP

After reviewing the literature of SDGs with respect to ageing population, it is evident that there are many studies done at different dimensions of ageing population in international level and few works have been done at national level.

Some of the studies are concentrated on demographic transition, health issues in elderly, wellbeing of the elder, socio-economic condition and standard of living of elderly but there are hardly few which speak about impact of SDGs on elder wellbeing, inclusion of elders in SDGs and their wellbeing. This work is an effort towards that.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the level of inclusion of ageing people in SDGs program
2. To highlight the significance and opportunities given to aged people in SDGs.

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary information and data. Secondary source had been collected from International and National surveys, working papers and government reports. The study is descriptive in nature.

Leave no one behind – Ageing and SDGs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 provides a shared global plan to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which must be implemented by each and every country in the world.

Sustainable development goals had been adopted by the United Nation. To improve the health, standard of living of the people, end poverty, reduce inequalities, and protect the planet. The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas which are very much critical for humanity and the planet.

SDGs represent the targets of the global community and also a valiant effort to push the frontiers of development. It is now universally acknowledged that the SDGs represent an elaborate agenda for the governments that necessitates achieving progress simultaneously across social, economic and environmental pillars. The inter-connectedness among these goals renders SDGs as planning, implementation and a monitoring challenge.

Older people's inclusion in the SDGs is evident that leave no one behind. Population ageing is a human success story reflecting the advancement of public health, medicine, economic and social development, and their contribution to the control of disease, prevention of injury, reduction in the risk of premature death. The extension of human longevity and subsequent reduction in levels of fertility lead inevitably to a shift in the population age distribution from younger to older ages. The increase in human longevity associated with the demographic transition was the engine of global population growth. The subsequent decline in fertility however was the trigger that led to a continuously growing share of older persons in the global population.

Population ageing is a major global trend that affects all countries, although at a different pace and levels and reflects significant achievements of human development such as improved health, longevity, lower mortality. Population ageing is one of the most significant dimensions of global demographic change, yet older people continue to face discrimination and exclusion as a result of their age, gender, disability or other characteristics. Societies must adapt their policies and services to respond to the changing age structure of their populations if they are to deliver the promises of the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a universal plan of action to achieve sustainable development in a balanced manner and seeks to realize the human rights of all people. It calls for leaving no one behind and for ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met for all segments of society, at all ages, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable including older persons.

Preparing for an ageing population is vital to the achievement of the integrated 2030 Agenda, with ageing cutting across the goals on poverty eradication, good health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reduced inequalities and sustainable cities. Therefore, while it is essential to address the exclusion and vulnerability of and intersectional discrimination against many older persons in the implementation of the new agenda, it is even more important to go beyond treating older persons as a vulnerable group. Older persons must be recognized as the active agents of societal development in order to achieve truly transformative, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

It is important to protecting and promoting the rights of older persons in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Preparing for the economic and social shifts associated with an ageing population is essential to ensure progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a promise to 'leave no one behind' and to reach the furthest behind first. This entails ensuring that every individual, including every older person is included in development efforts. There is now an unprecedented opportunity to include ageing as a core theme for development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) directly address the concerns of older women and men. Trends in population ageing are particularly relevant for Goals on eradicating poverty (SDG 1), ensuring healthy lives and well-being at all ages (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDGs 4) promoting gender

equality (SDG 5) and full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8), reducing inequalities between and within countries (SDG 10), and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11)

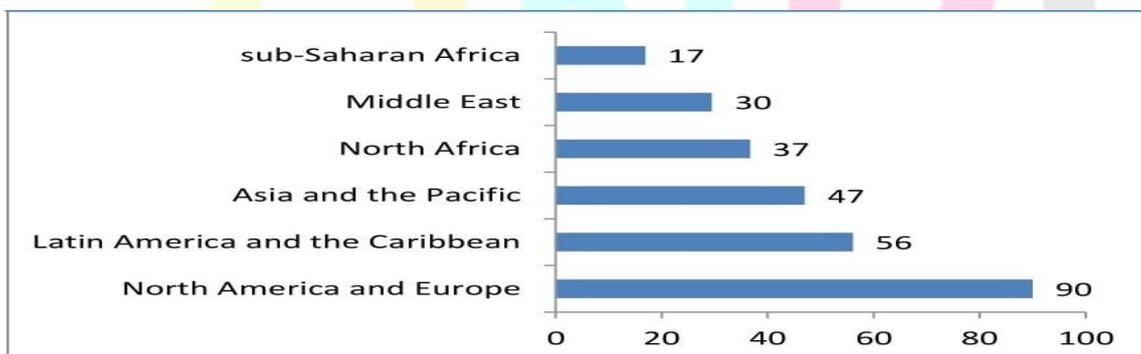
SDG 1 NO POVERTY: - End poverty in all its forms everywhere, to achieving SDG 1 would end extreme poverty globally by 2030

Older people fall into poverty because of ageism, ageism can negatively affect equal access to food security, basic needs, drugs and services and clinical research on prospective. SDG1 had been indicated to end poverty in older age and ensure social protection for all. Globally low income countries have less than 20 % (UNDP report 2019) of older people who receive a pension, although it is one of the most effective ways to reduce old age poverty.

Below figure 2 illustrate that public social security pensions have become essential tools to ensure that older persons receive a stable income after the end of their working life and throughout their old-age. However, many older persons continue to live without adequate social protection coverage. Considering that two thirds of the world's older persons live in developing regions where the informal economy accounts for a large proportion of their employment, is cause for concern. Workers in the informal economy usually have insufficient or no social protection coverage, as the systems for collection of contributions or tax payments to finance public pension systems is underdeveloped. Unless significant investments are made to broaden social protection coverage by introducing non-contributory schemes to help close the gap, the majority of workers in the informal sector will face income insecurity in old age.

Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must adopt strong social pension schemes that are of an adequate level to provide income security for all people as they grow older.

Figure: 1 Percentage of older persons in receipt of pension, by region



Source : ILO (2014-15) World social protection report

SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. In SDGs 3 significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common causes of child and maternal mortality. SDG 3 enabled healthy ageing, wellbeing and access to

health and care services to aged group of the country. As people age, their health, care and support needs become increasingly complex and require integrated and people centred responses.

The below table 2 illustrate the healthy life expectancy versus life expectancy by gender in selected Asian countries in the World. A longer life expectancy and ensuring possibility of larger number of years spent in morbidity for older women, combined with the declining family support and care due to diminishing traditional family systems, it means that publicly financed health service need to be especially accessible to older women.

Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must increase spending on health and care services that respond to the needs of an ageing population, as part of their efforts to achieve universal health coverage and ensure that national health policies and information systems include people of all ages.

Table: 2 Healthy life expectancy versus life expectancy, by gender, selected Asian countries,2007

Countries	Life expectancy		Healthy life expectancy		% years of life spent in good health*	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Cambodia	59	64	51	55	86	86
China	72	76	65	68	90	89
Indonesia	66	69	60	61	91	88
Japan	79	86	73	78	92	91
Kazakhstan	59	70	53	60	90	86
Malaysia	71	76	62	66	87	87
Singapore	79	83	71	75	90	90
Tajikistan	66	69	58	57	88	83
Thailand	66	74	59	65	89	88
Viet Nam	70	75	62	66	89	88

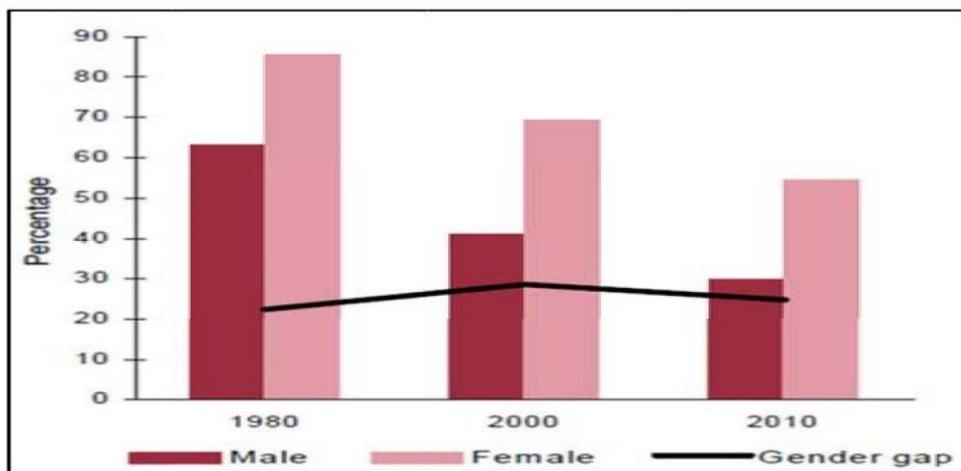
Source : World health organisation (2010) ,as in Asian development bank (2012),Social protection for older persons social pensions in Asia,edited by Sri Wening Handayani and Babken babajanian

SDGS 4 QUALITY EDUCATION: - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Promoting lifelong learning to old people to enhance their skill is their right. Older people need opportunity to build their skills to cope with changes they face in older age, participate fully in society and live meaningful lives.

Figure 2 Illustrate that older women in many developing countries are at a disadvantage as compared to men in formal education this is a life course issue. The education for women and girl face restriction in accessing education at all level. The gender gap in education persists and this is more do for the adult population as shown in figure 2 .The adult literacy rate for women in the Asian pacific region during 2005-11 was only 78.4% as compared to 88.7% for men (ESCAP.2013).

Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must end age discrimination when it comes to access to learning opportunities for older people and ensure inclusive and equitable access to education for people of all ages.

Figure 2 : Male /Female illiteracy rate ,ages 60 years and above and gender gap



Source : United Nations department of Economic and Social affairs,Population division (2001).Wold population ageing 1950-2050

SDGS 5 GENDER EQUALITY:- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

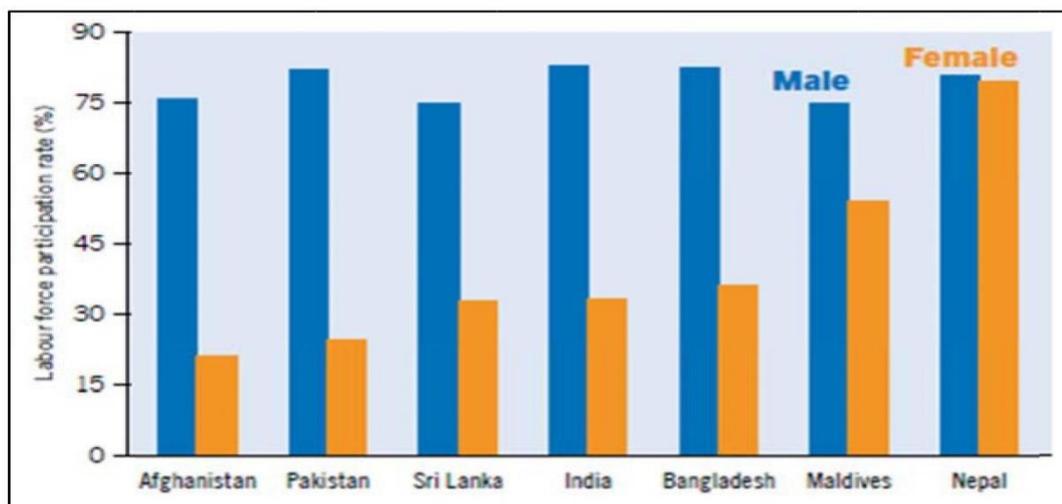
SDG 5 aims to grant women and girls equal rights, opportunities to live free without discrimination including workplace discrimination or any violence. This is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Ensure gender equality in older people especially in old women. Gender inequalities in older age result from ageism combined with the multiple disadvantages experienced by women across the life course due to unequal gender relations. Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must combat gender inequalities across the life course and empower older women to participate in decision making processes, prevent violence and adopt policies and programmes that address the rights of older women.

SDGS 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and promote decent work for people of all ages.

Many older men and women would like to continue working past fixed retirement ages but are deterred by age discrimination and ageist attitude in the workplace. In the figure 3 it is illustrated gender bias in education go hand in hand with gender bias in the labour market to place women in a disadvantaged position in securing a stable livelihood. It is a known fact that women's labour market participation is most often lower than of men resulting in lower earnings for women over a lifetime and hence lower savings for women as they age. The Asia- Pacific region is not an exception to this, the data showing in figure 3 express large disparities in labour force participation.

Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must take a stand against ageism and discrimination, promote accessible workplaces and adopt flexible retirement policies that enable older workers to continue working as long as they wish.

Figure : 3 Labour force participation rates ,gender disparities ,selected south Asian countries (2009-2012) ,percentage



Source : ILO (2014) , Global employment trends (2014)

SDGS 10 REDUCED INEQUALITY: - Reduce income inequality within and among countries

SDGs 10 reduce inequalities and end discrimination in later life. The negative effect of inequalities accumulates throughout the years and can have a disproportionate impact on people as they grow older, particularly in women. Women are more likely to be victims of discrimination than men. These disadvantages are exacerbated in older age due to ageism and age discrimination.

Below table 3 explained the gender pay gap for selected countries in Asia, Women's average monthly earning range from less than half of men's in Japan to three-fourths or more in countries such as Thailand and Sri Lanka. Women's unpaid domestic work and informal care responsibility have adverse consequences on their ability to participate in or remain full time in the labour market .They are often compelled to undertake part time work, take breaks or completely exit the labour market during their prime working age. The contributions that women make during their lifetime in domestic roles and caring responsibilities are done at the cost of losing income and savings as security for the latter years of their lives.

Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must empower older people to participate fully in society, including through universal social protection and health care policies that reduce inequalities. We call on leaders to combat ageism, reform age-discriminatory laws and practices and adopt a new UN convention on the rights to older people.

Economy	Year	Women's average monthly earnings as % of men's
Hong Kong, China ¹	2006–2008	60
Japan ²	2008	47
Malaysia ²	2008	58
Republic of Korea	2006–2008	57
Singapore ¹	2006–2008	65
Sri Lanka ¹	2006–2008	77
Thailand ¹	2006–2008	75

Source : World Economic Forum (2010) ,United Nations (2010),as cited in Asian development bank (2012),Social protection for older persons: social pension in Asia,edited by Sri Wening Handayani and Babken Babajanian

SDGS 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES: - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

Build inclusive and accessible cities and communities to older people. A life course approach to urban planning that includes older people in decision making and urban design is essential to realise their right and that of people with disabilities to autonomy and independence. Governments of the less developed /low income countries/developing countries must invest in safe, affordable and accessible housing and public transport that enhances interaction across generations. Older people must be included in disaster resilience and response planning and support.

The above SDGs are related to the older people. These SDGs are a help to improve the older's socio-economic health and wellbeing. Preparing for the economic and social shifts associated with an ageing population is essential to ensure progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Healthy ageing, policies and evidence-based actions are necessary to reduce the inequity faced by older people in all sectors.

CONCLUSION

Older people's inclusion in the SDGs is essential to leave no one behind. In SDGs trends in population ageing are particularly relevant for Goals on eradicating poverty (SDG 1), ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing at all ages (SDG 3), promoting gender equality (SDG 5) and full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8), reducing inequalities between and within countries (SDG 10), and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11).To maximize the benefits and manage the risks associated with population ageing, governments should support continuing and lifelong

education and health care for all, encourage savings behaviour and healthy lifestyles throughout the life course, promote employment among women, older persons and others traditionally excluded from the formal labour force, including through a gradual increase in the official retirement age, and support family-friendly policies to facilitate work-life balance and increased gender equality in both public and private life. Further, it is important to establish social protection programmes that can be sustained over the long term to prevent poverty, reduce inequality and promote social inclusion among older persons. Progress towards the achievement of the SDGs is closely linked to demographic trends. The present analysis has shown that countries or areas throughout the world have reached different stages of population ageing. Forward-looking policies and programmes that consider current and future population dynamics are needed to attain sustainable development as articulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including fulfilling the pledge that no one will be left behind.

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