

# Global developmental goals in perspective of covid pandemics, our dreams and realities

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In September 2015, the General Assembly developed a narrative for sustainable development that includes 17 sustainable developmental goals. The basic notion was that “leaving no one behind”, and agenda was up to 2030<sup>1</sup>.

Out of these 17 sustainable developmental goals to change the world most remarkable were no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education and gender equality, clean water and sanitation, Affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and economic growth and so on<sup>2</sup>.

But after three years of initial work on our dream's world got hit by covid pandemic and in 2019 starting from Wuhan and spreading across the globe in no time and today in 2021 not only the whole world but as a developing nation we are facing the brunt of this pandemic<sup>3</sup>.

After pandemic although its full impact has yet to be seen it has curtailed employment prospects, upended businesses and thrown workers lives and livelihoods into disarray. Labour migration is being profoundly affected by the covid-19 pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health both physical and mental, the pandemic economic and social disruption threatens the livelihood of millions. As economies shrink worldwide, millions of jobs will be lost making migrant workers increasingly vulnerable<sup>6</sup>. This is particularly worrying for Pakistan, which is among the world's leading labour sending countries.

weak health system and unemployment which has markedly increased from 3.98% in 2019 to almost 4.65% in 2020.

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It means that as a nation we will be affecting the most important developmental goals in which good health and well-being is most affected one and after that quality education and decent work and economic growth are in line.

Although developed nations again added feather to their cap by formulating the vaccine within a year of pandemic, but dilemma of our country is that with a literacy rate of almost 59.13% and where most population is still relying on quacks for their prime advice our situation is going to be worse. And a country which is already fighting for polio eradication for the last 25 years and where the world largest surveillance network with almost 260,000 polio vaccinators is unable to bring it down. Pakistan is one out of three countries left in the world where polio virus continues to threaten the health and well-being of the children. Our pre covid local situation get worsened and same crises is again that population is reluctant and hesitant to get vaccinated.

So as a clinician again we must play our role to enlighten the population for their attitude toward vaccination and more focusing on our primary health system so we can minimize the global crises and build on as a nation with improved and better physical and mental health.

Impact of covid now is not that clear but it is long lasting and difficult to measure but our contribution to the literature and research in this aspect are mandatory.

We must also look in to the forceful and unbelievable digitalization of education with its impact on the physical and mental health affecting almost 1.2 billion learners in over 170 countries.

Last but not the least, the declining trend in democratic proceedings, authoritarian and extreme right tendencies, and growing global inequality we are already behind on reaching the sustainable developmental goals before the covid 19 pandemic started.

In essence, the pandemic is bringing tension at a global level by giving on the one hand reasons for closing borders, restricting the movement of the people and goods, and authoritarian actions, while on the other hand requiring global partnership for tackling the pandemic, which is inherently global<sup>5</sup>.

So, this is a need of time that in this global crisis we assess our local situation and policies and help our nation as a clinician in this front.

In terms of positive outcomes, the multilateral system is magnified by the pressures of association brought by pandemic.

Additionally, advances in digital conversion and coalition of health, educational and social services will bring long term benefits.

Due to the unexpected crises, the shift of Member states' priorities the crises can be used as an opportunity to strengthen the commitment to 2030 Agenda.<sup>7</sup>

By placing the sustainable developmental goals at the core of recovery plans, a better response to future crises is enabled, implying a stronger health system, fewer people living in extreme poverty, less gender inequality<sup>8</sup>.

One thing which we must learn from this pandemic is that issues that appear remote can quickly escalate and have wide-reaching effects. Second, preparedness is vital and requires years of work to be successful. Third, the cost of not being prepared outweighs the cost of preparation, and how important health, health care and public health are.

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