

Technology Innovation &
Social Entrepreneurship
as Game-Changers in Achieving the
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



The Global Goals weave together Social, Economic and Environmental goals

Social Entrepreneurs have been working for a long time on the challenges articulated in SDGs

Ashoka Fellows, Echoing Green Fellows have been tackling world challenges

Social Entrepreneurial way of thinking needs to be mainstream to achieve SDGs

- Social & Env mission + Entrepreneurship -> Disruptive, Non-linear innovations @Scale needed to achieve SDGs

The world needs many more such Changemakers

All these SDGs have been enshrined as rights in the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights for a long
time.....

What is different now?

Critical Infection Point

- First Time a Global Normative Framework
 - Operational Timeline & Goals
 - UN + State level commitment across the world
 - Integrated, holistic approach
 - Universal
- Tech becoming new oil of global economy
 - Game-Changer in Positive & Negative ways
 - Anticipate externalities (negative/positive)
 - Think of accountability & responsibility on Tech
 - Leverage Technology impact as Accelerant & Game-Changer
- Young people care about society, Env, demanding positive change

The Two sides of Tech

Tech as Positive Game-Changer

YourDost – leverages the Anonymity offered by the Internet to provide personalized mental health solutions over internet, bypasses social taboo issues around mental health in India

Tech as Negative Game-Changer

Fake News & Misinformation / Rohingya crisis – negative messages amplified by social media – social media only source of news for many in Myanmar

Tech As Accelerant & Foundational in advancing all the SDGs?

Will Tech Increase the Digital Divide or be an Equalizer?

Key Factors in Achieving the SDGs

In order to achieve SDGs we will need

- High Capital Needs
- Policy change (inclusive, integrated and sustainable)
- Non-linear & Scalable Innovation (Tech)
- Systems change in mind set (Social Entrepreneurs)
- Multi-stakeholder/cross-sectoral collaboration among Govt, Private Sector, Philanthropy, UN, Civil Society....

Transformative Tech Innovations bringing Systems Change - Advancing the SDGs

Tech Innovations helping Rural & Tribal Communities

- **Internet Saathi** rural women bring internet training/skills to their community all over India
- **CGNetSwara** Audio-based Citizen Journalism voice & agency to tribal regions in India
- **ChangeMaker Salons** rural girls learn and connect at hair salons in the Sahel
- **Liberia mobile payments of rural Teacher salaries** – game-changer in education

National /Industry level Transformations

- **Adhar Id** Biometric Digital Id transforming life of .5 billion Indians, access to services, rights
- **UN Kenya** Leapfrog on universal primary health care via power of data & Tech(AI), partnerships
- **Blue River Technologies** Disrupting Agri via Robotics/Computer Vision, automate weeding, thinning
Reducing Costs & herbicide use

Cross-National/Cross-Continental, Global Transformations

- **Samasource** Brings digital micro-work silicon valley to South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, empowering vulnerable women
- **Google Oceans/Google Earth Engine** – mapping oceans/ deforestation

Call To Action

Lets come together as a global community to collaborate, innovate

with the true spirit of social entrepreneurship

and

by leveraging technology thoughtfully & responsibly

to advance the Global Goals

while being careful about the negative externalities of tech