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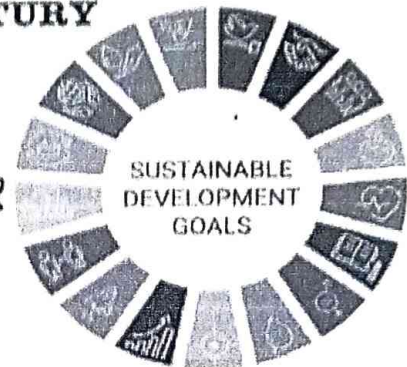
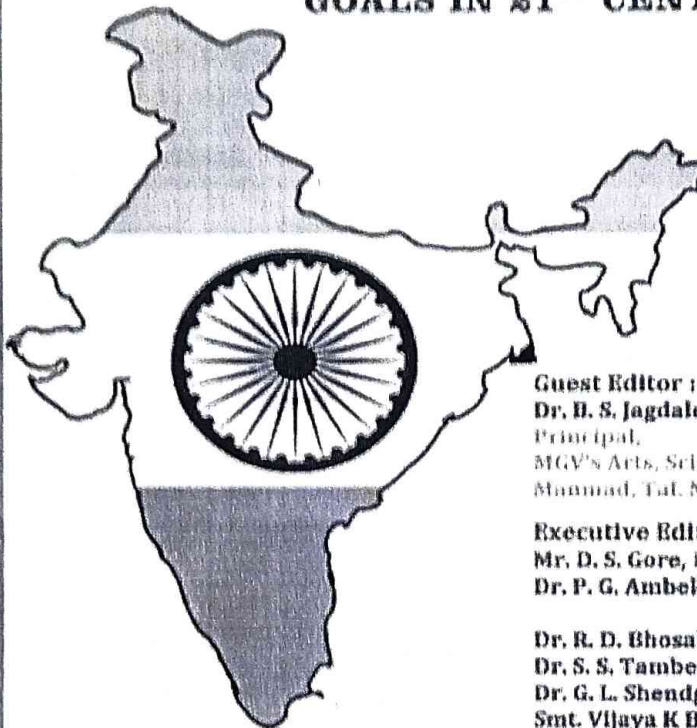
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**Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in India :
 A Key to Sustainable Development**

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Abstract:

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. As a result, their full involvement is needed to achieve long-term development. "Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is one of its significant goals. Indian women always remain an underprivileged group in accessing their economic, political, and socio-cultural rights. Therefore, the aim of this paper is to look into the plans and policies initiated by the Indian government to promote women's empowerment and gender equality in India in order to meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The paper's findings reveal that the Indian government is making promising efforts to reduce gender inequality and achieve women empowerment in all fields as part of the process of achieving the SDGs. To address the threat of gender discrimination and achieve women's empowerment, these efforts must be implemented effectively and correctly. In the field of education, women must play an important role that positions them as catalysts for sustainable growth.

Keywords: Women empowerment, gender equality, sustainable development

➤ Introduction:

In India, a woman suffers from various problems of social practice, religious traditions, and rites from time centuries-old due to her low literacy rate, lack of decision-making power, and lack of access to occupations or job opportunities than men. As a result of this dismal situation, women have become increasingly reliant on men throughout their lives. Consequently, due to this over dependency, they became a burden and lesser valued in the family. Women construct approximately an equal ratio of the total population of humans. So, making women empowered in the development course has been one of the main concerns of almost all development plans and policies of our country. The political, economic and social developments of a woman are the essential keys to their empowerment, dynamic civil society, gender equity, and good governance in a country. It is a fundamental step towards the acceleration of sustainable development.

Gender equality is a goal in its own right but also a key factor for sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. By providing the same opportunities to women and men, including in decision-making in all kinds of activities, a sustainable path of development can be achieved to ensure that women's and men's interests are both taken into account in the allocation of resources. In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) made important provisions for the recognition of women's contributions and their full participation in sustainable development. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, it is a vital step toward Gender Equality, which