

# The global development experiments economics essay

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Submitted by: Musa Asif Khan BSS 4 Millennium development Goals (MDGs) set out an ambitious international agenda to tackle peace and security, development, human rights, and the environment. Alongside development goals on poverty, water, and education, commitments were also made to promoting democracy and respect for all human rights. This included the right to development and relevant economic, social and cultural rights, with a particular focus on the rights of minorities, women and migrants, and the right to access to information. (UNHR. 2010). There are 8 development goals which comprise of 21 targets. The main argument of this research essay is that to critically analyze the MDGs as a development strategy, how efficient it has been in achieving a goal and what are the flaws or obstacles, which have been there in achieving the goals. This research shall give an overall view of all the MDGs but the focus shall be laid upon the Goal 1, which is eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, Goal 5 maternal health, Goal 7 environmental sustainability with focus on water and sanitation, and Goal 8 that is global partnerships for development. The goal 1 of the MDGs focuses upon the point that the proportion of the people living on less than \$1 a day shall be halved, decent employment opportunities shall be available for men, women and youngsters and halve the people who suffer from hunger. The crux of this goal is to reduce the poverty rate and improve the living conditions of the people. Many of the countries since the past decade and a half have started striving very hard to achieve this goal. They have adopted certain policies which can go out and bring out successful results. Poverty reduction strategy and specific targets have been made by Bangladesh to have a decrease in its poverty percentage. The Millennium Development

Goals, which came out in 2010, stated that poverty will be further reduced by 15 percent by 2015 as global economic crisis has ended. (MDGreport. 2010). Poverty reduction statistics in the past have not been given by the World Bank because accurate figures are not available due to the increase in the prices of commodities, oil etc. It has been reported that poverty has not decreased much as there has also been an increase in the prices. A problem with this goal is that the overall income poverty target is achieved but the conditions of the poorest are not improved, they are often not considered to be a part of the target which is set. The poorest are often marginalized and are not brought into any recognition by the governments or organizations, which are setting these targets. The goal focuses more upon the fact of halving the people living below \$1 or in hunger, complete alleviation of poverty is not an ambition. The targets set to reduce the poverty are sometimes over ambitious and sometimes under-ambitious. In Kenya, the goal is so over ambitious that it is expected to lead towards an increase in the income poverty, from 56 % to 65. 9 %. (MDGreport. 2005). On the other hand in Vietnam, the target set to tackle poverty are under ambitious. As it has achieved the target of halving the people below the poverty line, it has rather capacity to do more. A rather more appropriate policy shall be more fruitful for the future. It has seen a decrease in growth rate from 8% to 5-6. 5% from the years 2008 to 2009/2010. (MDGreports. 2010). It has been believed that since the past two decades, post Washington consensus that integration into the global economy is very important for the developing countries. Globalization is also a major integrating actor. This shall give a boost to their economy and the focus of these countries shall be laid upon

liberalization and a choice shall be provided to them to integrate their domestic economy with global economy, in what so ever sector they prefer. Due to this integration of developing countries into the international economies, their mode of policymaking has changed. The international relations have been given more importance, the policies made are more pro-foreign relations and it is very significant for developing countries to have strong and friendly relations internationally. Improved foreign relations are more pro-development. The countries which are on good terms are more likely to support each other, or the stronger might help the weaker in times of crisis. A main aim of this goal is trade liberalization and debt cancellation for developing countries. This goal on the other hand might have many negative impacts on the economies of the developing countries. The trade of these developing countries shall be influenced by WTO, IMF, World bank, as there would be no sovereignty. The international economies can have a negative impact on the developing world in this way that the fall in export prices shall lead to loss in exchange rates, financial instability and will lead to poverty.(NGLS roundup/ Khor. 2003). Not much emphasis is provided to the fact that this goal doesn't have such international macroeconomic policies which can lead to increased employment opportunities in the different sectors of the domestic economy, which could also go on to strengthen the financial institutions, increase investment and improve infrastructure. (crop. org/poverty brief. 2013). The vulnerable small countries are very prone to getting oppressed by the strong countries or by those who are providing them with AID. The facts which came out from Paris declaration 2005, stated that the donor countries need to pace up the process of

development in the developing countries but the process was slow in reality. The development ratio has supposedly increased in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia between 2006 and 2008, but decreased in Cambodia. The real statistics are not available because 50 percent of the AID provided is not reported. U. K doubled the Aid to Africa in 2005, and official development assistance increased till 2007. However, ODA decreased by 8 % in 2007. Successful results in real terms weren't coming out despite the increase in the aid. (ohchr. 2010)The MDGs has many goals, which are related to human rights. Universal access to health and care facilities is also a part of human rights. The MDGs are set to provide these rights in the Goal 5 in which they hope to decrease mother mortality rate a great deal. It had been reduced 1 percent each year worldwide from 1990-2005. (UNHR). In many countries, skilled attendants were given a rise, especially in the rural areas where they could work to improve the health care conditions and orthodox delivery traditions. Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) has been suggested in the countries such as Uganda and India so that a decrease in maternal mortality can come, because it is high in these countries. However, these facilities provided have not been accepted well by many of these countries. India in the rural areas has very traditional and illiterate atmosphere, women are denied assistance from medical experts because their husbands and families do not approve of it. The statistics which are collected from the surveys, might not be very accurate as sometimes the rural areas are not considered or are overshadowed. The MDGs are sometimes not successful in the rural areas as those areas might not have all the access to facilities, which the urban areas have, and often there are certain norms and values, which might be anti-

development. An example of this is in India. The attendants do not help Dalit women who are pregnant and need medical assistance just because they belong to a different class. When such sort of thinking is present in the areas then it is hard for MDGs to come out in reality. Sometimes there is not a clear access to the affected areas and lack of awareness amongst people does rest of the damage. UNICEF has stated that if there are no obstacles to these MDGs then 73 percent of the maternal deaths can be prevented. When it comes to maternal mortality MDGs are only a success in the case of urban areas, they are not up to the mark in rural areas.(ohchr. 2010). There is marginalization and deprivation in rural India on the name of castes, inequality in almost every segment. (UNDP. 2003)The Goal 7 is the environmental sustainability goal. It focuses on the sustainable development of the country's policies and take care of the environmental sources so they are long lasting, reduction of bio diversity loss, access to water and sanitation facilities, and improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers. Water and sanitation is a very important target of the Goal 7 of Millennium Development Goals. This has been said to be taken as a mission, the water facilities have been provided to 2 billion people from 1990 to 2010, 89% more than the 88% target. (UNICEF/WHO. 2012). In countries such as South Africa and Kenya, provision of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities is a part of their constitution. Things were different in Africa, except a few countries such as Egypt, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Niger where at least 80 percent of the people had access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. The statistics varied from Urban to Rural areas. The statistics, which show the difference of the water and sanitation facilities provided

between urban and rural areas, are, 54% and 31 % respectively, in Africa. The reason behind this is that there is poor infrastructure in the rural areas and the private sector has no incentive of high returns in the rural areas. This is a scenario, which gives a boost to private-public partnership. (UNDP. 2012). Both the sectors work to improve the water and sanitation facilities which are provided in the rural areas. Indonesia is an example of a country which didn't set high goals for improved water and sanitation facilities, but due to its overall plan of development in rural and urban areas, the water and sanitation facilities automatically improved, from 30.9 % to 69.3 % from 1992 to 2006. The goal 7 does not focus on the quality of the water and sanitation facilities provided. The statistics are not accurate in this case because the poorest of the poor are not included in the surveys and till 2015 there are expected to be 672 million people without access to safe water and 1.7 billion without proper sanitation facilities. (Albuquerque. 2010). The MDGs are goals, which have given diversified results in every aspect and region. There is often a misconception about MDGs is that they were meant to give targets and results of the world as a whole not for just assessing a specific country or region. Different developmental work was done in each area, so eventually giving different results. (Nayyar. 2012). When it comes to poverty, the poverty has been reduced just marginally, that too mainly because of the booming economies of certain countries, such as China. The overall in equality has been increased and poverty is at a high rate in Africa, especially Sub-Saharan. (Tesdal. 2013). The primary education has been improved in many of the countries specially all the OECD countries, who have increased the percentage expenditure on education e. g. 6.7 % of total

GDP spend on education in Denmark. (Policy Areas. 2000). However, still in many developing countries the education level has been so high. The global partnership for development has also had positive and negative both sort of results for the developing world. The maternal health has improved over the years, but still traditional norms cause it in rural areas. The water and sanitation facilities are improving in developing countries, part of constitution in a few, though the rural areas of few countries are still not having access to safe water and sanitation. The MDGs have been tried to achieve by the countries which are religiously following it, but all the targets haven't been achieved. The goals are a good set of development projects but aren't expected to be reached by 2015.