

Preface: Through the looking glass

Sustainable development in South Asia

Introduction

As countries endeavour to implement their most ambitious poverty alleviation and sustainable development agenda ever, assumptions of how development is being delivered are being re-evaluated. The rapid gains from economic growth and challenges faced by multilateralism come at a huge social and environmental cost. This is why the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), built on the comprehensive principles of inclusiveness, equity and sustainability, have the potential to fundamentally change human outcomes across the planet. The goals call for systematically reducing inequality, forging multi-stakeholder partnerships and leaving no one behind on the path to sustainable development.

While the SDGs were adopted by the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, country-wise appraisals of how they are being implemented are just beginning to emerge. There has, thus far, been no systematic attempt to look at this for South Asia as a subregion. The post-2015 development agenda is particularly relevant to South Asia, which comprises over a third of the world's poor, and has, perhaps, the greatest concentration of humanity in one of the

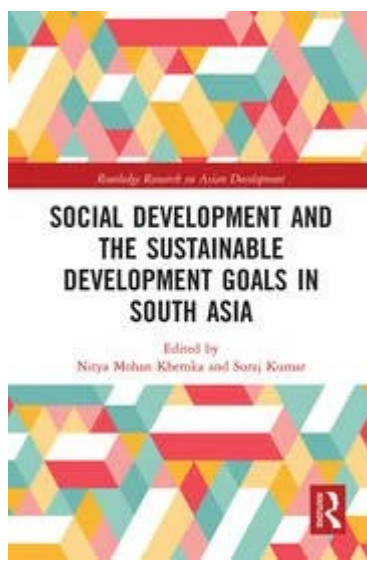
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Social Development and the Sustainable Development Goals in South Asia

Edited by Nitya Mohan Khemka and Saraj Kumar

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Published April 1, 2021 by Routledge

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Description

This book assesses the roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs in South Asia, focusing in particular on the areas of poverty reduction, inequality, health/well-being and water and sanitation. South Asia is amongst the fastest growing regions in the world, with an aggregate GDP in excess of two trillion US dollars, but at the same time it has significant deficits in human development, with 37 per cent of the world's poor and nearly half of the world's malnourished children. For South Asia, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a constructive opportunity to end many of the region's deprivations in a time-bound and systematic manner.

Continuing with the theme of the Millennium Development Goals, the

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finally, the editors present a summary of policy priorities for social development.

This book aims to be a useful resource for researchers, policy influencers, planners, implementers, students, and activists aiming to push to achieve the SDGs.

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