

Review of: "Aligning Government Initiatives with Sustainable Development Goals: A Village-Level Mapping in India"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare. Yes

This research collects primary data at the village level from 287 households in 29 public welfare schemes in Emped Village in Telangana State (India). One of the key objectives of this research is to link the welfare schemes to UN-SDGs. Accordingly, schemes are mapped to 17 SDG goals (Table 2), and beneficiaries are accounted for (Figure 4).

Interestingly, many individual welfare schemes are mapped to multiple goals, with the maximum number of schemes aligned to Goal 1 and Goal 10. Overall, linking SDG goals to public welfare programmes at the village level is interesting and important. The authors' efforts are highly appreciated and welcome.

Few suggestions:

1. Each UN-SDG is distinguished by targets and their related indicators. Is there any possibility of linking the welfare schemes to these targets and indicators? This is very important to assess the nature and magnitude of the impact of changes in welfare schemes on SDG goals at the local level.
2. Do the 29 schemes of this study exclusively belong to the Central and State sectors? If not, do they include schemes of Village Panchayats? This is important to clarify because in many states, Village Panchayat-funded schemes do not enter the State Budget, and there is a need for aligning SDG goals with Panchayat-level schemes and programmes.
