

Research Paper on “ Indigenous Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals in India with special reference to Assam”

-By –Dr. Upendranath Bora, IAS Retired. National Facilitator, Ethics. India. Beltola, Bishnu rabha path. 1st byelane1 right. Guwahati 781028. Assam. India. +91 9864091296. unbora@rediffmail.com

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Abstract— This paper tries to find out the present status of the impact of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in India's North Eastern State- Assam with a view to suggest measures to make the SDG initiative a success in letter and spirit. India has improved its composite score on SDGs from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019 (NITI Aayog). According to Sustainable Development Solutions Network Report, 2019 India ranks 115th out of 162 countries in the world with a composite score of 61.1. Assam's rank is 23rd out of 28 states in India with a composite score of 55 (18-19) which is below the national average. 31.98% of the population of Assam live below poverty line(2011) against the national average of 21.9%. To suggest measures for improving the same, Needs Analysis was carried out selecting a few Performance Problems (PP), identified on the basis of symptoms, analyzed the causes, and recommendations were made. Emphasis was laid on the factors that prevented the proper implementation of SDGs at the grass root level, reducing the achievement in spite of incurring heavy financial expenditure and other resources. Implementation of these recommendations will not incur additional financial burden and will be within the existing legal framework. The recommendation focuses on how to increase the willingness and commitment of the executors of the SDGs to be result oriented. Measures for the development of attitude of the program implementers are recommended applying standard technique of management games, self introspection, accountability, positivity, creativity, innovation, sustainability, ethical governance, indigenous way of mind control, citizen centricity, mental peace and ultimately behavioral change at workplace. This will not only increase the optimal utilization of the resources for nation building but also build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Introduction-

Sharing about 2.4% of total geographical area and 2.6% of India's population, Assam, a province in the North East India adopted “ASSAM 2030; OUR DREAM, OUR COMMITMENT” on July 12, 2016 to implement transforming our world; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as decided in the 70th session of the UN General Assembly held at Rio in Brazil on 25th September 2015. Assam with a population of 31205576 records 86% rural and 14% urban population. 31.98 % of the population of Assam live

below poverty line (2011-12) against the national average of 21.9 %. Birth rate per thousand is 22.4 against the national average 21.4. Death rate of 7.8 against national average 7 (2013). Maternal mortality rate per lakh live birth is 237 against national average 130. Infant mortality rate per thousand is 57 against national average 50 (2018). Total drop out ratio at primary level is 5.7 against the national average 4.13. According to the NITI Aayog SDG INDIA India Dashboard 2019-20, the composite score of Assam is 55 against the National average 60. Amongst 28 states, Assam occupies 23rd rank in the composite SDG India Index, 2019. From the above it appears that Assam needs special attention to achieve the avowed aim of transforming the world by 2030. Though 25% of the SDG budget was spent on no poverty and zero hunger, 22% on quality education, it achieved score of 48, 39 and 44 respectively which signifies Aspirant level. Though Assam introduced outcome budgeting, it could not show the desired outcome. If it is allowed to continue it will be difficult to achieve SDG targets by 2030. Why this pumping of money and material failed to create the desired impact ? On the other hand, India slipped to 80th position in world corruption index, 2019. On Gini coefficient, 58.4 % of the total wealth in India is shared by 1% of population and 80.7% is shared by 10% of population (Oxfam- 2016) showing rise in inequality. Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India pointed out large no of irregularities in the execution of programs. It is high time to find out the causes of such dismal performance by the state. Non penetration of the spirit of sustainable development into the grass root in Assam needs special analysis so that remedial measures can be recommended to enable Assam to march forward.

Materials and Methods—

Materials for the study were collected from different sources including publications of renowned authorities and Government reports. Standard analytical tools were adopted . Performance Problems were identified on the basis of the symptoms and causes analyzed. This allowed inference. Implications - both training and non training. Needs analysis was carried out as per “ A guide on how to do needs analysis. Cabinet office. Office of the Minister for the civil service. Training development division. 11 Belgrave Road. London. SW 1V 1RB.

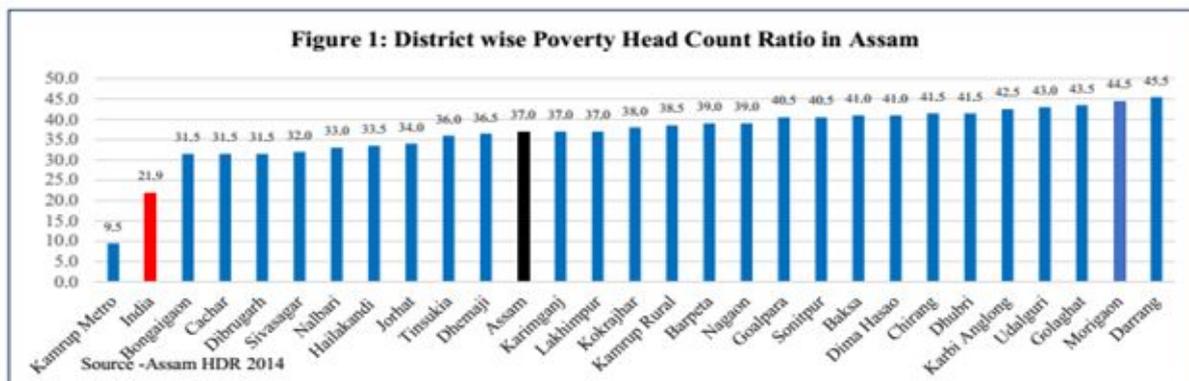
Needs Analysis— Organizational needs and Human Resource Needs were analyzed by identifying Performance Problems (PP) that blocked the achievement of the targets of the organizations—

PP 1- Inability to eradicate poverty and hunger.

Symptoms- A) High incidence of Below Poverty Line (BPL) people in Assam - 31.98 %. B) Beggars on roads and market places praying for alms. C) High incidence of IMR- 57 /thousand. D) High incidence of MMR- 237/ lac. E) High incidence of Malnutrition child. F) High incidence of school drop outs – 5.7 %. G) Corruption and nepotism in media / CAG reports. For every 1 crore people in India, 34 corruption cases are reported as per SDG India index 2018. H) 97.62 % of population in India covered by National Food Security Act, 2013 in 2018-19 against 99.01 and 99.24 in 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively. I) Agriculture productivity of wheat and rice in India has increased from 3034 Kgs and 2400 Kgs per hectare in 2015-2016 to 3507 Kgs and 2659 Kgs per hectare respectively in 2018-19. J)

Production of rice (staple food) in Assam is 2107 kg /hectare against national average of 2578 kg (2017-18). K) Enquiry Committees to enquire large scale corruption viz in PM,s Kishan Sanman Nidhi Scheme in agriculture department. L) Reports of suspension of service providers.

Goal 1: No Poverty



Causes- A) Technology transfer is inadequate. B) Absence of citizen centricity. C) High Greed and corruption of service providers. D) Absence of proper monitoring and control using Digital by default. E) Evasion of penalties by applying different tactics. F) Attention to physical health only neglecting mental and spiritual health.

Recommendations- A)Programs on monitoring and control skills. B) Programs on ethics and values. C) Life skills and purpose of life. D) Mental and spiritual health. E) Soul nurture. F) Universal brotherhood (Basudhaiva Kutumbakam). G)Yoga, Meditation and Concentration. Igniting the 7 conscious centers or Chakras. Thought process. H) Skills on removing the impurities of the mind. I) Motivational leverage on commitment. J) Citizen centricity. K) Technology for automatic monitoring and control using Digital by default. L) Zero tolerance policy on corruption to be implemented in letter and spirit.

PP 2- Inability to achieve Goals in reality.

Symptoms- A) The scoreboard of SDG in Indian states during 2018-19 below shows Assam in poor shape. B) Money spent on SDG is unable to transform. C) Media reports on corruptions. D) Complacent behavior of the service providers. E) Poor execution. F) Poor monitoring and control.

The score board for SD Goals in Assam vs India.

SDG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16
Assam	48	39	44	44	33	78	70	62	46	67	40	68	47	90	52
India	50	35	61	58	42	88	70	64	65	64	53	55	60	66	72

Source—NITI Aayog. SDG India. Index & Dashboard. 2019-20.

	Score in 2019	Score in 2018	Increase/decrease in score (in score points)
India	50	54	
Tamil Nadu	72	76	-4
Tripura	70	71	-1
Andhra Pradesh	69	67	2
Meghalaya	68	68	0
Mizoram	67	71	-4
Sikkim	65	64	1
Kerala	64	66	-2
Uttarakhand	64	65	-1
Himachal Pradesh	60	60	0
Nagaland	56	59	-3
Rajasthan	56	59	-3
Goa	53	62	-9
Telangana	52	52	0
West Bengal	52	57	-5
Chhattisgarh	49	50	-1
Karnataka	49	52	-3
Assam	48	53	-5
Punjab	48	56	-8
Gujarat	47	48	-1
Haryana	47	50	-3
Maharashtra	47	47	0
Odisha	47	59	-12
Manipur	42	44	-2
Madhya Pradesh	40	44	-4
Uttar Pradesh	40	48	-8
Arunachal Pradesh	34	52	-18
Bihar	33	45	-12
Jharkhand	28	37	-9

Causes— A) Lack of commitment on the part of service providers. B) Complacency. C) Greed and corruption. D) Poor skills on execution. E) Absence of monitoring and control using digital by default.

Recommendations- A) As in PP 1. B) Provision for uploading fact sheets for everybody's visibility.

PP 3- Inability to complete work on time.

Symptoms- A) Incomplete work in the field. B) Cost overrun . C) Revised estimates. D) Release of fund at the fag end of the financial year. E) Public complaint for half done work. F) Media reports on corruption. G) suspensions of service providers and Enquiry Committees.

Causes— A) Poor project management skills- PERT/ CPM. B) Absence of monitoring and control by default. C) Alleged corruptions. D) Lack of commitment.

Recommendations- A) Programs on Project management. B) As in PP 1.

PP 4- Inability to complete 100% online services.

Symptoms- A) Digital India was aimed mainly for delivery of services online. But crowds are visible in almost all offices. B) Contact between the citizens and the service providers are still visible. C) Media reports on speed money for the services to get free. D) Many offices are yet to notify and upload the SOP to obtain the services. E) Many offices are yet to notify the conditions and timelines to avail the services as per the Assam Right To Public Services Act, 2012. F) In the absence of notified conditions to avail services, discretionary power accumulates leading to crowds in offices and allegation of corruption. G) Many departments are yet to notify deemed approvals. H) Many offices are yet to upload rules/ regulations/ acts/ circulars as per Right To Information Act, 2005. I) Unused machinery.

No. of Govt services provided online to citizens

source- Ministry of Electronic & IT

State/ UT	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Andhra Pradesh	262	256	221	201
Gujarat	211	201	189	188
West Bengal	115	145	118	150
Madhya Pradesh	215	199	143	138
Delhi	84	113	90	126
Kerala	192	180	146	125
Assam	66	100	82	91
Manipur	61	62	37	43
Sikkim	32	47	34	41
A N Island	32	34	24	15
Lakhadweep	34	21	13	12

Causes—A)

Absence of Ethical governance. B) Lack of awareness about the spirit of SDG vision at grass root level. C) Lack of team spirit at different levels. D) Computer phobia specially with the aged workers. E) Fear of cessation of power if digitally empowered leading to non receipt of speed money. F) Absence of effective monitoring process by default for result. G) Rare punishment for non performance. H) Absence of the principle of right person on the right job. I) Lack of spirit of citizen centricity. J) False perception on life's balance sheet.

Recommendations-- A) Motivation for computer philia in all offices. B) Ethics and values in governance. C) Team spirit. D) Monitoring and control by default. E) Awareness on thought process, mental peace and ecstasy. D) Inner engineering. E) Removal of all discretionary powers. F) Compulsory retirement / removal of non performers.

PP 5- Inability to strengthen Institutions.

Symptoms- (A) Frequent court orders on executive jobs. (B) Instead of providing services to the citizens, service providers have to be busy in replying court cases. (C) Corruptions in offices leading to arrest of officers, chairman, presidents etc. (D) Rare actions on violation of rules and procedures. (E) Frequent agitations by citizens leading to law and order problem. (F) Lack of trust on institutions. (G) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is rarely uploaded.

Causes— (A)Lack of leadership. (B) Greed and corruption. (C)Absence of monitoring and control using digital by default. (D) Rare punishments on violations of rule of law. (E)Lack of ethics and values.

Recommendations—(A) As in PP1. (B) Leadership training. (C) Monitoring and control by default. (D) Ethics and values.

PP 6- Inability to motivate and develop commitment in Institutions.

Performance of Assam State Transport Corporation

Year	Average no. of own vehicle held	Average no. of own vehicle on road	Fleet utilization %	Total KM operated during the year (in lakh)	Monthly av. net income from own buses (Rs in lakh)	Staff - bus ratio	No.of private buses operated under ASTC	Monthly average income from privately operated buses. (Rs in lakh)
2010-11	357	299	84	159.45	85.30	6:01	1189	95.12
2011-12	538	441	82	222.36	123.61	5:01	1170	92.25
2012-13	665	540	81	248.48	136.64	4:01	1344	76.31
2013-14	751	559	74	279.30	138.32	4:01	1300	72.52
2014-15	815	570	69.88	284.45	148.40	6:01	1112	61.31
2015-16	1090	668	61.28	300.69	244.69	6:01	1009	56.82
2016-17	1074	650	60.52	266.89	167.90	6:01	1139	55.04

Source- Economic survey Assam, 2017-18.

Disposal of IPC crime cases and conviction rates- 2018

	Rate of total cognizable crime(IPC) / lac population	Charge sheet rate	Conviction rate	Persons arrested	Persons acquitted	Persons discharged
India	236.7	68.1	50	3315033	1073377	89735
Assam	329.7	41.1	5.9	130638	37111	582

Source- NCRB 2018

Symptoms- ASTC-- A) More and more investments by state machinery. B) Less return from year to year. C) No effort to cut establishment expenditure. The staff bus ratio in SRTU buses in India is 5.17 in 2015-16 (UITP India) compared to 6.1 in Assam. D) Income from privately operated buses is coming down pointing finger to leakage in revenue. E) In spite of poor performance, officers are given additional duties or prize postings.

IPC Crime cases- A) Poor charge sheet rate. B) Poor conviction rate. C) Acquittal rate can not justify large no of arrests. Criminals act with more vigour when conviction rate is as low as 5.9%. D) Police training designs lack citizen centric approach. E) Low utilization of available computer gadgets for prevention and detection of crime. F) Poor uploading of citizen centric mandatory information in departmental website. G) Appointment of retired officers in high constitutional posts in spite of very poor performance of the department.

Causes— (A) Absence of monitoring and control of performance of officers using Digital by default. (B) Absence of performance based postings. (C) Assigning responsibilities considering factors other than merit and performance. (D) Absence of holistic approach and accountability. Successful single cases are focused and managing media coverage.(E) Sidetracking of honest ethical officers. (F) Decay of institutional machinery. (G) As poor performance is not a hindrance in getting prize postings, honest officers get de-motivated and non committal.(H) Political interference. (I) False perceptions on purpose of life and ecstasy. (K) Lack of accountability.

Recommendations- A) As in PP1. B) Uploading of fact sheets in website for citizen's views. C) Appointments and postings strictly on merit and performance. D) Motivational programs. E) Upgrading citizen's / client's charter to stage 2, stage 3.

PP 7-Poor result from outcome budget.

Allocation of expenditure in Assam during 2019-20		Outcome Assam	India
EDUCATION	21.5%	Drop out rate primary=5.7% (16-17)	4.13
		„ „ „ secondary=3%	4.03
		„ „ „ elementary=6.7%	4.1
HEALTH	7.4 %	MMR=237/ lac (2018)	130
		IMR under 5/ thousand= 57	50
AGRICULTURE ALLIED	5.9%	Yield- rice Kg/hect =2107 (17-18)	2578
RURAL DEVELOPMENT	5.4%	BPL=31.98(2011)	21.92
ROADS & BRIDGES	7.1%	Un surfaced road=41% (16-17)	37.46 %
		Road length in KM/ lac population=156.17	338.43
POLICE	6.1%	IPC crime conviction rate=5.9% (2018)	50%
		„ charge sheet rate= 41.1%	68.1%
		Recovery of stolen property=21.9%	35.4%

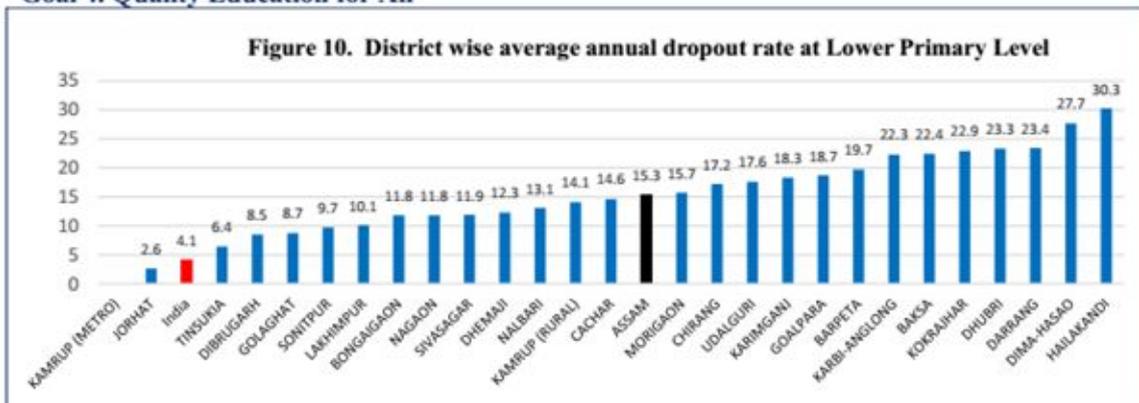
Symptoms- A) High drop out rate. B) High MMR/ IMR. C) Huge no of BPL population. D) Low agricultural yield. E) Poor crime conviction rate. F) Low charge sheet rate. G) Low recovery rate of stolen property. H) Officers getting prize posting/ constitutional posts in spite of very poor performance of the department.

Causes— A) Inadequate control , monitoring and accountability. B) Absence of motivation, reward and commitment for actual performers. C) Factors other than quality of performance in postings. D) Political interference. E) Media/ CAG reports of corruptions, nepotism, decisions for personal gain. F) Weak organizational structure. G) Absence of strict principle of performance in postings/ constitutional posts.

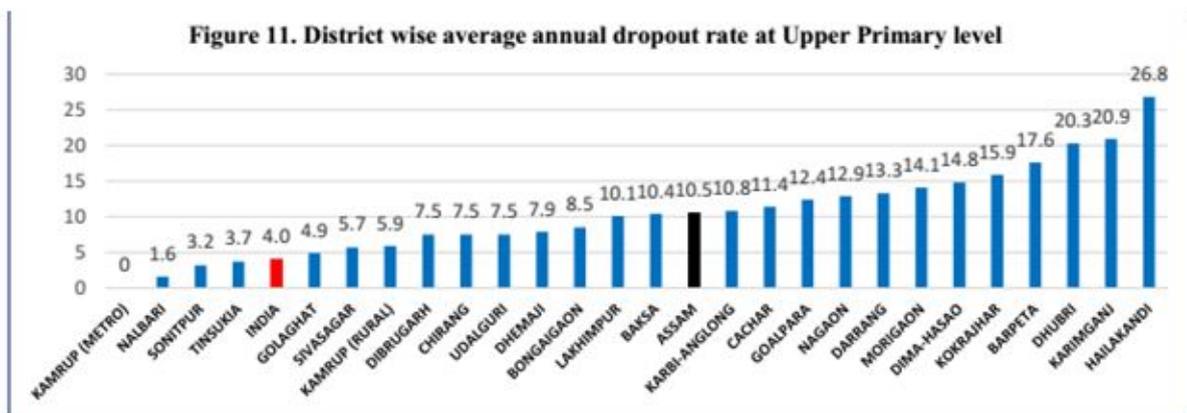
Recommendations-A) As in PP1. B) Implementation of Outcome budget in letter and spirit. C) Appointments and postings strictly on performance and merit. D) Every officer to be made accountable for his deeds. Removal and compulsory retirement of non performers.

PP 8- Inability to reduce drop out rate.

Goal 4. Quality Education for All



¹ The India data for all the Health indicators are taken from different sources such as- MMR(SRS2013), IMR(SRS2016-17), U5MR (SRS2015) and proportion of birth attended trained medical personnel (NFHS-4)



Symptoms—A) High drop out rate. NITI Aayog report 2018 records 2.97% of children in the age group 6-13 years are out of school in India. 17.06% of school students drop out at secondary level in India (Assam=27.06). B) Absence of life skills in syllabus. C) Poor skill based education. D) Media reports on corruptions in Mid Day Meal scheme. E) Teachers lack basic training on handling children. F) Absence of Role Models to motivate young learners. G) Less involvement of local guardians in running the school. H) Decaying

teacher student relationship. I) 17 schools with 100% fail in HSLC examination results in 2020.

Causes—A) Inadequate quality teachers who can motivate pupil. B) Post of teacher became a job rather than a service to the nation. C) Poor joyful learning. D) Mid Day Meal scheme could not attract all poor students to schools. E) Neglect of practical education. F) Non simplification of methods in pedagogy.

Recommendations—A) Motivation for Role Models. B) Guru Shisha Parampara ie, Age old relation of teachers and students. C) Creation of being human rather than job seekers. D) Life skill based syllabus. E) Accountability, motivation and innovation. F) Strict monitoring and control.

Discussion— From the above it appears that though the organizations are creating infrastructure, SOP, busy with the executing process, spending a huge sum of money from the public exchequer, it is not in a position to achieve the desired results. As the factor of attitude, dedication and commitment of the executors were not taken into consideration, therefore large scale corruption in the execution process surfaced. If this state of affairs continue there will be a point of no return. Hence it is high time to rethink on the solution to the problem and to start the reformative process by taking human resources as leverage in the development process. This can be achieved if the inner energies of each and every program executors are utilized for the purpose for which they are paid. It requires grooming their mental make up with proper roadmap, leadership and control. During Covid 19, everybody was concerned for physical health. But is it sufficient to be complacent with physical health only? Can it handle a Covid 19 person who spits at the gate of the neighbor? Physical health in itself is not complete. It requires physical, mental and spiritual health in a wholesome world. Similarly, in the implementation of the SDG programs, only physical infrastructure, gadgets, media publicity, car cades, funding, etc cannot transform unless the mental and spiritual energies are awakened and people are made "BEING HUMAN" from inside. It is not "OUTSIDE IN but INSIDE OUT". Every person (soul) has a good side inside him/ her, but it is the mind that will decide whether to obey the dictates of conscience or of the six managers ie, greed, attachment, desire/ lust, anger, ego, envy (lubh, muh, kam, crodh, mod, matchatjya). Psychologists term it right brain or left brain formula. In ancient India there was a Gurukul system of indigenous method of education where the Guru or the teacher was a role model and all practical education/ trainings were imparted. Importance was given to moral education. Can running after money and material give mental peace? If it can, there will be no suicide in advanced countries. But in reality the reverse thing happens. Covid 19 demonstrated that materialistic life cannot guarantee mental peace. It can give only temporary pleasure. Therefore it is high time to make a turning point from materialistic world to aesthetic and spiritual life. To achieve the same one will have to tame one's mind. The thought process of a person is the root whether he will do X, Y or Z. Whether he will be engaged in the circle of concern or circle of influence will be determined by the thought in his mind. Whether the project implementers will execute it honestly to help the citizens or engage in looting the money will depend upon his thought process and value education. The seven conscious centers or the chakras in the body if ignited can help to overcome many ailments. Yoga, meditation and concentration can stabilize the mind and

resilience will increase. It will increase the immunity system of the person and will be healthy from inside.

Corruption eats away the major part of the resources. Late Rajiv Gandhi said that only 15 paise of a rupee actually reached the target beneficiaries. On the other hand Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has cited innumerable cases involved in corruption and misappropriation. The Santhanam Committee/ second ARC recommended many steps to reduce corruption. Though there are systems of departmental actions / anti corruption wings to punish the culprits, but it could not give desired result. So they are to be reformed from within. The indigenous way of mind control, yoga, meditation and concentration will be supplemented by modern training methods with andragogy. Latest development in training has given the input to groom the officials to sub-serve the purpose. Persons with specific bent of mind and arrogant behavior when exposed to psychological games specifically designed to allow introspection and cognitive dissonance along with accountability and organizational objectives becomes aware of his own behavior. Peer pressure in the psychological game is an advantage. If the Sattwa guna prevails over Rajasa and Tamasa, the person will get changed. For developing Sattwa guna, it is essential to develop purity of mind. A small amount of counseling, facilitation in such a situation can improve a lot to change his behavior at his work place. Therefore, it is proposed to look into the attitudinal aspect of the executors by exposing them to holistic approach and the objectivity of the organization vis a vis their current status in the performance for obtaining organizational objectives. It will focus on increasing the willingness and commitment of the executors of the SDGs to be result oriented. It can be done by use of standard techniques of management games, self introspection, accountability, positivity, creativity, innovation, sustainability, ethical governance, citizen centricity, indigenous way of mind control, Yoga, meditation, concentration, igniting the conscious centers or chakras, thought process, soul searching, mental peace, life's balance sheet and other recent advances in training.

Financial and Legal implications— The National Training Policy, 2012 of India envisages 2.5 % of salary budget to be set aside for training. The State Training Policy Assam, 2012 allows 0.5 % of salary budget to be set aside for training. Therefore no additional budget will be required. To implement these recommendations no adverse legal implication is there because under the Right to Information Act, 2005 these information are to be notified and uploaded in the website. The Fiscal Management Principles of the Govt of Assam under sec 4 of the Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005 ensures to maintain transparency by disclosing sufficient information to allow public to scrutinize the state of public finances. Hence, no additional financial / legal burden is there to implement the recommendations. If the Global Association of Master's in Development Practice/ SDSN want to run a pilot project, a meager amount of rupees ten lacs will be required. There is every opportunity of replicating the program internationally to reduce the menace of corruption in execution of SDGs in particular and achieving mental peace and tranquility in general.

Conclusion—The aim of this paper is to suggest measures to improve the implementation of SDG in Assam. As the plan, policy, man, material and funding are available, therefore the program implementers if groomed well, will be able to deliver the desired result. The

indigenous ways of grooming the program implementers for achieving the desired results of SDG are discussed in the discussion paragraph. If these are implemented in letter and spirit, it is believed that Assam will shine in the field of SDG.

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Submitted by—

Dr Upendranath Bora, IAS (Retd.). Commissioner and Secretary to the Government of Assam. (Retd) Master Trainer, Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
National Facilitator, Ethics, Deptt of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
National Level Master Trainer, Election Commission of India.

Beltola, Guwahati, Assam, India. Pin- 781028. Mobile +919864091296. Email unbora@rediffmail.com