# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT SOCIOLOGY & HUMANITIES


**ISSN 2277 – 9809 (online)**
**ISSN 2348 - 9359 (Print)**

*An Internationally Indexed Peer Reviewed & Refereed Journal*

www.IRJMSH.com
www.isarasolutions.com

Published by iSaRa Solutions

# Sustainable Development Goals and the Quest for a Green Future: Challenges of Climate Change and Contemporary Global Disruptions

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**Abstract**

The United Nation Sustainable Development Goals provide a comprehensive global framework that is designed to achieve inclusive social equity, economic growth, and environmental sustainability in 17 SDGs by 2030. The central vision of the sustainable development goal is a green future with sustainable growth of economy, and infrastructure that balances development with ecological integrity. However, on real ground sustainable development is increasingly challenged by numerous factors such as climate change, economic crisis, migration issues, cyber threats, resource scarcity, biodiversity loss, geopolitical conflicts, energy crisis, climate diplomacy, and so on. These interconnected challenges hinder progress to achieve sustainable development goals.

This article examines the role of SDGs as the pathway towards a green future while analysing multifaceted challenges posed in the age of disruption by climate change and contemporary global issues. It will explore how climate-related risks such as sea rising levels, increasing temperature, melting ice, ecosystem degradation, climate diplomacy, economic inequalities and geopolitical crises like emerging new economy of China, migration, food insecurities etc. affect the multiple of SDGs, particularly those related to poverty alleviation, good health and well- being, clean energy, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, climate action etc. This chapter further adopts a solution-oriented approach to achieve SDGs effectively through renewable energy transitions, green innovation, sustainable resource management, climate-resilient policies, and strengthened international cooperation in the era of contemporary global disruptions.

**Keywords**

Sustainable development, green future, climate change, biodiversity, social equity, renewable energy, global disruption.

## Introduction

In 21st century, there are numerous environmental, social, economic, and global challenges that threaten the sustainability of human development. (IPCC, 2023; United Nations, 2015; World Economic Forum, 2025). Challenges like climate change, biodiversity, environmental degradation, resources depletion, economic crisis, migration issues, cyber threats, geopolitical conflicts, energy crisis, climate diplomacy, and so on has adverse consequence for present and future generation. These challenges have intensified impact on national interest, global politics, and global environment. In response to these growing concerns, to ensure environmental protection, social

equity, and economic prosperity. The concept of sustainable development is introduced and became a central framework for addressing global challenges.

The modern understanding of sustainable development was significantly shaped by the World Commission on Environment and Development's report *Our Common Future* (1987), commonly known as the Brundtland Report (WCED, 1987). The report defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (World Commission on Environment and Development [WCED], 1987). The sustainable development goals were adopted by United National General Assembly on September 25, 2015, with aiming to prosperous global peace. The agendas comprise 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets have to achieve by 2030, which are universal, integrated, and indivisible (United Nations, 2015).

There are five pillars of sustainable development goals, often referred as '5 Ps'. People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership, which represent a global commitment to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, promote quality education, health, protect environment, and combat climate change, and others. (United Nation, 2015) Among all these goal SDGs 13 (Climate Action) particularly has significant relevance as it negatively affects the other SDGs goals and adversely affect the achievement of all the dimension of sustainable development (IPCC,2023; UN 2024). There are several challenges and gaps in climate action, despite increasing global awareness, progress on SDGs is remain insufficient, many countries are not meeting global gas mitigation targets. There are significant disparities in emission among countries. (Babacan, 2025) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023) emphasizes that rising global temperatures, extreme weather, biodiversity loss, and increasing climate vulnerabilities can pose serious threats to human wellbeing, economic stability, and other factors too. Because of these vulnerable factors to pursuit of green future become challenging.

A green future envisions a transition toward low-carbon economies, renewable energy systems, climate-resilient, sustainable production and consumption patterns, and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Reports by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 2011) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN, 2025) stress that green transformation is essential for long term achieving sustainability, SDGs, enhance environmental resilience. However, despite the urgency of green future progress toward these objectives is increasing challenges by contemporary global disruptions, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, energy crises, inflationary pressures, supply-chain disruptions, and growing socio-economic inequalities. These challenges not only slowed down the progress of sustainable development goals but also negatively affect it.

This article examines the relationship between the sustainable development goals and quest for a green future with dealing with the challenges of climate change and contemporary global disruptions. It will explore how climate change and global disruptions affect the progress of SDGs. This chapter will evaluate policy formation and implementation gap, global initiatives, intergovernmental efforts, and identifies opportunities for advancing sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development. The chapter seeks to contribute to the ongoing debates on how the

international organisation can accelerate progress toward a greener and more suitable future in the increasingly uncertain world.

## Research Methodology

This study adopts a **qualitative and descriptive approach** to examine the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change, and contemporary global disruptions in the pursuit of a green and sustainable future. This study primarily focuses on primary and secondary sources, including reports and policy documents published by international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and others. Academic books, peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, policy documents, and credible research publications are also used to develop a comprehensive understanding of the subject. The study also analyses major international frameworks and initiatives, including the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and other global climate initiatives**, to assess their contribution to addressing climate change and promoting a green future.

## Analysis

The pursuit of a green and sustainable future has become one of the most significant global priorities of the twenty-first century. However, the growing impacts of climate change and contemporary global disruptions have created significant obstacles to achieving these goals. Climate-related disasters, geopolitical conflicts, economic instability, energy insecurity, global health crises, and disruptions in international cooperation have demonstrated that progress towards sustainable development remains highly vulnerable to global uncertainties.

Climate change represents one of the most serious challenges to the achievement of the SDGs rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, floods, droughts, changing rainfall patterns, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation directly affect human livelihoods and development. These impacts have implications for poverty reduction, food security, public health, water availability, economic development, and social equality. Therefore, progress on **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** is closely connected with the achievement of several other goals, particularly **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.

Overall, the analysis demonstrates that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building a green future requires more than environmental policies alone. It demands an integrated transformation of economic systems, energy structures, patterns of production and consumption, governance mechanisms, and international cooperation. Contemporary global disruptions have slowed progress in several areas, but they have also highlighted the urgent need to build more resilient and sustainable societies. The success of the global sustainability agenda will ultimately depend on the ability of countries to translate international commitments into effective national policies while ensuring that climate action is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the development needs of present and future generations.

## Findings

The study finds that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is increasingly influenced by growing contemporary global disruption and climate change such as rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, floods, droughts, changing rainfall patterns, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation. Although the 2030 Agenda provides a comprehensive framework for sustainable development, progress towards its implementation remains uneven across countries and regions. Based on the analysis, the study presents the following major findings:

1. **Climate Change is a Major Barrier to SDG Achievement:** climate change is the major barrier not only it affects SDG 13 (Climate Action) but also other SDGs goals such as poverty reduction, food security, water availability, public health, sustainable cities, biodiversity, and economic development. This interconnectedness demonstrates that inadequate climate action can undermine progress across multiple SDGs simultaneously.
2. **Global Disruptions Have Slowed Sustainable Development Progress:** Contemporary global disruptions, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, economic instability, energy crises, and supply-chain disruptions, have created additional challenges for the implementation of the SDGs. These contemporary global disruptions not only slowed down SDGs progress but also affect a perspective of green future that is core aim of every country.
3. **A Significant Implementation Gap Exists:** he study identifies a continuing gap between international environmental commitments and their effective implementation at the national level. Frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement have established important global objectives, but differences in national interests, political priorities, institutional capacity, and economic conditions influence the effectiveness of their implementation.
4. **Green Transformation Creates New Opportunities:** Despite existing challenges, the transition towards a green economy offers significant opportunities. Renewable energy, green infrastructure, sustainable transportation, circular economy practices, climate-smart agriculture, and nature-based solutions can contribute to environmental protection while generating employment, encouraging innovation, and supporting long-term economic development.
5. **International Cooperation Remains Indispensable:** The study finds that effective responses to climate change and global disruptions require stronger multilateral cooperation. No country can address transboundary environmental challenges independently. Cooperation among developed and developing countries, international organisations, governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society is essential for mobilising resources and implementing effective sustainability strategies.

Overall, the findings suggest that the quest for a green future depends on the ability of the international community to integrate climate action with broader sustainable development strategies. Accelerating progress towards the SDGs requires stronger political commitment, adequate climate finance, technological cooperation, resilient institutions, and inclusive policies.

## Conclusion

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the transition towards a green future are increasingly challenged by climate change and contemporary global disruptions. The study highlights that climate change affects not only the environment but also economic growth, food and water security, public health, and social equality. Global crises, geopolitical conflicts, and economic instability have further slowed progress towards sustainable development. Addressing these challenges requires an integrated approach based on renewable energy, green technologies, climate finance, effective governance, and stronger international cooperation. Greater support for developing countries through finance, technology transfer, and capacity building is also essential. Ultimately, achieving a sustainable and green future depends on transforming global commitments into effective actions while ensuring climate justice, inclusiveness, and resilience for present and future generations.

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