Workshop on 'UN75 Dialogue – Revaluating Sustainable Development Goals '

Activity Report

Part I

1. **Name of the Event:** UN75 Dialogue – Revaluating Sustainable Development Goals

2. **Place and Date of the Event:** 5th November 2020, School of Art and Architecture, Sushant University

3. **Organising Team and Collaborators:** Adhiraj Miglani and Himanshu Sanghani

4. **Audience and Participants:** A total of 30 students and professionals participated in the workshop

Part II

5. **Goal/ Purpose of the Event:**
The objective of the initiative is to deliberate on climate change, sustainability and safe guarding human health in reference to current the world situation. It is important to highlight the role of international cooperation in measuring progress in these domains. Thus, this is a platform for government officers, experts, professors and students to come together to interact on issues directly impacting the built environment and industry.

6. **Goals of the Dialogue:**
   a. To provide a platform for government officers, experts, professors and students to develop and engage in participatory development of the world.
   b. To conduct a UN75 survey among the Students for their voices to be heard. (The views and ideas that are generated will be presented to world leaders and senior UN officials at a high-profile event during the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2020. They will also be disseminated online and through partners on an on-going basis_ un.org/UN75)
   c. Enable participants to consciously think about making a positive impact on the society.
   d. Empower participants to become cognizant about sustainable development and develop a conscious attitude towards designing the spaces of habitation, which is in coexistence with the environment.
   e. Inspire students to think of innovative ideas for development by taking in to account digital innovation and social developmental solutions.
   f. To empower the students to share their vision and collaborate with people within and beyond the industry.
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7. **Concept Note and Collaterals:**

Premise

The world has come together to battle Covid-19 but most importantly to ponder on building practices after realizing its consequences. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has said: *"Everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change and the many other global challenges we face*."

UN75 marks the 75th Anniversary of United Nations and is an initiative to advocate and amplify the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals. Widespread global warming and rising inequalities can disrupt the path to sustainable development. Global issues, such as the impact of climate change can create multiple vulnerabilities, even in countries once considered stable. Recent climate crisis and displacements have demonstrated the importance of global interdependence. The 2030 Agenda offers Member States, the private sector, civil society, academia and the United Nations system a historic opportunity to marshal their individual and collective resources to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), to engage people in finding and implementing solutions. The 2030 Agenda will have to be meaningful at both the local and national levels where people can experience positive change and transformation.

Introduction

The success of SDGs relies on the partnerships of all member countries. However, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has radically transformed the state of global development. There is an opportunity here to have a discourse on COVID-19 affecting the achievements of SDGs and whether there is a need to appraise SDGs to avert future pandemic?

Since 2015 many countries have been steadily achieving significant results in implementing SDG targets. There were hurdles in its smooth implementation; however, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has literally shaken the world as we see. The disruption caused has punctured the economy, health system, development and global level investments.

This leads to highlighting five SDGs out of seventeen immediately a) Good Health and Well-Being b) Affordable and Clean Energy c) Sustainable Cities and Communities d) Responsible Consumption and Production e) Climate Action. As 70% of daily transactions is outside of home the ongoing pandemic has revealed two important things; Social Distancing and Strengthening Immunity. These nuanced shifts will challenge outdoor and semi-outdoor spaces, reimaging of the dwelling units, civic planning, making outdoor environment more comfortable using temperature control, passive design methods and vernacular architecture. And must be incorporated in all our activities. Thus the above mentioned five goals involve actions from creative fields of architecture, planning and design.

Discourse

There are 17 Goals, 169 Targets and 306 National indicators for SDGs and it might be difficult to grasp, understand, define and measure success. In order to be at par with the world in achieving the goals speedily NITI Aayog developed the SDG India Index – Baseline Report 2018, to show how SDGs will be measured in India and documents the progress made by India.

The Baseline Index computes a composite SDG India Index score for each State and UT of India based on their aggregate performance across 13 of the 17 SDGs. The value of the score indicates the average performance of the State/UT towards achieving the 13 SDGs and their respective targets. The score ranges between 0 and 100 percent. If a State achieves a score of 100 percent, it signifies that the State has achieved the national target set for 2030. On the other hand, if a State achieves a score of 0, it signifies that the State was the worst performer.

Based on the score, the States and UTs were classified into four categories, namely Achiever, Front Runner, Performer and Aspirant. This criteria of classification is as follows:

Achiever – when SDG India Index score is equal to 100
Front Runner – when SDG India Index score is less than 100 but greater than or equal to 65
Performer – when SDG India Index score is less than 65 but greater than or equal to 50
Aspirant – when SDG India Index score is less than 50

One may say the SDG baseline index is the way to achieve the targets and indicators but COVID 19 situation has literally positioned India 20yrs behind. Every area of progress has been ruptured drastically leaving the country and her citizens in despair. The SDGs need to be

relooked to modify the framework, the targets and its indicators to accommodate future contagious diseases or pandemics. This has to be in sync with nation building, economic development and sustainable communities. With new on-the-spot norms featuring and becoming an important part of human lives it is paramount importance that we understand what needs to be laid for the future and safeguard the lives of citizens. We need to critically analyse the goals to nderstand the flaws, implications, gaps and ways to amend and strengthen the process.

8. Schedule of the Event:

Sr. No.	Description	Time
	Sushant School of Art and Architecture **UN75 Dialogue - Evaluating Sustainable Development Goals** **5th November 2020** **10:00 am - 12:00 pm** **Agenda**	
1	**Welcome Note**	10:00 - 10:05
	Dr Vibhuti Sachdev, Dean, Sushant School of Art and Architecture	
2	**Keyote Speech - Evaluating Sustainable Development Goals**	10:05 - 10:15
	Dr Divya Datt - Programme Manager United Nations Enviornment Programme	
3	**Impact on Good Health and Well-Being**	10:15 - 10:30
	Ar. Akshay Kaul, Principal Akshay Kaul and Associates	
4	**Impact on Consumption and Production**	10:30 - 10:45
	Ar. Chitra Vishwanath, Principal Biome Architects	
5	**Impact on Affordable and Clean Energy**	10:45 - 11:00
	Ar. Gaurav Shorey, Principal PSI Energy	
6	**Impact on Climate Action**	11:00 - 11:15
	Dr Ajith Kaliyath, Associate Professor, Sushant School of Planning and Development	
7	**Impact on Communities and Cities**	11:15 - 11:30
	Ar. Gaurang Khemka - Principal, UrbanArc, Singapore Ar. Adhiraj Miglani - Alumnus Sushant School of Art and Architecture	
8	**Panel Discussion and Q and A session**	11:30 - 12:15
	Moderated by Himanshu Sanghani Associate Dean, Sushant School of Art and Architecture	

Part III

9. Summary of the proceeding

The learning of the workshop was concluded in a panel discussion format, and a QnA session.

10. Images:
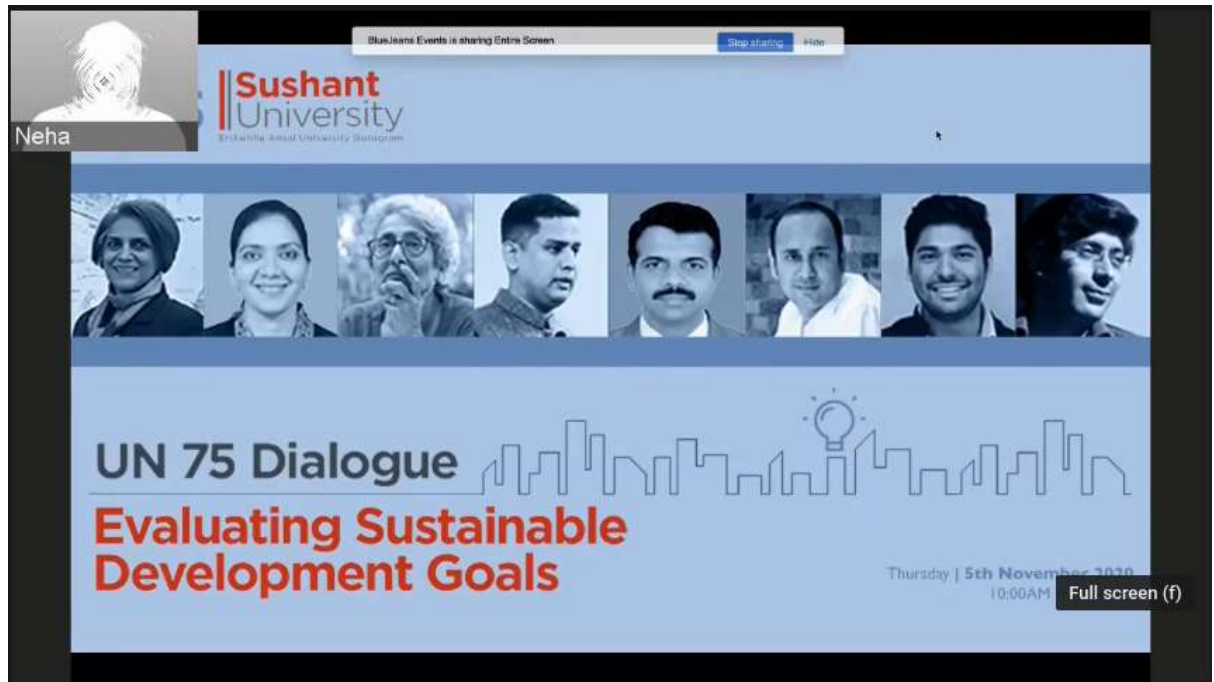
11. Overall Assessment of the Event and problems encountered:

The workshop was successful and the understanding of the technique, methodology and execution percolated amongst the participants in understanding the sustainable development goals and how at every level SDGs could be modified to better suit the environment.

12. Feedback:

The participants thoroughly enjoyed the session and learnt new things that they were ready to implement in their practice.