

Original Article

# Localization of Sustainable Development Goals: A Case Study of Suryabinayak Municipality

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**Abstract:** *This study aims to thoroughly examine the process of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) localization within Suryabinayak Municipality. By drawing on a comprehensive range of published secondary sources and engaging in discussions with Municipality Officials, this research provides valuable insights into the current status of SDG localization. It highlights some of the expenditure details of the municipality in relation to this endeavor. Moreover, the study offers significant recommendations for enhancing SDG localization efforts. It emphasizes the importance of simplifying the global and national SDG framework for local implementation, with local governments taking ownership of the process. The primary focus of SDG localization is to promote ownership, participation, and targeted approaches, ultimately leading to more sustainable and inclusive development outcomes.*

**Keywords:** *Sustainable Development, Localization, Policy, Institutional Arrangement.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Suryabinayak Municipality is a city in Bagmati Province in Central Nepal. It is the largest city of Bhaktapur district with a population of 140085 (Male 69915 and female 70170) with 35865 households. (National Population and Housing Census 2021). It was established in December 2014 by combining the village development groups of Sipadol, Nankhel, Chitpol, and Kautunje, the municipality's headquarters. The Suryabinayak Temple in the area is the source of the municipality's name, which is a famous religious and historical site built in the Shikhar style during the Lichhavi period. A new local-level restructure that took effect in March 2017 added four more former VDCs—Sirutar, Gundu, Dadhikot, and Balkot—as well as the neighboring municipality of Anantalingeshwor to the Suryabinayak Municipality. The municipality covers an area of 42.45 square kilometers. The municipality is divided into 10 wards. It is 14 km from Kathmandu.

SDG localization is the process of adapting the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the local context and priorities. It involves aligning the SDGs with the national, provincial and local plans and policies, as well as engaging and empowering the local stakeholders and communities to achieve the SDGs. Suryabinayak Municipality is one of the local governments in Nepal that has committed to implementing and achieving the SDGs by 2030.

### A) Background of Sustainable Development Goals

It was not until the late 1980s that the concepts of growth and environmental responsibility were linked. The term sustainability was originally used in Europe in the seventeenth century to refer to forest management. As “development which meets the requirements of today’s generation while safeguarding the capability of generations to come to meet their own needs,” sustainable development was defined by the Brundtland Commission. (Banks et al., 2015). There have been numerous definitions, scholarly analyses, and policy initiatives, especially ever since the first United Nations (UN) conference on environment and development in Rio in 1992. (Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016 - 2030, n.d.) and (Daly et al., 2019).

Officially enacted on January 1, 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was approved by world leaders during a UN summit in September 2015. A new sustainable development agenda comprising 153 nations calls for the eradication of poverty, preservation of the environment, and promotion of wealth for everyone. By 2030, each aim includes precise criteria that must be met over a period of fifteen years. Because they urge action from all nations—rich, middle-class, and poor—to promote prosperity, the SDGs are distinctive. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while fighting inequalities to ensure that no one is left behind.

The four main categories of SDGs are Law and Governance Pillars, Social, Environmental, and Economic. In order to provide a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future,” the seventeen



interconnected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are gathered together. Zero poverty, hunger, excellent health and well-being, gender equality, sanitation and clean water, reliable and inexpensive energy, respectable employment and economic growth, business, creativity, and infrastructures decreased inequality, resilient communities and cities, ethical purchasing and manufacturing, climate action, their lives below water, life on land, peace, justice, and robust organizations, in addition to partnerships for the goals are all part of the SDGs. The SDGs emphasize the interconnected environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development by putting sustainability at their center. The global development agenda, centered around the shared commitment of the international community, aims to achieve prosperity in people's lives and establish peace in society by staying within the limits of the Earth's capacity to sustainably provide resources. There are five pillars of sustainable development goals:

- (a) Earth: Conservation of natural resource sources and preservation of the environment for future generations.
- (b) Humanity: Eradicating all forms of poverty and hunger, ensuring dignity, equality, and justice.
- (c) Prosperity: Promoting harmony with nature to ensure a prosperous and sustainable life.
- (d) Peace: Building peaceful, inclusive, and just societies.
- (e) Partnership: Implementing the agenda of sustainable development through strong global partnerships.

## II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The specific objectives of this paper are as follows:

- i. To examine the internal revenue of Suryabinayak municipality.
- ii. To study the expenditure of infrastructure sectors of the municipality.
- iii. To find out the local government initiative for SDG localization.

### A) *Rationale*

SDG is broadly used in the national context. The determination of responsibility for the implementation of the development goals in all three levels of government is defined by the constitution and laws. Therefore, the national level alone is not responsible for all the subjects of the agenda for 2030. Activities such as service delivery, good governance, and local infrastructure development fall under the jurisdiction of the local level. Both the provincial and local levels are equally capable of achieving the ambitious development goals. Therefore, the reasons for localizing the development goals are as follows:

- a) Transfer of significant responsibilities of public services to the local level
- b) Centralization of resource mobilization
- c) Prioritization of development goals according to the local context
- d) Increase in the quality and productivity of local expenditure
- e) Promotion of citizen participation
- f) Ensuring inclusivity
- g) Coordination among different levels of government's plans
- h) Reduction of duplication of resources.

## III. METHODOLOGY

The research method was purely qualitative; it is mainly based on secondary data, different reports and published books of Suryabinayak Municipality were used to identify the problem of the research, and the cites are cited and proven in the references. The term paper is based on descriptive and analytical methods for collecting secondary data of information.

### A) *Understanding of SDG Localization in Nepal*

In 2015, the United Nations approved a comprehensive global development agenda to be achieved by the year 2030, which consists of 17 goals and 169 targets. Nepal's National Planning Commission has further added 247 indicators, including the country-specific realities, and determined a total of 479 indicators. The concept of sustainable development encompasses not only economic and social development but also environmental conservation as an integrated approach. The commitment to implementing sustainable development goals is shared not only by Nepal but also by other nations worldwide. The 17 goals of sustainable development should be implemented in the respective country's medium and annual plans, and Nepal has expressed its commitment to this. Since the 17 goals of sustainable development are interrelated and closely linked, they should be viewed as an integrated set of objectives. The government, private sector, cooperatives, and community play crucial roles in achieving the goals of sustainable development, so a comprehensive government-led approach involving the private sector and community is essential to achieve these goals.

From fiscal year 2074/75 onwards, the construction of the budgetary framework, including the achievement of sustainable development goals, has been prioritized by providing support to programs and events aimed at achieving these goals. Indicators have been developed and programs/events have been prioritized for their implementation through the

construction of budgets, policies, and programs. The World Development Agenda 2030 has presented a comprehensive view of Nepal's state and roadmap for achieving sustainable development goals. This roadmap envisions Nepal as a just and prosperous nation by the year 2030. The status and roadmap of the sustainable development goals, as well as the estimation of financial requirements, have been prepared.

The implementation of the sustainable development goals requires an average of NPR 2024.8 billion annually, with 54.8% coming from the public sector, 36.5% from the private sector, 4.4% from households, and 4.3% from cooperatives and non-governmental sectors. This amount falls short by about NPR 585 billion, with NPR 218 billion to be contributed by the government and NPR 366 billion by the private sector. To make the implementation of the sustainable development goals effective and organized, plans at the provincial and local levels have been translated into action through the translation of guidelines and demonstration (sample) plans. National and regional monitoring and evaluation have been carried out to identify indicators of the sustainable development goals and to facilitate their implementation at the regional level. The successful implementation and achievement of the goals of sustainable development can only be realized through the active participation of all levels of government.

The responsibility for achieving the sustainable development goals lies with all levels of government, including the federal, provincial, and local governments, which need to coordinate implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in a collaborative manner. The government's efforts alone are not sufficient to achieve the sustainable development goals. The involvement of the private and non-governmental sectors, civil society, communities, and other development stakeholders is essential for a shared partnership among all stakeholders.

### ***B) Nepal's Institutional Arrangement for SDG Localization***

In order to set the foundation for the SDGs and to provide a detailed and comprehensive assessment of its development environment, Nepal prepared its SDG Nation Status Report in 2015. As a result, Nepal became the first nation in the world to release an SDG Country Report, demonstrating its dedication to and preparedness for implementing the SDGs. The Government of Nepal has selected the National Planning Commission as its focus agency for SDG localization. In order to better integrate its recurring plans with the SDG and its objectives, including its framework for national evaluation and monitoring, the NPC has been working on this. Since the 14th periodic plan (2016–17–2018–19), the SDGs have been internalized. The SDGs and the current 15th Plan (2019–2023–24) are completely in line with one another. In addition, the SDGs are in line with additional sectoral plans, strategies, and objectives. Every national program funded by the national budget has a specific SDG code allocated to it. The long-term goal of Nepal, "Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali," which is scheduled for achievement by 2043, is also in line with the SDGs.

The goals of the 15th plan include achieving the SDGs, leaving the position of the least developed country behind, ending multifaceted poverty, becoming a middle-income nation by 2030, and achieving overall prosperity and happiness by 2043. Four objectives are associated with prosperity: high and efficient productivity and production, full use of human capital's potential, and high and egalitarian national income. Like well-being and a decent existence, a safe, civilized, and just society, a balanced environment, good government, a stronger democracy and national unity, and respect for human dignity are the six goals of happiness. To assist in implementing the SDGs, three of the highest level groups have been established: the Vice Chairman of the NPC is in charge of the Coordination and Implementation Committee; the Rt Hon. Prime Minister is in charge of the Steering Committee; and NPC participants are in charge of seven theme committees.

Nepal has already submitted two of these reports to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is run by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as part of the group of nations that have committed to submitting their Voluntary National Review of their advancement toward the SDGs. Furthermore, through its national policies and initiatives, it is putting the SDGs into practice in accordance with its SDG Status and Road Map (2016–2030). Under the strategy, 494 indicators have been chosen for each of the 169 targets across all industries. The strategy is supported by an extra milestone document called the SDG Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy 2018. With a 29 percent funding deficit, Nepal has calculated that an average annual investment of Nepalese Rupees 2024.8 billion (about US\$ 20 billion) will be needed to accomplish the SDGs. The Nepal SDGs Forum, run by the NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), is in charge of regularly planning and arranging both official and informal gatherings with the relevant civil society organizations in relation to the localization of the SDGs.

### ***C) Major Interventions in SDG Localization in Suryabinayak Municipality***

**Table 1: Major SDG Intervention with Goals**

Goal Number	SDGs	Major Intervention in Municipality
1	No Poverty	Income growth, small-business awards, social security, catastrophe mitigation, food assistance programs, food grants for the underprivileged, and focused local

		infrastructure initiatives are all examples.
2	Zero Hunger	MSNP, food and nutrition security, agricultural education system, irrigation, rural road network expansion, agro-enterprises, use of chemical fertilizers and technologies, and development of sustainable agriculture and agriculture system.
3	Good Health and Well-being	Developing institutional capacity and bolstering the health system, healthcare services, insurance program, and healthcare-related strategic initiatives at all governmental levels.
4	Quality Education	Integrated primary and basic education, career training, literacy and lifelong learning, reducing the risk of natural disasters, youth development, and sports.
5	Gender Equality	promoting women's political involvement, eradicating all types of violence against women, raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health, and implementing initiatives that empower women.
6	Clean water and Sanitation	Long-term availability of potable water, management of water resources, drinking sanitation and water quality, and implementation of health and sanitation initiatives.
7	Access to clean energy	Fair use of energy, promotion of renewable energy.
8	Decent work and sustainable economic growth	Advancement of labor-intensive industries such as agriculture, building, tourism, and manufacturing; social security for workers and laborers; creation of safe work environments and labor-friendly laws; elimination of child labor; building infrastructure for tourism; and development and expansion of markets.
9	Industry, innovation and infrastructure	Building of new infrastructure, including highways, railroads, bridges, and airports; building of a key road network; growth of the production sectors; development of ICT.
10	Reducing inequality	Targeted programs include the Social Security program, CSR, opportunity without prejudice, a progressive tax structure, and an increase in the revenue basis.
11	Sustainable cities and communities	Building safe roads, managing waste and drinking water, conserving cultural assets, building affordable housing, and improving squatter dwellings, earthquakes, and rehabilitation following a calamity.
12	Sustainable Consumption and Production	Equitable and environmentally friendly handling and use of natural resources, investments that protect the environment, and equitable use of food.
13	Climate Action	Enhancing M&E, encouraging the development of adaption skills, reducing the release of dangerous gases, producing and enhancing climate data, and encouraging climate-friendly technology.
14	Life Below Water	Not Applicable
15	Life Above Water	Lakes, forests, water reservoirs, biodiversity, land preservation, and community forest development.
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Justice accessibility, reducing corruption through capacity training, election knowledge, and the creation of a statistical framework to track the SDGs.
17	Partnership for Achieving the Goals	Fair policy formation, emphasis on local engagement, resource mobilization, and collaboration with the private sector, the public sector, cooperatives, and development partners are all important.

Source: Suryabinayak Municipality

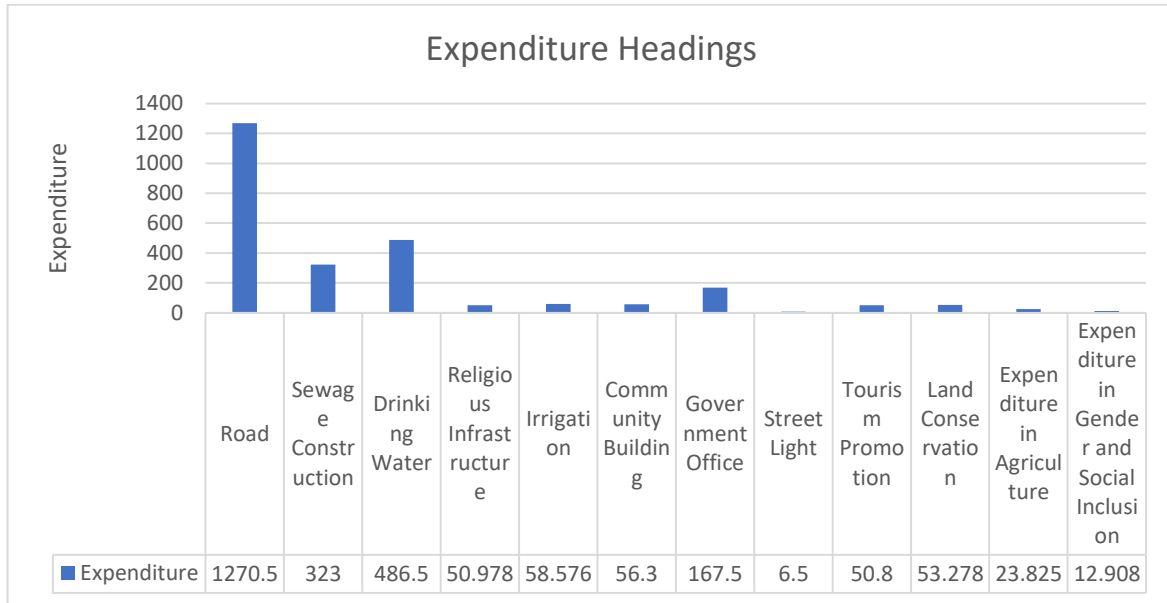
**Table 2: Major Expenditure of Municipality (In millions)**

Major Expenditure of Municipality						
Project Area	SDG Goal	2074/ 75	2075/ 76	2076/ 77	2077/ 78	Total
Road (maintenance and upgradation, Pitch, Demarcation)	11	235.378	273.078	366.956	395.078	1270.49
Sewage Construction	6	62.3	56.7	97	107	323
Drinking Water	6	24.5	25	30	407	486.5
Religious Infrastructure	11	8.678	2.8	17.5	22	50.978
Irrigation	8	6.576	15.5	17.5	19	58.576
Community Building	3	4.5	10.7	19.6	21.5	56.3
Government Office	11	8.5	9	80	70	167.5
Street Light	11	0	0	0	6.5	6.5
Tourism Promotion	8	10.2	10.6	12	18	50.8
Land Conservation	15	10.7	14.578	13	15	53.278
Expenditure in Agriculture	2	4.323	8.798	3.369	7.33524	23.8252

Expenditure in Gender and Social Inclusion	8	0.5	3.825	4.136	4.447	12.908
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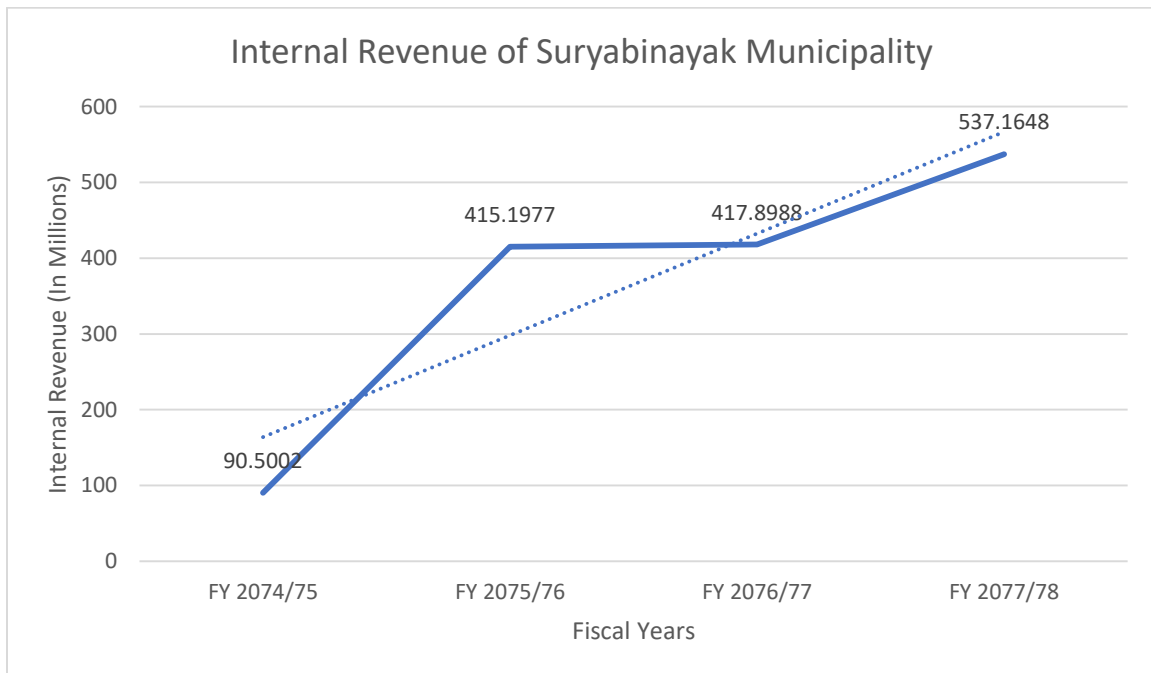
**Source: Suryabinayak Municipality**

The above data reveals that the maximum expenditure is done in the road sector (Goal 11) and seems to have high priority in comparison with others. The chart below presents a clear view of the total expenditure of Suryabinayak municipality regarding the expenditure in the former four fiscal years (2074/75 to 2077/78).



**Table 3: Internal Revenue of the Municipality (In millions)**

Internal Revenue of the Municipality			
2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78
90.5002	415.1977	417.8988	537.1648



#### IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our analysis and examination of secondary data have revealed a significant knowledge gap in the realm of SDG localization. Though the internal revenue of the municipality is in increasing trend we have observed a lack of comprehensive information on various indicators and sub-indicators, as well as the absence of a robust reporting system for SDG localization. The proper MIS system is required for analyzing the trend and the present situation of SDG localization for planning in the upcoming fiscal years. To address this issue, it is crucial to prioritize capacity building for local governments. The disbalance allocation of the budget is seen in different sectors. One sector is highly prioritized, whereas other required sectors are overshadowed. Allocating budgetary resources across all sectors is essential to bridge the financial gap and effectively advance SDG localization efforts.

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