

Transformative Change and SDG 8: The Critical Role of Collective Capabilities and Societal Learning

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Introduction:

The report highlights the importance of transformative change and societal learning in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8), which calls for decent work and economic growth for all. The report finds that the world is not on track to achieve SDG 8 by 2030. Progress has been slow and uneven, with significant gaps between countries and within countries. The report identifies several challenges to achieving SDG 8, including:

- Slow progress on reducing inequality
- The persistence of informality and precarious employment
- The challenges of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth

Key Findings:

It argues that transformative change is needed to achieve SDG 8. Transformative change is a process of fundamental change in the way societies produce and consume goods and services. It requires a shift towards more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economies.

It appears that South Asia is making progress towards SDG 8, but that there is still a long way to go. The region has seen significant economic growth in recent years, but this growth has not been inclusive enough. Many people in South Asia are still working in informal and precarious jobs, and they are not benefiting from the region's economic progress.

India is the largest country in South Asia, and it is also the country with the largest number of people working in informal employment. The Indian government has taken a number of steps to promote formalization and improve the working conditions of informal workers, but more needs to be done.

The challenges to achieving SDG 8 in South Asia and India, are as follows:

- The high prevalence of informal employment
- The low level of female labor force participation
- The persistence of child labor
- The lack of access to social protection

The two key drivers of transformative change: collective capabilities and societal learning.

- Collective capabilities are the skills, knowledge, and resources that a society must have to solve its problems. They include things like education, infrastructure, and social protection.
- Societal learning is the process by which societies learn from their experiences and adapt to new challenges. It involves dialogue, experimentation, and innovation.

The report argues that collective capabilities and societal learning are mutually reinforcing. Strong collective capabilities enable societies to engage in effective societal learning, and societal learning leads to the development of new collective capabilities.

It provides several policy recommendations for promoting transformative change and achieving SDG 8. These recommendations include:

- Investing in education, skills development, and social protection
- Strengthening social dialogue and tripartism
- Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship
- Fostering a culture of learning and experimentation

Specific data points:

- In India, the informal employment rate is estimated to be around 90%.
- In South Asia, only about 25% of women are in the labor force.
- An estimated 15 million children are working in South Asia.
- Only about half of the population in South Asia has access to social protection.

Conclusion

The report concludes that achieving SDG 8 will require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including governments, employers, workers, and civil society. It calls for a renewed commitment to transformative change and societal learning.

Read More: https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_893832/lang--en/index.htm

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