

Original Article

Measuring Governance through the 5P Sustainability Index: A Block-Level Assessment Model for India

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Abstract

Current sustainability assessment models rarely extend to territorial governance and constituency-based development. This research introduces the 5P Sustainability Index (5PSI) as a tool for evaluating block-level governance performance across India. The 5P framework measures outcomes for People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership, integrating both quantitative and qualitative indicators. The study aligns the framework with global standards such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India's Panchamrit COP26 commitments, and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. A pilot application in Javad block, Madhya Pradesh demonstrates the model's effectiveness. The findings indicate that the 5P framework can enhance accountability, evidence-based policy, and comparative benchmarking among governance units across India.

Keywords: Governance, 5P Sustainability Index, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Panchamrit Commitments, ESG Principles, Block-Level Assessment, India, Accountability, Public Policy, Comparative Benchmarking

Introduction

Sustainability and governance have become increasingly interconnected in modern public administration. Existing assessment models primarily focus on corporate sustainability (CSR and ESG) but neglect localized governance evaluation (Bebington & Unerman, 2020). This research addresses that gap by proposing a framework for assessing governance at a block or constituency level through the 5P Sustainability Index (5PSI). The 5P model evaluates governance performance across five dimensions: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership (United Nations, 2015).

Literature Review

Global sustainability frameworks such as the SDGs (United Nations, 2015) and ESG reporting models have gained traction worldwide. Scholars have noted the need for decentralized sustainability metrics (Kumar et al., 2022). However, few studies contextualize sustainability measurement within local governance systems in developing countries. The Panchamrit commitments announced by India at COP26 provide a national-level sustainability vision (MoEFCC, 2021), but translating these into local governance metrics remains limited.

Conceptual Framework: The 5P Model

1. The 5P model is structured around five dimensions:

- People: Education, health, gender inclusion, welfare programs.
- Planet: Environmental conservation, renewable energy, water management.
- Prosperity: Economic growth, employment, MSME development.
- Peace: Governance, justice, inclusive policies.
- Partnership: Community and global collaborations.

These align with SDGs and India's Panchamrit commitments.

Methodology

A mixed-method approach was used combining secondary data analysis, case studies, and stakeholder interviews. Indicators were identified for each 5P dimension. Data sources included government development reports, Panchayat records, and NGO reports.

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Scoring Model:

Each P was evaluated on a 0–100 scale based on quantitative indicators (e.g., literacy rates, renewable energy installed capacity) and qualitative governance practices. Weights were assigned based on relevance to SDGs and Panchamrit targets (following similar frameworks suggested by GRI, 2021). The Block Sustainability Index (5PSI) is calculated as the weighted average of all five dimensions.

Case Study: Javad Block

Javad block in Madhya Pradesh, represented by Shri Om Prakash Sakhlecha, was chosen for pilot testing. Key initiatives such as Smart Schools, Solar Parks, healthcare programs, and Indo-Japan youth exchange projects were mapped to the 5P framework. Preliminary results show:

•	People:	85/100
•	Planet:	82/100
•	Prosperity:	80/100
•	Peace:	75/100
•	Partnership:	78/100

Overall 5PSI: 80/100.

Findings and Discussion

The pilot case indicates that the 5P framework effectively captures multidimensional governance performance. It provides transparency and comparability across blocks. The framework can inform policy allocation and encourage competitive federalism. Future improvements can integrate real-time data analytics and citizen feedback systems.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

The 5P Sustainability Index offers a scalable model for governance reporting. It aligns local actions with global sustainability commitments while maintaining contextual relevance. Institutionalizing such reporting can improve accountability and participatory governance. Further research should explore AI-enabled dynamic dashboards and integration with Digital India initiatives.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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