



Foreword

This second country Report on Millennium Development Goals for India following the first report brought out in 2005 attempts to capture the profiles of national and sub-national progress in the race to achieve the goals with reference to the base year (1990) position. This report also highlights the programmes being pursued towards the attainment of the Goals by 2015.

In the processes leading to attaining the targets, the positives that are evident are (i) greater political commitment; (ii) demographic dividend; (iii) distributional improvement; and (iv) female literacy. What is important about the MDGs is accelerating the pace of improvement to meet the targets as compared to the past rate of development. The Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012) aims at more inclusive development, and thereby holds out hope for accelerating the progress.

India is likely to be early achiever in respect of 4 targets out of 12 targets being aimed and monitored. India is also on-track in respect of 3 other targets, including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (reduction of proportion of people below poverty line) apart from sustainable access to safe drinking water in the country and basic sanitation in urban areas. With our current national policy interventions and initiatives in core human development areas, such as the National Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Total Literacy Campaign of the National Literacy Mission, 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments providing reservation for women, commitment for women's empowerment in the National Common Minimum Programme, National Rural Health Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign and Bharat Nirman, we hope to tread the correct path to achieving most of the goals by 2015.

The diverse scenarios in different parts of the country presented in this report should enable us to identify the areas requiring focused attention for many of the goals, targets, and indicators touching on the basic quality of human lives. The status emerging from this report gives us confidence that our country is marching in the right direction and the measures being taken are resulting in real and positive changes in the lives of the people in India. Especially the fact that the reservation of one-third seats in local government institutions has resulted in over a million women participating actively at the grass root political processes is a matter of significant socio-political implications.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.K. Vasan'.

(G.K. Vasan)

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and Programme Implementation