SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS

Sustainable Development and G-20: Role, Issues and Challenges

[Approved by Department of Higher Education (DHE), Haryana]

S. A. JAIN (PG) COLLEGE, AMBALA CITY (HARYANA)

(Affiliated to Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra)
Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC, College with Potential for Excellence
Website : www.sajaincollege.ac.in E-mail : sajaincollege@rediffmail.com

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On 17th February 2024

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Convener
Mr. Mukesh Trehan

Principal
Dr. (Mrs.) Abha Bansal

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CONTENTS

Sustainable Development and G20: Addressing Challenges and Seizing Opportunities

Dr. Rozy
Assistant Professor
Department of Commerce
Arya Kanya Mahavidyalya, Shahabad Markanda
E-mail: rozygarg2@gmail.com

Abstract:

This research paper critically examines the challenges and opportunities in advancing sustainable development within the Group of Twenty (G20) .India, as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies, plays a crucial role in the global pursuit of sustainable development within the framework of the G20. This paper examines the specific challenges and opportunities faced by India in the context of sustainable development within the G20, based on secondary data analysis. Sustainable development stands as a global imperative in the face of escalating environmental degradation, social inequities and economic instability. The Group of Twenty (G20), representing the world's major economies, occupies a pivotal role in shaping international policies and strategies to advance sustainability goals. As the world faces mounting ecological and societal challenges, the G20 holds immense potential to catalyze transformative change towards sustainable development. Overcoming the inherent challenges requires concerted efforts, political will and a commitment to collective action. By seizing the opportunities presented by its platform, the G20 can emerge as a driving force for building a more resilient, equitable and sustainable future for all. Finally, the paper offers strategic recommendations for fostering greater alignment, cooperation and effectiveness in addressing sustainable development challenges within the G20 context.

Keywords: development, global, sustainable, opportunities etc.

Introduction

Sustainable development is a holistic approach to societal progress that seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It entails balancing economic growth, social equity and environmental protection to ensure long-term well-being and prosperity for all. Sustainable development recognizes the interconnectedness of economic, social and environmental systems and aims to achieve harmony between them. This involves promoting inclusive economic growth that benefits everyone, fostering social inclusion and equity and protecting and preserving the natural environment. Sustainable development requires integrated and participatory approaches that engage governments, businesses, civil society and individuals in decision-making processes and actions aimed at achieving a more sustainable future. By adopting sustainable practices and policies, societies can create thriving, equitable and environmentally sound communities that can endure and thrive for generations to come.

The Group of Twenty, commonly referred to as the G20, is an international forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union. It was established in 1999 in response to the financial crises of the late 1990s, with the aim of promoting global economic stability and sustainable development. The members of the G20 include major advanced economies such as the United States, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as emerging economies like China, India, Brazil and South Africa. Together, these countries account for a significant share of global GDP, trade and population, making the G20 a crucial platform for international economic cooperation and decision-making. The primary objectives of the G20 are to facilitate conversation and cooperation on key economic and financial issues, coordinate policy responses to global challenges and promote sustainable and inclusive growth. The G20 holds annual summits where leaders discuss a wide range of topics, including macroeconomic policies, trade and investment, financial regulation, climate change and development cooperation. Over the years, the G20 has evolved into a premier forum for addressing pressing global issues and shaping the international economic agenda.

Sustainable development within the G20 context involves the integration of sustainability principles into the group's economic and policy agendas, aiming to address global challenges while promoting inclusive and environmentally responsible growth. As a forum comprising the world's largest economies, the G20 plays a critical role in shaping international efforts to achieve sustainable development goals. India as one of the world's fastest-growing economies and a key member of the G20, India's participation in sustainable development discussions is vital. India's priorities within the G20 often align with its domestic imperatives, emphasizing inclusive growth, poverty eradication and environmental conservation. India advocates for policies that support renewable energy adoption, climate resilience and sustainable infrastructure development, reflecting its commitment to balancing economic progress with environmental sustainability. Additionally, India seeks to ensure that the G20 agenda addresses the needs and concerns of developing countries, advocating for equitable access to resources, technology transfer and financial support for sustainable development initiatives. By actively engaging in G20 discussions on sustainable development, India contributes to shaping global policies and actions that promote a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Objectives

1 To understand the challenges faced by India in the context of sustainable development within the G20.
2 To understand the opportunities for India in the context of sustainable development within the G20.

Methodology

This paper is based on secondary data. Information was collected from research papers, official sites etc. Secondary research, also known as desk research, is a research method that involves compiling existing data sourced from a variety of channels (such as government statistics, research papers, organizational bodies, and the internet).

- ## Challenges

India faces several challenges in the context of sustainable development within the G20:

- Population Pressure: India's large and growing population puts immense pressure on its natural resources, infrastructure and environment. Sustainable development efforts must address the needs of a rapidly expanding population while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment.
- Poverty and Inequality: India continues to grapple with high levels of poverty and inequality, which pose significant barriers to achieving sustainable development. Addressing poverty and promoting social inclusion are crucial for advancing sustainability goals within the country.
- Environmental Degradation: India faces various environmental challenges, including air and water pollution, deforestation and soil degradation. Rapid industrialization and urbanization exacerbate these issues, necessitating concerted efforts to mitigate environmental degradation and promote sustainable resource management practices.
- Climate Change: India is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, sea-level rise and changes in precipitation patterns. Climate adaptation and resilience-building measures are essential to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable communities and ecosystems.
- Energy Transition: India relies heavily on fossil fuels for its energy needs, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Transitioning to renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency are critical for reducing India's carbon footprint and promoting sustainable energy systems.
- Water Scarcity: India faces water scarcity challenges due to factors such as overexploitation of groundwater, inefficient water management practices and inadequate infrastructure for water distribution and sanitation. Addressing water scarcity requires sustainable water management strategies and investments in water infrastructure.
- Urbanization: India's rapid urbanization poses challenges related to infrastructure development, affordable housing, transportation and waste management. Sustainable urban planning and development are essential for creating livable and resilient cities that promote economic prosperity and social well-being.

- Biodiversity Loss: India is home to diverse ecosystems and species, but biodiversity loss is a growing concern due to habitat destruction, poaching and pollution. Conservation efforts and sustainable land-use practices are crucial for preserving India's rich biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Healthcare and Education: Ensuring access to quality healthcare and education for all is essential for promoting human development and reducing poverty. Investing in healthcare infrastructure, education systems and skill development programs can enhance India's capacity to achieve sustainable development goals.
- Policy Implementation and Governance: Despite ambitious policy commitments, effective implementation remains a challenge in India due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption and governance gaps. Strengthening institutional capacities, improving regulatory frameworks and enhancing transparency and accountability are necessary to overcome these obstacles and advance sustainable development objectives.

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts by governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, both domestically and within the G20 framework. Collaboration and knowledge-sharing among G20 members can facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative solutions to promote sustainable development in India and beyond.

• Opportunities

India has several opportunities in the context of sustainable development within the G20:

- Renewable Energy Leadership: India has abundant renewable energy resources, including solar, wind and hydropower. By harnessing these resources, India has the opportunity to become a global leader in renewable energy deployment and contribute significantly to mitigating climate change within the G20 framework.
- Technology Innovation: India has a vibrant technology sector with a strong emphasis on innovation. The country can leverage its technological expertise to develop innovative solutions for sustainable development challenges, such as clean energy technologies, water management systems and smart urban infrastructure.
- Green Infrastructure Investment: India's infrastructure needs are substantial, providing an opportunity to invest in sustainable infrastructure projects that promote economic growth while minimizing environmental impacts. Green infrastructure investments can enhance resilience to climate change, improve resource efficiency and create employment opportunities.
- Circular Economy Practices: India has the potential to adopt and promote circular economy principles, which emphasize resource efficiency, waste reduction and recycling. By transitioning to circular economy practices, India can reduce dependence on finite resources, minimize environmental pollution and stimulate economic innovation and growth.
- Sustainable Agriculture: Agriculture is a significant sector in India, providing livelihoods for millions of people. Sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming, agro-forestry and water-efficient irrigation techniques, present opportunities to enhance food security, increase farm incomes and mitigate environmental degradation.
- Inclusive Growth: India's demographic dividend, with a large young population, presents an opportunity for inclusive growth that benefits all segments of society. Policies and programs that promote access to education, healthcare and employment opportunities can empower marginalized communities and drive sustainable development outcomes.
- International collaborations: As a prominent member of the G20, India can leverage international partnerships and collaborations to advance sustainable development goals. Engaging with other G20 members, international organizations and civil society platforms can facilitate knowledge exchange, technology transfer and resource mobilization for sustainable development initiatives.
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience: India has the opportunity to invest in climate adaptation and resilience-building measures. This includes infrastructure upgrades, early warning systems, ecosystem restoration and community-based adaptation strategies to enhance resilience to extreme weather events and climate-related risks.

- Policy Innovation: India has demonstrated a commitment to policy innovation in areas such as renewable energy deployment, clean air initiatives and sustainable urban development. By adopting progressive policies and regulatory frameworks, India can create an enabling environment for sustainable development and position itself as a global leader in sustainability within the G20 context.

By capitalizing on these opportunities, India can contribute significantly to advancing sustainable development goals both domestically and on the global stage, while also enhancing its own socio-economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

- ## India's role in the G20

India plays a significant role in the G20, contributing to discussions, shaping agendas and advocating for its priorities on the global stage. As one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, India's vote carries considerable weight within the group. India brings unique policy perspectives to G20 discussions, reflecting its development priorities, challenges and aspirations. India advocates for policies that promote inclusive and sustainable growth, poverty alleviation, digital economy and social development, while also addressing issues such as climate change, trade and digital transformation. India represents the interests of emerging market economies within the G20, highlighting the importance of addressing the needs and concerns of developing countries. India seeks to balance its interests in promoting exports and attracting foreign investment with the need to safeguard domestic industries and ensure equitable access to global markets, also advocates for affordable and equitable access to healthcare, essential medicines and vaccines and supports initiatives to strengthen health systems and promote sustainable development.

Overall, India's role in the G20 is characterized by its commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable development, advancing the interests of emerging market economies and contributing to global efforts to address pressing challenges such as climate change, poverty and health crises. Through constructive engagement and collaboration, India seeks to shape the G20 agenda in a way that reflects the needs and aspirations of its citizens and contributes to building a more prosperous, equitable.

- ### Strategic recommendations

Fostering greater alignment, cooperation and effectiveness in addressing sustainable development challenges within the G20 context requires a multifaceted approach. Here are some strategic recommendations:

- Common Goals and Targets: Encourage G20 members to establish common sustainable development goals and targets, ensuring they are aligned with global agendas such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Information Sharing and Transparency: Promote transparency and information sharing among G20 members regarding their sustainable development efforts, successes and challenges. This can facilitate mutual learning and collaboration.
- Capacity Building: Invest in capacity building programs to enhance the ability of G20 members, especially developing countries, to address sustainable development challenges effectively. This could include training programs, technology transfer initiatives and knowledge-sharing platforms.
- Inclusive Decision-Making Processes: Ensure that decision-making processes within the G20 are inclusive and involve input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. This can lead to more comprehensive and effective solutions.
- Resource Mobilization: Explore innovative financing mechanisms to mobilize resources for sustainable development initiatives, such as green bonds, impact investing and carbon pricing mechanisms. G20 members can collaborate on initiatives to channel investments towards sustainable projects.
- Technology Transfer and Innovation: Facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and promote innovation in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and climate adaptation. Foster collaboration on research and development initiatives.
- Climate Action: Prioritize climate action within the G20 agenda, including mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to address the impacts of climate change. Encourage G20 members to fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

- Monitoring and Accountability: Establish mechanisms for monitoring progress on sustainable development goals and holding G20 members accountable for their commitments. Regular reporting and peer reviews can help ensure transparency and accountability.

By implementing these strategic recommendations, the G20 can enhance its effectiveness in addressing sustainable development challenges and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable global future.

- **Conclusion**

G20 plays a crucial role in promoting international economic cooperation, addressing global challenges and advancing sustainable development goals. By bringing together the world's major economies, the G20 provides a platform for conversation, collaboration and collective action to build a more stable, prosperous and inclusive world for all. India's role in the G20 is characterized by its commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable development, advancing the interests of emerging market economies and contributing to global efforts to address pressing challenges such as climate change, poverty and health crises. Through constructive engagement and collaboration, India seeks to shape the G20 agenda in a way that reflects the needs and aspirations of its citizens and contributes to building a more prosperous, equitable. For addressing challenges requires coordinated efforts by governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, both domestically and within the G20 framework. By capitalizing on these opportunities, India can contribute significantly to advancing sustainable development goals both domestically and on the global stage, while also enhancing its own socio-economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

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One Day National Seminar on

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND G-20: ROLE, ISSUES & CHALLENGES

[Sponsored by: Department of Higher Education (DHE), Haryana]

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Dr. Vijay Kumar
Organising Secretary

Mr. Mukesh Trehan
Convener

Dr. Abha Bansal
Principal & Seminar Director

IoT Integration for Achieving Eco Sustainability

Swati Atri
Assistant Professor
Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shahabad (M.), Haryana
Swatiatri18@gmail.com

Jaideep Atri
Assistant Professor
S.A Jain College, Ambala City, Haryana
jds094@gmail.com

Abstract:

Computational sustainability involves the integration of computer science, machine learning, data science, and other computational methods with principles from ecology. It involves the development and application of computational models, algorithms, and tools to understand, monitor, and manage ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. The Internet of Things (IoT) plays a crucial role in smart city initiatives. The aim of the study is to explore different ways to integrate IoT devices for real-time monitoring and data collection in urban environments. This includes sensors for air quality, traffic flow, waste management, and other essential services. IOT along with computational sustainability aim to create computational models that can assist in making informed decisions and policies to promote sustainable practices. In this paper, applications of Computational Sustainability with IoT such as Environmental Monitoring, Wildlife Conservation, Precision Agriculture and Data Fusion etc. have been studied. The success of computational sustainability relies heavily on the availability of high-quality data and developing accurate computational models. Balancing the use of technology with ethical considerations, especially in wildlife monitoring, raises questions about privacy and the potential disturbance to ecosystems. This paper also highlights the works that have used the IoT concept for achieving environmental sustainability along with the challenges faced during the study. Computational sustainability, when combined with IoT and other emerging technologies, holds significant promise for creating innovative and effective solutions to address pressing environmental and societal issues. Ongoing research and advancements in this field are essential for building a more sustainable and resilient future. Future prospects of the study have also been discussed.

Keywords: Computation, Conservation, Ecology, Environment, IoT, Smart Cities, Sustainability, Technology.

I. Introduction

Computational sustainability is an interdisciplinary field that leverages computational techniques to address complex challenges related to environmental and societal sustainability. It involves the development and application of computational models, algorithms, and tools to understand, monitor, and manage ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources. This field emerged to develop computational models, algorithms, and tools to help understand, manage, and solve complex sustainability problems. Computational sustainability involves the integration of computer science, machine learning, data science, and other computational methods with principles from ecology, biology, economics, and other disciplines. Researchers in this field aim to create computational models that can assist in making informed decisions and policies to promote sustainable practices. The Internet of Things (IoT) (M.C. & B., 2022) plays a crucial role in smart city initiatives. Researchers are exploring ways to integrate IoT devices for real-time monitoring and data collection in urban environments. This includes sensors for air quality, traffic flow, waste management, and other essential services.

The Contribution of the work:

- The paper discusses the concepts of computational techniques and IoT related to environment and society for achieving sustainability.
- Various applications of computational sustainability with IoT have been studied.
- The paper highlights the recent advancements, limitations and future aspects of the work for meeting future requirements in the field.

In this paper section II discusses some applications of computational sustainability, section III reviews the recent work in the field of computational sustainability. Section IV elaborates the concept by integrating IoT with

computational sustainability. Section V highlights the limitations of the work, section VI studies the future aspects of the work and section VII concludes the work.

II. Applications of Computational Sustainability with IoT

IOT along with computational sustainability (Zhong & Qin, 2023) aim to create computational models that can assist in making informed decisions and policies to promote sustainable practices. Some of the applications have been discussed below:

- Environmental Monitoring:
  - ➢ Use of Sensors: IoT devices, equipped with various sensors, can be deployed in ecosystems to monitor environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, air quality, and water quality.
  - ➢ Data Collection and Analysis: The data collected by IoT devices can be processed using computational models to gain insights into ecosystem health, identify patterns, and predict environmental changes.
- Wildlife Conservation:
  - ➢ Tracking and Tagging: IoT-enabled devices like GPS trackers and RFID tags are used for wildlife tracking. Computational models analyze the collected data to understand animal behavior, migration patterns, and habitat usage.
  - ➢ Data Fusion: Integration of data from multiple sources, including satellite imagery and ground sensors, enhances the accuracy of models used in wildlife conservation.
- Precision Agriculture:
  - ➢ Sensor Networks: IoT devices in agriculture gather data on soil moisture, nutrient levels, and crop health.
  - ➢ Decision Support Systems: Computational models analyze this data to optimize irrigation, fertilization, and pest control strategies, leading to more sustainable farming practices.

III. Recent Work in Computational Sustainability

- Machine Learning for Conservation: Recent efforts involve the application of advanced machine learning algorithms for tasks such as species identification, ecological modeling, and predicting the impact of climate change on biodiversity.
- Urban Sustainability and IoT: Integration of IoT in smart city initiatives is advancing, with real-time data from sensors aiding in energy management, waste reduction, and improved urban planning.
- Sustainable Supply Chain Management: Computational models are being developed to optimize supply chains for sustainable practices. This includes reducing carbon footprints, minimizing waste, and promoting ethical sourcing.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Computational methods are used to model and monitor biodiversity, predict species distribution, and assess the impact of environmental changes on ecosystems. This includes the development of algorithms for species identification, monitoring endangered species, and designing protected area networks.
- Climate Change Modeling: Researchers use computational models to simulate climate patterns, predict the impact of climate change on different regions, and develop strategies for mitigation and adaptation. This involves analyzing large climate datasets, creating predictive models, and assessing the effectiveness of various interventions.
- Natural Resource Management: Computational approaches are applied to optimize the use of natural resources such as water, energy, and land. This includes developing algorithms for sustainable agriculture, efficient water management, and renewable energy planning.
- Wildlife Tracking and Monitoring: Computational methods are employed to track the movements of wildlife using GPS and other technologies. This helps researchers understand migration patterns, identify critical habitats, and develop conservation strategies for vulnerable species.

- Smart Cities and Urban Sustainability: Computational techniques are used to design and manage smart cities with a focus on sustainability. This includes optimizing transportation systems, energy consumption, waste management, and other urban processes to reduce environmental impact.
- Data Analytics for Environmental Monitoring: Big data analytics and machine learning are employed to analyze large-scale environmental datasets. This can involve monitoring air and water quality, detecting environmental anomalies, and predicting environmental trends.
- Ecosystem Services: Computational models (Rosca & Nicolae,2021) are used to assess and quantify the ecosystem services provided by natural environments. This includes understanding the economic value of ecosystems and their contributions to human well-being.
- Conservation Decision Support Systems: Computational tools are developed to aid decision-makers in designing and implementing effective conservation strategies. This involves integrating ecological models, socio-economic data, and decision support systems to guide policy and management decisions.

It's important to note that the field is dynamic, and new research directions and projects may have emerged since my last update. Researchers in computational sustainability often collaborate across disciplines to address complex challenges at the intersection of computer science and environmental science.

IV. IoT Integration with Computation Sustainability

The Internet of Things (IoT) plays a crucial role in smart city initiatives. Researchers are exploring ways to integrate IoT devices for real-time monitoring and data collection in urban environments (Sharma & Panwar, 2020). This includes sensors for air quality, traffic flow, waste management, and other essential services.

- Data Analytics for Urban Planning: Advanced data analytics, including machine learning and artificial intelligence, are being used to analyze large datasets generated by smart city technologies. This information is valuable for urban planners to make data-driven decisions, optimize resource allocation, and enhance overall city efficiency.
- Energy Management and Efficiency: Smart cities are increasingly focusing on energy management and sustainability. Researchers are exploring technologies to optimize energy consumption, integrate renewable energy sources, and improve the overall energy efficiency of urban infrastructure.
- Transportation Innovations: Mobility solutions and smart transportation systems are a key focus. This includes the development of intelligent traffic management systems, the integration of autonomous vehicles, and the promotion of sustainable and eco-friendly modes of transportation.
- Resilience Planning: With the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and other challenges, researchers are working on developing smart city strategies that enhance urban resilience. This involves designing infrastructure and systems that can withstand and recover from various shocks and stresses.
- Citizen Engagement: Smart cities aim to involve citizens in decision-making processes and urban governance. Researchers are exploring ways to use technology to enhance citizen engagement, whether through mobile apps, social media, or other digital platforms.
- Urban Agriculture and Green Spaces: The integration of green spaces and urban agriculture into smart city planning is gaining attention. This includes initiatives to promote sustainable urban farming, enhance green infrastructure, and improve overall urban biodiversity.
- Circular Economy Practices: Researchers are investigating how smart cities can contribute to a circular economy. This involves reducing waste, promoting recycling, and designing systems where resources are used efficiently and sustainably.
- Blockchain for Urban Governance: Some researchers are exploring the use of blockchain technology for enhancing transparency and security in urban governance. This can include applications in areas like property records, public services, and financial transactions.
- Social Equity and Inclusion: As smart city technologies are deployed, there is a growing emphasis on ensuring that these innovations contribute to social equity and inclusion. Researchers are studying the potential impacts of smart city initiatives on different socio-economic groups and developing strategies to address potential disparities.

V. Limitations of Computational Sustainability

- Data Quality and Quantity: The success of computational sustainability relies heavily on the availability of high-quality data. In some cases, obtaining sufficient data for modeling can be challenging.
- Model Complexity: Developing accurate computational models for complex ecological systems can be difficult. The interdependencies of various factors may not be fully captured, leading to potential inaccuracies.
- Ethical Considerations: Balancing the use of technology with ethical considerations, especially in wildlife monitoring, raises questions about privacy and the potential disturbance to ecosystems

VI. Future Aspects of Computational Sustainability

- Integration of Emerging Technologies: Advancements in technologies like quantum computing and edge computing may enhance the capabilities of computational models in sustainability applications.
- Enhanced Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Future research is likely to involve even deeper collaborations between computer scientists, ecologists, social scientists, and policymakers to address complex sustainability challenges comprehensively.
- Continued IoT Advancements: As IoT technologies evolve, more sophisticated and cost-effective sensors may be developed, expanding the scope and scale of computational sustainability applications.
- Addressing Global Challenges: Computational sustainability will likely play a crucial role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss, with a focus on scalable and impactful solutions.

VII. Conclusion

Computational sustainability, when combined with IoT and other emerging technologies, holds significant promise for creating innovative and effective solutions to address pressing environmental and societal issues. Various ongoing research and applications have been studied and discussed in the paper. The paper also highlights the limitations observed in the field along with work that can extend in the future. Ongoing research and advancements in this field are essential for building a more sustainable and resilient future.

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