

Review of: "Aligning Government Initiatives with Sustainable Development Goals: A Village-Level Mapping in India"

Saheli Bose¹

¹ Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

It is an interesting study in terms of the scope of the distribution of welfare schemes it studies. However, there are some clarifications and questions which the authors need to address in order to make it more meaningful to the readers.

First, it is unclear what time period the authors collected the data. It is not clear whether the authors used cross-section data or collected data over a period of time.

Second, the authors argue that their choice of village is representative. However, there is a lack of evidence to support that in terms of demography and other characteristics, the village under study is a representative village. Related to this point is that there needs to be a somewhat more rigorous explanation as to why the authors restricted data collection to a single village, why they did not collect data from households situated in multiple villages, and why they chose households in several villages through stratified random sampling.

Third, it would be helpful if the authors outlined how their analysis contributes to the existing literature on the impact of various welfare schemes. How are the findings that the middle and upper income groups disproportionately get the benefits different from the findings on elite capture of welfare goods and public goods?