



Bhutan and Gross National Happiness (GNH) and SDGs

Kingdom of Bhutan



- Area- 38,394 Sq. km
- Population- 779,666
- Economy- \$ 1.7 billion
- Unemployment rate- 2.5 (8% Youth Unemployment)
- Balance of Trade (Nu. 31 b)
- Per capita Alcohol Consumption- 8.4ltrs, 5407 bars, translates to 1 bar per 98 persons)
- Drug abuse & illicit trafficking of controlled substances – growing issue
- Vehicle population: 94,956
- Stray dog population- 48,390(1:16)

But.... We have the most benevolent Kings



- Therefore, we have **Gross National Happiness (GNH)**



“Development with Values”

Four Pillars of GNH

- Equitable Socio-economic Development
- Promotion and Preservation of Culture
- Conservation of Environment
- Good Governance



The nine domains and 33 indicators of the GNH index

Pillar 1: Equitable Socio-economic Development

1. Free healthcare & Education
2. Fastest growing economy-6.9% (IMF 2017)
3. Poverty rate 8.2 (2017)
4. Graduation from LDC (by 2018)
5. Rural Electrification- 99.8% (free rural electricity)
6. Mobile connectivity- 94%
7. Youth Literacy rate (93%)
8. GDP per capita - \$ 2879 (2016)
9. Hydro power- 10,000 MW by 2020 (30,000 MW)
10. Road Coverage- 167 GC roads (black topped)
11. Tourism- Top 17 best places to visit (CNN, 2017)



Pillar 2: Promotion and Preservation of Culture

- Never Colonised- intact culture & tradition
- Only surviving Vajrayana country
- Unique & uniform Architecture
- Strong Community vitality
- Strong Central monastic body
- Cultural diversity (*19 different languages & dialects*)
- No surnames
- No Hero worship
- Mountaineering banned – sacred & home to our deities
- *Dress (Gho & Kira)*





Pillar 3: Conservation of Environment

1. 60% Forest coverage, Constitutional requirement (~72%)
2. Only Carbon negative country
3. Top 10 Biological Hotspots
4. Champion of earth awards in 2014 (*Fourth King*)
5. Guinness World Record in planting trees (49,672 trees in 1 hr by 100 volunteers)
6. Green Bhutan- a national program
7. Bhutan role model for conservation- BFL (\$ 45 million)
8. Highest unclimbed mountain in the world (7570 m) –Gangkhar Phuensum
9. No traffic lights



Pillar 4: Good Governance

1. Democracy- Gift from the King
2. Corruption index (26th least corrupted)
3. Strong oversight institutions including 10 media houses and 22 CSOs
4. Tourism Policy- High Value Low Impact
5. Retirement age for Politician and the King (65 years)
6. Apolitical Monastic body
7. E-governance
8. Sale of tobacco is banned



SDGs, GNH and FYPs.

- Bhutan's transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to the SDGs and integrating those into the national plans has been a fairly seamless process as there is much complementarity between the SDGs and GNH.
- Both advocate a holistic, people and planet centric, and poverty eradication approach.
- As far as Bhutan's 11 FYP is concerned, 143 of 169 SDG targets were found relevant as per the rapid integrated assessment conducted by United Nations. Out of 143 targets 134 were already integrated in 11FYP- illustrating high level of FYP with SDGs.
- In 12FYP, the 16 NKRAAs are directly correlated to 16 out of 17 SDGs.
- These targets are further elated down as AKRAAs and LGKRAAs, whereby respective agencies and local governments are required to prepare FYPs aligning with 16 NKRAAs (direct link with SDGs) and in realizing the country's vision of maximizing Gross National Happiness.

SAMDRUP JONGKHAR CITY: LOCAL GOVERNMENT



THIMPHU CITY



GELEPHU CITY



PHUNTSHOLING CITY



SAMDRUP JONGKHAR CITY



- The four district municipality were declared as Class A cities in 2011 and Mayor as the head of the city.
- More than 33 percent (231,805) of Bhutan's population now live in cities and the trend is growing fast (BLSS Report, 2017)
- The growth rate of Bhutan's urban population was the highest among the eight South Asian countries, at 5.7 percent per year from 2000-2010 (World Bank)
- Samdrup Jongkhar City has a area of 4.47sq.km with total households of 2379.
- The current population of city 12000 which is expected to increase to 18000 by 2033.
- The city share its boundary with International State of Assam and is gateway to six eastern districts of Bhutan and functions as the commercial hub of the east.
- The urban poverty rate of the city is 0.3% and unemployment rate is 1.03%.
- The youth literacy rate is 98% against the adult literacy rate of 75.5%.
- There are 3 Government Schools, Two Private schools and 1 Engineering College.
- The city is regarded as the cleanest city across the country.



In conserving the pristine environment-
the city has planted almost 800 trees.
The plantation activity is carried out on
annual basis.



The advocacy programs on waste management is carried out 5 times in a year involving the community and other relevant stakeholders apart from facilitating cleaning campaign programs by providing financial and logistic assistance.



The city also recycles plastic wastes into useful products. Currently, about 12MT of waste are recycled annually. The waste segregation at the source is also implemented, whereby bio-degradable wastes are decomposed and turned into manure.

Good Governance: Effective and Efficient Public Service Delivery

1. The municipal services such as construction approval, water connection, sewerage connection and occupancy certificate are made accessible online (G2C).
2. The city has also developed MyCity app whereby the residents of the city, maintaining their confidentiality can lodge complaints online as well as provide suggestions.
3. As per National Integrity Assessment 2016, the city has scored 7.78 against the national integrity score of 7.95.
4. The city also scored 97 in its Annual Performance Agreement 2016-2017 with Honorable Prime Minister, categorizing it amongst the outstanding Performers in the country.
5. The city also have standard operating procedures and customer service unit in place to ensure accountability and efficient service delivery.

Integration of youths in realizing SDGs

At the National Level, Bhutan have Bhutan's Children Parliament, whereby pertinent resolutions are passed on to Parliament of Bhutan for deliberations.

1. So far 15 youth forums have been conducted at the city level deliberating on social issues which are then integrated into city's FYPs.
2. Annually about 100 youths are voluntarily engaged in waste management and cleaning campaigns.
3. Youths are also engaged in advocacy programs on teenage pregnancy, STIs/AIDs/Tuberculosis, NCDs through open dramatization.
4. Schools within the city observes Green Day once a week.
5. All children 6years and above are enrolled in schools.
6. 175 children aged 3-5 years are enrolled in ECCD.

Integration of youths in realizing SDGs

7. By 2023, the city plans to create 500 employment opportunities besides providing entrepreneurship training.
8. As mandated, all the schools have access to ICT facilities i.e. at the primary level for every 40 students, there is a computer each and at the secondary level for every 10 students, there is a computer each.
9. About 474 people have completed their Non-Formal Education.
10. In 12FYP, the all the teachers in the city will be provided with Laptop each
11. The city also have artificial turf (Football)and Multi Sports Center to engage them in leading healthy lifestyle.

Issues and Challenges

1. With increase in population; increase in waste generation and drugs and substance abuse is a issue.
2. Lack of disaggregated data base at the local government level for proper planning.
3. Security issues (porous border).
4. Air pollution due to increase in vehicle number. Samdrup Jongkhar has a total of 5056 registered vehicles.
5. Severe flooding during monsoon season.

Bhutan is arguably the Happiest Country in the World!



Kadrinche