

**Contribution of Indigenous Knowledge in Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals: A Literature Review**

**Abstract:** Indigenous knowledge is the traditional knowledge that is unique to a society. Traditional knowledge is also called: ‘local knowledge’, ‘folk knowledge’, ‘people’s knowledge’, ‘traditional wisdom’. This knowledge is passed from generation to generation, usually by word of mouth and cultural customs. It has been the basis for agriculture, health care, food preparation, education, conservation and the other many activities that sustain societies in all over the world. Sustainable development means establishing a balance between socioeconomic development and environmental protection, with traditional knowledge local communities. In 2015, the United Nations agreed on 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a set of targets for improving lives while protecting natural resources by the year 2030 and they included indigenous peoples, and acknowledged that there can be no sustainable development without protecting the traditional knowledge. Indigenous knowledge plays an important role in achieving global sustainable development goals through various traditional practices. Therefore, in this study, contribution of various researchers is explored regarding role of indigenous knowledge in achieving sustainable development goals. On the basis of previous studies we found various areas in which indigenous knowledge is used. These areas include; agriculture, health, education, climate change, cultural identity, environmental justice, fisheries, forests and wildlife, natural resources. The use of indigenous knowledge in these sectors helps in achieving of sustainable development goals.

**Keywords:** Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources

**1. Introduction**

Indigenous knowledge means the traditions and practices of past generations or indigenous communities. Traditional knowledge has been passed from generations to from generations through social culture, formal practices, traditions, and other activities. Some forms of traditional knowledge are expressed in books, stories, folklore, rituals, songs, art, and even laws.

Indigenous knowledge is unique to a society, culture, and region. It is based on understanding, real life experiences and interpretation of indigenous peoples. This knowledge may include architecture, farming techniques, medicinal practices, health and nutrition, festivals.

The Brundtland Commission (1987) puts emphasis on the idea of passing on an environment with enough and good-quality resources for the future generation, just as we have given from our previous generations (Brundtland Report, 1987). Kim, Li & Son (2017) also examined the Role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Practices to Forest Management. Sabola, Henry, Kayambazinthu & Wilson (2007) studied the local ecological knowledge. Local farming system is sustainable and innovative. Techniques used for cultivation are economically feasible and safe. The sustainable lifestyle, local diet, and dependence on rain-fed irrigation have influenced indigenous communities to cultivate and conserve traditional cultivars. By selecting and conserving the seeds from one season to the next helps in conserving the biodiversity. In ancient time the usage of plants, leaves, fruits, mineral, herbs and other resources plays an important role in health care system and sustainable life. Such practices are considered better than allopathic medicines available in the market because of many side effects after longer usage. The indigenous practices not only help in maintain health but also help in conserving biodiversity. Traditional communities were depends on plant and animal based medicine to meet their health care necessities. Plant medicine is an important part of the health care system and low prices, and affordable by local society.

## **1.1 Sustainable Development Goals**

In September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 SDGs to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice (Global Sustainable development Report, 2015). The 17 SDGs are as follows:

**Table 1.** Sustainable Development Goals

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Goal 1  | End poverty   |
| Goal 2  | End hunger, achieve food security   |
| Goal 3  | Provides better education   |
| Goal 4  | healthy lives   |
| Goal 5  | gender equality   |
| Goal 6  | Ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation                         |
| Goal 7  | Ensure affordable, reliable, sustainable energy                               |
| Goal 8  | decent work, economic growth, productive employment for all                   |
| Goal 9  | infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization           |
| Goal 10 | Reduce inequality   |
| Goal 11 | Make sustainable cities and human safe  |
| Goal 12 | sustainable consumption and production  |
| Goal 13 | climate change  |
| Goal 14 | sustainably use the oceans, and marine resources                              |
| Goal 15 | sustainable use of ecosystems, and land degradation                           |
| Goal 16 | access to justice and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions |
| Goal 17 | Implementation of global partnership  |

**Source:** [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)

## **2. Objectives of this study**

- To synthesize the existing literature on role of indigenous knowledge in sustainable development in different sectors.
- To identify contribution of indigenous knowledge in achieving SDGs.

## **3. Data and methodology**

The study adopted the systematic literature review methodology to review and analyze articles related to contribution of indigenous knowledge in sustainable development. This study used esteemed databases such as Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Sage, Wiley online library and other database (Google Scholar, research gate, JSTOR) for the literature search and the following keywords: Indigenous knowledge and sustainable agriculture, sustainable education, role of traditional knowledge in different sector. The study have systematically classified the 50 selected research studies on the basis of publication year, journal title, location of study, type of research and data, statistical techniques, etc. Thus, in this context, it will be expedient to understand the literature available on the contribution of indigenous knowledge in sustainable development goals.

#### **4. Literature Review**

UNDER PEER REVIEW

**Table 2: Literature review**

| Sr. no. | Title   | Author(s) name/ Year               | Country  | Journal name                                | Type of study   | Technique used                             | Findings   |
|---------|---|------------------------------------|----------|---|---|--|--|
| 1.      | Women's Use of Indigenous Knowledge for Environmental Security and Sustainable Development in Southwest Nigeria | Aluko (2018)                       | Nigeria  | The International Indigenous Policy Journal | Qualitative data, Interviews                                | Frequencies, Percentages, Content analysis | The findings revealed that, the traditional knowledge is very helpful in sustaining life and it used in different sectors like: agriculture, food processing and preservation, family health care, and child care. |
| 2.      | Indigenous knowledge as data for modern fishery management: a case study of Dungeness crab in Pacific Canada    | Ban, Eckert, McGreer & Frid (2017) | Canada   | Ecosystem Health and Sustainability         | Semi-Structured Interviews                                  | Percentage                                 | The study showed that, local depletions impacted the ability of indigenous fishers to access local foods. Traditional knowledge provides different valuable information about fishery management.                  |
| 3.      | Role of rural identity in traditional agricultural landscape  | Bezák & Dobrovodská (2018)         | Slovakia | Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems    | Questionnaire survey, Semi-structured interviews, Workshops | Correlation, regression                    | The research showed that, rural identity communicated in the knowledge and perception of local land users is essential in local agriculture landscaped   |

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|    | maintenance: the story of a post-communist country                         |                                    |        |   |   |                              | maintenance and sustainable rural development.   |
| 4. | Environmental Education in India: An Approach to Sustainable Development   | Bhat, Zahid, Sheikh & Parre (2017) | India  | FIIB Business Review  | Literature Review                       | Content analysis             | The study showed that, various steps has been taken for imparting environmental education to communities and educational institutions at globally and nationally by government and non-government organizations. Students have become very much adept to such information related to their surroundings. |
| 5. | Knowledge management, the missing piece in the 2030 agenda and SDGs puzzle | Briceño & Santos (2019)            | Brazil | International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education | Systematic scientific literature review | Content analysis             | The study showed that, how and which frameworks may be applied to reach the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and sustainable development goals.   |
| 6. | Sustainable development And traditional                                    | Costa-Neto (2000)                  | Brazil | Sustainable Development                                     | Interviews                              | Comparative cognitive tables | The research showed that, local knowledge of Siribinha fishermen's is a valuable   |

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|    | <p>Knowledge: a case study</p> <p>In a Brazilian artisanal fishermen's community</p>  |   |                  |   |  |                          | <p>resource, which is considered to be sufficient in the developmental processes and in studies of fish species management.</p>  |
| 7. | <p>Indigenous Medicine and Primary Health Care: The Importance of Lay Knowledge and Use of Medicinal Plants in Rural South Africa</p> | <p>Dahlberg &amp; Trygger, (2009)</p>   | <p>Africa</p>    | <p>Human Ecology</p>  | <p>In-depth interviews, participatory observation</p>                | <p>Thematic analysis</p> | <p>The findings showed that, medical plants were mostly used by rural people. Household remedies were not only used to solve the problems of natural causes, but also for problems related to magical or spiritual linkages.</p>                               |
| 8. | <p>The contribution of local knowledge in agriculture to sustainable development</p>  | <p>Echoh, Masron &amp; Gapor (2015)</p> | <p>Malaysia.</p> | <p>International Journal of Business and Management Study – IJBMS</p> | <p>Interview, Focus group discussion and Participant observation</p> | <p>content analysis</p>  | <p>The study concluded that, the “berdandang” systems of planting cultivation helps in reducing the maintenance cost because all farmers is doing the same task for their paddy. And they believed that it also reduce the risk of water and air pollution</p> |

|     |   |                        |       |                         |                         |                    |  |
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|     |   |                        |       |                         |                         |                    | at the paddy field by using original and organic pesticides.   |
| 9.  | Traditional and Local Knowledge in Chile: Review of Experiences and Insights for Management and Sustainability                  | Gatica et al. (2020)   | Chile | Sustainability          | Literature Review       | Content analysis   | The findings revealed that, TLK improve new tools to conserve and manage biodiversity, basic and applied knowledge, by incorporating social and natural sciences, basic and applied knowledge, and by combining traditional and social evidence into the explanation of social-ecological practices.   |
| 10. | Harnessing indigenous knowledge for climate change-resilient water management – lessons from an ethnographic case study in Iran | Ghorbani et al. (2020) | Iran  | Climate and development | Qualitative Observation | Narrative analysis | The researchers studied that, historically-dependent community establish a social contract and cultural convention link for water distribution, profit-sharing and social responsibility; collectively they construct an equitable system of role-sharing, socio ecological resilience social benefit distribution, and adaptive capability in the face of climate change-induced drought. |

|     |  |  |             |                            |               |                      |   |
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| 11. | Indigenous Knowledge for Development: Opportunities and Challenges | Gorjestani (2000)                                | Uganda      | Working paper (world bank) | Working paper |                      | The findings revealed that, indigenous knowledge is an important factor for sustainable development. Empowerment of Traditional communities is a necessity for the integration of traditional knowledge in the development procedure. The integration of suitable indigenous knowledge systems into development programs has already contributed to usefulness, efficiency, and sustainable development impact. |
| 12. | Indigenous environmental values as human values                    | Gratani, Sutton, Butler, Bohensky & Foale (2016) | Australia   | Cogent Social Sciences     | Interviews    | Content analysis     | The study conducted that, this project to understand the perspective of the participant community as first step towards achieving environmental management more respectful of the local Traditional Owners' perspective.  |
| 13. | Indigenous concepts, values  | Harmsworth (2002)                                | New Zealand | 7th Joint Conference:      | Case studies  | Descriptive analysis | The study concluded that, traditional knowledge helps to  |

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|-----|--|---|--------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
|     | and knowledge for sustainable development: New Zealand case studies      |   |              | “Preservation of Ancient Cultures and the Globalization Scenario” (School of Maori and Pacific Development & International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS)) |                   |                              | find solutions of various complex problems, enhance sustainability of our environment, to provide a basis for strengthening cultural identity, and to develop economic opportunities. Indigenous knowledge provides the platform for cultural diversity and helps in maintaining sustainability. |
| 14. | Indigenous Knowledge about Consumption of Edible Insects in South Africa | Hlongwane , Slotow & Munyai (2020) 2021 | South Africa | Insects  | Questionnaires    | Chi square test              | Findings revealed that, edible insects are a nutritious diet and play main role in people’s livelihoods in rural areas.  |
| 15. | Ethnic food knowledge of highland pastoral communities in the            | Kala (2021)                             | India        | International Journal of Gastronomy and Food   | literature review | Systematic literature review | The findings revealed that, traditional foods and beverages of pastoral communities being highly nutritious and healthy, it  |

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|-----|---|------------------------------|-----------|--|------------------------------|-------------------|---|
|     | Himalayas and prospects for its sustainability  |                              |           | Science  |                              |                   | improve the health of society and sustainability of food systems.   |
| 16. | Indigenous and local knowledge promoting sdgs in indonesia: the case of the sumbanese cultural festival     | Koike (2019)                 | Indonesia | Journal of Environmental Science and Sustainable Development | case study                   | Thematic analysis | Results indicated that, ILK plays an important role in collaboration between local leaders and NGO activists are applicable to achieve Sustainable development goals. ILK not only be utilized to accomplish their own goals but also helpful in achieving various sustainable development goals.   |
| 17. | Traditional agricultural practices in India: an approach for environmental sustainability and food security | Kumar, Sharma & Singh (2020) | India     | Energy Ecology and Environment                               | Systematic literature review | Content analysis  | The findings revealed that, double cropping, agroforestry, crop rotation, use of traditional varieties and resources and traditional agricultural practices in India which have to be important in view of the environment and food security. Such practices have played important role in achieving the sustainability of agriculture by |

|     |  |                               |           |                            |                                  |                  |   |
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|     |  |                               |           |                            |                                  |                  | improving nutrition quality.  |
| 18. | Indigenous and local knowledge in sustainability transformations research: a literature review | Lam et al. (2020)             | Sweden    | Ecology and society        | Systematic literature review     | content analysis | Results indicated that, ILK plays an important role in making environment sustainable and contribute to a more plural understanding of transformations and the assessment of transformative change. |
| 19. | Indigenous Peoples, Resource Extraction and Sustainable Development: An Ethical Approach       | Lertzman & Vredenburg, (2005) | Australia | Journal of Business Ethics | case study, conceptual framework | content analysis | The research showed that, the technical knowledge provides the basis for advancing ethical methods to sustainable development with Indigenous peoples. This ethical methodology is suitable to      |

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|     |   |                        |             |  |                          |                  | companies working in natural resource activities where the traditional peoples are involved.   |
| 20. | Indigenous knowledge and implications for the sustainable development agenda                          | Magni (2017)           | Switzerland | Wiley online library                               | Literature review        | Content analysis | The paper found that, greater number of challenges addressed in community with adoption of the new SDG agenda, many goals directly affect the indigenous peoples' lives because of strong relationship between their traditional knowledge and Nature, community, has proven to be efficient to meet some of these challenges. |
| 21. | The Use of Indigenous Knowledge in Agriculture Allied Sectors in Coastal Region of West Bengal, India | Majumdar et al. (2019) | India       | International Research Journal of Applied Sciences | Focused group discussion | Content analysis | The study concluded, the people of this region continue subsistence farming in their agriculture fields through their traditional knowledge and climate forecast and it is helpful in improvement of structure, soil   |

|     |   |                                       |              |   |                              |                              |   |
|-----|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
|     |   |                                       |              |   |                              |                              | fertility, crops, collection of seeds and storage for future purpose. Indigenous Knowledge of rainfall calculation is helpful for the showing season and these knowledge practices also helpful in the achievement of the food security, which is vital of nutritionally safe food supply at family levels. |
| 22. | Viewpoint: Indigenous knowledge systems and environmental social work education: Towards environmental sustainability | Masoga & Shokane (2019)               | South Africa | Southern African Journal of Environmental Education | Focus group discussion       | Qualitative content analysis | The study concluded that, integration of Traditional knowledge system in environmental education and in social work can contribute to sustain environment.  |
| 23. | Indigenous environmental justice and sustainability   | McGregor, Whitaker & Sritharan (2020) | Canada       | Current opinion in Environmental Sustainability     | Systematic literature review | Content analysis             | Findings revealed that, to achieve environmental justice and sustainable future, the voices of Indigenous peoples must be needed at every level. Traditional peoples have recognized  |

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|     |  |                       |                 |   |  |                       | indigenous knowledge and legal systems as central to supportive and enabling adaptive capability and sustainability in the face of the climate disaster.  |
| 24. | No one will be left behind?" Taíno indigenous communities in the Caribbean and the road to SDGs 2030 | Mith & Spencer (2020) | New Zealand     | Worldwide Hospitality and Tourism Themes                    | qualitative case study approach coupled with a literature review | Content analysis      | The findings showed that, the members of the indigenous communities' views and indigenous tourism as a solution to sustain their tradition and provide income for their people; they provide strong suggestions on how this may be attained in keeping with the 2030 sustainable development goals. |
| 25. | Applying indigenous knowledge in agricultural extension: The case of agritex workers in zimbabwe     | Mugwisi (2016)        | Zimbabwe        | Advances in Knowledge Acquisition, Transfer, and Management | Questionnaire  | Frequency, percentage | The results showed that, the majority of the extension workers used traditional methods for agricultural sustainability.  |
| 26. | The Role of Indigenous and   | Nalau et al.          | Pacific Islands | Weather, climate and  | Literature review  | content analysis      | The study revealed that, the literatures of experts provides  |

|     |   |   |             |                     |                           |  |   |
|-----|---|---|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
|     | Traditional Knowledge in Ecosystem-Based Adaptation: A Review of the Literature and Case Studies from the Pacific Islands           | (2018)  |             | society             |                           |  | strong support to the concepts as “community participation” and use of Traditional knowledge in climate adaptation activities to increase efficiency and the feeling of ownership of climate adaptation consequences. |
| 27. | The influence of socioeconomic factors on traditional knowledge: a cross scale comparison of palm use in northwestern South America | Narel, Zambrana, Rodrigo, Rainer, Bussmann & Macia (2014) | America     | Ecology and Society | Semi structured interview | Descriptive analysis (MANOVA), Correlation | The researchers studied that, there are no local patterns in the analytical power of socioeconomic factors and that their influence on palm-use knowledge is highly localized.  |
| 28. | The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Fisheries Research in Ogbia Creek, Niger Delta  | Ngodigha, Abowei & Ogamba (2015)                          | Niger Delta | Novelty journal     | Interviews                | Frequency, Percentage                      | The paper concluded that, Local Ecological Knowledge could complement scientific studies as it seems to address all the different measurements (ecology, fish reproduction, trophic relationships) of the ecosystem   |

|     |  |                                |           |  |   |                  |   |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|-----------|--|---|------------------|---|
|     |  |                                |           |  |   |                  | as a source of new scientific investigation.  |
| 29. | Knowledge for sustainable development: a worldviews perspective  | Opstal & Huge (2012)           | Nederland | Environment Development and Sustainability                     | Critical Literature Review                                  | Content analysis | The researchers identified that, re-interpretation of sustainable development as a worldview constructs in progress, identifying shared goals, interpretative flexibility, co-production of knowledge, subjectivity awareness, self-reflexivity, respect for a diversity of knowledge, a systems approach, trans disciplinarily and recognition of contextually are required for SD paradigm. |
| 30. | Documentation and Application of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) for Sustainable Agricultural Development | Pandey, Mittal & Sharma (2017) | India     | Asian Journal of Agricultural Extension, Economics & Sociology | Interview Notes, Photos, Audio-recordings, Video-recordings | Mean             | It concluded that, traditional knowledge is vital for the well-being and for sustainable development as it has evolved after thousands of years of observation and experience. By linking the traditional knowledge systems with farmer, research and extension then the  |

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|-----|---|--------------------------------------|-------|--|-------------------|------------------|--|
|     |   |                                      |       |  |                   |                  | output of researches can be made more fertile and functional.  |
| 31. | Traditional knowledge for sustainable forest management and provision of ecosystem services | Parrotta, Yeo-Chang & Camacho (2016) | UK    | International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management | Review paper      | Content analysis | The research showed that, traditional knowledge for the management of ecosystem and the challenges that indigenous communities face in conserving, fully utilizing, and passing on their knowledge and wisdom to younger generations. Forestry professionals, government decision-makers and policy makers have play vital roles to reverse the loss of traditional knowledge and improve the biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service benefits that traditional knowledge-based forest management systems have usually provided. |
| 32. | Indian traditional knowledge for the treatment of kidney stone: a review                    | Patale, Awaley & Nakade (2020)       | India | International journal of researches in biosciences,                            | Literature Review | Content analysis | The research indicated that, total 58 plant species used by various communities and from different localities of India to remove   |

|     |   |                           |                  |   |  |  |  |
|-----|---|---------------------------|------------------|---|--|--|--|
|     |   |                           |                  | agriculture and technology                      |  |  | kidney stone.  |
| 33. | Rural Women's Awareness on Indigenous Technical Knowledge: Case of Northern Bangladesh                                | Pervez Gao & Uddin (2015) | Bangladesh       | Anthropologist                                  | Interviews, Field notes, Observations and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) | mean, mode, SD, Linear regression model, | Findings of the study revealed that, most of the rural women were aware about traditional knowledge. They have significant awareness in all subsectors of agriculture and their awareness serves the purpose of sustainable agriculture.                             |
| 34. | Promoting tribal communities and indigenous knowledge as potential solutions for the sustainable development of India | Priyadarshini (2019)      | India            | Environmental development                       | Secondary data   | pilot study                              | The study revealed that, with the help of Indigenous knowledge improvement in the income, women and child health and education of these communities can be possible through traditional knowledge and its directly have a positive effect on the SDG 1, 2, 3, and 4. |
| 35. | The use of indigenous knowledge in primary health   | Rankoana et al., (2015)   | Limpopo Province | African Journal for Physical, Health Education, | Focus group discussions  | content analysis                         | The results indicated that, disease etiology, medical ethnobotanical, health implications of food and knowledge as the   |

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|-----|--|--------------------|-------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
|     | care: A case study of Makanye community in Limpopo Province, South Africa  |                    |             | Recreation and Dance                       |                            |                               | traditional knowledge systems used to maintain good health.   |
| 36. | Indigenous knowledge: searching for a model of sustainable development for humankind   | Rudnev (2015)      | Russia      | Global Bioethics                           | Literature Review          | Content analysis              | The findings revealed that, indigenous knowledge plays important role in different areas like: Life-support activities, nature – society relationships, bridge the gap between past and future, Jurisdiction and law, better understanding of the cultures, forecasting and directing the future. |
| 37. | Synergy between traditional knowledge of use and tree population structure for sustainability of Cola nitida (Vent.) Schott. & Endl in Benin | Savi et al. (2018) | West Africa | Environment Development and Sustainability | Semi-structured interviews | Analysis of covariance ANCOVA | The findings revealed that, local species, local plants and establishment of Cola garden is necessary for sustainability. Genetic studies to guide sampling of trees for the establishment of garden are also suggested.  |

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|-----|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|----------------------|---|
|     | (West Africa)   |                                   |                 |  |  |                      |   |
| 38. | Role of SDGs in Reconceptualising the Education for Sustainable Development Curriculum in Higher Education in South Africa        | Shava, Makokotlela & Hebe (2020)  | South Africa    | Scaling up SDGs implementation                   | Literature review                                  | Content analysis     | The reviews founded that, there was no coverage of SDGs in the module and that there was a limited effort towards Africanisation and contextualization of the content.  |
| 39. | Traditional knowledge and bio cultural diversity: learning from tribal communities for sustainable development in northeast India | Singha, Prettyb & Pilgrimb (2009) | northeast India | Journal of Environmental Planning and Management | Participatory techniques, Interview, Questionnaire | Descriptive analysis | The results indicated that, the participation of knowledge holders in various village level activities can improve the promotion of traditional practices, learning of knowledge and conservation of related resources. Knowledge holders of different age groups and social systems have many and different important traditional practices that provide solutions to current challenges and problems. |
| 40. | Advancing   | Smith et al.                      | Canada          | Sustainability                                   | Literature   | Content              | The study showed that, local  |

|     |   |                                    |                 |   |                         |                        |   |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
|     | sustainability science for the SDGs   | (2018)                             |                 | Science                                     | Review                  | analysis               | knowledge encouraging many local action-learning experiments that link with many SDGs, and which are actively networked and followed to achieving global goals.                             |
| 41. | Knowledge translation and indigenous knowledge  | Smylie et al. (2004)               | Canada          | International Journal of Circumpolar Health | Literature review based | Thematic analysis      | The findings revealed that traditional knowledge translation methods for health sciences research is essential for sustainable developed.   |
| 42. | Mentoring Program to Achieve SDGs in Local Contexts: A Case Study in Communities from Southern Mexico | Soler & Sandoval-Rivera (2019)     | Mexico          | Sustainability                              | case study              | Thematic analysis      | The study concluded that, the sustainable development goals acted as a referential guide to assure aligned objectives, but the program also incorporated shared intergenerational concerns. |
| 43. | Creating a space for place and multidimensional well-being: lessons learned from localizing           | Sterling, Pascua & McCarter (2020) | Pacific Islands | Sustainability Science                      | Secondary data          | Descriptive statistics | The study indicated that, traditional knowledge helps in achieving SDGs through various local norms and values available in the society.  |

|     |  |                                |           |                     |  |                       |   |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
|     | the SDGs   |                                |           |                     |  |                       |   |
| 44. | Efforts of Indigenous Knowledge in Forest and Wildlife Conservation: A Case Study on Bulang people in Mangba village in Yunnan Province, China | Su, Ren, Qin, Hou & Wen (2020) | China     | Forests             | interviews, group Discussions, participant observation, and secondary data | Descriptive analysis  | The findings revealed that, the local people effectively and efficiently use the resources through moral constraints, public belief constraints, and worship customs. Indigenous knowledge has also played an important role in protecting forests, wild animals, and plants. |
| 45. | A review of Indigenous knowledge and participation in environmental monitoring   | Thompson, Lantz & Ban (2020)   | Australia | Ecology and Society | Literature review  | Content analysis      | The study demonstrated that, indigenous peoples and their knowledge have been engaged in environmental observing through a multiplicity of participatory measures.  |
| 46. | Indigenous Knowledge and Farmer Perceptions of Climate and Ecological Changes  | Tume, Kimengsi & Fogwe (2019)  | Cameroon  | Climate             | Focus group discussions, Interview, Questionnaire                          | Frequency, Percentage | The results indicated that, indigenous farmers have the ability to exactly observe and anticipate local conditions in many ways to serve their local  |

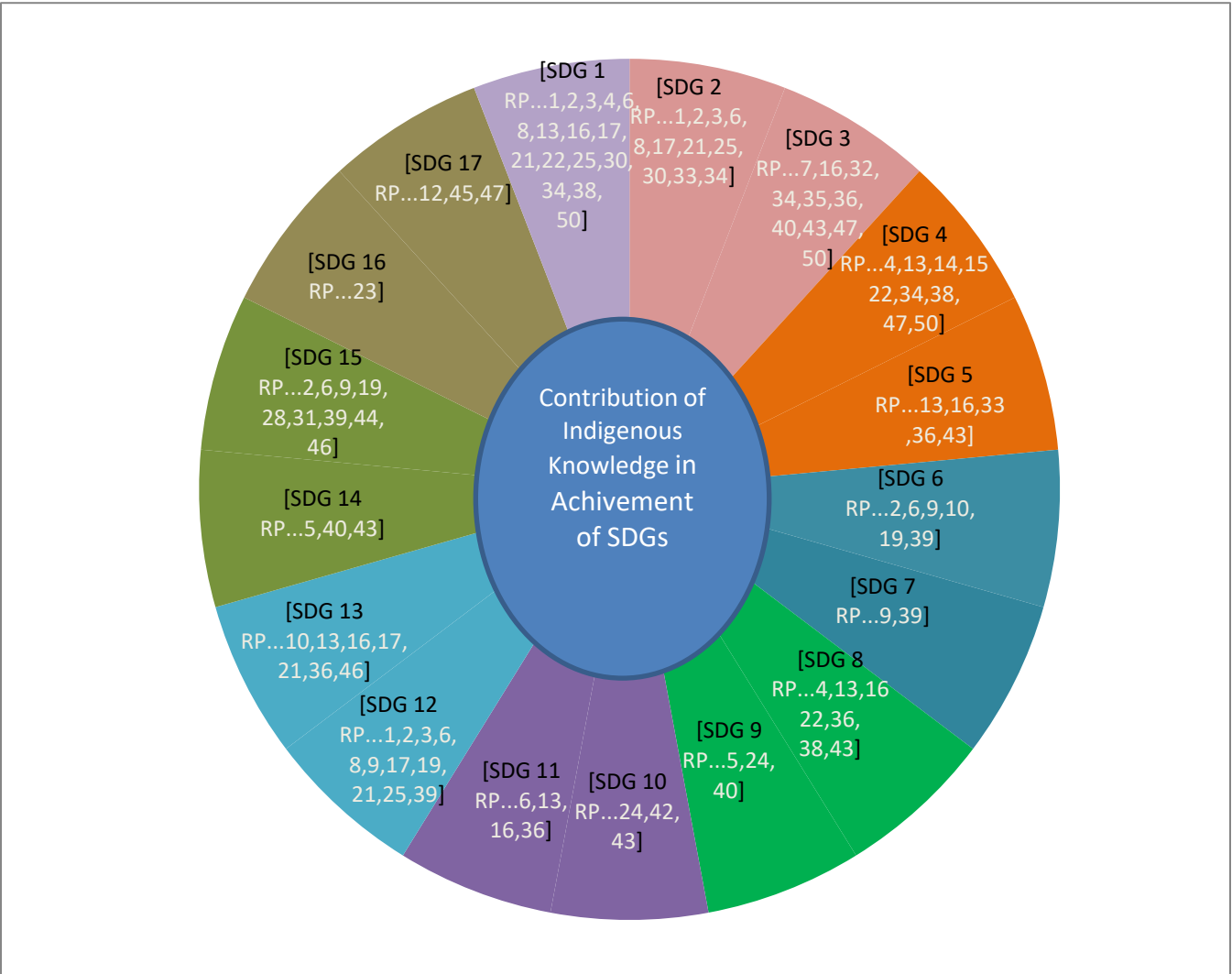
|     |   |   |              |   |                              |  |  |
|-----|---|---|--------------|---|------------------------------|--|--|
|     | in the Bamenda Highlands of Cameroon: Insights from the Bui Plateau   |   |              |   |                              |  | realities more aptly than outer forecasts. Such indigenous knowledge plays an important role in understanding local climate information that replicates biological variability.  |
| 47. | Introduction: toward more inclusive definitions of sustainability   | Virtanen, Siragusa, & Guttorm (2020)    | Finland      | Current opinion in Environmental Sustainability | Systematic literature review | Content analysis                                     | The findings revealed that, various dimensions of Traditional ideas of sustainability show how context-based relational thinking bridges community-based governance, humans and nonhumans, language education, , and quality of life and health.   |
| 48. | Acknowledging Indigenous and Local Knowledge to Facilitate Collaboration in Landscape Approaches—Lessons from a Systematic Review | Williams, Sikutshwa & Shackleton (2020) | South Africa | Land  | Systematic Literature Review | qualitative (content) and quantitative (descriptive) | The researcher studied that, multiple landscape values and their interaction with structures and policies dealing with landscape management and governance are important for broader adoption of landscape methods that include ILK as a key part. |

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|-----|---|-------------------------------|--------|----------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 49. | Application of Traditional Knowledge of Hani People in Biodiversity Conservation  | Yang, Wang, Wang & Guo (2018) | China  | Sustainability | interviews with villagers, focus group discussion, and field investigation | Descriptive analysis | The findings showed that, 80% of the world's protected areas are settled by indigenous people. Approximately 11% of the worlds and 22% of developing countries' forests are managed by local societies or minorities.  |
| 50. | An Application of Sustainable Development in Indigenous People's Revival: The History of an Indigenous Tribe's Struggle in Taiwan | Yu-Yu (2018)                  | Taiwan | Sustainability | Case study, interview  | Thematic analysis    | The researchers studied that, Smangus people encompassing everything from flora and fauna for food, landscape, medical purposes to weather, landscape, and natural resources in an environment friendly manner and an approach to sustain their local knowledge. |

**Source:** Compiled by researchers

## **5. Identification of different sectors of indigenous knowledge and contribution of these sectors in achievement of SDGs**

Indigenous communities have much contribute to almost all the issues which are the cause of unsustainable use of natural resources. Traditional knowledge can contribute to these worldwide issues through various local practices such as sustainable use of plants and animals, and issues such as climate change, desertification and water quality. Indigenous knowledge is the basis for survival strategies and better decision-making. Various areas are identified by researchers in previous studies conducted in various countries using different techniques such as descriptive statistics, frequency, percentage, factor analysis, content analysis. On the basis of previous studies, various areas are found in which indigenous knowledge is used. These areas include; agriculture, health, education, climate change, cultural identity, environmental justice, fisheries, forests and wildlife, natural resources. The use of indigenous knowledge in these sectors helps in achieving of sustainable development goals. These awareness systems include all areas of life because they are developed by the people from their real and traditional knowledge. Contribution of indigenous knowledge in SDGs represent in this figure:-



**Figure 1.** Contribution of Indigenous Knowledge in Achievement of SDGs

**Note.** SDGs -Sustainable development goals,  
 RP- Research papers related to indigenous knowledge explained in Table no. 2.

This pie diagram depicts the relationship of indigenous knowledge and sustainable development goals. It is based on the contribution explained by various past researchers in their research articles.

## Conclusion

This systematic literature review investigated the current role of Indigenous local knowledge in sustainability and role of indigenous knowledge in achieving sustainable development goals. Today greatest challenges which the society is facing are the issues of socio –economic growth, poverty reduction, the protection of the earth’s resources and human welfare and development, common and life support system. Indigenous knowledge systems contribute directly to biological and cultural diversity, conflict resolution, poverty eradication, food security and ecosystem health. Their awareness related to traditional food sources and the fundamental connection between food systems and healthy landscapes can help to promote diets that are sustainable. Local Knowledge contributes towards sustainable development in various sectors like agriculture, health, education, environment through traditional practices. From the viewpoint of anthropology, in order to achieve the SDGs, traditional knowledge is necessary to solve many issues related to sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. So, it is necessary to respect our traditional knowledge and use local knowledge and practices to make our environment more sustainable. Thus framing policies for sustainable development will require cooperation between scientists and traditional knowledge holders which include local peoples. The government and our society can take the initiatives to support indigenous peoples like, finding new markets for local products, land management plans that are climate-resistant and developing forest, protection of indigenous intellectual property and cultural identities.

### **COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

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