

Preface

During the freedom struggle for India, Mahatma Gandhi was asked whether his country would achieve the standards of living as its colonial power after independence. “It took Britain half the resources of the planet to achieve its prosperity,” was his reply. “How many planets will a country like India require?”

After half a century, India and its neighbouring country China considered as world’s economic powers. Today, the global thinking is that both these countries will engulf the planet with their economic development. But the situation at present is that all the people in India and China are not holding silver spoons to transfer rice into mouth. In south Asia, the country like India which hosts several religions and which have taught non-violence to the world has the habit of spending towards defence out of reserve revenue collected as taxes from public. Positive aspect of such approach and investment is their possible utilization during war against climate change.

Coping with climate change is a great challenge to all of us living on the planet earth. Climate change is the problem of the century. It has global appearance and effects. No single country alone can win the war against climate change. It needs constructive thinking and collective efforts. In this regard, developed countries have to take lead as they carry responsibility of greater fossil fuel consumption and so the major share in greenhouse gas emissions which is responsible for climate change. According to recent global acceptance, Earth’s temperature has increased by about 0.7°C since the beginning of industrial revolution. The truth is that only 15% of world’s intergenerational population from rich countries has contributed half of the emissions of CO₂ leaving the problem to the current generation to solve.

Owing the richness, developed countries can cope with climate change in easier manner but the shocks of climate change are going to affect poors in devastating manner in developing world. South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions. Having seen and tasted poverty and climate impacts, we the authors of this book came together to ink our experiences which have not been published before.

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