

# Environmental Sustainability, Growth Trajectory and Gender



# Contemporary Issues of Developing Economies



**Edited by** 

Chandrima Chakraborty
Dipyaman Pal

# **Environmental Sustainability, Growth Trajectory and Gender**



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## **Foreword**

Several recent global assessments, scientific literature and expert opinion seeking surveys are showing that one of the 17 sustainable developmental goals (SDG) which has the most likely potential and chance to constraint developmental objectives for many countries in this century is the SDG 13, which focuses on the climate action. State of the climate system will determine economic outcome while economic development model of each country makes a choice for determining the state of the climate system. However, other local environmental issues, like water quality, air quality, soil quality, biodiversity, and so on, are equally important determinants of economic growth trajectories and human well-being. In a globally connected world that shares same global common good like climate system, consumption-induced externalities and production externalities need disruptive technological change, innovative governance and new institutions to enable accelerated societal transformation toward sustainable development. It is well established now in the literature that human well-being is a much broader concept than economic well-being measured by single-dimensional metric like gross domestic product. How various social groups participate in decision-making process defines not only political agency but also creates social trusts among various actors within a governance system and enhances productive base of the economy. In this century, productive base of the economy is no longer confined to a single-dimensional array of man-made physical capital but is a portfolio of capital assets that includes additionally human capital, natural capital, social capital and knowledge capital. Persistent policy blindness and lack of appropriate institutions to manage overlapping risks across economic, social and environmental dimensions exacerbate current threats to sustaining growth outcomes due to increasing natural hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities. On these issues regional examples based on good quality scientific evidence-based analysis within a clear analytical frame from the developing world are abysmally low compared to developed counterparts.

This book can be considered as a major contribution from the experts based on regional analysis from Asia, Africa and emerging economies of the world in bridging this knowledge gap. Various articles chosen for compiling this volume brings out one point very clearly that the developing region is caught up structurally in economic growth dilemma with rising environmental constraints, lack of state-of-the art technologies and social inequities. Regional diversity in authorship and study contexts provide a very rich set of information and wide-angle lens to see the developmental challenges.

#### xxiv Foreword

Conclusions based on empirical evidence from various studies at various scales in this book support the triple bottom line of sustainable development. The new granular insights brought in by the various articles in this book are very useful for informing larger global debate. From intellectual point of view compilation of articles by the editors from across various regions and arranging them thematically helps in understanding the complexities and multidimensional challenges of sustainable development. The articles in this book will be of considerable interest and use to the authors of various regional and global assessment reports, future researchers, decision-makers like national governments, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, civil societies engaged in developmental actions in the region and will generate more interest for taking forward more in depth studies to advance deeper regional debate, struggle and understanding of the challenges for turning the current development processes on sustainable development trajectories.

Joyashree Roy Bangabandhu Chair Professor Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand Professor of Economics (On lien) and Founder Advisor to Global Change Programme & SYLFF-JU Programme of Jadavpur University, India

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Although all care has been taken, no one other than us, as the editor, discloses to remain entirely responsible for any errors that still stay behind this book.

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