Guest Editorial Preface

Special Issue on Management of Economic, Political and Environmental Crises of the 20th Century and till Date (Part 2)

Ramesh Chandra Das, Department of Economics, Katwa College, Katwa, India

The global environment and social systems of the 20th Century and till date have experienced series of crises and the countries of different developmental and political set ups have tried to manage them with their own capacities besides the cooperation and agreements from the allies of business and diplomatic ties. The magnitudes of the crises become all-encompassing when there are cross border flow of goods and services as an outcome of the process of globalization. It is not that all the countries or the group of countries have successfully handled the crises. Some countries have not been even affected by the crises because of their insignificant magnitudes of populations' demand for environmental resources. On the other hand, some economies and political crises have been well handled by some countries by their own capacities to govern their societies and environmental system well. Very recently the issue of Climate Change has been able to accommodate different classes of countries into a single umbrella in various Climate Change Summits in terms of different ties and commitments to handle the persistent and accelerating threat of the carbon emission upon the global environment. The differences, in some cases, in the opinions in the Global Summits till the latest one in Paris, 2015, have led to skeptics among the nations about the credibility of the recommendations and commitments by the member nations to combat the green house gas emissions which sometimes put adverse impact upon the bilateral and multilateral economic and diplomatic ties. It is, thus, necessary now to evaluate the management and control policies taken by different economies till date to combat the crises in all economic, political and environmental aspects and to analyze critically their sustainability in a long run perspective.

Based upon the background I, as guest editor, communicated to the IGI Global's editorial department to uncover one special issue of the *International Journal of Sustainable Economies Management (IJSEM)* on the particular issue and the editorial department finally agreed to proceed with me under the title Management of Economic, Political and Environmental Crises of the 20th Century and till date. It is now a pleasure to announce that the Special Issue-Part II of IJSEM has been able to see the earth with eleven articles with immense capacity of value addition to the existing literature. All the papers have passed the triple blind peer review system performed by various eminent reviewers in the said fields connected to the editorial advisory board of the journal and to my personal academic periphery. All the papers have tried to unveil the essence of the research topic which is briefly addressed below.

Paper 1 presents evidence on the extent to which the global financial crisis and other crises since 2007 has been associated with deteriorating economic and social well-being indicators with a special

focus on India. The results clearly indicate that poverty levels have been falling before the pre-crisis period but the post-crisis period witnessed a jump in the poverty rates across India.

Paper 2 throws light on the famous "tax versus standard" debate in the sphere of environmental economics by using general equilibrium framework and tries to examine which of the two, is the better way to deal with pollution in the presence of a waste recycling sector which is the unique feature of it and has shown the impact of tax and standard separately on different polluting and non-polluting sectors of the economy. The study has revealed that in the presence of a waste recycling sector in the economy, both pollution tax and environmental standard have the same impact.

Paper 3 aims at bringing out the factors responsible for a household's decision to invest in rooftop rainwater harvesting based on cross sectional sample of 230 houses from Urban Areas of Hooghly District in West Bengal, India. The study finds that a large number of explanatory variables like income of the household, coping cost incurred by the household positively and significantly affect household's decision to invest in rooftop rainwater harvesting. However, the household demand for water is negatively related to willingness of the household to adopt rooftop rainwater harvesting. Moreover, household heads that are educated and relatively with new buildings are more likely to invest in rooftop rainwater harvesting compared to the households without these features.

Paper 4 investigates the dependence of rural households on forests managed under Joint Forest Management (JFM) using primary data collected from 300 households from 57 Forest Protection Committees (FPCs) in the dryland areas of two districts of West Bengal in India. The study reveals that households in forest-fringe areas are highly dependent on forests in maintaining their livelihoods where dependency of households on Non-Timber Forest Products depend significantly on the factors like number of forest goers, possession of assets, level of education, location and occupational diversification of the households.

Paper 5 aims at scope and development of rural tourism at Kamarpukur, West Bengal, India, which acts as a catalyst to promote local economy, socio-cultural changes and life style of the people residing in and around the tourist locations besides empowerment of women for promoting quality of life through rural tourism development in Pallimangal of Kamarpukur in particular and West Bengal in general. The purpose of this study is to explore the reasons, for which the tourists visit this location either for religious or for recreational purposes. The study has observed that there has been increasing inflow of tourists in the said spot due to religious as well as natural beauties, with increase in the tertiary expenses made by the tourists on different products produced by the women led handicrafts.

All the five articles of this special issue have highlighted different issues of environmental and social crises encapsulated from the over growth of carbon emissions, environmental pollution, dependency in non timber forest resources, and the handling of the global financial crisis with respect to social indicators across different economies. Besides, there are a few articles which dealt with tourism development and associated women empowerment through it in West Bengal, India. The said volume has the potential of enormous worthiness that may enable the readers and the academic personnel in the fields of Social and Environmental researches to grasp for further development of the existing literatures. I, as guest editor, sincerely acknowledge the contributions of the authors, reviewers, assistance and cooperation of the IGI Global Team, and finally my family members for developing this tedious special issue.

Ramesh Chandra Das
Guest Editor
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