

Preface



As we enter the 13th year of the 21st century, as global citizens, we have accomplished great achievements to emerge as a powerful knowledge society. Today, the global citizens with their endeavors in field of various sciences, arts and commerce have contributed in making human lives better and healthier. Today mankind has reached avenue once thought beyond its reach like the outer space and continues to discover and explore the nature for enhancement of human dignity and life.

In the race for better amenities and lifestyles, the human race resorted to exploiting the natural resources as products and raw material. This started with industrial revolution and continued in form of liberalization, modernization and globalization. With the maddening competition at the global level, this race led to over exploitation and degradation of natural resources which had an inverse impact on the environment and the ecology. Today, this has taken form of a global crisis called global warming and climate change. Much of the climate change phenomenon is attributed to the anthropogenic cause then the natural cause as cited by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a consortium of intergovernmental panel. The climate change has adverse impact on the extreme events like cyclones, floods, extreme cold and hot weather etc along with sea level rise. Across the globe, the impacts have been scaring amidst total confusion and chaos. Already there was a rising concern to disaster vulnerability due to the physical, economic and social vulnerabilities in various nooks and corners of the world when all of a sudden the world had to face the wrath of climate change impacts especially in a negative connotation. Various countries came together with the help of international platforms in form of IPCC and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The Convention on Climate Change sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenges posed by climate change. It recognizes that the climate system is a shared resource whose stability can be affected by industrial and other emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. IPCC is for

assessment of climate change. It reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change. Its assessment reports have exhibited for each region the climate change impacts and vulnerability and adaptation measures.

At the country level, India being a party to IPCC and UNFCCC, it has through its National Communications and National Action Plan on Climate Change which states eight national missions in form of National Solar Mission, National Mission for Advanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change, paved a way for its own climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. The National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change encourages the research at various levels by various academic and research institutes.

The researcher, being a social work professional, has worked in the field of disaster management for seven years. The rich experiences of working in different phases of relief to preparedness of disaster preparedness during various Bhuj Earthquake, Kashmir Earthquake and Indian Ocean Tsunami provided the insights into the field of disasters management. Similarly, leading a Community Based Disaster Preparedness project in Porbandar in Gujarat provided an in depth knowledge and work experience in the field of community preparedness with concept of integration of disaster management into developmental planning. The focus of the project was to make communities resilient. Working on School Safety Program in Gujarat, provided a holistic structural and non structural preparedness knowledge. Moreover, working on the social vulnerability project for Maldives also provided an understanding of research in the field at national level. All this experience led to an emerging interest in making communities resilient.

Being from the field of social work, the inquisitiveness about what are the social indicators that makes a community vulnerable or resilient prompted the researcher to work on these issues during the projects.

The present research topic is totally a new topic, was undertaken by the researcher based on the work experience, interest and the emerging need to contribute in the uncertain field of climate change which is the need of the hour.