EDITORIAL

Mitigating the Adverse Impact of Climate Change: An Indian Perspective

Subhash Chandra Parija[1], Prateek Sudhakar Bobhate[2]

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Climate change as a result of globalization, industrialization, use of fossil fuels, agricultural activities is a well-known entity. The adverse impact of climate change on health and human wellbeing is apparent not only in the developed countries but also in the developing countries.[1] World Health Organization has estimated more than a million deaths worldwide as a result of climate change due to transmission of various diseases, food shortage, and adverse climate events, etc.[1] The Paris Agreement is an international treaty on climate change which has set a goal to limit global warming to less than 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C in comparison to the pre-industrial levels by reaching global peak of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a world which is climate neutral by mid of the century.[2] As some of the most formidable challenges for most of the developing countries in mitigating and adapting to the climate change is the availability, accessibility to technological solutions in addition to financial constraints, the agreement also provides a framework to support the low-resource countries financially as well as technologically, at the same time emphasizing on capacity building.

India, being a developing country, the adverse effects of global warming are even more evident because of the population explosion, use of biomass and fossil fuels, and the lack of awareness among the people about climate change. Majority of India's emissions come from coal-based energy production followed by industrial and agricultural practices.[3] Use of renewable sources of energy such as solar, hydropower, wind power, etc. provides not only a cleaner energy but also sustainable for the ecosystem. Similarly, the use of innovative technological solutions for farming sector, transport, etc. is the need of the hour. Taking cognizance of this, the Government of India has taken a number of initiatives for mitigation as well as for adaptation to climate change. The Government of India adopted the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on 30 June 2008 which lays the foundation for an ecologically sustainable development in the country simultaneously focusing on multiple domains such as energy, transport, agriculture, forest, industry, etc. The NAPCC has laid out eight national missions for various sectors, namely, solar energy, water conservation, expansion of forests, improving the energy efficiency, developing sustainable agricultural practices and urban habitat. India has been making steady progress in implementing these national missions.[4]

At the global front, India has been a signatory of the Paris Agreement in 2015. India's target is to reduce its emissions by 33–35% of its GDP by 2030 as compared to the 2005 level. India is committed to net zero emissions by the year 2070. India has declared a "Panchamitra" strategy to achieve this target. It includes meeting half the energy requirements from renewable energy, generating non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, decreasing the carbon emissions by one billion tonnes and reducing the carbon intensity economy to below 45%, all by the year 2030.[3] India has accepted this enormous challenge in a very positive manner and it is anticipated that India will be not only achieving this target but also do much better than the target.

To conclude, climate change is for real and it is time to take appropriate action now to have a better environment for the future generations to come.

[1]Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Puducherry, India

[2]Department of Community Medicine, Shri Sathya Sai Medical College and Research Institute, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Nellikuppam, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Author: Prateek Sudhakar Bobhate, Department of Community Medicine, Shri Sathya Sai Medical College and Research Institute, Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Nellikuppam, Tamil Nadu, India, Phone: +91 9884227228, e-mail: prateekbobhate@gmail.com

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