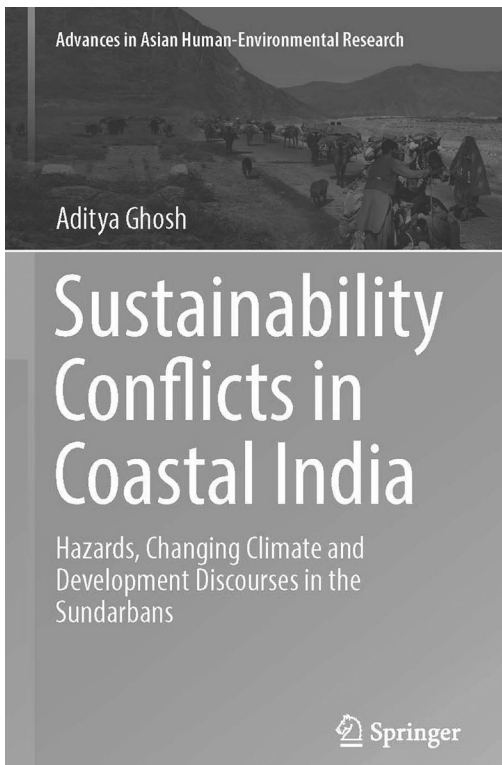


## Book Review - 2

### **Aditya Ghosh: Sustainability Conflicts in Coastal India: Hazards, Changing Climate and Development Discourses in the Sundarbans,**

Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2018, pp- 255



The delta region is the hybrid environmental space where land is floating above the water. The conglomerate sediment has been carried by the rivers and finally making this unstable prosper geographic space by depositing those sediment. The Sundarbans region, world largest delta, UNESCO heritage site, both in India and Bangladesh is a unique geographic space attracting large number

of motivated interdisciplinary scholars for doing research for its distinct character in a changing climate and increasing disasters in the present time. This book is a new addition to the growing field of above mentioned areas as well as environment and development discourse. This book highlights the burning problems and conflicts in the environment and developmental practices with empirical evidence and ethnographic research with vivid interpretation. Raising some relevant questions regarding sustainability issues of this region, such as increasing vulnerability of the poor in a warming world, the land-water management practices, historical exclusion, and present dilemma of policy framing. The book is well structured into three parts and seven chapters.

The first part of the book has two chapters, the first one emphasizes on growing climate vulnerability and economic and ecological marginalization of the poor people in the resource-rich Sundarbans region in the warming world. And the author has also developed context-specific understanding of sustainability of the global south to disapprove the northern view of sustainability. The second chapter examines that the rapidly changing climate is jeopardizing the individual and community capabilities to prospect and

push them to the poverty trap. Above all, the region is becoming uninhabitable to the people. The livelihoods of the people are hindering due to the state control over forest resources, falling the agricultural yield, low level of work opportunities, and organized chaos of government sectors to provide public facility, such as health, education, transports.

The second part of the book consist four chapters. The first one critically shows that how the region is historically excluded by the British colonial ruler to the Babus of the near big megacity of Kolkata. The next chapters of the second part of the book vividly argue that growing everyday disaster of lousing the homeland due to the rise of sea level and destructing the socio-ecological systems. At the same time, people are losing the workforce, sharp rising of economic marginality and livelihoods constraints especially in the last two decades. As a result the economically upper-class, and aspirational middle class are leaving the place, educated ambitious prefer to settle in the city. In addition to policy perspective, author contributed that the Sunderban is the hot topic for democratic public to the Indian newspaper. This media has been creating a homogenous policy atmosphere among the wider audience of across the country. Whereas, the media priorities has shifted towards biological conservation rather than focusing on problems oriented coverage.

The third part of the book, clear conclusion about the ongoing hegemony about the developmental discourse and climate change impact, people aspiration and mal adaptation practices in this unique geographical space of global south. There

are growing needs to rethink the everyday small scale disasters perception and sustainable policy formulation towards prosperity and adaptation.

The strength of the book is very good representation of theoretical argument and relevance literature in the light of post-colonial, Subaltern discourse. Unfortunately, despite the sincere efforts of the author, the books has some limitation in context of changing character hazards and developmental practices in Surdarbans region. The author has used local language terminology i.e. the Bengali and Bengali newspaper editorial headline had been mentioned rigorously throughout the book. However, the explanation of these headlines lacking. To some extent, the use of Bengali terms has not explained properly for non-Bengali readers. Apart from that the book lack to represent the currently published government data information regarding floods, cyclone, sea level change, climate parameter, climate adaptive livelihoods, and disaster preparedness initiatives which are easily available in public domain. The author highlighted the issue of spatialities of vulnerabilities (page 16) although, the spatiality of vulnerabilities is not mapped scientifically in this regional context. However, apart from these criticisms, '*Sustainability Conflicts in Coastal India: Hazards, Changing Climate and Development Discourses in the Sundarbans*' is useful contribution to the policy maker and scholar community in coastal management of South Asia.

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