

Preface

Life without water cannot survive so water is called as the symbol of life. Access to freshwater is a basic human right. Water problems in Bangladesh arise both during the dry season and in the rainy season. Flash floods occur in summer and in the rainy season by sudden release of water at the upstream or by heavy downpour. Again, in the dry season, small rivers dry up because of shortage of water in the big rivers owing to withdrawal of water at the upstream through barrages built and operated by neighbouring country. As a result, irrigation projects in Bangladesh based on river water cease to function, causing losses in crop production and increase in poverty.

For the socio-economic emancipation and environmental control in the Teesta River basin area, two surveys were carried out in 1999 and in 2002 both in Bangladesh and in the Indian Territory, respectively. The objective was to recommend an optimal social policy model to ensure the sharing of dry season water, with the highest possible benefit for both the countries. With an objective to maximize GRP of both Dalia (Bangladesh) and the Gazoldoba (India) regions, the results of computer simulations (using IO (input-output) data of both countries) on the increase in Gross Regional Production (GRP), increase in agricultural production, increase in employment of labour in agricultural fields and possible trade and businesses between the regions have been shown in this research.

This research has its exploratory socio-environmental base in two regions of India and Bangladesh, respectively. I have conducted an intensive field survey in both the target areas and also gathered secondary data from the respective authorities of both countries. The field survey for this research was funded by the MONBUSHO scholarship of Japan.

Sharing water of international rivers is a common problem among riparian states. Political treaties signed to solve water-sharing problems of international rivers seldom last long. Recommendations made in research works in order to bring about optimum economic benefits for all the riparian states also are rarely implemented. One major cause for this is the negligence on part of policy planners

to follow or abide by ethical principles. This negligence has lingered many of the problems related to sharing international freshwater bodies.

This book stands between two concepts of human life, which are interrelated with each other. I envision that this book by virtue of its interdisciplinary character may prove useful in several different kinds of courses: (a) For courses in Social Work that now go under the title of Social Problem Analysis. This book provides a base for studying the economic characteristics of poverty other than the social ones. (b) For course in Methods of Social Research. This book is an introduction of applying modern methods and techniques of scientific and advanced social research. In modern social research, a researcher is concerned with different traditions of knowledge, attitudes, environments and problems. A social worker deals with men and his surroundings. My hope is that it may be a modest contribution to both socio-economic-environmental problem analysis and advanced research methods. Construction of theoretical policy model and use of computer software for simulation purposes must focus new ideas in social work research, which may expand our knowledge in this regard, and I hope students of social sciences in Bangladesh and readers of this book may test some new ideas of using modern social research technologies.

It was a challenge for me to publish this research as a book and I carried on helpful conversation with my wife Dr. Wardatul Akmam and former laboratory mate Dr. Mizunoya Takeshi, Dr. Kobayashi Shintarou face-to-face and by e-mail. By this I tried to mitigate the new alerted problems and ideas. However, I am solely responsible for any errors in fact or interpretation which may exist in this book. In a work of this kind, there always remains scope for improvement. Any suggestions of readers are invited and would be accepted gratefully.

Although this book is based on a particular research work, I hope it would be helpful for the students and researchers interested in socio-economic and environmental related issues.

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