Preface

Climate impacts societal well-being in multiple ways and in interacting contexts, with human health as a key element in this narrative. Climate change in fact presents a classic opportunity to test Bertrand Russell's dictum that "the desire to understand the world and the desire to reform it are the two great engines of progress, without which human society would stand still or retrogress" (Russell 1929, Marriage and Morals, pp. 184).[1] Center staging the role of the environment in shaping the risks to human health implies an explicit recognition of the sustainable development paradigm. Climate change, in particular, implies a world where health systems have to plan and be prepared for the consequences of a changing climate, in the present, the near term and the future. Managing vulnerability to current climatic variability and reducing risks from a changing climate in the future presents challenges and opportunities for public health provisioning and individual well-being. There is relatively much less to gain from on the spot "reactive heroism" responses, and far more to gain from "long term pragmatism" in adapting to the threats to the health sector.

Good health has always been considered as critical to human well-being. Measures of health status are an outcome indicator for judging achievements in societal welfare for an economy that reflect not just what is achieved in terms of direct health indicators, but also as an indirect measure of achievements on a broad set of socio-economic indicators. Examples of the former include immunization status, morbidity and mortality from communicable and non-communicable diseases, while the latter includes non-health indicators which impact health outcomes such as adequacy of access to safe water, sanitation, clean energy, connectivity, income and nutritional levels, and so on.

Climate change adds a level of complexity to the situation that is quite unprecedented as it brings in new dimensions for all those interested in sustainability of health gains in developing economies. There is sufficient evidence of the

[1]Bertrand Russell, *Marriage and Morals*, (First edition: George Allen and Unwin Ltd, London, 1929). Routledge Classics, London and New York, 2009; pp 184.

range of disciplines and competencies that would be required to keep improving upon the health status of the population in the context of a changing climate.

This book attempts to build an understanding of the concerns, highlighting the current state of knowledge on climate-related risks to the health sector, the challenges it poses for economies that are still striving to achieve a basic quality of health for their citizens, and the adaptation opportunities available for ensuring that the public health care system is prepared to respond to these challenges.

The scope of this book is such that it spans across disciplines, drawing in particular from economics, climate science, health sciences, public policy and management, international relations, and development studies. The methodological and data issues that are to be addressed are complex, and include qualitative and quantitative approaches.

http://www.springer.com/978-81-322-2822-6

Climate Sensitive Adaptation in Health
Imperatives for India in a Developing Economy Context
Dasgupta, P.
2016, XXII, 194 p. 74 illus., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-81-322-2822-6