

Foreword

With the growing urbanization, peri-urban areas have received increasing attention from planners, researchers and scientists in the recent decades. Peri-urban areas comprise characteristics of both urban and rural areas and located in the midst of urban core and rural landscape, with emerging challenges. It is apparent that with increasing urbanization, the ecology of these areas gets neglected in the planning process resulting in increased risks of climate change.

This monograph addresses some of these challenges by considering climate change at a micro level by drawing indicators from the IPCC, examining trends in climate change variability and their implications for livelihoods, agriculture, land use patterns, forests and water resources supported by meteorological data, perceptions and coping mechanisms of local communities. Besides, the study also evaluates the private intervention of the health service provider Soukya Foundation under AYUSH program and its scope of reviving traditional health care systems. Given the bigger challenge of providing health care in India, the influence of life style change and alternate medicine is seen as a positive option for improving the health status of the masses. It is an interesting documentation of the approach, activities, strengths and challenges encountered during the intervention. The other dimension addressed is the linkages between cultural practices, ecological protection through conservation and usage of medicinal plants in revitalizing health of the people. This emphasises the important role of cultural practices in protecting the ecology in peri-urban areas.

Finally, policy suggestions are addressed keeping in view the local contexts; however, broader issues are applicable to other semi-arid regions as well. I congratulate the research team for this stimulating work having vital policy relevance. The results and recommendations of this study are of importance to researchers and students pursuing the academic themes related to peri-urban studies, climate change and ecology. I am confident that this monograph will be used widely by all of them.

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