

**CLIMATE CHANGE BURDEN SHARING:
A REAPPRAISAL OF THE EQUITY DEBATE**

ANUBHAB PATTANAYAK

ABSTRACT

Defining (or devising) an internationally equitable distribution of the burden of reducing emissions that induce climate change risks has been a core concern for as long as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions policies have been debated. In the earliest attempt in this direction the UNFCCC suggested that such an objective is achievable on the basis of “common but differentiated responsibilities”. This study gives an overview of background of the climate equity debate in the context of GHG mitigation and explores some possible variations of a framework that is derived from the principles of the UNFCCC. It takes into account differences among countries in terms of their current and historic GHG emissions, the attributes that contribute to these differences, their capabilities, and their vulnerabilities to climate change. The study argues that since climate change impacts are akin to global public bad, compensation, especially for the poorer nations who are also the worst victims of the climate change impacts, could be conceived in the form of greater share in the GHG emission rights.

Key words: GHG Mitigation; Climate Change Impacts; Equity