

Abstract

The impacts of climate change are largely determined not only by the strength of different climate events but also by the vulnerability of the system. The terms vulnerability and risk in the climate change context are widely getting used to describe the effects on communities, sectors, infrastructure, and ecosystems. Reducing vulnerability to climate change and the related consequences is important for relevant stakeholders to develop policies related to allocation of resources and building strategies to manage climate risks. The importance of assessing vulnerability is well recognized in the literature, and several studies have attempted to quantify vulnerability across different levels and sectors using different indicators as per the focus of the study. The present paper discusses the approaches followed and relative vulnerability rankings assessed by some of the nation-wide assessments in Indian context. The assessments considered had largely similar geographical coverage, shared the objective of identifying most vulnerable regions in India to facilitate resource allocation, and were carried out under the aegis of a ministry/department of the Government of India. The objective of the present work is to analyse the level of consensus between the selected all India level assessments. The results suggest that despite following similar data and methodology, the three studies compared do not agree completely across the different metrics of comparison. The paper further evaluates the factors that determine vulnerability of regions at high risk.

Keywords: Adaptive Capacity; Climate Risk; India; Vulnerability