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REDUCING INEQUALITIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: MULTILEVEL APPROACH

MEDANI P. BHANDARI AND SHVINDINA HANNA (EDITORS)



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**Reducing Inequalities Towards
Sustainable Development Goals:
Multilevel Approach**

RIVER PUBLISHERS SERIES IN CHEMICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND ENERGY ENGINEERING

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Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach

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**This Book is dedicated
To**



Daryna Leus (Boronos) 02.06.1988–28.08.2018

Married to Pavlo Leus, one daughter Lidiya (born in 2002). Graduated from Sumy State University in 2005 (specialty “Finance”), winner of the Oleg Balatskyi scholarship. She got a Ph.D. in 2014, the research was devoted to Portfolio investment as an instrument of financial support for the sustainable development of Ukraine’s economy. She was the author of more than 20 papers. At Sumy State University she was working as an educator, a manager at International Affair Department, was an assistant of the rector on quality of education, and then became a head of the Office of Educational Quality.

“She was a contributor and idea-bringer into the establishment of quality standards and improvements for educational quality at Sumy State University. Daryna was one of the leaders of civic engagement. And her efforts in informal civil education proved her intentions to improve everything she was involved in. She was a master of facilitation of the program “Active Citizens” of British Council in Ukraine and co-founder of the NGO “Centre for educational initiatives”. “If you ask me to describe Daryna with one sentence, she is a person who can change people around her even despite their resistance to change. I insist “she can”, not “she could” because memories about her still transform a lot of things in my mind. I thank her for that and for the support. . . . I am proud to write these words . . .”

Iryna Skliar, Educator, Ph.D., Head of Educational Department and Associate Professor at Sumy State University

“Dasha . . . She is associated with one word – WISDOM. Wisdom that includes critical thinking, deep knowledge, and most important, deep feelings and emotions. This cocktail, a complicated combination, made her real. She was real in love, in friendship, in her attitude to work, people, and projects she was involved into. She got unshakable wish to help people to see new opportunities and get them. She was generous in sharing these opportunities. She helped a lot of people to get scholarships or projects abroad that had changed lives. Because of Dasha I’ve started the path to myself. I learned how to slow down and be real, not “liked”. I learned to appreciate life for real and accept the challenges as the reserve for growth and strength. Today I know how to transform the pain into gratitude and love. And the wisdom of that, at first sight fragile, girl will live inside of me . . . Her life force was enough to change the worlds of many of us . . .”

Alina Poznanska, Sumy State University Alumni, Head of NGO “Active Citizen City” and Co-founder of “POZNANSKIteam”

“Dasha was one of those people who would light up a room with her smile. She was that rare package, a warm, smart, caring a funny person. I was privileged to have her as a friend and proud to have her as a co-creator of the Active Citizens environment in Ukraine, since it’s earliest days. She is missed”

Mike Waldron, Chief Executive and Founder of Inter-Pares Associates Ltd., Chairman of the Board of NGO “Global Tolerance”, Trainer of Active Citizens Programme

“I always admired Daryna secretly. She was so light, so scintillating, such a star. She managed to bring positive vibes into everything, whatever she was doing. She lighted people up, she lighted me up too. Only she could grab your hand and told you about a new life opportunity for YOU PERSONALLY and change your life for good. Without her I would not have my Erasmus Scholarship, and who knows, other projects and victories. But definitely, without her, this book would not be possible. And when I am looking back, I understand that we were just lucky to have such a sunny shining person in our lives”

Shvindina Hanna, Educator, Sumy State University, Associate Professor and CEO at NGO “Lifelong Learning Centre”

We all authors and editors, dedicate this volume to Daryna Leus (Boronos), (our young dearest colleague, daughter, friends of everyone, mother, an excellent housewife, lecturer – whose moto of life was to contribute to the society in fullest with all possible ways. Her departure to eternity in such young age has been very painful to all of us. We have been noticing hollowness to all of us- especially in the eyes of her father Prof. Volodymyr Boronos, (no one can understand that pain), her child, her students and we all listed in the acknowledgements). We never forget you Daryna, we dedicate this book to you, and pray for your peace of soul.

*On behave of all authors and editorial team – Medani P. Bhandari, PhD
Professor of Sustainability, Enterprenurship and Innovation*

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Foreword

Based in this text, the goal of significant reduction of economic and social inequalities in developing countries, remains unachieved. Amelioration of human suffering in the third world continues as an important goal for the United Nations. The authors of this important book address these issues and lay out the concerns in an effective manner, with an important focus upon equivalency of the global moral standard. The title of the book, “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” must be viewed among the premier missions of the global community. Prof. Dr. Medani P. Bhandari and his colleague, Associate Prof. Shvindina Hanna, in their editing, have addressed a path forward toward the final cure for human inequality.

The hope of the book parallels the philosophies of many of the great leaders of the international humanitarian movement. For instance, the American human rights hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated: *Everybody can be great ... because everybody can serve ... You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.* He said: *The time is always right ... to do what is right.* The great Filipino Benigno Ninoy Aquino once said: *We should not depend on one man, we should depend on all of us. All of us in the cause for freedom must stand up now and be a leader, and when all of us are leaders, we will expedite the cause of freedom. Overcoming major human challenges is the reality of your world, as remembered in the words of the great Vietnam leader, Ho Chi Minh: “Remember that the storm is a good opportunity for the pine and the cypress to show their strength and their stability. After the rain ... good weather In the wink of an eye, the universe throws off its muddy clothes. Further, Mahatma Gandhi stated: As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world, rather our greatness rests – in being able to remake ourselves. A man is but the product of his thoughts ... what he thinks he becomes. Further, he said: My life is my message ... You must be the change you wish to see in the world.*

These men were great humanitarians because they had a true mission, and they pursued it with every ounce of humanity. As is a foundation of this book,

the global community must establish human equality and betterment of the human condition as primary goals for all humanity. World leaders then, must achieve this goal with unity.

Another basis for betterment of the human condition is founded in a premise of the major world religions. The holy teachings of Jesus of Nazareth states: *whatever you want others to do to you, do also to them...* This is widely referred to as the Golden Rule, and internationally, across the major religions, this teaching underscores law and community across much of the human race. For Buddhism, the same teaching states: *Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful*. For Hinduism, we find written: *This is the sum of duty; do nothing unto others . . . what you would not have them do unto you*. In Islam, it is believed that: *No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself*.

These foundations then support the premise of this book, that the nations united in policy and effort must move toward this goal of global human equality. I thank the authors for pursuing such a grand undertaking

Dr. Douglass Capogrossi,
President, Akamai University, Hilo, Hawaii, USA

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Forward word for Monograph

This edited book - is a combined effort of several faculties of Sumy State University and others mainly based in Ukraine. In 2017, Sumy State University invited Prof. Medani P. Bhandari for a week-long educational program developed by University faculties coordinated by Associate Professor Shvindina Hanna and Daryna Leus (who is unfortunately no more with us). Prof. Bhandari's main discussion and lectures for the faculties and students were how to encourage and engage faculties and doctoral students on research and knowledge production, in a productive way. During one of the meetings with faculties, Daryna initiated the idea to create the edited volumes as a practical example. The project was led by Professor Bhandari who has expertise in the spheres of Social justice and Environmental Protection, Social and Environmental policies, Climate Change and Sustainable development and Associate Professor Hanna Shvindina who enthusiastically contributes into Sustainable Development domain and is considered as one of promising project managers who directs her projects towards a sustainable and better future. The authors of this volume are highly qualified in their respected fields. Each chapter is theory grounded and reveals data-driven results. The book is an example of the wealth of knowledge and fills the knowledge gap in the field of development economics, inequality (gender, states, economic, geographical and social) and the interrelationship with the sustainability agendas. This monograph will be helpful for researchers, students and graduates, practitioners, strategists, public officers and policymakers, agencies and governments. The outcomes of the research may be provided as a part of the courses in a sphere of civic education, training on management, environmental economics and other branches of social science. I would like to express my appreciation to Professor Medani Bhandari and Associate Professor Hanna Shvindina for their leadership in this project. And to all authors for their contribution to the volume.

Rector

Anatolii Vasylyev

Preface

This book provides factual evidence of increased inequality through country specific case studies and comparative studies. Transnational. In general notion, inequality is seen every sphere of human history, socially, politically, economically and environmentally. Inequality of any nature whether it is through social, economic, cultural, political or environmental strata, creates the division on humanity and has been one of the major causes of conflict throughout human civilization.

The major goal of any society is sustained harmony in the society, however, it rarely exists in human sociopolitical history. The divisive element of inequality – is oppression to weak according to strata which can be economic, social, political, cultural or others forms-grounded and influenced by societal circumstances. Theoretically, it is hard to fully pinpoint the root cause of inequality- why oppressed are being oppressed and oppressors have been maintaining the domination. However, social justice theory, social dominance theory and development economics theory provides some basis of understand the nature of inequality. “The goal of social justice is full and equal participation of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs” – However, mostly societies are maintaining their structure based on dominance, therefore, inequality fostering in the society. Development economics is grounded on the basic notion of how poorest of the poor country’s economic condition can be improved in holistic way covering market condition, national and international economic policies, its population and labor condition, health status, educational structure and output. However, there are hurdle in implementation of development principles to address the inequality features because they are complicated economically, politically, socially, culturally and uncontrolled/unseen/invisible walls within the societal strata local to international. Despite of many efforts of governments, civil society, media and advocacy, leadership, scholars and all who believe inequality is factor of social division; inequality is increasing locally to internationally. Internationally, United Nation has been pioneering to find the root cause of inequality and find the way to minimize it throughout its history.

United Nation declared four decades (1960–1990) as development decade with the objective of total development primarily in the developing world. In 1990, UN presented Human Development Report 1990, and in 2000 UN declared millennium development goals (2000–2015). However, Goals were only partially achieved. With this experience, UN declared “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which declared 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. Goals 10 solely stands for reducing inequality, however, Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17 also linked with inequality issues. In this edited book, authors have tried to find out the current state inequality, through economic point of view (mostly development economics). The results of this books chapter show, despite of so much efforts from all concerned stakeholders, inequality has not been reduced. In fact, mostly since 1980, inequality has been rapid growth in the world (both developing and developing world).

Endorsements

Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach – is the results of the collaboration of scientists and researchers from USA and Ukraine in their attempt to re-think the current situation and find out solutions for well-known but still unsolved problems. Sustainable development is the contemporary survival ideology and one of the greatest challenges of the modern world and we need to continue moving towards it and uniting our efforts. All authors have tried to find the way of overcoming the economic, environmental and social inequalities that shaped by 17 goals formulated by UN in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specified for every country.

Every research touches some specific issue, nevertheless what really united all participants of the book – their aspiration to find out the solutions inter alia institutional, regulation, fiscal, and political. The results of the research presented in the book by different authors and the book in general, edited by Dr. Medani P. Bhandari and Dr. Shvindina Hanna, will be helpful for experts, policymakers, NGO activists and agencies as a basis for understanding the most crucial problems that should be in a focus of our common attention.

Oleksander Romanovskiy

Dr. of Sci., Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Higher Education System Rector of Ukrainian-American Concordia University, Kyiv, 01601, Ukraine

This book “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” edited by Profs. Medani P. Bhandari and Shvindina, is a product of a scenario which tries to reinterpret the concept of sustainable development goals, conceived decades ago, and relevancy in relation to inequality. Inequality has existed from time immemorial in history and continues reverberating across all continents with intensification of economic liberalization. Consequences of this is innovations and technological advancement which are marshalling swift and subtle changes touching

human life and eco-system. Scholars, scientists, economists, philosophers, policy makers and leadership are not sure of ways of managing ‘change’ at par with the speed of changes occurring. Rather challenging environment. Semblance of uncertainty and concomitant fear is inherent during ‘*change*’ process and this book is one of a kind in this journey. In the immediate past decades, platform economy created unprecedented level of new wealth, unthinkable to traditionalists. This phenomenon is widening income inequality gaps in one side while burgeoning wealth concentration continues to amass with few on the other end. This little understood challenge is unlikely to stop anytime soon for innovations are taking place all over the globe, unlike in the past. This trend is surely going to impact on skills profile, education systems, human habits, including in socio-political and economic behaviors of the future. In this, growing application of artificial intelligence will heavily impact on industrial and manufacturing processes and services sector resulting manifold disruptions all around including in labor force, work, market and income disparity. Perhaps, it is an avoidable reality of the future. No one appears prepared for this ‘*change*’ because there is no known proven clear path or a model that one could emulate in from the past.

This book provides a unique analysis on growing inequalities. To this end, United Nations global initiatives through three development decades (1960–90), Agenda 21 (1991–2000), millennium development goals (2000–15) and Sustainable Development Goals (2015–2030) are noteworthy. Authors have concluded that United Nations efforts have not fully met the goal of significant reduction of economic and social inequalities in developing countries, East European countries and North America. This book depicts a vivid picture of economic inequality. This is a useful thesis for all interested stakeholders including economists, scholars, students, educationists, civil societies, governments, development agencies and United Nations at large. I could not disagree with Prof. Bhandari’s conclusion that “the invisible walls are everywhere and “profit first” is the dominant mainstay of the modern growth mantra of development paradigms; an inescapable realism of unfettered wealth creation theme of the era. And his “Bashudaiva Kutumbakkam” is a noble philosophical concept that could be aspiring for global harmony among nation states and communities, and a guide to policy makers for new ways of looking into socio-economic disparities; certainly, a tall order in an environment of economic protectionism and political populism, currently in

vogue, and ensuing challenges to foster “live well and let live” as one global fellow community.

Kedar Neupane

Former staff of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Geneva, Switzerland

14 July 2019

It is my pleasure to write a few words about Dr. Medini P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna’s work. I have known Dr. Bhandari since 2017. His scholarship, research and in-depth analysis of subjects he handles are remarkably profound and timely for major shifts in policy decisions by all the concerned societies and countries equally. I have read his previous work “Green Web-II: Standards and Perspectives from the IUCN. It is a very profound analysis of justice, equity and sustainable development. In this edited work “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” his analysis is very crucial to fathom the depth of globe marching towards its own destruction. All scholar’s contribution in the volumes are His write-up in “The Problems and remarkably maintain very high standards, which adds new knowledge in inequality and Sustainable Development”. Every scholar succinctly lays out the fundamental issues of the world today. They are all divides, viz economic, income, race, religion and, human relations as well as geopolitical intolerance. This has given the rise to further dictatorial attitudes to haves in all lever of social strata including governance. Book outlines statistical analysis of the issues in the world today. I admire Dr. Bhandari, Hanna’s and all authors for frank and timely pointers that humanity needs to wake up. Otherwise we may be doomed before we see the twenty second century. I congratulate Dr. Medini P. Bhandari, Hanna and their team for their attempt to help mankind rise to the occasion to bring in sanity to its own existence.

Thank you

Bishnu P. Poudel, Ph.D

Professor of International Diplomacy and Relations

It is my great pleasure to write a few words on *Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach*, edited by Profs. Medini P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna. This literature review-based work on inequality is very informative and highly useful. It addresses the major challenges the human society has faced due to income inequality and disparity. In various chapters, authors have analyzed secondary data on income inequality and disparity and has explained the efforts made by the United Nations to narrow the problems of inequality and disparity to achieve the sustainable development goals and targets. The authors have highlighted how income inequality and disparity create several environmental challenges and these environmental challenges exasperate income inequality and disparity. Authors also used examples to highlight how these income inequality and disparity have created several environmental problems in many developing countries including in the Post-Soviet Ukraine, and these environmental problems in turn have widened inequality and disparity issues. Every scholar concisely analyses the triggering factors of income inequality and disparity and suggest various means to overcome them to achieve SDGs. The authors have done appreciable jobs to gather inequality and disparity literature and made it easier for readers to find information on “international inequalities and disproportions towards SDGs” in one place.

There is no doubt that inequality and disparity have stratified the present-day society socially, culturally, economically, and environmentally and have unstable society with unseen social tensions for decades despite the long attempts made by the United Nations, governments, international and national agencies efforts to narrow the gaps between rich and poor. Editors (Profs. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna) have taken the right initiatives to inform readers how these inequalities and disparities can be narrowed down and the how to create congenial working environment in this widely divided world. The editors’ conclusion “*The invisible walls are everywhere and “my profit first” is the dominant approach of current development paradigms. To overcome the inequality problems the concept of “**Bashudaiva Kutumbakkam**” – The entire world is our home and all living beings are our relatives” and **Live and let other live** – the harmony within, community, nation and global” is needed” is very inspiring to follow.*

This book will be very useful to researchers, planners, policy makers, civil society, government, national and international development agencies and United Nations and its agencies. I would like to congratulate the authors and editors for this commendable job.

Keshav Bhattarai, PhD
Professor of Geography
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This book “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” (edited by Profs. Medani P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna) provides a multidisciplinary approach to evaluate state of inequality in global, continental European Union, with country specific case study of Ukraine. The book shows poverty reduction in the developing world is still a major challenge and economic, social (gender, sex, race and invisible tradition driven) inequality has been increased despite of various intervention from concern stakeholders including United Nations; the environmental degradation continues to increase; climate change has created devastating impact already seen through melting artic and Himalaya, unpredictable rain pattern, landslides and drought; environmental health hazards impact particularly to the marginalized population of developing world are one way or another are also variables to increase inequality. Authors of this book incorporate underlying causes of inequality through theoretical lenses of development economics as well as social justice and dominance theories. Each chapter are unique in case presentation, however, reveal the factual evidences that inequalities is growing globally. Book provides the relevance of SDGs as a hope to reduce inequalities (social, economic, environmental); however, the results are donot show any rational impact in reducing socioeconomic strata in the society. Book is very interesting to read and useful to all concerned stakeholders, academia, governments, civil societies, governments, developmental agencies and UN agencies.

Tulsi Dharel MBA, PhD
Professor of Marketing and International Business The Business School
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In their book *Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach*, Professors Medani P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna broach new horizons related to the linkages between inequality and sustainable development. The authors look deep into the SDG Goal 10 “Reduced Inequalities”, which lists several targets to improve the existing inequalities in income and wealth and offer deeper insights into some of

the targets and their implications. This book provides an excellent analysis related to how increasing inequalities can hamper sustainable development efforts. For example, the current debate in the United States related to universal health care, access to education and living wages highlights how even in one of the richest and technologically most advanced countries, inequality can threaten social harmony and the well-being of its citizens impacting the goal of sustainable development. This book is an important and timely contribution towards understanding how income and wealth inequality can threaten the hard-earned gains of societies across the world and derail their ongoing work towards sustainable development. The data-rich chapters, references, and analysis contained in the book make the book a recommended reading for development professionals, policy makers and students interested in the nexus between inequality and development especially in developing countries. The authors have provided a useful book to help us understand an important topic of our times.

Dr. Ambika P. Adhikari – Former Country Representative of IUCN in Nepal, and former Research Professor, and Senior Sustainability Scientist at Arizona State University. Currently, he is a Principal Planner heading the Long-Range Planning Division at City of Tempe in Arizona, USA
12 July 2019

This book by *Medani P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna* basically aims to address intra and international inequities in the context of achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the nation states. It raises some important issues pertaining to the concept of sustainable development and the methodological requirements and approaches for achieving SDGs. The authors of the book have attempted to succinctly describe the ubiquitous nature of inequities and its multidimensional facets. The book demonstrates how global inequities is increasing despite nation states' apparent commitment to achieving SDGs. Authors argue that all three pillars of sustainability namely social, economic and environmental have been plagued with misconceptions, challenges and faulty methodological approaches which stand in the way of achieving SDGs.

The book consists of 12 chapters representing conceptual, theoretical, methodological and strategic approaches in understanding and achieving SDGs of the nation states. The final chapter is devoted to the sustainable development strategies in the context of fourth industrial revolution. The book, by and large, is useful for the students and the professionals who wish

to develop a better understanding of the concept of sustainable development, its challenges and the methodological approaches for achieving SDGs of the nation states.

Dr. Gopi Upreti
Retired Professor, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

While many nations across the globe are experiencing higher level of infrastructural development, use of modern communication technologies, access to advanced health facilities, improved education system, and increased employment opportunities in recent decades, gaps between and within the societies on socio-economic conditions, public health, quality education, and even the degree of exposures to natural disasters are widening day by day. Increasing gaps between haves and have not is not only resulting on segregated societies in relation to the income levels, consumption patterns, and living conditions but also affecting heavily on natural resource utilization, conservation, and sustainable development. Increasing inequality is transmitting strong, often irrational, signals especially to the lower income and disadvantageous groups in terms of their production relationships, resource extraction, environmental conservation, and ecological integrity. In this context, this edited book “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” by Medani P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna is a very timely publication and serves as a highly valuable resource for planners, resource managers, academicians, students, researchers, politicians, and development specialists. This book gives new insights into the interconnected passion of United Nations to reduce inequality through sustainable development.

Durga D. Poudel, PhD
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July 14, 2019

Medani P. Bhandari and Shvindina Hanna edited book, “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” contributes to our ability to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs)

internationally. The book highlights methodological requirements and approaches. The authors have shared their experience here and emphasize the importance of all three pillars of sustainability: social, economic and environmental. This book is useful for students and professionals in obtaining a more informed view for facing common challenges in sustainable development.

Vincent G. Duffy, Associate Professor of Industrial Engineering and Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University, USA

This book edited by Prof. Medani P. Bhandari and Associate Prof. Shvindina Hanna titled “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” depicts a chronological and categorical approach to evaluate state of inequalities in global affairs such as continental European Union, with country specific case study of Ukraine. The book unveils poverty reduction in the developing world is still a major challenge. There is digital divide, economic divide and so on across the board. The book has artistically articulated these variances. One of the mind bugling questions that the book raised is that inequality has been increased despite of various intervention from concern stakeholders including United Nations; the environmental degradation continues to increase; climate change has created devastating impact already seen through melting artic and Himalaya, unpredictable rain pattern, landslides and drought; environmental health hazards impact particularly to the marginalized population of developing world are one way or another are also variables to increase inequality. The authors seemed to study the cause and effect of this chain using theoretical lenses of developmental economics as well as social justice. The book is so interesting that it can be useful reference book to all spectrum like academia, governments, civil societies, governments, developmental agencies including UN agencies.

Medani Adhikari MA, MSC

Professor of Economics at American Military University, Charles Town, WV

Founder and CEO, Equality Foundation, VA

Chief Executive Officer, Micro Logistics Inc. VA

The book entitled “Reducing Inequalities Towards Sustainable Development Goals: Multilevel Approach” edited by Prof. Medani P. Bhandari and Associate Professor Shvindina Hanna, is most probably the first book which tries to see the interlinkages of economic inequality and social and cultural invisible walls, at global, intercontinental – Europe and provides

the case studies of Ukraine. It is found that writers have tried to carry out the fact through their scholar study that economic inequality is has been a major challenge throughout human history. However, United Nations has been trying to resolve this problem through its programs since its inception, the current programs and policies of sustainable development are new approached to minimize inequality globally and particularly in the developing world. We believe this study has stablished a new dynamism in utilization of socio-economic, developmental and political agendas. Governments, planners, educators and socio-economic interpreters can directly be benefited by this book.

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Keerbergen July 23th, 2019

To whom this may concern,

The monograph is devoted to a series of core aspects on the progress towards sustainable development. Experts, practitioners and educators are united in their thoughts about increasing inequalities and disparities between different regions and social groups. Considering the significance of sustainable development goals, this book offers a most attractive collection of academic works offered by authors who are acknowledged experts in their fields. Co-editor, Professor P. Medani Bhandari, an Associate Professor Sumy State University performed a unique job, in bringing together authors from different institutions. This allowed a process of developing the ideas, methods and strategies to overcome barriers towards a better common future.

This volume consists of chapters that cover the problems of an unbalanced social, environmental and economic development. I am very pleased to support my colleagues in their intentions to accelerate achieving the sustainable development goals by decreasing the unfairness and inequalities. This book will be helpful for policy-makers, researchers, decision makers and non-government agencies as it encourages identifying and overcoming the challenges in sustainable development.

Em. Prof. Dr. Luc Hens

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Thank you,

Medani P. Bhandari

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REDUCING INEQUALITIES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: MULTILEVEL APPROACH

MEDANI P. BHANDARI AND SHVINDINA HANNA (EDITORS)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals that meet some of the most pressing challenges facing our world today. Goal 10 concerns reducing global inequalities. Inequality is currently seen in the social, political, and economic structures of communities at both the national and international level. The United Nation's approach to sustainable development is to create a set of goals and targets try to minimize the accelerating gaps of inequality. The book presents new insights for evaluating the progress on SDGs (especially goal 10), it also boldly sets new economic, social and environmental targets for reducing inequality. Using case studies, this book encourages readers to view economic development through the lens of growing inequalities and disparities. Such inequalities are clearly becoming more obvious as the world is better connected, and information is quickly shared. The books main aim is therefore to direct the efforts of scholars, practitioners and policymakers to swiftly find the balance between the three pillars of sustainable development. The main challenges and focus of each chapter are different and collectively they give an integrated understanding of the phenomenon of sustainable development and its diverse aspects. This book will be useful for policymakers, social and environmental activists, agencies, educators and practitioners in the sphere of social or environmental economics. The methodology of the research can be replicated and taken forward by future researchers in the field.

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