The first thunder bolt, the first showers of rain, the swishing monsoon breeze on a fine day, brings pleasure to even the tiniest of creatures living on the earth. But the bitter fact is that the mention of rain, for some of our fellow being, will bring back night mares of their unfortunate past, present and future – the so-called “climate change victims”

Change is a vital component of nature and is acceptable till it remains natural. Any induced change is the root cause of all sufferings. The world has already warmed by 0.7°C since pre-industrial times due to unprecedented greenhouse gas emissions. The 2°C threshold is based on the best available science, including the fourth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This threshold has been accepted by many governments.

Major issues in India pertaining to Climate Change include the increased vulnerability of the coastal tracts of the country to more extreme weather events like cyclone, flooding and storm surges. Simulation models show an increase in frequencies of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal; particularly intense events are projected during the post-monsoon period. Sea level rise is projected to displace populations in coastal zones, increase flooding in low-lying coastal areas, loss of crop yields from inundation and salinization. The rural areas of India, which relies on agriculture as a main occupation have suffered due to unpredictable rainfall pattern, spread of plant pathogens and improper management systems. Climate change issues have aggravated the already existent problem of poor management strategies in the sector of drinking water, disaster prevention, and spread of epidemic diseases and provision of basic amenities to the public.

A stepped up approach is the key solution to this problem. This includes the strategic focus areas of the centre for climate change and adaptation research that encompasses understanding climate change, conducting impact and vulnerability assessments and framing adaptation strategies.

While there is a lot of public know how being shaped on big screen by the constant pressure by the developed countries, there is very little understanding of the science behind the phenomenon of climate change and its impacts in developing countries like India. Awareness without the strong knowledge base may complicate the problem in the future. Therefore more and more youth should be motivated to pursue research in this filed that will be the best way to provide equitable future for humanity.

Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation Research