

**UNEQUAL GROWTH, UNEQUAL EMISSIONS: INVESTIGATING THE  
IMPACT OF INCOME INEQUALITY ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN  
INDIA**

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the relationship between income inequality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in India from 2000 to 2022, a phase characterized by rapid economic expansion, deepening inequality and increasing environmental concerns. Using time series data, the study employs a multiple linear regression model which reveal three important findings such as, income inequality, GDP growth and total sectoral share have a significant and positive effect on GHG emissions which show a coefficient of 10182.32 ( $p < 0.01$ ), 0.0316 ( $p < 0.01$ ) and 27.70 ( $p < 0.05$ ). The analysis also finds that India's economic growth contributes positively to emissions, so India's position is in the upward phase of the EKC.

The rising inequality not only reinforces environmental degradation but also underscores the effectiveness of climate policies. The study concluded by mentioning that India's efforts for reducing GHG emissions must be accompanied by climate policies which address the social disparities. Climate justice is not only for an ethical imperative also an economic necessity for sustainable development

**Keywords:** Income Inequality, Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity, Climate Change, Environmental Kuznets Curve

**JEL Classification :** D53, Q53, Q54, D31