

Hello and Namaste! I am Bindu Bhandari, a climate change communicator from Nepal. I work with a not-for-profit think tank called Climate Interactive. In 2013 when I first learned about climate change impacts in developing countries like Nepal, I was startled. I was pursuing my undergraduate studies in veterinary science back then, and I wondered why I didn't know about the issue before. Why isn't the media, political forums, and academic institutions prioritizing climate change? Why are we bearing the brunt of climate impacts when we didn't cause it in the first place? I had many questions, and I still have, but I became sure of two things. First, it is a crisis as everything we have achieved as humankind so far is at stake thus, requiring urgent action. And second, we now also have a unique opportunity to redesign our economy and development pathway in a just and equitable way.

The Climate system is highly complex, a coupled non-linear chaotic system as stated in the IPCC Assessment Report. But I found an effective way to inform and educate people on the topic by employing interactive climate tools. As a visionary architect, Buckminster Fuller said, "If you want to teach people a new way of thinking, don't bother trying to teach them. Instead, give them a tool, the use of which will lead to new ways of thinking". Since 2014 I have been using freely available computer simulation models developed by Climate Interactive and MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative to inform and educate people worldwide about climate science and policy. These scientific models called C-ROADS and En-ROADS are packaged in roleplaying game and workshop formats, which provide participants with an accessible and engaging learning experience. I am fascinated by the power of such tools in challenging one's mental models and encouraging one to act as informed by the best available science.

Education lays a universal foundation for informed decision-making. But climate education in many parts of the world, including South Asia, is still rudimentary. To strengthen climate education, having a few mandatory chapters in the curriculum won't suffice. Thus, I would like to ask the governments and world leaders to incorporate systems thinking in climate education. Systems thinking helps understand the interaction and interdependencies between different components of the climate system. This approach essentially provides a way to recognize the intricate and dynamic relationship between people, environment, and economy, which will be a key to building an inclusive and sustainable world, leaving no one behind.

For more information about our work, please visit climateinteractive.org

Thank you!