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PREFACE

This book has been prepared largely on the basis of my doctoral dissertation submitted at the Wrocław University of Economics, Poland, in 2014. It includes key findings and conclusions reached over the four-year-long period of my research in the field of development economics with a particular focus on India's place within that discourse. Despite more than 60-year-long history of foreign aid provided by India, and taking into consideration the recent rejuvenation of the phenomenon, this subject still has not been elaborated in a comprehensive manner. This book is thus an attempt to address this gap.

My intention was to draw a wide picture of India as a donor of development assistance by discussing its past and contemporary aid-related activities, motives behind assistance, administration of the flow of resources, geographical distribution and aid modalities. This picture has been enlarged by encompassing two more dimensions. The first was the contribution of India to the theory of development economics and development assistance, whereas the second was India's role in the development of institutional environment of global aid flows. I believe that those three dimensions altogether, reflected by three parts of this book, allow – to a larger extent – creating a comprehensive portrait of India within development discourse and practice.

The perspective employed in this book is to challenge the common perception of a developing country being a passive receiver of ideas originated elsewhere, particularly in the West, a receiver of development assistance and a passive participant in the framework of international organisations. On the contrary, I tried to portray India as an active contributor to the theory of development economics and theory of foreign assistance; as an agent of change in international, institutional environment, and as an active provider of resources for foreign development. The example was provided for India, but I suppose that a similar perspective can be applied for an analysis done with respect to other leading developing countries.

I hope this work would contribute to the research on so-called “emerging donors” and to the research on India as a donor in particular, systematizing existing knowledge, providing new insights and addressing areas that have received little scholarly attention so far. From that perspective, the book is addressed to the scholars and policy makers working on development economics, development assistance and on the foreign policy of India. However, for other readers, the book may be of some help in understanding the place of contemporary India in international economic relations, and the complexity of the global system of development assistance.

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