

Topic: Globalization and climate change are interrelated

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: Globalization and climate change are interrelated in many aspects, globalization has been exacerbating the menace of climate change for decades. However, pragmatic measures and holistic approaches can mitigate the challenge of climate change.

Be certain

2. Correlation between globalization and climate change and the extent of the problem

3. How has globalization caused deep dent to climate?

- Swift in global supply chain and transportation
- mass deforestation and ecosystem degradation due to unscrupulous economic activities (physical infrastructure)
- Excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture to meet the industrial needs
- power generation sector
- Huge dependence on fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal) being cheap and locally produced commodities

4. Economic globalization being a major contributor to change in climate

and subsequent impacts across the globe

- a. Health issues and breathing ailments due to air pollution
- b. Record breaking heat and extreme rise in temperature
- c. Uneven, erratic and torrential rainfalls
- d. Severe and destructive storms
- e. Extinction of species

5. why has climate change become so formidable issue among the states due to globalization?

- a. continuation of 'business as usual' for economic gains
- b. No substantial political grip
- c. Lukewarm policy of the states

6. How can this issue be resolved - the way forward

- a. global climate awareness campaign in line with the call of 'Greta Thunberg'
- b. Shifting over to renewable sources of energy and to achieve 'carbon neutrality'
- c. plantation and restoration of depleted equatorial forests
- d. The developed world must come forward in helping the developing world

Conclusion

Essay

while highlighting the severity of the climate change caused by globalization particularly the economic globalization former president of France, Francois Hollande rightly remarked, "The time is past when humankind thought it could selfishly draw an exhaustible resources. We know know the world is not a commodity." By which he meant that countries have driven change in climate due to excessive use of fossil fuels in order to meet their economic ends. However, rapid industrialization along with global trade has increased this momentum. This is not only for those who have created this peril are suffering, but it is also affecting everybody on the globe without knowing borders. Likewise, the largest emitters of CO₂ are China, and USA along with Europe but the Philippines emitting just less than one percent has to suffer a lot due to the typhoons originating in the Pacific and the South China Sea.

The primary reasons behind this peril are: increased transportation, economic activities, mass deforestation and degradation of ecosystem. Moreover, burning of fossil fuels in power generation sector and excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture sector are also there.

These factors have badly affected the planetary system and disrupted the natural equilibrium in many ways such as

rise in temperature, Storms in the ocean and erratic rainfalls across the globe. Besides this, some species are going to extinct due to extreme weather conditions.

It has also caused health issue particularly the breathing ailments on account of air pollution and smog phenomenon. Despite of all these impacts, climate change has become so formidable issue on account of national commercial interests of the countries they sacrificed climate by making use of coal in order to make their products competitor in global market. However, mankind has the ability to fix the same with collective global efforts.

In a nutshell, globalization and climate change are interrelated in various aspects, globalization has been exacerbating the menace of climate change. However, this issue can be resolved by creating climate awareness, switching over to green energy and restoring depleted forests. Last but not least, developed world must come forward in helping developing world.

In the same fashion, globalization relates to the mobility of capital, labors, products and services all around the globe. whereas climate change is the result of rise in global mean temperature due to emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Therefore, globalization and climate change has direct relation, as change in climate has been instigated by globalization.

Climate change is a human induced calamity due to burning of fossil fuels like gas, coal and oil in the atmosphere.

Applyingly, it is believed to be the third largest concern of humanity after widening the rich poor gap and ageing of population particularly in the developed world. While discussing globalization and climate change, Naomi Klein, in her book *This changes everything: Capitalism vs the climate change* (2014) writes: "Our economic system and planetary system are now at war."

This means that mankind is facing the consequences caused by this confrontation in various forms. The climate is causing more frequent and more severe storms, floods, droughts and wildfires (IPCC report, 2023). Another report estimates that two million people lost their lives due to climate related activities and \$4.3 trillion of economic loss (World meteorological organization, WMO report, 2023). This shows that climate is a crisis which humanity has been facing.

As regards the causes, transportation sector is a major contributor of climate change. Swift in global supply chain has accelerated this momentum.

Moreover, the transportation sector is considered to be the second largest source of emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This all International Transportation Forum (ITF, 2021) presents in a way that

the farther a product travels, the more fuel is consumed and a greater level of greenhouse gas emission is produced. This clearly shows that increasing transportation due to global supply chain has triggered climate change.

Furthermore, building of physical infrastructure for the sake of economic activities across the globe has hit hard biodiversity. This is primarily because of mass deforestation and cleaning of forests for the establishment of economic zones, transportation networks, mining and urbanization. While doing so, millions of hectares of forests have been cleaned and nearly 95% of this deforestation occurs in the tropics and other areas to feed local markets (Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, 2021). Hence, this speaks volumes for the unscrupulous economic activities along with other things have caused climate casualty.

To add more, use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture to fulfill the industrial needs has further added in climate trend. This increased significantly with the passage of time because of ever expanding industrial setups. It is an undeniable fact that excessive use of fertilizers has added in emissions of greenhouse gases. According to climate change and land report (IPCC, 2023), input products like fertilizers and

Pesticides account for 5 to 10 percent of all anthropogenic greenhouse gases emissions. So, this reflects the part of inputs in agriculture, which contributes to climate change.

Likewise, power generation sector is another major cause of greenhouse gas emission. It has been observed that coal is a most prominent commodity which is being widely used in power generation plants. Dismally, millions of tons of coal is burnt for this purpose in order to produce cheap electricity. According to the Reuters Impact, energy sector contributes two third of total greenhouse gas emissions. Hence, this leads to change in climate.

Last but not least, enormous use of fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil) is undoubtedly a chief cause of climate change. The reason is that these commodities are easily accessible and affordable to all. At least one commodity among the three is being locally produced for economic use in every country.

United Nations tells that the burning of coal produces 14 billion tons of CO₂ in the atmosphere. This appallingly paints the bleak picture of climate.

In addition, mankind has been facing the challenges posed by the globalization particularly the economic globalization in the form of climate conundrum.

on account of all aforementioned reasons for the last five decades. The first and foremost impact of climate change triggered by globalization is the health related issues. This is because of the presence of imperatives in the air which is known as air pollution and smog phenomenon. Moreover, East Asian countries like Pakistan, China, India and Bangladesh are now under the command of this peril. The population of these countries is suffering from breathing ailments such as stroke, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma and decreased lung infections. According to the WHO report (2022), about seven million people are killed per year due to air pollution. This figure is doubtlessly lamentable and regrettable.

There is no denying the fact that record breaking heat is the primary manifestation of climate change. This is caused by the enormous concentration of greenhouse gases emission in the atmosphere, which entraps heat coming from the sun and keeps environment warm. Consequently, the world has witnessed the worst impact manifestation of it this year. According to a US Scientist, James Hansen, who states that the world is shifting towards a superheated climate not seen in the past one million year." Hence,

this paints the dismal picture of record breaking heat.

Besides, erratic rainfall is another harmful impact of climate change, which has been driven by globalization. Continuous rise in global mean temperature due to burning of fossil fuels has led towards this problem. When atmosphere warms its capacity to hold moisture decreases that eventually falls in the form of rain. For instance, countries like Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh have been bearing the brunt of unprecedented raining and resultant flooding. This clearly shows the impact of climate change in the form of torrential rainfall.

To add more to agony, adjoining areas of oceans witness the severity of storms that originate in oceans, which is the direct impact of climate change. The scientific reason of this phenomenon is that more than 90 percent of heat coming from the sun is absorbed in ocean. Warmer ocean means more severe and longer-lasting storms particularly in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. For instance, storms like hurricanes that originate in the North and South Carolina and typhoons that originate in adjoining areas of Phillipines

in South China sea cause enormous devastation over there. This impacts another impact of climate change because of globalization. Last but not least, it is hurting to note that climate change badly has impacted the habitats of species worldwide. The reason is that rapid change in climate and global warming does not suit to them, therefore; they are becoming extinct swiftly. Unfavourable and incongenial environment has compelled them to leave their habitats. At the moment, the IUCN red list of threatened species shows that climate change currently affects at least 10,967 species and *Melomys rubicola* is the first mammal reported to have gone extinct. Thus, this data reflects the severity of the problem.

Regrettably, despite of hazardous impacts of climate change because of globalization and capitalization, countries are reluctant to cut carbon emission on account of their national commercial interests. The formidability chapter has been opened by the indifference of the largest emitters of green house gases. Under the circumstances, 'business as usual' is going on. The point of consideration at the moment is that to what extent

Countries the world is serious to keep global warming below two degree celsius. Unfortunately, countries who are responsible for 97 percent of emissions have failed in their pledges which they were made at various global ~~forums~~^{summits} like Paris climate deal and many other Cops. The Reuters Impact (2022) paints this in a way that the 'business as usual' will result in 4.4°C warming by 2050. This highlights the level of seriousness of the business world regarding climate change.

Besides, another challenge in the way of binding agreements of the states regarding green transition is that there is no substantial political grip over the concern. All the big industrialized nations are reluctant to reduce the use of fossil fuels ^{for} ~~or~~ ^{running} their industries. The hypocrisy of the states particularly the United States is quite evident from the fact that it is not willing to negotiate with ~~China~~ and its ^{recent} withdrawal from Paris deal.

Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy has exposed the hypocrisy of the wealthy nations, as they continue to expand fossil fuels operations massively while merely paying lip service to green transition. Hence, this speaks volumes that there appears

no substantial political grip over the issue.

Likewise, lukewarm policy of the states is another challenging factor in the way of green transition. Up till now, countries have failed to devise any variable mechanism to cut carbon emission by shifting over to renewable sources of energy. Moreover, energy companies are still searching for new oil and gas resources as well as the establishment of new coal power plants is going on, which will use coal for decades. National Academy of Sciences USA (2019) highlighted this fact: Since the necessary measures are not being taken therefore the global mean temperature will rise 5°C instead of 2°C as visualized earlier towards the end of this century. This clearly reflects the apathy of the states regarding climate concern.

In the wake of aforementioned, and in line with the call of Greta Thunberg, a Swedish climate activist, countries have to learn to keep their maximum of their fossil fuels underground. They should go for renewable energy i.e. through solar, wind, tidal and nuclear. People should change their lifestyle and must switch over to battery propelled CO_2 vehicles like Tesla. Celebrities, models, and influential persons must come forward for creating awareness among people

regarding environment safety. Therefore, what the climate need to avoid collapse is a concentration in humanity's use of resources.

In addition, countries, under the circumstances, must accelerate global transition to clean energy and reach 'net zero' emissions as soon possible. If it is not done, the wrath of nature will spare no one and annihilate the rich as well. Naomi Klein, in her book, 'This Changes Everything: Capitalism Vs the Climate' states: the journey from extractionism to regeneration is difficult and painstaking, but extremely fruitful. It is essentially based on three elements: democracy, divestment and resistance. But none of them can be achieved without a shift in worldview, ^{"a worldview"} based on regeneration and renewable rather than domination and depletion. Hence, this can be achieved only to one condition that is the 'Sincerity of Purpose'.

Likewise, another important thing in this regard may be the people have to develop a mindset to live sustainable with the mother planet. They have to take care of their ecosystem by plantation and regeneration. Furthermore, countries must go for restoration of depleted equatorial forests of Amazon basin, Congo basin,

and forest of Indonesia and Malaysia, the largest source of CO₂ consumption. One effective way to do this is to invest more in nature. According to an estimation, it would cost about \$400 billion to make changes to agriculture, forestry and other areas required to limit emissions. This requires complete human solidarity, even at the individual level people must focus on plantation.

Last but not least, the developed world must come forward in helping the developing world and low income economies. During the session of COP28 this year scientists say that nations will need to slash their greenhouse gas emissions by roughly 43 percent this decade if they hope to limit total global warming to 1.5°C. In this regard, the rich world must make available around \$25bn-50bn funds to poor countries over the rest of this decade (Energy Transmission Commission, 2023). Thus, the global north and global south must act on their pledges for the safety of climate.

The above discussion fairly epitomizes that globalization and climate change are directly related, as change in climate has been instigated by the modern day capitalism. This is primarily because who directly benefit from

Capitalization are protecting their political and economic interests. They are less bother about climate change. The factors, which are responsible for creating this conundrum, in a nutshell, are: transportation, global trade, mass deforestation, economic expansion and excessive use of fossil fuels. As a result, humanity has been bearing the brunt of climate change in the form of scorching heat, torrential rains, oceanic storms and many more. It is hurting to note, despite of disastrous impacts of climate change across the globe, the industrialized world is reluctant to cut carbon emission and limit the global mean temperature on account of their national commercial expediencies. However, mankind has the ability to arrest the same by switching over to renewable sources of energy and afforestation. As a bottom line, the world can be made a living abode for future generations also to only one condition that is the "sincerity of purpose." Surah 53: Ayat 39

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