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Topic: Despite its urgency, climate change remains the most neglected cause.

OUTLINE

1- Introduction

Climate Change is being sidelined due to various reasons. Although, it is urgent to take it as a serious issue as it is detrimental to human life and environment. By taking preventive measures, climate change could be addressed properly.

2- It is urgent to prioritise the climate change issue.

3- Manifestation of the fact that climate change is being ignored.

- (a) Inadequate implementation of the global climate policies.
- (b) Negligence of developed world for reducing carbon emission
- (c) Ignoring the gravity of crisis for economic gains.
- (d) Lack of public participation in climate change related activities
- (e) Considering climate crisis as a Myth.
- (f) Disregard for international agreements.
- (g) High economic competition among the developed world results in negligence.

4- Why ^{considering} climate change is so urgent; Impacts of neglecting climate crisis.

OR

4. Grave implications of neglecting climate change

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- (a) Leads to the unprecedented global warming
- (b) Looming global food insecurity
- (c) Massive increase in extreme weather events
- (d) Exacerbating the chances of famine
- (e) loss of biodiversity and destruction of ecosystem

5- Prioritising climate change by taking immediate measures.

- (a) Addressing the loopholes in available policies and frameworks.
- (b) Strengthening global climate agreements
- (c) ^{By} Climate education and public awareness
- (d) Transition to sustainable energy sources
- (e) Green innovations and technological advancements.
- (f) Promoting forestation.

6- Conclusion.

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"We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it." -Barack Obama

The above mentioned quote means that current generation is the first to experience climate change and the last with the power to address it. Climate Change has emerged as a great menace to the planet. It is urgent to prioritise the climate change issues, but it is being ignored because majority of population considers it as a myth. High economic competition among the developed world, ignoring the gravity of crisis for economic means. Disregard for international agreements, inadequate implementation of the global climate policies, lack of public participation in climate change activities, and negligence of developed world are some of the contributing factors for climate crisis negligence.

Grave implications of neglects cause leads to unprecedented global warming, looming global food security, massive increase in weather event including catastrophic floods, exacerbating the chance of famine, rise in sea level and destruction of ecosystem. Its detrimental effects can be minimized by addressing the loopholes in available policies and framework, strengthening global climate agreements, transition to sustainable energy sources and advocating technological advancements.

Climate Change refers to long-term shifts in global or regional climate patterns. For thousands of years, the Earth's climate remained relatively

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stable. Human activities had minimal impact on global temperatures. In late 18th century, industrial revolution had occurred, burning of coal, oil and gas led to a significant increase in greenhouse gas emission. This marked the beginning of human-induced climate change. In 20th century, scientist began to understand the greenhouse effect and its potential effect impact on climate. The Keeling Curve, which measures ^{rising} CO₂ level, was established, showing a clear trend of increasing CO₂ concentrations. In late 20th century, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established to assess ~~and~~ ^{of} climate change. During 21st century climate change became more pronounced with far-reaching environmental, economic, and social consequences including rising global temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, and melting polar ice caps. International agreements like Paris agreement (2015) and adopting sustainable measures aimed to mitigate climate change by reducing emissions.

Climate Change is always being ignored because global climate policies are not properly implemented. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made many policies and agreement including United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement, but they did not achieve their targets. For instance, Under Paris agreement in 2015, countries have made commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but failed to limit global warming.

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to a safe level. Global climate agreements often lacked robust enforcement mechanism to hold countries accountable for their commitments. As a result, they are less motivated to adhere the progress in combating climate change.

Developing world is also neglecting the reduction of carbon emission. Especially, those which rely on the industrialized economies, have historically been the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Their economic growth is fueled by burning fossil fuels which release vast amount of CO_2 into the atmosphere. Although, developed countries have set targets of carbon cuts in COP 21 and Paris Agreement. Unfortunately, not even a single country met the target. As per Global Climate Index 2021, US spends approximately \$ 20 billion annually on fossil fuel subsidies that are principal cause of carbon emission. It proves that developed world is not considering the cause of carbon emission.

In fact, World is not considering the climate crisis as a detrimental issue, rather it is busy for its economic gains. Developed States are engaged in making industrial revolution by using fossil fuels which create major impact on climate change. They are not serious about detrimental effects of climate crisis. According to world Bank report, Top 10 emitters are the 10 richest nations, responsible for 40% percent emission of greenhouse gases.

8 They prioritize rapid economic growth and industrialization, which lead to increase greenhouse

gases. Every state want to be the 1st in economic growth race. So, every country is making progress for its better economy. No one is considering the environment friendly policies and Agreements, even mostly denied the fact. Majority of countries consider it as a myth. It is a psychological fact that ~~people~~ mostly people don't accept the realities, until they experience it by themselves. People also showing such behaviour towards climate change. As US Ex. President Donald Trump has cast doubt on a report by his own government warning of devastating effects from climate change. He said, "I don't believe it" US is among the major emitters of carbon. Hence, people's misconception about climate change played a vital role in ignoring agreements and policies to mitigate climate crisis.

Disregard for international agreements acts as an impediment in considering climate crisis. Some countries don't take agreements seriously, some exited from the agreements, while some accept the conditions, but not fulfill the targets.

United States under Trump Administration pulled out from Paris Agreement. Its stance was that if China, India and other countries don't meet required carbon cuts then why United States do that? According to UNFCCC, after the COP27 in the first 9 5-years of agreement, majority of countries did not even take the initiative of carbon-cuts. Hence, this non-observance attitude of countries towards ~~environmental~~ ^{environmentally} agreeable environmental agreements.

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leads to climate change negligence. This happens because mostly people are unaware of climate science.

Major part of world population is not aware about climate change. Public participation in climate change related issues is not sufficient. Climate change is a complex, global issue that involves various scientific, economic, and political dimensions. It is difficult for the general public to understand the interacies of climate science and potential consequences of inaction. Climate change is often perceived as a distant problem that will affect future generations or people in faraway places. Pakistan has initiated several projects to tackle impacts of climate change like billion tree tsunami project, bamboo production, but it has no proper institutes to educate people about climate change. So, people are not fully aware of urgency and severity of climate change.

"Climate Change is a fact. Its consequences, damages and costs are already being felt around the globe." Quote written by Heinz

Fischer means that climate crisis has grave implications. One of them is ~~an~~ unprecedented global warming. It refers to the increase in the Earth's average surface temperature that is occurring at an unparalleled rate in geological history.

Since, the late 19th century, the earth's temperature has risen by approximately 1.2°C which is much faster warming rate than natural climate fluctuations in the past. Global warming reinforces triggers

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self-reinforcing, feedback loops, such as melting of Arctic sea ice. As ice melts, it reduces the Earth's reflectivity, which leads to absorption of more solar energy. It contributes to rising sea levels due to melting of polar ice caps. As per IPCC report, Global warming is increasing at an unprecedented rate of more than 0.2°C per decade. It has averaged 1.14°C over the last decade (2013-2022) compared with the pre-industrial era, and 1.26°C in 2022, compared with 1.07°C recorded between 2010 - 2019. Global warming has also adverse effect on economy leading to food and water crisis.

Climate change is indeed a significant factor contributing to food shortages. Extreme weather conditions like droughts, heatwaves etc damage crops, disrupt growing seasons, and reduce agriculture productivity. Many countries, like Pakistan, have agricultural economy. Climate change exacerbate water scarcity. As agriculture relies on water, and reduced water availability impact crop and livestock production.

According to the global climate index report, Pakistan has suffered an economic loss of about \$379 due to over 150 extreme weather events during the last couple of decades. It leads to lower the GDP value and increase the exp imports which badly affects the economy.

Another drastic effect of climate change is the massive increase in the frequency of unexpected weather patterns. Natural disasters include intense hurricanes and cyclones, severe heat waves, rise in sea levels, melting glaciers and wildfires.

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As per National Institute of Disaster Management, India, in the past few years cyclones in the Bay of Bengal have suddenly picked up intensity when they move over the sea. Scientists attribute it, a result of climate change. Cloudbursts and landslides are occurring in Himalayan region right from the start of monsoon season. Climate crisis is responsible for intense ~~not~~ weather changes which may lead to drought conditions and water scarcity.

As climate change is affecting agriculture, food, water availability, it exacerbating the chances of famine. World is facing acute water shortage. Economy of countries rely on agriculture. According to the recent study, 97% of water is used for agriculture and 3% for domestic, industrial and other purposes. According to World Bank report, 3.2 billion people are affected by land degradation. 920 million ~~people~~ children are highly exposed to water scarcity as per calculated data by UNICEF-2021. 45 million people are at extreme risk of famine worldwide. All these factor ~~leads~~ are the contributing factors towards famine condition.

~~Climate~~ Discussing the prevailed conditions of climate change, it also has a profound impact on biodiversity and destruction of ecosystem. Changing weather pattern disrupt the habitats of many plant and animal species. Increased CO₂ levels in atmosphere are absorbed by oceans, causing them to become more acidic. It harms marine life,

including coral reefs, shellfish, and various plankton species. Some species are unable to adapt to rapid changes in temperature and other environmental conditions, leading to a decline in their populations and, in some cases, extinction. The melting of polar ice due to rising temperature threatens species such as polar bears and penguins. Neglect of climate change increases the frequency of wildfires which also affects the habitat of animals. So, climate change is affecting the ~~all~~ humans as well as all other species living on this planet.

Although negative impacts of climate change is at large scale, but it's they could be overcome by taking immediate measures. Climate change can be effectively combat by addressing the loopholes in existing policies and frameworks. Implementation of policies on local, national, and global levels can make substantial progress in mitigating the effects of climate change and working towards a more sustainable future. Government should establish mechanisms to monitor policy compliance and enforce regulations effectively. Review of existing policies can make the changes which are effective in mitigating the hazardous effect of climate change. As Asian Development Bank and Pakistan made an agreement on energy transition mechanism to develop clean power capacity. Countries should work on policies worldwide as it is not ~~the~~ an issue for a single country, it has worldwide effects.

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As climate change is affecting the whole world, so there is a need to strengthen the global climate agreements, through international cooperation. All countries should unite on one platform to deal with this one cause affecting the all. Developed countries should help developing countries to counter climate crisis.

As United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), Kyoto Protocol (1997), and the Paris Agreement (2015) worked for different policies. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) are made for developing countries for climate financing. There is a need to implement on these agreements and to lessen the environmental crisis. Countries should make joint policies like conference of parties (COP) and work together for this cause.

To promote the urgency of climate change, climate science education and public awareness is a key factor. Awareness about ~~about~~ this cause through social media campaigns on governmental and local level should be encouraged. Supporting social media and online platforms to share information, climate change statistics, success ~~and~~ stories, infographics and videos could ~~mutiply~~ be helpful in ~~over~~ spreading awareness. Incorporate climate change in curriculum ensures its importance. Merge this topic with science subjects and social sciences, so that students ~~can~~ could understand its impact and solutions to the daily life.

Climate Crisis can be overcome by the transition towards sustainable energy sources. Countries should encourage carbon cuts emissions. Use of fossil fuels increase the emission of green house gases and resultantly the Earth's temperature is rising. As United Nations warns in a report, that next 5-year would be the warmest 5-years period. EL Nino is expected in coming years which is the reason of temperature rise. "There is no return to climate which persisted during the last century. That's a fact" So, it is the time to take the action. Countries should perform in carbon cuts, less emitting, and promote clean and green energy other than carbon. As per UN report, "world needs to cut emissions by atleast 60% by 2035 in order for the planet to be saved."

Green innovations and technological advancements is the another way to ~~not~~ lessen the effects of climate crisis. World should promote green economy projects and strong policies should be formed. According to UN, climate action is not a budget buster or economy wrecker. Shifting to a green economy could yield a direct economic gain of \$26 trillion through 2030 compared with business as usual. Asian Development Bank is also working for mitigation of Climate Crisis. As ADB's Director General Y. Zhurav said that ADB's next Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) is to build foundation for an increased portfolio in next 5-years. Countries

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should work for this cause collectively and promote green economy.

The most effective and natural process of combating climate crisis is promoting afforestation and deforestation. It is the most crucial strategy. Trees absorb CO₂ during photosynthesis and store carbon in their biomass. It helps in reduction of green house gases. Forests also provide habitats to variety of plants and animal species. Trees help ~~promote~~ improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and releasing oxygen. Forests acts as natural buffers against the impacts of climate change, such as reducing the risk of landslides, and protection against extreme weather events. According to a famous quote "We need to protect our forests to protect all of life" So, by reforestation, ~~hazard~~ hazardous effects can be lessened.

Conclusively one may say that climate change requires the world attention. It is urgent to tackle it, As it always remain as neglected cause because of inadequate policies, economic gains and disregard for different international agreements. According to an international report published on Environment Day, (5th June, 2023), last 8-year is recorded as hottest ever from 2015 - 2022. ~~So~~ Earth's temperature is about 1.1°C warmer ~~that~~ than it was at 1800s. It is important to consider its urgency, as it has worse consequences. Major impacts are extreme weather events, rise in sea level,

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intense global warming, floods, drought conditions, water scarcity, food shortage and many more. As President Obama quoted about climate change, "No challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change." Climate change is not a prediction; it is happening. So, we should go for the prompt measures to overcome this challenge. World should have to accept this reality and cooperate to implement form and implement environment friendly policies. They should promote sustainable energy sources and technological advancement to gain green economy.

