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## ENGLISH ESSAY

Day: 04-08-2024

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### CLIMATE CHANGE AND TOURISM SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

#### OUTLINE:

##### **A. Introduction:**

- (i) Tourism once a cornerstone of Pakistan's economy which is at risk due to climate change.
- (ii) Climate change one of the biggest issue of the world: a general overview
- (iii) Thesis statement.

##### **B. Climate change affecting tourism sector in Pakistan.**

- (i) Infrastructure damages due to climate change affecting tourist activities  
(Tourist activities in Dubai for example is due to attractive infrastructure)
- (ii) Extreme weather events like heatwave, storms and floods due to climate change



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disrupt travel plans.

(The rise of temperature in Dehli lowered the tourists visit upto 20% in recent decades)

**(iii) Climate change**, is a cause of Glacial melting reduces mountaineering and trekking activities of tourists.

(The melting of glaciers in the Himalayas and Korakorum and reduced tourists visit is key example)

**(iv) Sea level rise** affects the coastal tourism is also due to climate change.

(Arabian Sea level increase in 2022 causes to lower arrival of visitors at coastal in Karachi)

**(v) Loss of biodiversity**, a serious impact of climate change, causing ~~low~~ less nature tours. (Decreased diversity in

(Sferi Park in Lahore, death of elephant in Karachi due to climate change lowered the interest of visitors to the parks)



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(vi) **Water shortages** impacting tourist amenities due to climate change.

(Precipitation pattern changes in Pakistan and droughts are the reasons behind low rate of visitor's visits.)

(vii) **Health risks** responsible for deterrence of tourists arises due to climate change.

(In ~~my~~ society, the breakthrough of diseases increment due to unseasonal rain water responsible for the risk of contagious diseases.)

(viii) **Snow sports activities** affected by severe high temperature lower visit.

(The countries, like Russia, by improving snow sports attract the tourists.)

(ix) **Climate change** affecting economy in such a way that due to this inflation increases and tourist's visit are lower.

(Once Pakistan was cheapest country for living but now it is changing due to economy recession.)



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(\*) Agricultural sector cause of culinary tourism is affected by climate change.

(Agriculture visit of visitors is being degraded across the world especially in 3<sup>rd</sup> Third World countries because of affected agriculture system due to climate change.

## THE ESSAY

From the bustling bazaars of Lahore to the serene shores of Guadalupe, Pakistan's tourism sector has long been a cornerstone of its economy. Yet, as climate change accelerates, the very landscapes and cultures that attract tourists are at risk. Climate change is significant and long term changes in the Earth's climate patterns, particularly a rise in global temperature due to increased level of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Climate change is one of the biggest issue of the whole world. It is affecting whole countries but third World countries like Pakistan are being affected with more intensity. Climate change



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is impacting almost all sectors of Pakistan including agricultural sector, industrial sector, services sector, and tourism sector. Tourism sector may be the important driver of the economy of a country. Climate change is affecting tourism sector in Pakistan by affecting infrastructure, biodiversity, agriculture, and water system. Due to this tourists are on the way to change their preferences, like they are interested more to the places which are less affected due to climate change.

Climate change affecting infrastructure is at top on the list, which causes deterrence in tourist activities. For example cultural heritages are at greater risk due to non-seasonal rains due to climate change. Shahi Fort, in Lahore due to storms, does not attract the tourists. Due to floods the routes for travelling are blocked. Similarly airports are also impacted by climate change in Pakistan and tourists are finding difficulties in travelling. In the During the greater flood of 2010, almost all the roads and other infrastructure was damaged resulted in very low arrival of



visitors. Hence, tourism sector is directly dependent on developed infrastructure. In the case of Pakistan, climate change directly hits the infrastructure resulting in lower tourists' activities.

In the same way, extreme weather conditions like heatwave, storms and floods, due to the change in long term weather patterns, impact the tourists activities. Heatwave is one of the prominent case of extreme weather in which global temperature of the world increases. Due to increase in temperature tourists prefer to stay at home, because they know that outside temperature is very high. People are also afraid of storms, unexpected rains and floods outside. If we take the example of Sindh's rise in temperature upto  $1^{\circ}\text{C}$  over the past forty years is under consideration, ~~we can~~ there will be obvious explanation of heatwaves. Hence, tourists will prefer to stay home instead of doing enjoy in elevated temperature due to climate change.



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Third notable impact of climate change is Glacial melting which significantly affect on ~~reducing~~ mountaineering and trekking of tourists.

Global warming, a consequence of climate change is responsible for melting of Glaciers specially glaciers of Karakoram and Himalayas, which are a greater hub for tourists.

The Himalayan Journal of Sciences reported that the retreat of glaciers is affecting trekking routes and mountaineering expeditions. For example, reduced glacial cover can lead to unstable terrain and increase rockfall, making popular trekking routes more hazardous. So, there is direct influence of climate change on glacier melting and as a result, tourists do not like to go on the mountains.

Another impact of climate change is sea level rise and this is clear cause of lower coastal tourism. When glaciers melt the level of sea rises, due to this visitors do not feel comfortable to go on the coastlines. In 2022, on the coastline of Arabian sea at the place of Gwadar the tourists' activity significantly decreased.



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Similarly NDMA has documented that rising sea levels are impacting coastal zones, including Karachi and Gwadar. Therefore, climate change is linked with lower tourist activity by rising sea level.

The next notable impact of climate change causing tourists' activities ~~more less~~ is loss of biodiversity. The tourists who like the nature tours will not go there, where biodiversity is impacted significantly. The Pakistan Environmental Agency (EPA) reports that climate change is causing habitat degradation in national parks such as Shergon and Ayubia, leading to decline in wildlife populations and affecting eco-tourism. There is direct affect of heatwave on animals. The death of elephant in Karachi was due to heatwave which is clear consequence of climate change. So, the climate change impact in the form of loss of diversity is serious problem to address for the protection of tourism sector.

Water shortages is another impact of climate change which causes disturbance in



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tourist amenities. Precipitation pattern is changing as well as droughts are prominent due to climate change and these play important role in visitors low visits.

The Pakistan water scarcity is also highlighted by World Bank, that water shortages are impacting tourist activities and destinations in Pakistan, including popular spots like Skardu. Reduced water availability affects amenities such as hotels, restaurants, and recreational facilities. So, for the sake of tourism sector policies are necessary to address this issue of climate change.

Climate change associated health issues are also cause of decline of tourism sector in Pakistan. Tourists can not sacrifice their lives for the tours in the places where there is extreme heat wave, scorching temperature. High temperature causes heatstroke, palpitation and other heart related diseases. A study published in **Environmental Health Perspectives (2023)** discusses how climate change impacts health by increasing the prevalence of heart



relate illness and water-borne diseases. This can affect tourism by making destinations less attractive due to health risks.

The second last impact of climate change is on economy. This causes inflation and tourists have to pay more money for their expenditures at tours. They can't manage to go on tours for high costs. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has documented that investing in climate-resilient infrastructure is essential for maintaining tourism sector. Hence to improve tourism sector it is necessary to make policies to mitigate climate change effectively.

Another significant way which is used by climate change to deteriorate tourism sector is impacting agricultural sector. By improving policies implementation to mitigate climate change, a country like Pakistan improve tourism sector. Examples from regions such as Mediterranean and Southeast Asia show that climate changes can in agriculture are impacting culinary tourism. For example, reduced olive oil production



in Mediterranean regions due to droughts has affected local food culture. Therefore, there is clear impact of climate change on agriculture which resulted in reduced tourism sector in Pakistan.

## Conclusion:

Impact of the climate change on cultural heritage, Sea level, health, and agricultural sector of Pakistan is clearly impacting tourism sector negatively. For a country, like Pakistan, it is necessary to address the climate change issue on national as well as international level to improve or mitigate the disastrous impacts like water shortages, glacier melt, and health risks. This is necessary because without solution to this Global problem Pakistan can't overcome the impact of climate change on tourism sector. There is need to address issue in National Assembly, on social media, and in newspapers. Research aptitude of students should be toward mitigation of harmful impacts of climate



change. If Pakistan will be able to overcome this issue, the tourism sector may play crucial role in the economic growth of Pakistan. Policies implementation is necessary for this purpose. It is responsibility of all of us to address this issue at every stage so that the impact may lower on tourism sector.