

TOPIC: 'DESPITE ITS URGENCY, CLIMATE CRISIS REMAINS THE MOST NEGLECTED CAUSE'

Outline

1. Introduction

(Thesis statement) The climate crisis and its sequelae are now being reflected on our everyday lives. Yet, its impending effects go unrecognized.

2. The climate crisis is an urgent matter and still not the prime focus of problem-solvers around the world.

3. The gradual rise of the catastrophe that is climate crisis.

a. The issue of climate crisis is decades old

b. Practices that have led to global warming

c. Role of industrialization and urbanization.

d. The greed to achieve economic superiority has made nations forget about its impact on environment.

e. The extravagant lifestyle of elites and its consequences.

4. The urgency of climate catastrophe is underestimated and sidelined.

a. We have already stepped into the global boiling era.

b. Increase in natural disasters every year.

c. Climate crisis is negatively impacting

lives across the globe.

d. The inability of financially weak countries like Pakistan to combat natural disasters.

e. Everyday practises that are adding fuel to fire.

5. What immediate measures must be taken to ensure sustainability?

a. Reduced carbon emissions per country

b. Monitor countries to ensure they follow the allocated quota of carbon emission.

c. Reduce carbon footprint by mitigating the use of fossil fuels.

d. Switch to renewable resources of energy.

e. Helping poor countries that face harsh consequences of climate change.

6. Conclusion.

For the past few decades, mother earth wore many different climatic ornaments - tsunamis in the west, floods and extreme temperatures in the east and glacial melting in the north and south. She wore these garlands as a not-so-polite but consistent reminder for its inhabitants to wake up before its too late. These hints were anything but subtle and consistently poked the residents of earth to mend their ways before the situation gets out of hand.

The issue of climate crisis gradually and constantly became worse. From historical perspective to modernization and urbanization, each decade played its role in intensifying the matter. Their ^{greed to achieve} economic superiority and the extravagant lifestyle of elite has already put us in the global boiling era. Each year, the natural disasters are worsening and thus impacting negatively on people across the globe. Financially weak countries are already facing a tiresome challenge to combat the climate catastrophe and everyday practices are just adding fuel to fire! Several immediate steps need to be taken such as reducing carbon emissions and carbon footprint,

switching to renewable energy resources and helping poor countries out of this trouble to check the climate crisis. 2

~~The climate crisis is an urgent~~
The climate crisis and its sequelae are now being reflected on our everyday lives. Yet, its impending effects go unrecognized.

The climate crisis is an urgent matter and still not the prime focus of problem solvers. Climate activists have ensured that everyone is well aware of the grave intensity of the matter, and in spite of it, no one is paying heed to the matter. According to surveys by meteorological department, the climate change is not a distant spectre but a harsh reality that is reshaping the world as we know it (The Nation, Climate Justice, October 2023). Therefore, the quicker the actions are taken to check it, the more the survival chances of humans.

This, too, should be noted that climate crisis is not a new worry for humans. This phenomenon dates back to the industrial revolution when the world entered a new era of growth and development. It is reported to have said that the impact of human activities was widespread even before

industrial Revolution and it just got worse with the production of metals and utilization of chemicals (Book: A Brief History of Europe 1857-1912). Thus, it is evident that climate crisis was always an issue and has just become urgent now.

With development comes a list of pros and cons. Where the world is led into a modernized realm, the negative impacts of it on the humans and their environment ^{are unprecedented} practices on a small scale as well as on a broader level, both contribute significantly to the climate catastrophe. According to a report published by Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the methane emissions from agriculture contribute towards the increase in global warming by 125%. (FAO.org, methane Emissions in livestock and rice systems, October 2023). Therefore, it can be seen that even a basic need of life (food) is impacting the climate greatly.

It is also noted that there is a notorious ^{amount of} contribution of the industrialization and urbanization processes. This brought with them an increased use of modern and synthetic material such as plastic and its many

types. This addition of material is not only not biodegradable but also results in release of toxic gases upon burning. According to the ministry of climate change, around 3 million ton of plastic waste was generated in Pakistan in 2022 and it is expected to go as high as 12 million ton in 2040 (The News International, Solid Waste Challenge, October 2023). This shows that even though Pakistan's contribution to global warming is insignificant, population explosion and industrialization has led to increase production and utilization of plastic.

Another factor that is contributing towards the climate crisis urgency is the greed to achieve economic success. For this purpose deforestation of land and building of factories and businesses in their place is a common finding. Every year the rate of deforestation is escalating around the globe. In 2022, Pak lost 49 ha of tree cover equivalent to 19.3 kt of CO₂ emission (global forest watch.org, Pakistan Deforestation ^{Footnote} and statistics, 2022). All these lands are either used in the sectors of agriculture or

to set up more industries without wanting the hazards of clearing the large amount of lands.

In order to achieve economic superiority and success, people have started to earn more and more money. Then, these people spend this money to achieve lavish lifestyle and fit in the elitist category. Buying new phones or updating wardrobes is now insignificant. Instead people have started buying yatches and private jets. Recently, it is being noticed that the sales of private jets have increased significantly.

The average private emits 2 tonnes of carbon an hour and is considered to be the most polluting form of transport (The Guardian.com, Flying shame: The Scandalous Rise of Private Jets, Jan 2023). Thus, it can be seen that the extravagant lifestyle of elites is heavily contributing towards climate change urgency.

This is also true that people do recognize the evil that is global warming. However, the urgency of climate catastrophe is underestimated and sidelined. Without realization, this world has already stepped in the

global boiling era. Progressively, every year is termed the hottest year or the coldest year. ~~This~~ In an interview UN secretary general is ^{have} said to claim that the era of global warming has ended and the era of global boiling has arrived (Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, July 2023). These fluctuations in weather as well as climate are clear indicators that this issue needs to be addressed urgently.

Similarly, every year the number of natural disasters is increasing. People barely recover from ^{one} climate induced catastrophe when another one hits them. For example, Pakistan was hit by deadly floods in 2022. Martin Raiser said that the flooding and humanitarian crisis provides a wake up call for urgent action to prevent further devastation of people of Pakistan and its economy due to climate change (Martin Raiser, worldbank.org, 2022). In another example, we can see that Jan 1, 2024 marked a day for great turmoil in Japan. The year began with a 7.6 ~~ear~~ magnitude earthquake followed by a tsunami.

that cut more than 36,000 households without power (BBC news, Japan orders evacuation, January 2024). Hence, it is obvious how the climate induced crisis are escalating presently.

Therefore, it can be seen that climate change is not limited to a certain region but is negatively impacting lives across the globe. Not only are the underdeveloped or developing countries a victim of climate change, but developed countries are also facing turmoil. As per an IPCC report, Recent climate changes are widespread, rapid and increasingly intense and are unprecedented in thousands of years (Author of Paola, IPCC, 2023). And so, no one is spared from the harshness of climate calamity.

Out of all these countries, the countries that are unable to deal with this situation are suffering most. Financially weak countries such as Pakistan is unable to combat the effects of natural disasters. Pakistan ~~is~~ is already in depths of debt crisis and had to suffer from economic losses of approximately \$30 billion dollars

due to 2022 floods, it was noted that environmental catastrophes affect Pakistan more than 166 other countries as it affects global south more (macro-pakistan.com, The Legatum Prosperity Index, 2023). Hence, it is evident that poor countries suffer most with climate induced disasters.

Moreover, everyday practices are adding fuel to fire. Not only is Pakistan suffering from global climate change but due to absence of adequate steps, the condition is worsening. Plastic factories are thriving there is no check on the smoke emitted from industries and all of this is happening at the cost of health of Pakistanis. According to university of Chicago's Air Quality Life Index, in Bangladesh, India, & Nepal and Pakistan, people are expected to lose 5 yrs of their life if the air quality does not improve (Dawn.com, The Health Climate Nexus, December 2023). Therefore, there is an urgent need to address the climate crisis.

In order to address this issue, the question arises, what steps must be taken immediately

to ensure stability. In order to halt or reduce the rapidly increasing global warming the carbon emissions per country need to be curtailed. According to Energy Transition Commission, a think tank, getting rid of coal power early will require the rich to give \$25-\$50 billion per year in grants (The Economist, Green shoots, December 2023). Where this seems to a huge amount, it is not a big deal for the rich countries as not only can they afford to do so but will simultaneously benefit from it.

In order to do so, the countries should be monitored to ensure that they follow the allocated quota of carbon emission. For this purpose, for the first time in history a global structure agreement is adopted in COP28. It calls for transitioning away from fossil fuels and keep an eye on countries' carbon emission (COP 28, closing Report, December 2023). Such means of check and balance can create deterrence among countries and hold them accountable.

Not only should it be encouraged to control carbon emission but countries should also focus on

reducing carbon footprint by mitigating the use of fossil fuels. In December, during the COP28, developmental banks such as World Bank announced an increase in funding to states who will be transitioning away from the use of fossil fuels. It had been declared that the era of fossil fuel has come to an end (Economist, The Long Goodbye, December 2023). Thus, joint efforts should be made to completely replace fossil fuels.

The next reasonable concern arises - if not fossil fuel, then what? To answer this question, is to accept that switching to renewable energy sources is the best and quickest alternative - reliable and climate friendly.

During the COP28, Al Jaber stated that we must be laser focused on phasing out fossil fuel emissions, while phasing up viable, affordable zero-carbon alternatives. In the same meeting, it was pledged to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030.

(Dawn.com, COP28 chair urges tripling of renewables capacity by 2030, May 2023). This shows that efforts, in fact, are being made towards a

sustainable life.

Finally, the target audience for immediate help - the poor countries - need to be helped first and foremost. Poor countries not only require assistance to deal with current climate crisis but also with transitioning away from fossil fuel use. What is considered to be a historical step, is perhaps a step forward in combating the disasters by climate. In COP28 meeting, it was agreed to establish a Loss and Damage Fund to help financially unstable countries recover. This fund would become the primary source of help for such countries that suffer the greatest from climate change (The Economist, Green shoots, December 2023). In this way, the rich can help the ones who are hurt most from this.

To sum it all up, it can be said that climate crisis requires immediate attention. ^{Ironically, it remains a neglected issue.} The policy makers, law enforcing institutions and world leaders should consider climate led changes seriously. It is observed, however, that COP28 marked an important step towards sustainability. ~~However~~ Nevertheless, a bigger step is to translate words on a page into action in real world.