

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

OUTLINE

1- Introduction

The looming climate crisis is proving to be more hazardous with each passing day. Its negligence will lead towards an unreparable damage to human existence. Hence, there is a dire need of taking preemptive measures before its too late.

2- Negligence towards climate crisis leading towards larger environmental issues

3- Causes of neglecting climate crisis

a- Getting short-term economic gains

b- Dearth of awareness and education

c- Easy and ample availability of non-renewable resources

d- Status quo of developed countries

e- Powerful interest groups in energy sector

f- Lack of implementation of policies at international level

g- Expensive for developing countries to

Shift towards environment friendly resources.

4- Impacts of neglecting climate crisis

- a- Rise in global temperature
- b- Changes in weather patterns
- c- Increased natural disasters
- d- Extreme mass exodus
- e- Disruption in natural habitat
- f- Decreased agricultural production
- g- Increased risk of epidemics and pandemics

5- Steps to heed upon the issue of climate crisis.

- a- Shifting countries towards renewable energy resources.
- b- Making policies and reforms on international level
- c- Promoting reforestation and afforestation.

6- Conclusion.

Ayesha, a twelve years old girl from a far flunged village of Sindh, wakes up from a terrific dream with a sudden jerk and finds herself laying on her charpoy. She takes a sigh of relief and thank God as it was just a dream. In her dream, she was standing on a high cliff surrounded by fast flowing water, taking her mud house, wheat fields and her two months old lamb. The floods of 2022 are still hovering in her subconscious after two years. Even though, there is a great need of heeding upon the issue of climate crisis but it remains the most neglected cause.

For getting short-term economic gains, maintaining status-quo of the developed countries, easy access to conventional energy sources, man is neglecting the most serious issue which eventually, is leading the world towards natural disasters, increasing global temperatures, changing weather patterns, affecting agrigarian societies and increased risks of epidemics and pandemics.

It can only be coped with the joint efforts on international community, by taking practicle steps to handle this issue and by guiding the general public and by promoting afforestation and reforestation. Hence, the looming climate crisis is proving to be more hazardous with each passing day. It negligence will lead towards an unreparable damage to human existence. There is a dire need of taking preemptive measures before its too late!

Negligence towards climate crisis is leading towards larger environmental issues including global warming and green house effect. It has become an international environmental issue and a great threat to human existence. As per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 1.2°C has been increased from 1850 to 2022. However, the prediction indicates that it will increase to 1.4°C by 2040 and 5.8°C by 2100. Moreover, green

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house gases has tremendously increased in atmosphere. According to IPCC, CO_2 , CH_4 , CFC and N_2O , generated by various energy sectors, are 61%, 15%, 11% and 4% respectively, in the atmosphere. So, global warming and green house effect are possessing high hands in aggravating climate crisis.

Humans are neglecting the long-term effects, which climate crisis will bring, for the short-term economic gains. Most of the world, either developed, underdeveloping, or developing, uses fossil fuels for economic purposes as they are cheaper and easily accessible while neglecting their contribution of green house gases. The developed countries are the major producers of green house gases emerging through ^{use of} non renewable energy while neglecting climate crisis. Donald Trump, former US president, considered it as a myth and declared it as a global

natural phenomenon. Hence, for the economic gains, the world is neglecting the issue of climate crisis.

Moreover, dearth of awareness and education about the hazardous impacts of climate crisis is another cause of its negligence. There can be many reasons of unawareness among the masses but illiteracy is at the top of the list. Many countries where literacy rate is low, people are mostly unaware about the current or happening issues in the world. A report published in 2015 by Robert McSweeney shows that two-third of the adult population in some countries like South Africa, Nigeria, have never heard about the issue of climate crisis or climate change. Therefore, unawareness among the masses is paving path to aggravating climate crisis as it hinders the local population in taking small steps towards saving climate.

Furthermore, easy and ample availability of non-renewable energy resources is another major cause of neglecting climate crisis. The maintenance cost of renewable energy is far more than non-renewable energy resources. Therefore, most of the world countries are still using conventional means as they do not have resources to manage or convert the system to renewable energy. The International Energy Agency (IEA) reports that wind market only produces 0.3% of our global power generation while it has the tendency to produce 18 times more than that. It is because tidal energy is certainly the most expensive in terms of its installation. In summation, easy, ample and low-cost availability of non-renewable resources of energy hinders the path of shifting towards renewable resources, hence, causing climate crisis.

Another factor contributing to the negligence of climate crisis is the status quo of the developed countries. The carbon foot printing, of the developed countries is far more than the developing countries but the developing countries are more affected by carbon emissions.

A research shows that developed countries are responsible for $\frac{3}{4}$ of existing carbon emissions in the atmosphere and will end up emitting 38% more carbon in 2030.

The developed countries are already missing the NDC target set till 2030. It shows the non-seriousness of the developed countries towards a global cause, as they are just trying to maintain their status quo in the market without seeing the losses faced by the poor nations of the world.

Powerful interest groups in the energy sector is another major cause of negligence of climate crisis. Interest groups in the energy sector often prioritize

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short-term profits over long-term sustainability, pushing for policies that favor fossil fuels. This can slow down the transition to renewable energy sources, exacerbating the climate crisis by prolonging reliance on carbon-intensive energy production. Additionally, they may lobby against regulations aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, further hindering progress towards mitigating climate change. For instance, according to Center of Responsive Politics, in US, the oil and gas industry spent over 130 million dollars on lobbying efforts in 2020 alone. This spending often goes towards influencing legislations that benefit fossil fuel interests. Hence, powerful groups paves path towards the negligence of climate crisis.

Another important cause of negligence of climate crisis lack of implementation of policies at international level. As climate change is a global issue, ~~that~~^{it} requires coordinated action from all countries.

There are several international platforms, having most of the countries of the world as their signatories, which are keeping an eye on climate crisis and suggesting ways to cope it but the plans given by many international organizations are not implemented on practical grounds.

For instance, Paris Agreement, sets targets for countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. However, there are no strong enforcement mechanisms and accountability measures.

So, many countries fail to meet their commitments, leading to insufficient progress in curbing emissions.

For developing countries, the cause of negligence of climate crisis lies in the fact that shifting to renewable and environment friendly resources is very expensive and they cannot bare the burden of shifting non-renewable to renewable

energy resources. Moreover, these nations comprising almost seven billion population, as per the global data estimates, receives less than 5% of the investments targeting renewable energy. So, developing nations cannot afford to shift to modern environment friendly resources without international investment support programmes.

The impacts of neglecting climate crisis are more severe than it can be imagined. Neglecting climate crisis is leading towards the rise in global temperature. Every year, the temperature in summers reaches its record level. In May 2024, the temperature of Jacobabad and Hyderabad reaches to almost 59°C . Moreover, heatwaves results in death of a large number of people every year. In 2022, the Meteorology department had mentioned almost 1200 deaths in Karachi and 4500 deaths in India over the last 4 years. Furthermore,

a report published by WMO shows that the world is at least one degree celsius above preindustrial level. It points towards the unacceptable risks if global warming cannot be coped timely. Hence, negligence of climate crisis leads towards rise in global temperature.

Another major impact brought about by negligence of climate crisis is the change in weather patterns. i.e. irregular monsoon, changing of seasons, prolonged and adverse summer and winter season while short springs and autumn. The changing weather patterns have affected the agrigarian societies more than any other as agricultural countries grow crops depending upon the suitable season of their growth. For example, in Pakistan, there are major two types of crops; the rabi crops and the khareef crops, with changing weather patterns we have seen every year that the major wheat crops got

affected by the untimely, monsoon rains. So, change in weather patterns are the result of climate crisis.

With changing climate patterns is another linked phenomenon of natural disasters. Due to negligence of climate crisis, the increase in intensity and frequency of natural disaster has taken place. No country, in the world is left untouched with floods, heatwaves, draughts, typhoons, hurricanes and tsunamis.

United Nations report on climate crisis indicates that almost 90% of disasters are weather and climate related, costing the world economy 520 billion dollars every year while pushing 26 million people out of the poverty line.

Moreover, the recent floods of 2022 in Pakistan, deteriorated the country in every possible way. According to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), more than 500 bridges, 5000 km² of roads, thousands of acres of agricultural

land, a million deaths in livestock sector contributed to the devastating effects of 2022 floods in Pakistan. Therefore, negligence of climate crisis resulted in the increased number of natural disasters.

Related with natural disasters, there is a conception of mass exodus which is also due to the impacts of climate crisis. When a natural disaster strikes an area, people starts migrating from that place in a very large number to save their lives. This extreme mass exodus leads towards many other socioeconomic problems including, food, shelter, provision of basic resources, and instability in the country. World Bank estimates that if effective measures are not taken, more than 140 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South Asia will be forced to migrate within their regions by 2050. So, mass exodus is

another serious impact of climate crisis.

The impact of the climate crisis on natural habitats is profound and multifaceted. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events disrupt ecosystem, leading to loss of biodiversity and habitat degradation. For instance, coral reefs are bleaching due to warmer ocean temperatures, threatening marine biodiversity. According to The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), over 50% of the world's forests have been lost due to human activities and climate change.

So, climate crisis has contributed alot in the disruption of natural habitat.

Another impact of climate crisis is the decreased agricultural production. In agricultural societies, where agriculture is being seen as a backbone and lifeline of economy, the abnormal

decline is observed. In Pakistan, cotton, wheat, maize, fruits and vegetables are all on the trajectory of decline.

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, in the fiscal year 2022-2023, 4 million tons of wheat was imported to fulfill the needs of the country. It shows that the wheat production is much lesser than its consumption in the country. Therefore, climate crisis has impacted the agricultural sector by decreasing production due to climate change.

Climate crisis results in the increased risk of epidemics and pandemics. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns create favorable conditions for the proliferation of vectors like ticks and mosquitoes, which causes diseases malaria, dengue, Zika virus etc. Moreover, climate change can lead to extreme weather events, as discussed above, including floods, hurricanes,

which can contaminate water sources spreading water borne diseases including cholera, dysentery, hepatitis etc.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), over 780 million people lack access to clean water increasing their vulnerability for waterborne diseases. So, climate crisis leads to diseases at a large scale.

Owing to the above discussion, climate crisis is an urgent and impactful issue and its negligence will lead towards life threatening consequences. Therefore, some ways forward are mentioned below to mitigate these crisis.

One of the most effective ways of driving down the climate crisis is transforming the energy system from non-renewable to renewable energy resources including solar, wind, hydal and geothermal energy. Several countries have already working on this to cope the issue of climate crisis. Among them

is Germany, producing 85% of its electricity by renewable sources, Costa Rica; a central American country has achieved nearly 100% renewable electricity generation, primarily from hydropower, wind and geothermal sources. Hence, the world is in dire need of a swift transition to renewable energy to restrict the climate crisis driven by fossil fuels.

Another measure that will prove effective in mitigating climate crisis is to make applicable policies and reforms at international level by different international organizations working for climate causes. They must have to devise some strategies to measure the set targets and to make countries accountable to abide by the policies. International organizations including IPCC, UNFCCC, UNCC, UNEP etc, should have to devise workable strategies and provide funding and

resources to ensure its practicability in developed, under-developed and developing countries.

Another important step to mitigate climate crisis is by promoting afforestation and reforestation. It will happen more effectively through public awareness. As UNESCO has set a new target to make environmental education a core curriculum component in all countries by 2025 so it will help in making people aware of the consequences of climate crisis. Moreover, in 2018, Pakistan has initiated "10 Billion Tree Tsunami" campaign to achieve in 5 years which was appreciated by UNEP itself. One of the leading climatic change activist 'Greta Thunberg' says "What we need to do is to protect, restore, and fundraise for forests worldwide, and reforest the planet on a massive scale, because without forests we cannot live." Nonetheless,

by afforestation and reforestation, the negative impacts of climate crisis can be controlled.

In a nutshell, climate crisis has been a global threat that is affecting the world on various grounds including natural disasters, rise in temperatures, disruption of natural habitat, decreased agricultural production and the list goes on. It is a dire need to accept that the adverse climate crisis is due to the negligence of men towards the issue of its existence and to cope it with certain adaptive measures. The causes of neglecting climate crisis includes dearth of awareness, easy and ample availability of non-renewable energy resources, status quo of developed countries, lack of implementation of international policies. Yet, by focusing on the above mentioned measure can reduce and ultimately eradicate

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the issue of climate crisis. Shifting towards renewable energy resources, making workable plans and policies at international level, providing awareness among the nations to the effective measure of reforestation and afforestation can help to mitigate and gradually eradicate the issue of climate crisis from the globe.

"Climate crisis is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win".

(Antonio Guterres)