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

## Outline

### 1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Despite the urgent need to address climate crisis, it remains neglected due to lack of political will, insufficient funding and the absence of global consensus. A comprehensive strategy and targeted actions are required to tackle this issue. (40)

### 2- Climate impact on economy

### 3- Why it is urgent to address climate issue?

- a) Rising global temperatures
- b) More urban flooding and flash floods
- c) Effect on agriculture yield
- d) Effect on women's health

### 4- How the climate cause is being neglected

- a) Governments are more focused on military advancements
- b) Governments policies on climate change are inconsistent
- c) Absence of global leaders from climate forums.
- d) World big economies are dependent on fossil fuel.



e) A huge chunk of people are employed in non-renewable sector

f) Post-covid economic crunch has changed government priorities

g) Rampant logging to fulfill furniture demand

h) Lack of public awareness

5- How this neglect can be mitigated

a) Introduction of BTS policy

b) Introduction of ~~EP~~ CSR

c) Spread public awareness

d) Use of religion

6- Conclusion

### Essay

Imagine waking up to a sky where the sun is barely visible, shrouded by thick smoke. Mass migrations of birds and the movement of endangered species unfolded before the eyes of millions. The air was so toxic that it caused burning sensation in the lungs. This was the reality for the millions in the Australia who witnessed the 19 2019-2020 bushfires. The catastrophic fires not only destroyed natural habitat but <sup>also</sup> left a global impact on environment. Around 19 million hectares were burned,



and nearly 3 billion animals were affected by the blazes. This was a wake-up call: climate change is not a distant threat but a crisis happening here and now. If climate issue should be the utmost priority of everyone as it is causing rise in global temperatures, more urban flooding and it is affecting agriculture yield along with women's health. But this cause has been neglected as governments are more focused on military advancements, and their policies on climate change are inconsistent. The absence of global leaders from climate forums show their priorities. Furthermore, global economy is dependent on fossil fuel and a huge chunk of people are employed in non-renewable sector. After covid-19 pandemic, governments changed their focus from climate crisis to inflation and poverty. Rampant logging to fulfill furniture demand and lack of public awareness <sup>are also</sup> is causing neglect. Nevertheless, this neglect can be mitigated through the introduction of Emissions Trading System (ETS) and promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR). This issue can also be avoided by spreading public awareness and by convincing people on basis of religion. Despite the urgent need to address climate crisis, it remains neglected due to lack of political will, insufficient funding,



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and the absence of global leaders <sup>consensus</sup> - A comprehensive strategy and targeted actions <sup>21</sup> are required to tackle this issue -

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the world has moved away from traditional warfare. The real ~~arena~~ <sup>arena</sup> battle of battle is now the economy of nations. Countries are striving for economic hegemony in their regions and globally, flexing their muscles of dominance. However, the climate crisis poses a major hurdle to these ambitious dreams - Climate-related catastrophes are costing governments heavily. According to the World ~~Metro~~ Meteorological Organization (WMO), extreme weather and climate events caused around \$1.5 trillion in economic losses in the decade from 2009 to 2019. This highlights that the climate crisis is a significant barrier in the economic <sup>96</sup> landscape.

There are many reasons why it is urgent to address the climate issue, with rising global temperatures being chief among them. The overall temperature of the globe is rising, causing extreme heat. This extreme heat is affecting biodiversity, human health, and animals habitat. According to NASA, the Earth was about 1.36 degrees Celsius warmer in 2023.

(4)



compared to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, prior to the industrial era. The 10 most recent years have been the warmest on record. Hence, this shows that there is rising global temperature.

The rise in global temperatures is causing more severe rainfall, which leads to increased urban flooding and flash floods. As climate situation worsens, there will be more frequent and intense floodings impacting infrastructure, agriculture, and most importantly, human lives. Urbanization has increased impervious surfaces, reducing soil's ability to absorb water. Consequently water runs off into drainage system, which can overwhelm already vulnerable infrastructure. For example, in 2023, Beijing, China, recorded 724.8mm of rainfall, breaking a 140-year old record and resulting in the loss of 20 lives. This event underseores the urgency of addressing the climate crisis, as it is significant driver of urban flooding.

As flooding destroys crops, and climate change is also negatively impacting agricultural yields, leading to a decreased overall productivity. The unpredictable climate patterns are affecting crop growth, with crops like wheat and maize requiring optimal temperature for proper development.



While extending growth seasons could be beneficial, these advantages are often offset by the heatwaves. According to the report published by NASA in the journal "Nature Food", maize crop yields are projected to decline by 24%. This decline will significantly impact the global food supply chain, which struggles to meet growing population demands. Therefore, the urgent need to address the climate crisis is clear, as it threatens the agricultural yields.

The impact of the climate crisis extends beyond agriculture and biodiversity; women are also bearing a significant burden on their health. Extreme weather events, heat, water stress, and <sup>air</sup> pollution are exacerbating health issues for women worldwide. Changes in climate patterns are linked to various health problems, including those affecting women. According to the World Economic Forum, air pollution and heat exposure contribute to preterm birth, low birth weight, poorer mental health, and complications during pregnancy. This ~~is~~ reflects the vulnerability of half of the world's population to the effect of climate crisis.<sup>94</sup>

Climate causes are being neglected as governments focus more on military advancements.



Since World War II, the world has shifted towards the principle of deterrence, with countries competing to increase their arsenal capacities to surpass their rivals. Major nations allocate a significant portion of their budgets to military spending. According to 2023 report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), United States spent \$916 billion on its military while the United States State Department reported that only \$9.5 billion was spent on climate financing. This stark difference highlights how governments prioritize military strength over addressing the critical issue of climate change.

As governments prioritize military advancements, their policies on climate change often lack the necessary consistency. Combating the climate crisis requires steady long-term ~~policies~~ ~~hindering their maturity and effectiveness~~ strategies, but, unfortunately, changes in leadership frequently result in shifts in climate policies, hindering their effectiveness. For example, the Paris Agreement - a legally binding international treaty ratified by 196 states to address the climate crisis - experienced inconsistency when the United States withdrew in 2020 under one administration, only to rejoin after a change presidency. Thus inconsistency in governmental



approaches to the climate crisis, ultimately undermining sustained progress and long-term commitment.

Although inconsistent government policies reflect a neglect of the climate crisis, the absence of global leaders from climate forums further underscores this neglect. Addressing the climate crisis requires a global consensus, as it is a worldwide issue impacting both developed and developing nations. Such consensus can only be achieved when nations set aside their differences and unite under a common goal. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, highlighted when there was absence of key heads of state from Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, and other major countries. This absence illustrates how the lack of high-level engagement at international climate forums signifies a broader neglect of the climate crisis.

The absence of global leaders from international climate change forums can be attributed to the heavy dependencies of major economies on fossil fuels. The power sector, which relies on fossil fuels, is a significant emitter of greenhouse gases, exacerbating the climate crisis. Electricity generation, which powers everything from home lighting to high-tech military labs



is still predominantly fueled by fossil fuels due to high cost associated with transitioning to clean energy. According to International Energy Agency (IEA), 60% of global electricity generation in 2023 came from fossil fuels. Major economies' This reliance on fossil fuels demonstrate the reluctance of addressing climate crisis.

Major world economies are heavily dependent on fossil fuels, and the significant employment provided by the non-renewable sector poses a major hurdle in bringing the climate crisis to the forefront. Fossil fuel consumption ~~and~~ continues to drive ~~econo~~ environmental degradation. Phasing out these industries could lead to widespread unemployment, which in turn creates political and economic challenges. According to PwC report published in 2013, the oil and gas sector employed approximately 9.8 million jobs people in the United States representing about 5.6% of total employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically transformed global priorities, shifting governments' focus from the climate crisis to addressing pressing social and economic challenges. The pandemic ~~exar~~ aggravated social and economic divide, pushing many people below the poverty



Line. In response, governments directed funds to <sup>For example</sup> poverty alleviation programs. As per the Asian Development Bank, the pandemic has pushed an additional 47 million people in Southeast Asia into extreme poverty in 2021. So governments launched targeted relief programs: the United States introduced the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, while Pakistan implemented the Ehsas Kifayat program. As a result, climate change concerns were increasingly sidelined, highlighting how the pandemic diminished the focus on climate crisis issues.

One significant aspect of climate issues is the rampant logging driven by the global demand for furniture and wood products. Forests act as a vital carbon sink, and their destruction releases large amount of stored carbon dioxide back in atmosphere. The furniture industry, in particular, is a key driver of this deforestation, with high demand for wood products leading to the depletion of forests at an alarming rate. According to the World Wildlife Fund, illegal and unsustainable logging is responsible for about 15% of greenhouse gases emission. This relentless logging prioritizes short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability, showing a clear



disregard for the urgent need to address climate change.

Another significant aspect of the neglect of the climate crisis is the widespread lack of public awareness.

Despite the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters, many people remain uninformed or uninformed about the

urgency of the issue. Public educational institutions often fail to thoroughly address climate-related topics, as

interests and career path. According to a 2022 survey by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 27%

of Americans still believe that the climate change

is primarily due to natural causes, highlighting a significant gap in understanding the human impact on the

environment. Without a well-informed populace, there is

little pressure on governments to enact meaningful legislation to address the climate crisis.

The climate crisis has been neglected for the reasons

mentioned above, but these issues can be addressed with

a proper ~~plan~~ plan and comprehensive strategy. One effective

approach to mitigate the climate crisis is the introduction

of an Emission Trading System (ETS) policy. This

Cap-and-trade system sets a limit on the total amount

of greenhouse gases that can be emitted, allowing companies

to buy and sell emission allowances. By implementing this

policy, governments can regulate total emissions, creating



a financial incentive for factories to reduce their greenhouse gas output. This system was successfully implemented in the European Union in 2005, where it has shown promising results in regulating and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

By introducing an ETS policy, governments can regulate carbon markets, but voluntary carbon markets also play a crucial role in addressing the climate crisis.

Unlike carbon taxes, which require government intervention, voluntary carbon markets allow companies and individuals to take proactive steps to reduce their carbon footprints. For example, Microsoft has committed to becoming carbon negative by 2030 and actively participates in voluntary carbon markets by investing in reforestation and renewable energy projects. Voluntary markets empower businesses and individuals to make sustainable choices and mitigating the neglect.

Another effective way to mitigate the neglect of the climate crisis is through spreading public awareness. By increasing education and outreach, individuals can better understand the causes and consequences of climate change, which empowers them to make informed decisions. Public awareness campaigns, such as those conducted by environmental organizations and



media outlets, can highlight the urgency of the issue. Additionally, integrating climate education into school curricula and community programs can ensure that people of all ages are equipped with the needed knowledge to support sustainable practices. As public understanding grows of climate issues, government would also prioritize climate actions.

Religion can also play a pivotal role in <sup>alleviate</sup> the neglect of climate crisis. Religion has a significant <sup>impact</sup> on the individual's life. Islamic environmentalism - use the ideas of Quran and Sunnah to conserve the environment - can help to mitigate the neglect of climate crisis. In Zanzibar, fishermen used to dynamite the coral reefs to catch fish leading environment degradation. Different environment organizations were not able to persuade them to stop this bombing. Islamic foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFES) engaged local communities, imams and political leadership. They emphasized that their behavior of bombing is effecting others as all creation is interconnected. This showed remarkable results and fishermen didnot dynamite the coral reefs again.



In a nutshell, climate change needs to be addressed urgently due to rising global temperatures, urban flooding, and its impact on women's health. Despite this urgency, the issue has been neglected by the governments due to focus on military advancements, inconsistent policies, and a shift in priorities towards post-COVID poverty alleviation programs. However, these challenges can be tackled through the introduction of Emissions Trading Systems (ETS) and Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCMs), spreading public awareness, and including climate education in school curricula, and using religious teachings to encourage people to see climate action as a moral duty. It's never too late to confront the looming climate crisis for the sake of our future generations, who also deserves to live on a healthy planet. As Jane Goodall wisely states, "What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you have to make".