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Climate Justice: Who should pay the price for a warming planet

Outline

1. Introduction

Thesis statement: The major emitters of greenhouse gases are not the ones most affected by climate change. As a result, a gross discrepancy is globally observed vis a vis the effects of this phenomenon. This essay would develop the thesis that climate justice demands that mitigating the harmful effects of climate crisis lies more on the major contributors of this problem.

2. Examining the ^{causes} ~~causative~~ effects of climate change

3. How the effects of climate change are not the same across the globe

4. Climate Justice suggests those most responsible for the problem must lead the mitigation efforts

- a. The United States has both the resources and the capital to initiate mitigation efforts
- b. The European Union can provide a collaborative effort to counter the menace
- c. The meteoric rise of China binds it to take a proactive stance
- d. The wealthiest individuals have the capital to bolster the required change
- e. The rapidly growing automobile sector must transition to ecofriendly vehicles
- f. Media moguls and newspaper magnates need to develop a climate fund

5. The opposite view: Responsibility lies on all

- a. All individuals must chip in equally to prevent climate change
- b. Women contribute half the population so ~~they~~ must provide an equal share in efforts
- c. A global collaborative effort is the only way out

6. Refuting the Opposite view

- a. Climate justice demands an equitable solution and not an equal solution
- b. The subjugated second sex cannot be held equally responsible
- c. The affected are not the major causative entities; major causative entities must take the lead

7. Conclusion



Essay

The deplorable concept of bonded labour provides a very valuable insight. In bonded labour, the next generations of an individual pay for the loan their ancestor took; they pay with their contractual servitude until the debt is paid. In many ways, this concept can be applied to the cause and effect of climate change. One entity is the cause and an entirely different entity bears the brunt of the original sin. Those entities which contribute more to greenhouse gas emissions go scott free while the weaker segments of ~~society~~ society confront the manifestations of climate's wrath in the form of floods, draughts and changing global temperatures. The former category in the case of climate change refers to the United States, the European Union, and China. Along with these state level agents, certain individuals comprising the wealthiest, and automobile and media moguls are also equally responsible. Climate justice can prevail when these aforementioned

entities take the lead in mitigation efforts. On the other hand, an opposing view exists that everyone must ~~na~~ work with everyone to counter the climate crisis. This view would be refuted as the response has to be an equitable one. The major emitters of green house gases are not the ones most affected by climate change. As a result, a gross discrepancy is observed vis a vis the effects of this phenomenon. This essay would develop the thesis that climate justice demands that mitigating the harmful effects of climate crisis lies more on the major contributors of this problem.

In order to understand the nuances of the topic, the causes of climate change must be ^{discussed} ~~addressed~~. ~~for~~ Greenhouse gases like Carbon dioxide are produced when combustion takes place. The carbon dioxide rises in the atmosphere and acts as a curtain that prevents the escape of the reflected ~~some~~ infrared radiation. The concomitant increase in Infrared radiation near the earth's surface results in the rise of temperature: global warming. This global

warming is not confined to a geographic location. The global warming spreads throughout the world hence the name 'global' warming. ~~This leads to melting of glaciers, rise in sea~~ The effects of global warming are referred as climate change.

The effects of climate change are not the same across the world. Glaciers melting in ~~South~~ Greenland are not due to locally emitted greenhouse gases. Similarly, the rising sea levels in South Asia and the loss of Mangroves in Pakistan are not locally caused. The global rise in temperatures leads to these catastrophic events. Cities like New York and London are not as affected as Karachi and Lahore. The island nation of Tuvalu is sinking; its population is not more than 12,000 yet, it is the one of the most heavily impacted countries. According to the United Nations Panel on Climate Change, Pakistan is the most impacted country due to climate change and is responsible for less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. These statistics are reflected in the havoc

caused by the 2022 floods in Pakistan. Thus, it can be argued that effects of climate change are not the same across the world.

The previous paragraphs discussed the essentials of understanding climate change. The upcoming paragraphs would discuss why major contributors of greenhouse gases should take the lead on climate mitigation efforts.

The United States has been the global leader ~~year~~ for more than two decades. It has also been a major emitter of greenhouse gases due to its rapid industrialisation. It has both the capital and resources to make an effective change in the climate crisis. The ethical responsibility of countering this issue lies foremost on its shoulders as enunciated by Al-Gore in 'An Inconvenient Truth.' The leader of the free world must shrug off its 'Drill Baby Drill' ambitions and provide a roadmap that can be emulated by other countries. ~~As~~ As it has been a major emitter of greenhouse gases (16%), it needs

to adopt the moral responsibility and counter it.

Like the United States, European Union is a major contributor to global greenhouse gases. Its annual emissions comprise 9% of global emissions. The combined 29 countries can act as a unifying force if they adopt a consensus based decision. These united countries can ameliorate the global sufferings of billions if they act promptly. A leading stance by the European Union can then be copied elsewhere in other organisations as well. Hence the European Union needs to forge a map to make climate justice a reality.

Unlike the European Union, China is a single state and by far the most significant contributor of greenhouse gases. Its contribution of 30% ~~4%~~ denotes its meteoric rise in the realm of industrialisation. Accordingly, it has a greater responsibility to the world; it needs to establish itself as the leader in climate change mitigation efforts. If it manages to curb its growing greenhouse emissions, it can provide an instrumental

change. Nearly ~~4/5~~ ^{1/3} a third of global warming is caused by it as the statistics denote.

Consequently, China must prove its mettle as a friendly country and prioritise climate change mitigation.

Moving on from states to individual level, the world's wealthiest individuals have a very high carbon footprint. In his book, 'Preventing the next Climate Disaster,' Bill Gates confesses his 'absurdly high carbon footprint.' The daily use of private jets and vehicular fleet increases the greenhouse gas emissions of the likes of Bill Gates, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos. As they contribute significantly more than other individuals, it is only just that they act with more ferocity and seriousness to curb their emissions. The world at large should not pay for the acts of the few.

Similar to the wealthiest individuals, the automobile sector is a major contributor to greenhouses globally. The companies like Ford and Mustang are actually not safe for the environment. Smarter individuals and Chief Executive Officers of Tesla and Toyota are

making transitions to electric and hybrid cars respectively. These eco friendly cars are considered ~~enviroment~~ environment friendly as they contribute less carbon dioxide to the environment. The automobile sector is a very deeply entrenched sector in the lives of citizens. Hence, the onus lies on their respective heads to make the ethical decision and ~~an~~ switch to environment friendly policies.

Media moguls and newspaper magnates occupy a prominent position among major emitters of greenhouse gases. The owner of News Corp., Rupert Murdoch, for instance, is a multibillionaire. His publications like Wall Street Journal and Times literally depend on deforestation to print news on paper. He has made a significant transition though to online versions of his publications. It was a smart move and actually a much needed one. Such individuals need to take a proactive stance to counter climate change as climate justice demands it.

The previous paragraphs discussed the thesis of this essay. In the following paragraphs, the antithesis would be discussed.

The opposing view states that all individuals must chip in equally to prevent climate change. This argument believes that everyone is equally responsible for the environment. The people despite differences in social and economic hierarchies have a part to play and they should do it. The handful of big entities cannot be that significant a player to mitigate climate change as the lion's share of population could be. As an example, all individuals should adopt an environment friendly attitude and lifestyle by ~~the~~ recycling their ~~possibilities~~ mobile phone covers and chargers. This would enable a greener environment and limit pollution. Therefore, by adopting an environment friendly lifestyle, all individuals should act responsible to prevent further warming of the planet.

Similar to this viewpoint is the argument that women should act more responsibly. As women comprise half the population, they must not be absent in the efforts to combat climate change. The women need to be more responsible when choosing makeup and hygiene products. They are mostly non-biodegradable and have ~~the same~~

a harmful effect on environment. Their complete removal lies in incineration which leads to emission of greenhouse gases and subsequently paves the way to climate change. Hence, women need to be more responsible because quantitatively they contribute half the global population.

Another opposing viewpoint ~~liter~~ states that for a just climate mitigation, only a global effort can make the difference. They argue that rampant globalisation and interdependence has made ~~it~~ ~~the~~ global efforts the only way. In this backdrop, multiple global climate agreements have been signed: Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement 2015 etc. The just response to climate mitigation lies in agreeing to and implementing these binding regulations.

After having discussed the antithesis in the previous paragraphs, the subsequent discussion would negate these opposite views.

The argument that climate mitigation can justly be dealt with if all individuals chip in equally is very weak. Climate justice needs

an equitable solution and not an equal solution. The multiple societies across Africa cannot be made to suffer for the high carbon footprint of Europeans. The efforts in mitigating climate change must come from the developed countries. The developing countries lack the resources, capital, technology to ~~the~~ combat climate change. Climate justice can only happen if the major contributors take the lead in solving this issue. An equitable solution would be a just one.

Secondly, asking women to be more responsible ~~to~~ to counter climate change is also very weak. The misogynists who voice the patriarchy forget that they were the ones who had subjugated women throughout history. The recent strides in women emancipation does not entail them to be equally responsible for climate change. The women can work alongside men but not solely to curb greenhouse emissions. ~~Climate Change~~ Furthermore, climate change is not gender specific. Pinning the blame on women is not only impractical but also misogynist.

Thirdly, if global agreements had been so successful, they would have acted in unison with all countries. Myopic political viewpoints of world leaders do not make global agreements a success. The Paris Agreement was signed by Obama but when Trump's administration came, he withdrew from it. The same repeated in Trump's second term. Moreover, difference resulting from words and bilateral disagreements make such multilateral agreements dysfunctional. Therefore, for a just climate effort, the world cannot rely on such agreements.

To sum up the discussion, climate justice demands that major contributors of greenhouse gases should assume the role of leaders to combat it. The greenhouse emissions are the major cause of increasing global temperatures. The effects are not limited to the origin of greenhouse gases. The moral and ethical responsibility thus, lies on the shoulders of the United States, European Union, and China. Moving on from the state level to individual level, wealthiest individuals and ~~the~~ media moguls

should play a more proactive role. Certain opposing viewpoints like equal responsibility for all and particularly women were countered, & as they were unjust and very myopic in substance. The climate crisis does not affect everyone equally. ~~Like the next generation of bonds in the bonded labour example, the original person (committee) of gets freedom.~~ Climate Justice can happen if the causers of the original sin are made to pay for it. Otherwise, the rest of the world is analogous to the next generations of bonded labour; both suffer for their survival.