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Climate change exacerbating existing social inequalities

Climate change is aggravating the sufferings of vulnerable community. The marginalized people are prone to floods, droughts and extreme heatwaves.

Owing to job insecurity, poor economy, lack of quality education, and unsatisfactory infrastructure, climate related crises destroy infrastructures restricts from reconstruction, and cut down the daily wages job creating a social divide.

Outline

1- Introduction

2- Conceptualizing climate change

(IPCC definition)

Ghazi Paper

3- Social inequalities prone to climate change

(Economic class inequalities, rural-urban divide, gender inequality, health and education inequalities).

4- Climate change aggravating the sufferings of vulnerable communities

a- Increasing economic inequalities by destructing livelihood

(2022 floods in Pakistan destroyed crops)

b- Threatening informal income: daily wages (Heatwaves in India reduced outdoor work hours)

c- Widening assets gap (Single source of income of the poor)

Ghazi Paper

blacks in Katrina)

d - Increasing climate related disease burden

(Post-flood cholera outbreaks in Sindh.)

e - Increasing mortality due to heat

(Europe's heatwave killed 70,000 low income residents)

f - Aggravating food scarcity

(Famine in East Africa)

g - Widening gender inequalities

(Sub-Saharan African women walk hours for water)

h - Increasing gender-based violence

(Gender based violence)

after in camps after
Haiti earthquake)

i - Destroying education
during climate led crises
(School dropouts
among girls after
floods in Bangladesh)

j - Marginalizing migrants
(Rohingya refugees
in Bangladesh camps
were stateless and
climate exposed)

k - Increasing urban vulnerab-
ility of climate migrants
(Kwacha slum population
lives in poorly drain-
ed low-lying zones)

l - Lossing of childhood
development

(After african droughts
child marriages rates
increased)

m- Burdening future generations with debt

(Pakistan took emergency loans post-2022 floods)

n- Displacing the indigenous people.

(Relocation of local communities in Alaska due to rise in the sea level)

o - Disproportionate exposure in disaster zones

(In Manila, urban poor settlements built on river banks suffer the most)

5- Impacts of climate change on the exacerbating existing social inequalities in Pakistan

(Agricultural loss, food insecurity, livelihood)

disruption, poor infrastructure damage)

6- Measures by International community to control climate change

(UNFCCC, Kyoto protocol, Paris Agreement, COP Summit, IPCC)

7- Recommendations towards climate resilience and equality

(strengthening climate governance resilience, inclusive policy making, debt relief climate hit nation)

8- Conclusion

Humans are facing a number of natural and man-made threats.

Some of the unrestricted human activities have pushed the entire community into an unprecedented threat,

climate change. Climate change is aggravating the sufferings of vulnerable community. The

marginalized people are prone to floods, droughts and extreme heatwaves.

Owing to job insecurity, poor economy, lacking quality education and unsatisfactory infrastructure, climate related crises destroy infrastructure,

restrict it from reconstruction, and cut down the daily

wage's jobs, creating a social divide. It is increasing economic inequalities, threatening

informal income and widening assets gap between the rich and the poor. Further, it is increasing

climate related disease, mortality rate, and food scarcity.

Furthermore, climate change is widening gender inequalities and gender based violence. It is also destroying education, marginalizing migrants and increasing urban vulnerability.

g climate migrants. The climate change is burdening future generations with debts, displacing the indigenous people and disproportionate affecting people in disaster zones. Climate change is also widening the gap of social inequalities in Pakistan. Meanwhile, international

community is try its best to mitigate the challenges.

Strengthening climate governance, resilience, inclusive policy making and debt relief to climate hit nations are

a few recommendations towards climate resilience and equality.

Climate change is the longterm shift in temperature, precipitation, and weather patterns. It is caused due to human activities. The IPCC defines it as the persistent change in climate either directly or indirectly linked to human activities. Humans destroyed the balance maintained in the nature. Industrial revolution increased CO_2 from 280 ppm to over 420 ppm today. This increased the temperature. For instance, 2023 declared the hottest year by the World Meteorological Organization. It is the result of human's extravagant use of non-renewable energy sources producing CO_2 . The change took place over decades. Therefore climate change is the long-term change in the climate, due to human activities.

Climate change has numerous effects on the society. It is affecting the already ~~persisting~~ social inequalities in the society. Climate change effect the economic conditions of poor class. It widens the ~~gap between~~ rural-urban divide. Further, it creates inequalities in gender, health and education. The reason of these impacts is the condition of the marginalized class. They lack enough resources to tackle the wrath of climate led crises. Hence, climate change has exacerbated social inequalities.

The sufferings of vulnerable communities are aggravating due to climate change.

First, Climate

change is increasing the economic inequalities in the society, that aggravates the suffering of vulnerable communities. Climate change is destructing crops, livestock and jobs. These harm the poor because they are oftenly dependant upon natural resources. Floods destroy the crops which provides both food and job to the marginalized people. As an example, the 2022 floods in Pakistan destroyed cotton and rice crops. These floods pushed the small farmers into debts to recover the crops and to meet their two ends. In this way, ~~the~~ climate change is increasing economic inequalities by destroying the livelihood of the small farmers.

Secondly, climate

change is also threatening the informal income. The daily wagers do not have any formal income sources and they are prone to the loss of their jobs. They depend on their daily work hours in crops and other fields. With any crises of climate, their jobs are threatened. The heatwave in India is an evidence to this. Due to the heatwave, outdoor work hours reduced. Resultantly, it reduced the income of daily wagers. Hence, the informal income is threatened due to climate change, which in turn increases social inequalities.

Thirdly, climate change is also widening assets gap that leads to social inequality. The wealthy

class of a society has diversified income sources; whereas, the poor class has a limited or a single source of income.

Climate change crises destroy the only income source of the poor, leaving them into further marginalization.

This is evident from the hurricane Katrina.

Due to the hurricane, the poor black community lost their homes.

They did not have adequate compensation. Hence, the climate led crisis widens the assets gap between the poor and the wealthy class.

Further climate change is increasing climate related disease burden on the most vulnerable community. Vulnerable communities are living near the rivers, lakes and other undeveloped areas.

After the floods, various climate related diseases effect them. Malaria, Cholera and dengue are the major climate related diseases that disproportionately effect the vulnerable community. For example, post-flood cholera disproportionately affected poor families living lacking clean water in Sindh, Pakistan. In short, the climate related diseases ~~are~~ in burden is increasing on the poor class due to climate change.

Furthermore, climate change is increasing mortality due increase in temperature. Humans can not sustain high temperature in the hot summers. Poor class lack the expensive cooling systems

due to financial constraints. The increase in temperature leads to their death. For example, a decade ago, almost 70,000 people were killed in Europe due to extreme heat. All of them were from a low income ~~res~~ families. Hence, climate change is increasing mortality rate of the poor families due to increase in the temperature.

In addition, climate led crises are aggravating food scarcity. The prolonged draughts cause the dryness of crops. As a result, food produced is decreased, creating food shortage and rise in its prices. This affects the poor very hardly, for the hardly meet their

two ends. For instance, prolonged droughts in east Africa caused famine affecting millions of poor children. Therefore, climate change is deteriorating malnutrition and hunger in the vulnerable community.

Moreover, the climate change is also widening gender inequalities. Climate led crises inflicts more responsibilities on women which creates gender inequality. In the condition of extreme droughts women in the third world countries spend more time in fetching food for their families. They alone combat the crises. To second, the sub-saharan African women walk hours daily for water during droughts.

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Hence, it is the climate change that is widening gender inequalities.

A part from gender inequalities, climate change is also increasing gender-based violence. Climate change results in the destruction of income jobs, food and infrastructure. These losses account for the mental unrest. The mentally unstable males inflict violence on their counterparts. Further, to silent the voices of women and children to not ask him for his inability of getting food and shelter, the men start violence. As an example, after the 2010 Haiti earthquake report of gender based violence in camps surged. Hence, proving that gender based violence is also increasing due to climate led crises.

Climate change is also destroying education

system in the vulnerable areas due to climate led crises. Climate related crises like floods destroy schools in the vulnerable areas. These result in the stopping of educational activities. Further, if the homes are destroyed by floods, again educational processes are stopped. Affected people do not go to schools. Further, in extreme conditions, girls are taken out of schools to look after home chores. For instance, the floods in Bangladesh resulted in the school dropout among girls. Hence, the climate led crises also affect education system in the vulnerable areas.

Along with destroying education system, climate change is also marginalizing climate affected migrants. People migrate from their homes, cities and countries due to floods or droughts. They leave their comforts and settle somewhere in the

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poor settlements. In the new areas, they lack proper facilities and marginalized the people of that area. The Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh lacked basic facilities. They were exposed to ~~the~~ post-climate crises effects. They were even stateless. Hence, climate change results in the marginalization of climate affected migrants.

Climate change, apart from marginalizing migrants, is also increasing the urban vulnerability of climate migrants. Climate led crises mostly effects the rural areas. With the climate led effects, the rural affectees move to urban population. Owing to temporary settlement and poor economic conditions, the migrants settle in the unhygienic places.

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For example, Karachi slum population lives in poorly drained low-lying zones, which makes the migrants vulnerable. In short, climate change is increasing the urban vulnerability of climate migrants.

Likewise, climate change aggravates the sufferings of vulnerable community by losing childhood and development in the affected. Climate led crises push communities into economic difficulties. The poor class can not maintain the expenses after losing their homes and jobs due to climate crises. As a result they try to minimize their expenses. In the effort of minimizing their expenses, they marry little children. It is evident from the increased child marriage rates after the African droughts. Hence, due to climate

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drought
and

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change, instead of enjoying the childhood, they married to cut-down their expenses.

Further climate change aggravates the sufferings of the vulnerable community by burdening the future generations with debts. Floods, droughts and extreme heat leads to extreme losses of people. The developing countries could not compensate these losses alone. To cope up, they take loans. For example, Pakistan took emergency loans post-2022 floods. These loans taken by government due to climate related crises, is increasing the debt burden on the future generations.

Similarly, climate change has also affected the social inequalities in Pakistan. In Pakistan, the poor class is already marginalized. They can hardly meet their two ends due to inflation, poverty and unemployment. Their only means of income is natural sources like agriculture.

the recent floods in the ^{last of} summer, the months of July and August, in Pakistan has heavily affected the marginalized class. They losted their agricultural lands & homes and other infrastructures. In the same way, Parts of Pakistan, Sindh and Balochistan, are suffering extreme drought due to which people are migrating to other provinces and urban cities. These impacts widen the gap and social inequality between the wealthy and the poor classes in Pakistan due to climate change.

The international community has taken measures to control the devastating impacts of climate changes. The community has formed 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC)' for climate negotiation. 197 countries are participating in the convention. Similarly, the global community has formed various other organizations and conferences to deal with the wrath of climate change. For example,

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the Paris agreement 2015 aimed to limit global warming below 2°C ; COP summits aimed to coal phase-down and climate finances. In the same way, the IPCC provides scientific assessments guiding global policy. In short, the international community has taken pragmatic measure to curb the impacts of climate change.

Nonetheless, by taking some realistic steps, climate resilience and equality can be achieved in short time. First, strengthening climate governance can ensure fair resource allocation and disaster response. Secondly, by inclusive climate policy-making, the issues of marginalized classes could be addressed. Further, debt reliefs could help the developing nations to curb the immediate affects of climate change. Hence, pragmatic and timely steps will ensure climate resilience and equality in the world.

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To conclude, climate change increases the sufferings of vulnerable community. They are facing floods, droughts and extreme heatwaves. Due to their job insecurity, poor economy and unsatisfactory infrastructure, climate related crises destroy the infrastructure, restrict reconstruction and threaten jobs of informal income. It is creating more social inequalities. Pakistan is also suffering this menace. However, strengthening climate governance, inclusive policy making and debt relief are some of the measure towards climate resilience and equality.