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" Climate Change exacerbating existing social inequalities "

A. Introduction

B. Climate Change is exacerbating existing social inequalities:

- (1) Low income countries suffer from lack of adaptability more than bigger states.

Case in Point: Heatwaves in Rajshahi, Bangladesh

- (2) Developing nations face adverse health impacts due to climate change.

Case in Point: 35% rise in Typhoid, Dengue in Pakistan post 2022 Floods.
(WHO).

- (3) Poorer states are devoid of technologies to handle crop loss which leads to lower yields.

Case in Point: 40% Mango

produce decline in Pakistan.
(NDMA).

(4) Third-world countries are unable to manage infrastructure losses due to climate disasters while first-world can.

Case in Point: 2300 km road infrastructure damage in Pak but Hurricane Helene (US) did not do this much.

(5) Education sector of low-income states suffers due to climate issues more in comparison to developed world.

Case in Point: Schools shutdown due to SMOG in Lahore every year.

(6) Island countries are at a higher risk of displacement due to floods.

Case in Point: Maldives
Kiribati

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(7) Women and children are most affected by droughts and famines.

Case in Point: Sub-Saharan Africa.

(8) The practice of environmental racism is evident in USA.

Case in Point: Cancer Alley, Louisiana

(9) Rural areas and Urban Slums are most vulnerable to displacement due to floods.

Case in Point: Interior Sindh, South Punjab in 2017.

(10) c. Climate Change is exacerbating existential social inequalities— a misperceived narrative:

(1) All and sundry face the wrath of global temperature rise.

Case in Point: 1.5°C average

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rise in temperature since
Pre-industrial era.

(NASA).

D Conclusion

(10) Powerful countries possess the
decision making powers like
climate finance.

Case in Point: COP-29

NCOG and Greta
Thunberg Quote

(11) Global South faces higher
glacial melting leading to issues
of water scarcity.

Case in Point: Himalayan
Glaciers have the highest
melting rate.

(WB Report).

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"Climate Justice and Social Injustice are inextricably linked", stated climate activist Jerome Foster II. Climate Change is inevitably the largest threat to human population on earth. But, its impacts are not evenly affecting all people on earth. Prevailing social inequalities; both in terms of wealth and power are parameters involved in harm inflicted by climate-related phenomena. Not just that, it also deepens the divide and inequality between global north and global south countries. Moreover, intra-state divisions based on income disparities are also exaggerated. The developing countries do not possess equal capabilities to handle disasters. They also are more prone to health-related risks posed by climate change. Poor states do not possess advanced technological set-ups to deal with such issues.

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Moreover, their infrastructure is damaged beyond repairable limits. Education sector losses are also a burden for the underdeveloped world. It is pertinent that climate change ~~increases~~ increases the prospects of domestic and international social inequalities.

Climate disasters hit without considering socio-economic abilities of the victim state. A flood or a drought may occur in a rich or a poor state. Low income countries or ones that are not economically developed do not have the capability and capacity, particularly economic, to handle a climate disaster. When a stable state has effective disaster management system, an instable one might not have it. Bangladesh for instance faces the worst heat waves in Rajshahi district but has very little to

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mitigate or inhibit its consequences. Such variations induce inequalities at societal levels.

Climate change is an evil that poses great threat to human health. Deaths and heatstrokes to certain water-borne diseases are caused due to climate change. The developed world with quality health standards easily manages such a crisis. On contrary, the developing countries, generally less concerned about welfare of its citizens, face the wrath in form of decline in health quality.

The world Health Organisation has recently reported a 35% surge in cases of Typhoid and Dengue in Pakistan after the floods of 2022. Such nations are unable to effectively tackle health crises.

Climate threats impact the agricultural sector adversely.

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States that are dependent on agriculture not just for food security, but also exports are worst affectees. Bigger states have technological advancements like weather indicators or drought resistant crops. But, states that follow traditional methods of agriculture and are devoid of crisis management tactics on fertile lands face trouble. Pakistan, for example, faced over 40% loss in its mango production due to floods in 2022, reports NDMA. It is of significant value for a country known as the "King of Mango Production".

Climate Disasters also pose threat to infrastructure development. Houses, schools to road and railway networks; the losses are diverse. The third-world countries, often entangled in issues at hand, can not bear the burnt of such losses to infrastructure. The first world, with allocated funds for losses

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and calamities is capable of dealing with issues of this nature. This deepens the existant divide between the 'haves' and 'not have' countries. Pakistan, according to an NDMA report, has lost 2300 km of road infrastructure in floods since 2017. In contrast, USA technically tackled the hyped Hurricane Helene without any such impact. There is indeed diversity in a unanimous crisis.

Education sector and climate variations are intricately linked. Disasters like floods or famines result in the shutdown of institutions. It is of great concern that developing countries are vulnerable in this regard as well. When smog hits Lahore, students make it to school coughing and red-eyed until the delayed policy processions of shutting down institutes arises. On contrary, Beijing (China) has

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single-handedly coped up with worst smog after London smog within a week. Such indications increase mistrust and divide among societies.

The rise in sea levels are an unfortunate beep for countries near the coasts. There is looming threat of floods, typhoons or even tornadoes. Such nations have the most pertinent fear of displacement due to climate change. Generally, operating on tourism as major economic contributor; the inhabitants are themselves endangered to relocate. Maldives, for example, is at risk of 80% uninhabitation by 2050 reports IPCC. Such a community would definately face issues and fragment from the society.

Women and Children

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are relatively less powerful people of a society. They are majorly not independent individuals. Climate Change also extends to inflict harsher impacts on these marginalized masses. The particular demands including nutritional demand of infants and adolescent children along with basic health and hygiene requirements of women are exclusively unmet in certain regions due to climate vulnerabilities. Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, faces severe famines where children reportedly die of undernourishment. Such social paranoia and unfulfilment of UN SDG Goal-2 is indeed alarming for the social fabric.

Racist divisions within societies are further aggravated by climate challenges. USA is the country where most prevalent

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racial segregation exists. A new concept of "environmental racism" has recently emerged. It refers to habitation or accommodation of the blacks or the ethnically deprived people at hotspots of climate issues. The Cancer Alley at Louisiana where petrochemical industry smoke and oil spills at sea are recurrent, is where most black people are settled. Such social inequality shall have immense repercussions over time.

Societies are split into rural and urban areas. There are cities with lavish homes and also slums with mudhouses.

Climate related phenomena does not affect both of them evenly. Cities have comprehensive town plans and well-established sewage systems while rural

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settlements lack such organized municipalities. In lieu of such differences, slum areas or backward regions are more inclined to displacements, loss of homes or even lives. Interior Punjab and Rural Sindh were worsely striked by floods in Pakistan. It is absolute that climate change triggers social disparity further.

Politically affluent countries are major decision-makers in the world. Like all other issues, these states have the privilege of deciding for climate-related matters on behalf of all other countries.

The decisions vary from setting emission limits to deciding on climate finance amounts. In year 2024, at the 29th Conference of Parties at COP-29, the

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powerful nations set the New Collective Quantified Goal at \$300Bn per annum despite huge protests from the impoverished. Greta Thunberg rightly says, "They failed us", signifying the social fragmentation based on such decisions.

Analysing the evil of climate change from the other side of the coin, it impacts all and sundry. The rich, the poor, the powerful or the marginalised, all individuals face the consequences one way or the other.

The root base of all climate issues is the rising global temperature. This is embedded in the term "global warming" like globalization, global warming is universal. It does not harm one less or the other more. It impacts

everybody. NASA reported that the average global temperature has raised by 1.5°C since pre-industrial era. This signifies the entire planet, as one unitary whole and not states objectively.

In a nutshell, climate related incidents are a source of penetrating inequalities among nations and their inhabitants.

It not only impacts extended social divide but also north and south gap. The island states are threatened of extinction. Women and children remain exclusive victims of disasters due to fluctuating climatic conditions.

Environment Racism has emerged as a new divident factor. Rural and Urban divide is further ignited when calamity hits. The sentiments of indifference

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gain momentum when decisions related to climate are polarized.

There is absolutely no doubt that climate change is the most prevalent threat to humanity in this century. It is also notable that it is a collective threat that requires a unified approach to counter it. Bridging gaps between societies and eradicating differences is the only way-out to tackle its implications on mother earth.