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377  
English Essay

# CLIMATE CHANGE IS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO HUMANITY

## (A) Introduction

Thesis Statement: Climate Change is an existential threat to humanity due to its profound and far-reaching consequences, including environmental degradation, economic instability, and geopolitical tensions, necessitating immediate and unified global action.

## (B) Environmental Consequences

### (B.1) Rising Global Temperatures:

The Earth's average temperature has

increased by  $1.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  since the pre-industrial era. (IPCC, 2021).

(ii) This warming trend is accelerating due to greenhouse gas emissions, leading to more frequent and severe heat waves.

### (B.2) Melting Polar Ice caps and Glaciers:

(i) Arctic ice is shrinking by 13% per decade, threatening polar ecosystems and indigenous communities. (WWF Arctic)

### (B.3) Sea Level Rise:

(i) It is estimated that the oceans have risen by approximately 8-9 inches since 1880. (UN)

### (B.4) Loss of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Collapse:

(i) Over 1 million species face extinction due to habitat destruction, shifting climates and

human activities. (UN, IPBES Report)

(ii) Coral reefs, which support marine biodiversity, are dying off due to ocean warming and acidification.

### (C) Economic Impacts:

#### (C.1) Agricultural Disruption:

(i) Erratic weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and floods reduce crop yields, threatening global food security.

(ii) For instance, wheat and rice production in South Asia has declined due to climate variability.

#### (C.2) Financial Cost of Natural Disasters:

(i) Climate related disasters like hurricanes, wild fires, and floods cost \$210 billion globally in 2020.

#### (Munich Re).

(ii) Developing countries, with limited resources, bear a disproportionate

share of these costs.

### (C.3) Impact on Fisheries and Livelihood:

- (i) The study reveals that the total number of fish could shrink by up to 40% in some tropical regions by 2100, due to climate impacts. (WWEF)
- (ii) Ocean acidification weakens shellfish populations, affecting sea food industries globally.

### (C.4) Energy Crisis:

- (i) As the climate warms, Americans are expected to use more energy, mostly electricity for cooling. This higher demand will also increase the chance of blackouts or other power disruptions.

(US EPA: Energy Protection Agency)

- (ii) Renewable energy investments struggle to keep pace with the

surging demands.

## (D) Social and Health Impacts.

### (D.1) Heat-Related Illnesses and Fatalities:

(i) In 2021, over 600 Canadians died due to unprecedented heatwaves. (Canadian Climate Institute)

(ii) Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and severe, causing dehydration, heat strokes, and cardio-vascular stress.

### (D.2) Spread of Vector-Borne Diseases:

(i) Climate change has already made conditions more conducive to the spread of certain diseases, including Lyme disease, water-borne diseases, and mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

(NIH: National Institute of Health)

(ii) This places immense pressure on already fragile healthcare system.

### (D.3) Water Scarcity:

(i) By 2025, half of the world's population will live in water-stressed areas. (UN)

(ii) Prolonged droughts and over-extraction of groundwater exacerbate water shortages, affecting millions.

### (D.4) Climate-Induced Migration:

(i) Natural disasters displace millions annually; for example, the 2020 floods in Bangladesh displaced over 4 million people.

(Al-Jazeera)

(ii) Climate refugees strain urban infrastructure in host regions, creating social tensions.

## (E) Geopolitical and Security Challenges

### (E.1) Resource Conflicts

- (i) Scarcity of essential resources like water and arable land fuels inter and intra-state conflicts.
- (ii) For instance, tensions between Pakistan and India over water-sharing agreements have intensified due to climate induced water shortages.

### (E.2) Threat to Global Security:

- (i) The Pentagon calls climate change a "threat multiplier", exacerbating instability in fragile states.
- (ii) Natural disasters and resource scarcity undermine governance, leading to social unrest and extremism.

### (E.3) Widens North-South gap:

- (i) Climate change widens already existing global inequalities, thereby

undermining efforts of poverty reduction. (~~Generation~~ Climate Europe)

#### (E.4) International Political Tensions:

(i) Rich nations' reluctance to fund mitigation and adaptation efforts for poorer countries creates distrust.

(ii) Case in point: Developed nations' reluctance in fulfilling demands made in Cop29.

#### (D) Conclusion: ~~Therefore,~~

(i) Climate change is not merely an environmental issue but a multidimensional existential threat with catastrophic consequences for ecosystems, economies, societies, and global stability.

(ii) Humanity's survival depends upon a unified commitment to combat this crisis and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.