

Gender Inequality and Climate change

Climate crisis is one of the pressing issues of our times. It has become a global emergency now, which also tends to threaten human rights altogether. Moreover, the accomplishment of sustainable development goals is in peril as well due to climate change. One of the major challenges - although the challenges due to climate crisis are manifold - but the one which seems more prominent is gender inequality. It worsens the existing gender inequalities all over the world, specifically in third-world countries. Furthermore, it has also become evident that the impacts of climate change are not gender-neutral, implying that there are structural inequalities having varying impacts on both men and women. Hence, it disproportionately affects women and girls all over the world.

To begin with the question that how climate change exacerbates gender inequality; it is pertinent to mention that climate change deepens social, economic and health disparities for women globally. The chances of unpaid care work increase with the rise in temperatures. According to a report of UN Women - Gender Snapshot 2024, by 2050; more than 158 million women and girls will likely to experience

poverty due to climate change, which is more than 16 million men all over the world.

Furthermore, it has also been observed that women face greater risks of food and water insecurity than men. In many regions of the world, women are considered the primary providers of food, water and fuel. However, these resources deplete due to the changing patterns of climate which in return cause droughts, floods and deforestation. This leads to the longer travel times to fulfill the needs, making it added workloads for women. As a result, girls as compared to boys are dropped out of schools. It is significant to mention the case study of Chiquitania a city from the Eastern region of Bolivia. In that region, traditional care responsibilities of women include fetching water from far-flung areas. Since water is increasingly scarce there, women travel to other community or sometimes to the nearby region to meet the need of their families. Miriam Jemion, an environmental ~~Journalist~~ Journalist of Bolivia states that, "Women are the ones who face and respond to the effects of climate change, but their role is not much understood, much less made visible".

Another issue which is faced by women due to climate change is gender-based violence. Although the reasons of gender-based violence are many, but particularly in the context of climate crisis, these include displacement, poverty and resource scarcity. Due to these factors, there is an increased risk of gender-based violence among women that can extend to more severe form of violence but not limited to ^{such as} child marriage, sexual violence, and domestic violence. A report of UN Spotlight Initiative brief 2025 highlights that 28% femicide has increased due to climate crisis. Moreover, it has also mentioned that by 2400, 1 in 10 women will be subjected to intimate partner violence case.

Moreover, women are considered more vulnerable to climate disasters. The issue of climate crisis makes difficult to have access to right information, and take decisions for themselves. There are also gendered-barriers in mobility, making it more challengeable to access reliefs and rebuild livelihoods. According to the reports of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and UN Women, women are less likely to survive climate-induced events such as floods, hurricanes and heat-waves.

Besides this, the impacts of climate change have serious impacts on maternal and reproductive health of women. The disasters disrupt access to maternal healthcare thereby increasing the rate of mortalities and complications among women. Many studies link the relation between increased heat and stillbirths. It has been found that the increase in heatwaves and temperatures result in increased stillbirths. In addition to this, global warming also cause many vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue and Zika. The impacts of climate crisis on reproductive health seem to be more serious as they tend to disproportionately affect the pregnant women as well.

Despite the impacts of climate change on

On the other hand, it is significant to note that women are considered as agents of climate solution in many parts of the world where their role as integral part of society is truly recognized.

There is a case study called 'The Chonchea women of Tumaco, Colombia', who a group of women, who organized to restore mangrove forests to protect livelihood, reduce carbon emissions and preserve biodiversity. It is stated by

Magnolia Ordenz that, "We have learned resilience from mangrove". It not only taught them resilience but also business planning, financial management and the importance to support other women. They expressed that, "It has given us new hope, highlighted our role in the community".

Therefore, empowering women is regarded critical in climate resilience. Increasing women's access to education, leadership roles, land rights and green rights strengthen climate response. Thus, addressing gender inequality is essential for effective climate action.