

GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES ARE OFTEN OVERSHADOWED BY ECONOMIC INTERESTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- Global health initiatives are important to address health challenges faced by the world
- Influenced by economic objectives, reducing their effectiveness.
- Thesis Statement

2. CONTEXTUALIZING THE ROLE OF GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

3. How GHI'S ARE OVERSHADOWED BY ECONOMIC INTERESTS

3.1 Funding for initiatives directed towards more profitable areas

→ Priority to diseases with high pharmaceutical returns.

→ Significant allocation towards R&D for Covid 19.

3.2 Limited interest by developed world as unaffected by most diseases

→ Initiatives like Ebola, Cholera receive very little funding

3.3 Capitalistic and profit-driven world leading to less attention towards initiatives

→ Market expansion and industrial

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investment prioritized over health.

→ Pharmaceutical monopolies restricting access to affordable drugs (WTO)

3.4 Developing countries facing fiscal constraints, reducing ability to fund initiatives

→ Pakistan spend $< 3\%$ on health, majority budget going towards debt repayment (IMF)

3.5 Global health tied to economic interests of the donor, blurring actual intent behind initiatives

→ Health aid flows more towards allies of donor countries (OECD report)

→ USAID funding comes with certain loss of sovereignty

3.6 Health initiatives are long term commitments while governments prefer projects, immediate economic benefits.

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4. SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

4.1 Reframing investment in health as economic security

→ healthier populations lead to greater productivity (World Bank)

4.2 Incentivising countries to prioritize global health initiatives

→ Debt-to-health swaps method as an incentive

4.3 Encourage public-private partnerships

→ Reduces financial strain on the government

4.4 Prioritizing initiatives in preventive measures

→ Greater early immunization rates to eradicate issues altogether

CONCLUSION

- Global Health initiatives are important to ensure security and protect lives of ~~all~~ those affected.
- Through collective action and policy measures, one can ensure such initiatives are not overshadowed by economic interests.

CLOUDBURSTS: LOCALIZED EVENT OR LARGER ATMOSPHERIC PATTERN

1. INTRODUCTION

- Normally seen as a localized event, but part of a larger change in atmosphere.
- Thesis Statement

2. CONTEXTUALIZING THE CONCEPT OF CLOUDBURSTS

3. CLOUDBURSTS AS PART OF A LARGER ATMOSPHERIC PATTERN CHANGE

3.1 ROLE OF NATURAL FACTORS

3.1.1 Orographic lift in mountain regions leading to heavy local rain

→ Cloudbursts more frequent in Himalayan region (IMD report)

3.1.2 Greater accumulation of moisture in clouds

→ Beyond holding capacity, leading to larger volume of rain (WMO)

3.1.3 Instability in local area conditions

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3.2 ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

3.2.1 Rising global temperatures, leading to more moisture in air

→ Uttarakhand 2013 floods

3.2.2 Disruption in monsoon cycle leading to unpredictable rains

3.2.3 Warmer seas trap more heat, speeding up convection

→ Himachal Cloudburst 2021 linked to sea surface warming (Nature Climate Change report)

3.2.4 ~~Rise in deforestation, resulting in less soil absorption;~~

3.2.4 Rising emissions and deforestation, amplifying extreme rainfall globally

4. WIDE RANGING IMPLICATIONS OF CLOUDBURSTS

4.1 Infrastructure and economic loss due to urban flooding

→ \$30Bn loss suffered in 2022 floods (World Bank) by Pakistan

4.2 Damages to crops and agriculture output, raising food security concerns

4.3 Loss of human lives and displacement through landslides and flash floods

→ 200+ killed in Uttarakhand 2013 flood as result of cloudburst (World Bank)

4.4 Water borne diseases, culminating in a public health crisis.

→ Stagnant water breeds dengue, malaria

5 RECOMMENDATIONS TO TACKLE THE THREAT

5.1 Investment in disaster preparedness measures

→ Early warning systems, flood resilient infrastructure

5.2 Greening and restoration initiatives

→ Afforestation drives, sustainable development, shift to renewables

5.3 Policy and regulatory measures

→ Curbing construction on riverbeds

→ Encroachment on floodplains

→ Disaster risk in urban planning

5.4 Community and global awareness

6 CONCLUSION

- Climate change plays an integral role in the rising frequency of cloudbursts.
- Carries global implications rather than a localized effect.
- Through policy and planning initiatives, one can dampen the threat carried by cloudbursts.