

Climate change: Causes and Consequences:

"The Earth is what we all have in common" - Wendell Berry.
What we do today determines what kind of world we will live in tomorrow.

Outline:

1) Introduction.

2) Understanding climate change: Myth or Reality?

- IPCC Scientific Consensus.
- Record-breaking global temperatures.
- Heatwaves, floods, cyclones as evidence.
- Pakistan's recurrent climate disasters
- 2022 mega floods as practical proof.

3) Major Causes of climate change.

A. Anthropogenic causes.

- Burning of fossil fuels.
- Industrial emission.
- Rapid Urbanization
- Deforestation.
- Transportation emissions.
- Agricultural methane
- Consumerism and waste economy.

B. Natural Causes.

- Volcanic eruptions.
- Solar radiation fluctuations.
- Oceanic cycle (El Niño / La Niña)

Quotation: "Human influence on the climate system is clear."

4) Environmental Consequences.

- Global warming and heatwaves.
- Glacier retreat in Himalayas and Karakoram.
- Sea level rise
- Desertification
- Droughts and water depletion.
- Biodiversity collapse.
- Ocean acidification.

5. Economic Consequences.

- Agricultural decline.
- Flood inflation
- loss of cotton, wheat, and rice production
- Infrastructure destruction
- Energy crisis.
- GDP slowdown
- Insurance and disaster management costs.

6) Social and Humanitarian Consequences.

- Climate migration.
- Spread of dengue, malaria, and respiratory diseases.
- Water insecurity.
- Food shortages
- poverty and unemployment.
- Urban pressure and slums
- vulnerable groups: women and children.

7) Political and security Consequences:

- water conflicts.
- Resource wars.
- Internal displacement.
- Governance burden.

→ Nation Security threats.

→ Regional tension over transboundary rivers.

8) Pakistan: A Climate Hotspot:

→ Among the most climate-vulnerable states.

→ melting northern glaciers.

→ Sindh and Balochistan droughts.

→ Punjab Smog Crisis.

→ 2022 floods and economic devastation.

→ low carbon contribution but high vulnerability.

Pakistan contributes less than 1% to global emissions yet suffers disproportionately.

9) Critical analysis:

→ climate change is not merely an environmental issue.

→ It is a governance, justice, and survival issue.

→ Developed countries' historical responsibility.

→ Weak climate diplomacy in developing countries.

→ policy implementation gap in Pakistan.

10) Recommendations

→ Transition to renewable energy.

→ climate-smart agriculture.

→ Afforestation and urban forests.

→ Green transport system.

→ Carbon pricing.

→ Disaster-resilient infrastructure.

→ Water conservation and dams

→ Public awareness.

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- ⇒ International climate finance.
- ⇒ Stronger climate diplomacy by Pakistan.

11) Conclusions:

- ⇒ Climate change as an existential challenge.
- ⇒ Human-caused problem requiring human-led solutions.
- ⇒ Need for immediate policy, societal, and global response.
- ⇒ Hope through sustainable development and collective action.

Ending Quotation:

"We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it" — Barack Obama.