

ESSAY

Despite the urgency climate crisis remains the most neglected cause.

Thesis Statement

Lack of concerted global action, limited social acceptability, inability of the Western powers to provide funds and a dearth of technological breakthroughs show that climate crisis is the most neglected issue. However, the re-joining of USA to the Paris Climate agreement and recent commitments at COP27 may provide the much needed impetus to

Solving the climate conundrum.

1. Introduction

2. The ticking bomb of a changing climate

The global temperature has already risen by 1.5 degrees

ii More frequent and intense weather events are to follow.

3. The greenhouse effect and its usual suspects

- i Different type of GHGs which cause global warming.
- ii Carbon content in the atmosphere has already increased to 420 ppm.

4. Human activity and greed is the primary cause.

- i. Industrial revolution as the harbinger of climate catastrophe
- ii Development at the cost of damaging the environment has become unsustainable

5. The criminal complacency of the world community

- i Zero Sum game mentality

of world leaders

- ii. Lack of concerted effort on part of the global leadership
- iii. Indifferent public opinion and lack of social acceptance
- iv. Negative role of interest groups and mainstream media
- v. Fear of loss of livelihood in the hydrocarbon industry
- vi. Inability of global leadership to deliver on pledges.

vi. Death of a silver bullet to combat climate crisis

vii. More funds required for climate action and research.

6. Silver lining in the dark cloud of climate change

7. Conclusion.

Since the industrial revolution, human civilization has advanced quite rapidly. Technological innovations like automobiles, mechanized industries, and use of fossil fuels for energy have allowed man to improve his standards of living, escape poverty and become more independent in terms of food security. But all this development has come at a steep price - the cost of disturbing the environment. Climate change, which is caused by the increase in greenhouse gases, has become an existential threat to mankind. The use of fossil fuels for energy, cutting down of forests and increase in human carbon footprint since the industrial revolution is considered to be the main cause. According to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel for

Climate change, there is a 95% chance that climate change is caused by human activity. In recent years, the intensity of climate crisis has become more evident. The poles ice caps are melting, the past ten years have been the hottest in history, scorching heatwaves have devastated the landscape with droughts and wildfires. The 2022 floods in Pakistan caused unprecedented destruction. Despite the ever-increasing catastrophes, global warming, unfortunately remains a neglected cause due to lack of concerted global action, limited social awareness, dearth of social acceptance and viability of the global powers to deliver on their pledges. However the recent rejoining of USA to the Paris agreement and the developments in the COP27 conference may prove to be a silver lining.

in the dark cloud of climate change.

To begin with, the issue of global warming has become increasingly alarming in recent years. The global temperatures have already risen by 1.5 degrees centigrade compared to pre-industrial times which has resulted in frequent weather events like heatwaves, droughts, hurricanes, change in weather patterns, melting of polar ice-caps and glaciers, floods and rise in sea level. Not only has the intensity of the weather events increased, but they have also become more frequent. According to a UN report, if the global temperatures are allowed to increase past 2 degrees centigrade threshold, the changes in global climate will become irreversible.

Therefore, the efforts to mitigate the climate catastrophe cannot be delayed any further.

The problem of global warming is caused by the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO_2), Methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and water vapour. Carbon dioxide (CO_2) is the biggest contributor to climate change. When these gases get trapped in the atmosphere they create a heating effect which causes the global temperature to rise. According to IPCC, the CO_2 content in the atmosphere was 280 parts per million (ppm) in 1750. Now it has surpassed 420 ppm. This has resulted in the atmosphere to trap more heat, thereby enabling the temperature

to rise exponentially. The situation is bound to become ^{get} precarious if the carbon emissions are left unmitigated.

Although global warming is also caused by natural phenomena like solar irradiation, human activity is attributed to play a greater role. According to Adige climate reality project, there is a 95% chance that global warming is caused by human activity.

The carbon content in the atmosphere began to increase exponentially after the industrial revolution. At this point in history, man began to use fossil fuel to cater his energy needs.

Industries were mechanized to enable mass production, vehicles were invented, forests were cut down to create land for agriculture and raw material.

for industries, Moreover the population boom led to greater human carbon footprint. All this activity wreaked havoc on the environment, resulting in irreversible changes. Fast forward to now, ~~the~~ human development and advancement at the cost of ravaging the climate has become unsustainable.

Unfortunately, despite the alarming threat of a looming disaster, climate change remains a neglected cause. The ignorance of the ~~the~~ issue can be attributed to ~~the~~ multifarious factors.

Firstly, despite being aware of the gravity of the climate problem, the global community ~~is~~ has remained complacent. Apart from the Paris climate agreement, where the 196

signatories (Nations) showed their resolve to tackle the matter in earnest, there remains a dearth of a concerted global effort. Climate change cannot be fixed by a single nation, it is a global problem which requires a global solution. The lack of sincerity to the cause can be attributed to the zero-sum game mindset to world leaders. Countries like China and India are reluctant to cut their emissions significantly, because they fear that their growth rate may slow down, and someone else may surpass them. USA which is the biggest carbon emitter in history, also withdrew from the Paris agreement during the Trump Era for the same reason.

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It is high time the global leaders eschewed their politics of greed and made sincere efforts to the cause of climate change.

Secondly, even though the dangers of global warming have become glaringly evident, the public opinion has remained lukewarm in favour of climate change.

In USA for example, climate change denial still exists and mainstream media still portrays it as a hoax. This can be partly attributed to the vested interests of some lobby groups like the coal and oil industry. Such groups exert their influence on the media so that a public remains confused about the issue. Oil and gas industry has the most to lose if climate

change effects begin in a concrete manner. Moreover many people attached to the industry will be at risk of losing their jobs. Apart from that, in the 3rd world countries, the lack of awareness and education is the prime reason for climate denial.

Thirdly, the climate action cannot be possible without finances. In 2015, the western powers pledged \$100 billion for the climate fund which would be used to mitigate carbon emissions. So far, the global leaders have not delivered on their promises. Countries like Pakistan are experiencing the wrath of nature in form of floods, heatwaves, draughts and wildfires, but

The global community has offered nothing but condolences and pledges. The recent floods in Pakistan caused a damage of \$30 billion according to NDMA. Consequently the global powers had pledged more than \$100 billion dollars. Unfortunately little to no funds have been released to rehabilitate the affected and help Pakistan fight climate change.

Fourthly, there is no new technology in the region which can prove to be a silver bullet in fighting climate change. All the existing technologies like renewable energy, electric cars and reforestation etc may help, but their results are not fast enough to combat

the breakneck speed of global warming. Solar panels and electric cars emit great amount of CO₂ during their manufacturing which makes them particularly counter-productive. Some technologies like carbon capture technology are still in their infancy.

The scientists across the globe need put redouble their efforts and the government need to invest more in climate research, so that a cure may be found.

Although, the situation may seem dark and gloomy and the prospects of controlling the ~~new~~ menace of carbon emission may look gloomy, there is still hope. As they say that every dark cloud has a silver lining, so does climate change.

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The emissions have stopped rising at a rate which was feared earlier. There is a effects are being made across the world to adopt clean energy. Reformation drives are taking place globally. Countries in India have pledged that after 2030 no new car will use fossil fuel. EU has decide that by 2030, it will not allow fuel guzzling cars on its roads. USA and EU plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 which will prove immensely beneficial.

Moreover USA plans to spend \$1.7 trillion under the green new deal for climate action. The plan includes phasing out of carbon emitting technologies, switching to green

Technologies and creating a climate resilient infrastructure

In a nutshell climate action still remains a cause without a champion. The severity of the climate crisis will increase with time and if it is left unregulated the changes will become permanent. It is a global problem which requires the attention of the whole global community. Therefore global leaders need to redouble their efforts, public opinion and social acceptance need to be inculcated through education and awareness campaigns and greater efforts in research need to be made in order to combat the menace of climate change.