

Climate change awareness : more important than Climate action

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OUTLINE

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: The world is surrounded by myriads of harrowing challenges with climate change ranking on first position on that list. Climate change pose a threat of existential crises all over the globe. The world is being responsive toward this catastrophic threat by holding many meetings with COP-28 being the recent one. One of the grim reality is that the ^{lack} of awareness is the major impediment in the way toward betterment. Lack of awareness is the irksome factor that is responsible for the failure of our policy actions toward climate change.

2- Devastating impacts of climate change globally

3- Causes of climate change

- a - Burning of fossil fuel
- b - Electric appliances releasing chloro-fluro-Carbon
- c - Deforestation resulting in depletion of Carbon Sink
- d - Harrowing increase in population
- e - Excessive traffic resulting in increase emission

4- Importance of awareness related to climate change

- a - Individuals will be aware of devastating impacts of climate change
- b - Awareness will pave the way towards the formation of more responsible and cautionary society
- c - People will become educated enough about this sensitive topic that will lead toward compliance with policies and guidelines issued by government
- d - Awareness will lead to individual level

change which results in greater outcomes

e - Community will effectively contribute in formation and implementation of climate action policies

f - An aware person will play a very imperative role toward progress by refraining others from committing wrong actions

5- In what way awareness is more important than climate action

a - Without adequate awareness, no one will comply with the policies and guidelines to prevent climate related devastation

b - Funds that are provided to build climate resilient system will be useless if people do not know the appropriate area of investment

- Green initiatives are useless without the awareness of importance of forestation

- Without proper awareness, people will be reluctant toward transition into clean energy and renewable energy sources.

6- Conclusion

The earth does not negotiate, it does not compromise, and it does not wait.

- Leonardo DiCaprio

The world is surrounded by myriads of harrowing challenges with climate change ranking on first position on that list. Climate change is having devastating impacts all across the globe that include floods, droughts, tropical storms, heatwaves and many more. These catastrophic effects are resulting in loss of life, property, livestock, agriculture, infrastructure etc. Climate change poses a threat of existential crisis all over the world. The world is being responsive toward this grim situation by holding many meetings all across the world with COP-28 being the recent one. One of the grim realities is that the lack of awareness is the major impediment in the way toward betterment. Tangible actions will only work if people are aware of the threat posed by climate change. Lack of awareness is the irksome factor which is rationale for the failure of our policy action towards climate change.

Peoples of globe are being subjected to the harrowing impacts of climate change. In 2023, Greece and Canada are being subjected to wild fire which caused danger to life and property. In September 2023, Libya became the victim of climate change with devastating floods.

The tragedy of Libya is the grim reminder of the devastating impact of climate change on vulnerable economies - **Secretary general of WMO**

In 2022, Pakistan faced catastrophic impact of climate crisis through floods. Pakistan

faced the loss of thirty billion dollars as per **World Bank**. In 2023, Pak again became the victim of floods in ~~the~~ southern part of Punjab. As per **Provincial Disaster Management (PDM) of Pakistan**, August 2023 was the driest August in the history of Pakistan. Afghanistan has been the victim of droughts which leads to food insecurity in Afghanistan.

These harrowing impacts of climate change is contributed by many factors out of which fossil fuel emission is being the prime factor. Fossil fuel emission cause the release of carbon dioxide (CO_2), sulphur dioxide SO_2 , and many other gases which is very dangerous for climate change as well as human health. Fossil fuel includes coal, diesel, gas, petrol. Energy sector, agriculture sector, industrial sector and transport sector is among the major consumers of fossil fuel. As per **Inter governmental pannel of climate change (IPCC)**, energy sector is responsible for 35 percent (emission) from fossil fuel, agriculture sector is responsible for 25 percent emission from fossil fuel, Industrial sector is responsible for 21 percent and transport sector is responsible for 15 percent of emission by fossil fuel. Fossil fuel has been widely used all across the world in different sectors which leads toward the climate change crisis.

In addition to fossil fuel, one other factor which is responsible for the most of emission is the use of electric appliances which cause the release of chloro-fluro-carbons. Such electric appliances include air-conditioners

and refrigerators. Chloro-fluro-Carbons pose a grave impact on the climate change which contributes to irregular pattern of climate. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and UAE are among one of the major producers of carbons due to hot weather and vast tourism.

In addition to above factors, deforestation pose a great threat to climate change. As per **global water Forest watch**, more than 10 millions of hectares have been deforested in last four years only. Forest are the major source of carbon sinks. They maintain the level of CO₂ in environment. But with increase deforestation, carbon sinks has been reduced due to which environmental ^{carbon} pollution has been increased. As per **National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** carbon dioxide level has been raised to 424 ppm. Deforestation leads toward depletion of carbon sinks and burning of forest lead toward further pollution and emission into the atm) atmosphere.

Furthermore, increase in population is another major factor which contributes to catastrophic climate impacts. Increase in population will leads toward increase deforestation, increase urbanization, increase consumption and emission of hazardeous gases. As per **US census Bureau**, in 1960, the global population was 3 billion which increased to 6 billion in 2000. In Nov, 2022 the population grew to 8 billion and currently it is more than 8 billion with prediction that it will belledo) increased.

to 9 billion in eight to ten years. As per "2023 census of Pakistan", the current population of Pakistan is 241.9 million with growth rate of 2.5%. It means we are adding 6 million people each year. In comparison to Denmark, Finland and Norway, their population is less than the number of people we are adding per year. India is the most populated country followed by China which clearly paints the picture as the population is the rationale behind their major contribution in global emission.

Moreover, another most important factor which is responsible for excessive emission is heavy traffic. People still use old models of cars which are run by diesel. The diesel combustion by old models results in mass emission. Everyone uses personal cars and vehicles for transport rather than using public transport which results in excessive release of carbon. In the era of modernization where majority of countries are shifting towards electric vehicles, there are still many countries that are using cars that run on diesel, petrol. Heavy traffic and (excessive) private use of vehicles is one of the major factors responsible for climate disaster.

"The biggest tragedy is that we don't even realise what we are doing to ourselves." - Napoleon

"Great ideas don't come from slums, it comes from idealists and dreamers"

(New World Order, Pat Robertson). Many factors have contributed to the destruction of climate and earth. But still these factors can be quelled by raising awareness.

among individuals. One of the imperative effect of awareness will be the spread of knowledge about the devastating impact the climate change pose to our environment

"The climate crisis cannot be solved unless it is treated as what it is; a global emergency"-**United Nation Secretary general Antonio Guterres**. when people will be

well aware of the catastrophic impact of climate change, they will be more responsible towards the vulnerabilities of environment

Awareness will pave the way toward more responsible and cautionary society. The people who are not aware about the climate crisis will continue to (use) do the things that will further put strain on economy due to climate crisis. As per **World Health Organization**, climate change is likely to cause more than 2,50,000 deaths due to climate related changes like dengue, malaria etc. Well aware and well educated people knows the impact of this harrowing situation on life, economy and property. Awareness will create sense of responsibility in people

Furthermore, awareness will make people realise the need to comply with the policies and procedures that are issued by national and international institution to combat this menace. People will be aware that it is the need of hour to follow the guidelines before it is too late. climate change is not a far crisis; it is happening now. As per the research published

by University of Chicago air quality report 2023, "Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India life expectancy will be reduced to five years if the current air quality retained." Awareness is the only way toward betterment. If people will be aware about the air quality of atmosphere, they will comply with guidelines of wearing mask and will stay home on the leave days provided by government instead of roaming around.

Furthermore, awareness will lead toward individual level change which always brings greater outcome. If every individual will mend their ways then it will lead towards better community. "You are only certain of change in one corner of universe, that is your own selves"

- **Aldous Huxley**. Individual level change is very imperative in different sectors including the prevention of solid waste, deforestation, use of public transport and many more. Communities are formed from societies and societies are composed of individuals. If an individual become responsible than this lead to better societies as consequently better communities

In addition to this, a well aware and well educated community can contribute toward policy recommendation. This will be beneficial for both government and community. The innovative ideas of community (should) will be considered by policy makers to combat this menace. "The world is full of obvious things which nobody observes"

- **Sherlock Holmes**. Government should

initiate awareness campaigns then in return a well aware person should devise ways to fight with climate related problems.

An well aware person will not only become responsible towards his actions but will play imperative role in refraining others from doing the wrong things that will adversely effect the environment. Education is the key to unlock the doors of freedom

George Washington. A well educated and well aware person is what is the need of hour to quell this problem.

without awareness, all the policies and guidelines are useless because people will not comply with them. Awareness will make people realise the grim need to comply with policies. 'It is not about melting glaciers, floods and polar bear. It is about my lungs and your lungs.'

World Health organization, Dr Maria Neira. For example: the air quality of Lahore is five times high then the normal level as per air quality index 2023 Lahore is number one on the list of most populated city. without adequate awareness people will not comply with the guidelines of staying homes and wearing mask. Once they will be aware of the dangerous impacts this air pose to their lungs and health, they will comply with guidelines.

Awareness is the need of hour. The funds that has been provided by various international organizations will not be effectively used without the awareness of the

area of investment. The least countries can do is to generate funds to combat this problem. But everything will be destroyed again and again if people will continue to use fossil fuel and continue the deforestation. Adequate use of funds can only be possible if one will raise awareness and quell the root cause of the problem.

Furthermore, green initiatives has been taken to increase the level of carbon sinks. But this initiative is useless unless awareness of about importance of forestation is not raised. Government will plant 10 million tree and in return people cut 20 million tree to fulfill their need of wood, land etc. "What we are doing to our forests reflects what we are doing to our selves". **Mahatma Gandhi**. Awareness should be spread about the importance of forestation.

Moreover, without proper awareness, people will be reluctant towards shifting to clean energy and using public transport. Awareness is necessary so that people should not consider using public transport a matter of shame. If an individual is well aware that his small contribution can brings major and great result then he/she will not be reluctant toward transition to clean ^{energy} and so using public transport or electric vehicals.

In a nut shell, the world is facing (one) of the grave crisis of Climate change that is not only affecting human lives but economies, infrastructure, livestock etc.

Many initiatives had been taken to quell this problem. But we have to accept this naked truth that without awareness, all the policy actions against climate change is useless. We have to address the root cause by raising awareness about the harrowing impacts of climate change.