

Climate Change is a Governance Crisis more than an Environmental Issue

Outline

1. Introduction

1.1 Attention Grabber

1.2 Background Information

1.3 Thesis Statement

While climate change manifest as an environmental issue, it is ultimately a governance crisis caused by weak environmental regulations, policy inconsistency, corruption, lack of institutional capacity, poor urban development and weak disaster preparedness.

2. Climate Change as an Environmental Problem (Anti-Thesis)

2.1 Greenhouse gas emissions

2.1.1 Emission of fossil fuels, CO_2 , methane and industrial emissions

2.2 Deforestation

2.2.1 Large scale clearing of Forests

2.2.2 Urban expansion into natural forest

2.2.3 Reduction of natural carbon sink

2.3 Agriculture activities

2.3.1 Use of fertilizers

2.3.2 Rice paddies emitting large quantities of CH_4

2.4 Industrial emissions

2.4.1 Carbon emission from manufacturing units

2.4.2 Release of Industrial pollutants

2.4.3 Chemical and cement industry pollution

2.5 Waste and landfill methane emissions

2.5.1 Poor waste management and recycling practices

2.5.2 Open dumping and burning of waste

2.6. Exploitation of natural resources

2.6.1 Extraction of mines, minerals oil and gas

2.6.2 Increased human pressure on fragile ecosystem

3: Rebuttal: Climate Change as Governance Crisis (Thesis)

3.1 Weak environmental regulations

3.1.1 Lack of Strong legislation to control emission and deforestation

3.1.2 Poor enforcement of laws leads to environmental degradation

3.2 Policy inconsistency

3.2.1 Frequent changes in climate policies prevent long term mitigation strategies

3.3 Corruption and mismanagement

3.3.1 Poor administrative practices

3.3.2 Industrial lobbying and bribery

3. Lack of institutional capacity

3.4.1 Understaffed and underfunded institutions fail to implement climate plans effectively

3.5 Poor urban management

3.5.1 Unplanned cities

3.5.2 weak infrastructure

3.5.3 Inadequate drainage system

3.6 Weak disaster preparedness

3.5.1 Lack of early warning systems

3.5.2 Inadequate emergency planning

4. Conclusion

The Essay

Humans have survived ice ages, droughts and natural calamities for millennia, yet today, climate

change threatens us not just because of nature, but because governments and institutions fail to act decisively. The crisis is as much about leadership as it is about the environment. Traditionally, climate change has been viewed primarily as an environment issue due to human activities like agricultural practices, deforestation, industrial emissions burning of fossil fuels and power generation. These environmental factors are real and undeniable but climate change is not just an environmental issue but fundamentally a governance crisis. weak environmental regulations, policy inconsistency, corruption and mismanagement,

lack of institutional capacity, poor urban development and weak disaster preparedness are at the heart of the problems determining whether environmental challenges escalate into disasters or can be effectively managed.

Greenhouse gas emissions are one of the most significant causes of climate change. Gases such as carbon dioxide, methane trap heat in the earth's atmosphere creating greenhouse gas effect that raise global temperature. The burning of fossil fuels in industrial processes are the large source of greenhouse gas emissions. The accumulation of these

gases reduce the planet's natural capacity to absorb carbon. This results in altering global climate system leading to rising temperature, heatwaves, water scarcity issues, floods and storms.

Deforestation is a contributor of climate change. It directly affect the balance of carbon in the atmosphere. Cutting down of plants and trees in large quantities reduce the capacity to absorb carbon. Forests are natural carbon sink absorbing carbon dioxide during photosynthesis. When forests are cleared for agriculture, urban expansion or logging carbon stored in the trees

release back into the atmosphere. Forests help regulate rainfall, maintain soil moisture, and stabilize temperature. Their removal leads to increased surface temperature and enhanced soil erosion. Deforested lands become less fertile and more prone to desertification. It not only affects environment but also leads to biodiversity loss.

Agricultural activities are causing climate change primarily due to emission of greenhouse gases. Livestock farming produce large amounts of methane a gas which trap in the atmosphere 30 times more than carbon dioxide. Rice cultivation also generates significant amount of methane

due to anaerobic decomposition of organic matters. Additionally, the use of synthetic fertilizers releases nitrous oxide into the atmosphere which is also a high potent gas. Use of land for agricultural practices leads to deforestation and draining of wetlands. Intensive farming also contribute to CO_2 emissions through machinery irrigation and transport.

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