

# Climate Change & Gender

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# ABOUT



Since 2022, the Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) is implementing a project titled ***“Youth for Civic Action and Reporting on Climate Change through Citizen Journalism in Pakistan”***, funded by the Commonwealth Foundation. Through this project, SSDO has trained university students across Punjab studying media and mass communication to understand, report and advocate for policy action, reform and implementation regarding climate change and environment protection. By capacitating them on citizen journalism, this has led to enhanced reporting on climate change and its associated effects in print and online media, with a special focus on personal and human-centric stories that show the devastating effects of climate change felt at the grassroots level in Pakistan. As part of our work, SSDO aims to foster youth-led movements that create greater awareness and advocacy on the issue, leading to sustainable behavior change among citizens, authorities and policymakers.

## **ABOUT SSDO**

SSDO is a non-profit, research-based advocacy organization working on sustainable development across Pakistan through a rights-based, gender-sensitive and inclusive approach. By capacitating, mobilizing and collaborating with policymakers, parliamentarians, government institutions, civil society, media, academia, youth, and religious communities nationwide, SSDO endeavors to create platforms for constructive and citizen-led policy dialogue, recommendations and action.

## **ABOUT THE COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION**

The Commonwealth Foundation is an intergovernmental organization established by Heads of Government in support of the belief that the Commonwealth is as much an association of peoples as it is of governments. It is the Commonwealth agency for civil society; a unique, stand-alone organization established by, funded by, and reporting to governments. The Foundation is dedicated to strengthening people’s participation in all aspects of public dialogue, to act together and learn from each other to build democratic societies.



# INTRODUCTION

Climate Optics provides a platform to youth across Pakistan to share their perspective and stories when it comes to the effects of climate change, as well as showcase the innovative initiatives undertaken by them to promote sustainability and climate action.

The Climate Optics Magazine showcases vibrant and diverse youth voices, particularly young women. This volume is specifically dedicated to exploring the complex and vital relationship between climate change and gender. Here, we delve into the unique challenges and opportunities women face in the wake of a changing environment. We feature insightful blogs written by young Pakistanis – the generation who will inherit this planet and its challenges. Their perspectives are fresh, thought-provoking, and brimming with innovative ideas. Additionally, you will find stunning artwork that captures the essence of climate change and its impact. These artistic expressions offer a powerful lens through which to understand the human dimension of environmental issues.

Our journey does not end here. We also project the incredible work happening on university campuses across Pakistan by . We celebrate the creative activities and initiatives raising awareness on climate and gender. Through these efforts, young minds are sparking critical conversations and paving the way for a more sustainable future. So, turn the page, explore, and join us in this important dialogue!

# FOREWORD

Pakistan, like many parts of the world, faces a complex challenge: climate change. This ever-growing threat impacts our environment, resources, and ultimately, our people. Within this challenge lies another layer – the disproportionate impact on women.

This e-magazine delves into the intersection of gender and climate change in Pakistan. We explore the unique vulnerabilities women face due to environmental shifts. Climate change can disrupt traditional gender roles, for instance, by increasing the distance women must travel for water and firewood. This not only adds to their workload but also exposes them to safety risks. Furthermore, the effects of climate change, such as floods and droughts, can exacerbate existing inequalities, limiting women's access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

However, this story is not one-sided. Women are also powerful agents of change. Their knowledge of local environments and their leadership in resource management are crucial for building resilience. This magazine highlights the strength and leadership of Pakistani women who are tackling climate challenges head-on, finding innovative solutions, and advocating for a more sustainable future.

Through powerful stories and insightful input by youth, we aim to shed light on this critical issue. We hope that this magazine serves as a platform for dialogue, action, and ultimately, change. We invite you to explore these pages, learn, be inspired, and join the conversation on how we can create a more equitable and climate-resilient future for Pakistan.



# AYESHA'S FIGHT: YOUTH VS CLIMATE CHANGE

Jawaria Zahoor

Imagine a world without the vibrant colors of nature, without the soothing sound of raindrops, without the gentle breeze that caresses your face. A world where the sun's rays scorch the earth, where the air is thick with pollution, and where the once mighty oceans are now lifeless and barren.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and its impact on youth cannot be ignored. As the world continues to warm, the consequences are becoming more severe and are affecting young people in many ways. From rising sea levels threatening coastal communities to extreme weather events disrupting education and livelihoods, the effects of climate change are already displacing millions and jeopardizing the future of young people worldwide. Many young individuals face the reality of food and water insecurity, as climate change disrupts agricultural patterns and access to clean water sources. This, in turn, can lead to malnutrition, health problems, and hindered development, putting a significant burden on young shoulders.

Young people today are inheriting a world in flux. The very foundation of their future - a stable climate, fertile lands, and abundant resources - is under threat. This burden of uncertainty can lead to feelings of anxiety, helplessness, and even anger. The knowledge that the choices of previous generations have significantly impacted their future can be a heavy weight to carry.

Ayesha is a young girl living in Sindh, Pakistan, who has seen her world turned upside down by these catastrophic changes. From the lush green fields of Pakistan, her home has turned into a



watery wasteland. The floods, a cruel consequence of climate change, have left her family homeless, their lives hanging by a thread.

But the floods brought more than just material losses. They brought disease. Stagnant floodwater, a breeding ground for mosquitoes, brought with it the threat of malaria and dengue. Even as Ayesha's family struggles to rebuild their lives, they live in fear of falling ill, of another blow that might just be too much to bear.



And then there is Ayesha. A bright, spirited young girl whose dreams have been washed away by the floods. She should be in school, chasing her dreams, not fighting for survival. It is a burden no child should bear.



Despite the hardships, Ayesha remains resilient. She is not just a victim of climate change; she is a symbol of the human spirit, of its ability to endure, to hope, and to rise again.

Ayesha's story is a stark reminder of the human cost of climate change. It is not just about rising temperatures and melting ice caps. It is about people. It is about the millions of *Ayeshas* out there, whose lives are being torn apart by the consequences of our actions.

Her fight started small, a single mango seed cradled in her hand, a green beacon in the dust. Fueled by whispers of Malala's fight for education and Ahsan's magic of coaxing life from thirsty soil, Ayesha planted hope.

One seed became a dozen, shared with children whose eyes mirrored the sun's glare. Soon, her laughter, once muted by fear, soared with the song of life. She taught them the magic of composting, transforming waste into earth's embrace. Water, precious as tears, was captured in clay pots, each a whispered tale of ancient wisdom. Ayesha's voice, amplified by Sana's brick homes built from plastic waste and Hunza's youth powering their village with mountain streams, rose above the dust. It reached ears hungry for change, igniting sparks in local businesses that competed for green subsidies.



Ayesha has chosen to fight, not just for her future, but for the future of her generation. Her voice, once drowned by the floodwaters, now rises above them, calling for a world where we change, not the climate.



## The Fight Against Climate Change

The fight against climate change is not just Ayesha's fight. It is our fight. This battle cannot be won by a single person, a single community, or a single nation. It is a global challenge that requires global solutions. Every single one of us has a role to play, from the decisions we make in our daily lives to the pressure we can exert on our leaders to prioritize the health of our planet over short-term gains.

Collective action is key. It is about millions of us making small changes that together add up to a significant impact. It's about reducing our carbon footprint, rethinking our consumption habits, and embracing a sustainable lifestyle. It's about turning off the lights when we leave a room, recycling and composting, choosing public transportation or biking over using personal vehicles, and supporting renewable energy. But it is not just about what we can do as individuals.



It is about what we can achieve together. It is about raising our voices, demanding accountability from corporations and governments, and pushing for policies that prioritize the environment. It is about recognizing that climate change is not just a threat, but an opportunity to build a better, more sustainable world. It is also about realizing that the fight against climate change is a fight for justice. The consequences of a warming planet are not evenly distributed. Just like Ayesha, millions of people in developing countries bear the brunt of the impacts, despite contributing the least to the problem.



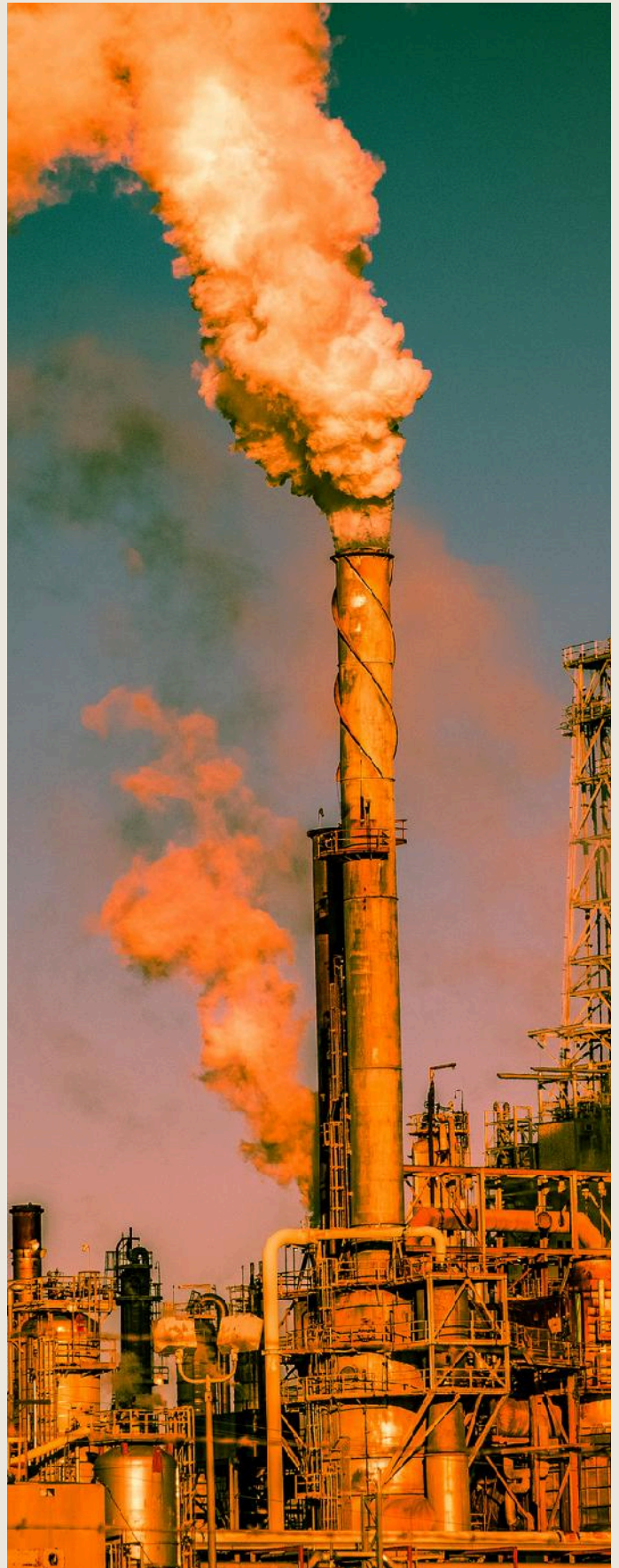
The fight against climate change is a fight for the future. It is a fight for Ayesha's future, for our children's future, for the future of all life on this planet. It's a fight we cannot afford to lose. The future can be bleak, or it can be bright. It all depends on the choices we make today. Let us choose wisely. Let us choose the future. Let us choose life. The fight against climate change is our fight. Our young Ayesha, stares into the abyss of a rapidly changing climate and decides she will not be swept away by the tides of inaction. Raising her voice, she becomes an advocate for climate action in her community.

## An Inspirational Ending

As we come to the end of Ayesha's story, let us remember one thing. Each one of us holds a remarkable power. The power to bring about change, the power to shape our world. Ayesha's story is a testament to that power, a testament to the strength and resilience of youth. But Ayesha's story is not just about her. It's about us. It's about the collective power we possess when we come together.

Every small action counts. Every tree planted, every switch to renewable energy, every voice raised in awareness. Each is a step forward, a step towards a better, healthier, and safer world.

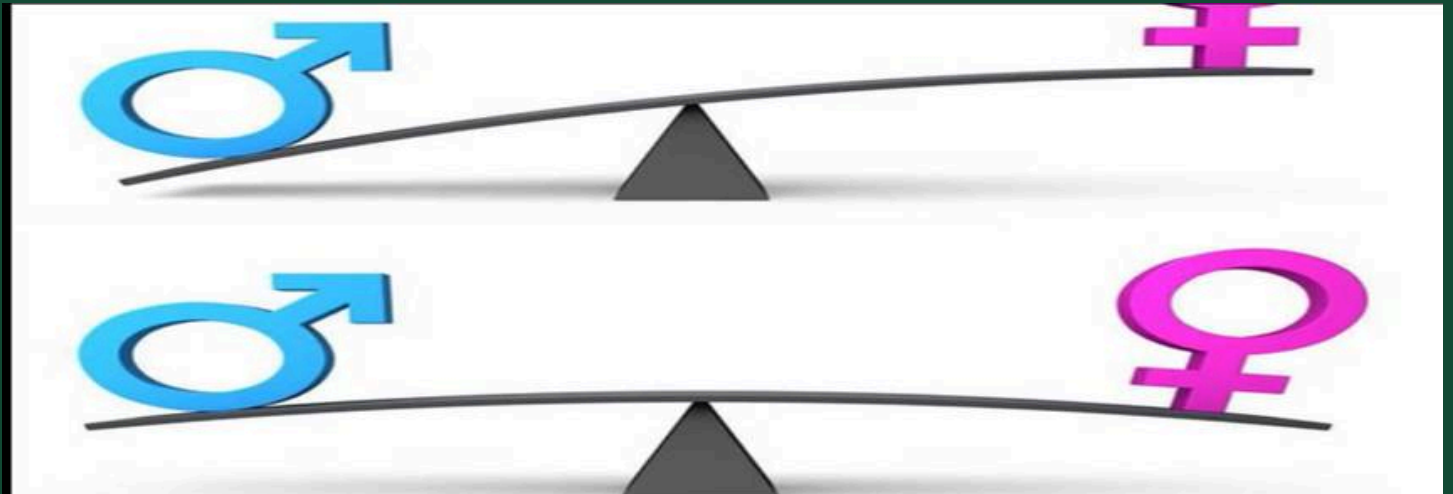
In the words of environmentalist Wangari Maathai: ***"It is the little things citizens do. That is what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees. What is your little thing?"***



*The author is a student of MPhil Zoology at the Women University Multan.*

# The Impact of Climate Change on Gender Equality

Aliya Shahid



Climate change is not just an environmental issue; it is a human rights issue, with significant implications for gender equality. The effects of climate change intersect with existing gender disparities, exacerbating inequalities and posing unique challenges for women and gender minorities.

## The Fight Against Climate Change

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, particularly in developing countries where they often have less access to resources and are more reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods. For example, extreme weather events like droughts and floods can lead to food and water shortages, placing additional burdens on women who are responsible for household chores and care giving.



## Access to Resources

Climate change exacerbates existing inequalities in access to resources such as land, water, and energy, which are essential for women's economic empowerment. Limited access to these resources restricts women's ability to adapt to climate change impacts and undermines their economic independence.



## Health Risks

Climate change increases health risks for women, particularly in vulnerable communities with limited access to healthcare. Women may face increased exposure to heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and reproductive health issues exacerbated by environmental degradation and natural disasters.

## Displacement and Migration

Climate-induced displacement and migration disproportionately affect women and girls, who often face heightened risks of violence, exploitation, and trafficking in times of crisis. Displacement can disrupt social networks and exacerbate gender-based violence, further limiting women's ability to rebuild their lives and communities.

## Decision-Making and Leadership

Women's participation in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation and mitigation is crucial for effective and equitable responses. However, women are often underrepresented in environmental and climate change policy discussions and leadership roles, limiting their ability to influence decision-making and advocate for their needs and priorities.



## Education and Empowerment

Access to education and information is essential for empowering women and girls to respond to the challenges of climate change. Investing in girls' education and promoting gender-sensitive climate change education can enhance their resilience and enable them to participate more effectively in climate action.



Addressing the gender dimensions of climate change is essential for achieving sustainable and equitable development. Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change must prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring that the voices and needs of women and gender minorities are central to climate action policies and initiatives. By recognizing and addressing the intersecting impacts of climate change on gender equality, we can build more resilient and inclusive societies for all.



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# *Climate Change and its Impact – Youth as a Driving Force*

*Ayesha Tariq*

Today's world is suffering from the consequences of climate change, and if not taken seriously, it will lead to serious environmental problems. It is a serious issue not only in a specific region, but it has exceeded its limit throughout the whole world. It is directly influencing the problems of global warming, wildfires, floods, storms, severe droughts, and hurricanes, which are, with the passage of time, increasing in frequency and intensity.

It is influencing the people of developing countries because of greenhouse gas emissions from developed countries. Developed countries are responsible for these extreme changes and impacting the low-income communities. Recently, we have been using the term climate justice to explain this unequal behavior within developing countries. The main focus of this approach is to identify the root cause of these climate crises and mitigate the effect of these changes on developing countries.

## *Climate Change and its Impact on Human Rights*

Climate change is directly violating various human rights, and according to the World Health Organization, there is a future prediction that there will be an estimated 250,000 deaths each year between 2030 and 2050 from malnourishment, malaria, diarrhea, and heat stress alone. The climate crisis has deprived people of their right to life, water, sanitation, housing, and health. The people who get displaced from their houses due to heavy floods lose their right to self-determination, and their cultural identity too. It can also influence the economic activity going on in an area due to extreme weather conditions. Climate change is due to man-made activities, and the main problem is that we are not even realizing the root causes of these crises.

One of the significant dimensions of violating human rights is the global health risk caused by climate change; for example, high temperatures are causing heat strokes and skin cancer in humans. Extreme weather conditions like floods spread various diseases like water-borne and vector-borne diseases among the affected.

## *Impact on Women*

Women suffer differently in these types of situations. In case of floods, most people get displaced from their homes, and pregnant women do not have the facility to reach the hospital; so, in most cases, it will lead to the death of both the mother and the child. On the other hand, women during their menstrual cycle have difficulty finding proper sanitary utilities, which will result in different infections. Feminist discourse has given a new spirit toward the consequential side of this crisis on women. Fatima Bhutto, while talking about the specific case of Pakistan, mentioned the displacement of women during the floods and highlighted the death rate of women during this catastrophic situation. As she wrote for *The Guardian*,

*“Women and children are 14 times more likely to die during a disaster, according to at least one study. One reason is that they are often the group with the most limited resources at hand during an emergency.”*



*Photo: Dawn News*

## Challenges in Pakistan

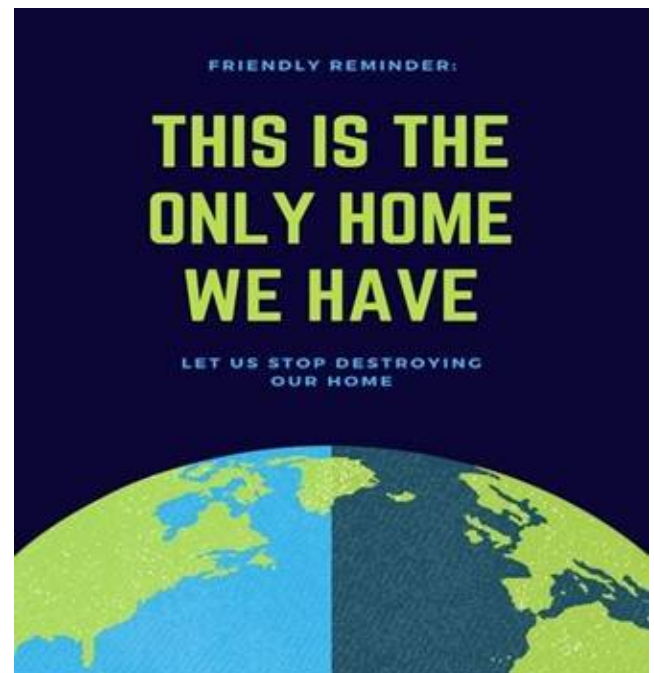
Pakistan is also facing many challenges because of climate change. According to research, extreme heat and destructive flooding cause deaths, displacement from homes, and loss of access to basic needs for approximately 33 million people. Every year, heavy monsoon rainfalls cause floods in remote areas of Pakistan. Millions of people get displaced from their homes, losing fundamental rights to life. Similarly, smog is a common problem in populous and industrious cities like Lahore. It is affecting the health of people, causing different allergies and cardiac pathologies. In recent years, Lahore in particular has ranked higher in poor air quality due to the high prevalence of smog. According to the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago's Air Quality Life Index, 98.3 percent of Pakistanis breathe air below the national air quality threshold.



*Photo: Pakistan Observer*

The point to focus here is how we can control the impacts of climate change on human beings. What are the strategies to mitigate these crises? The international world has already started working on this and made different legal frameworks to reduce these crises in the world. It is a global challenge that requires strong policy action, according to its needs. According to the Paris Agreement, all countries must reduce their carbon emissions and limit the increase in global average temperature well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. People are recognizing this as a global issue and putting efforts to cut its effects on human beings. Change always starts from the micro-level, so people also need to take measures to make their environment more

sustainable and better for living and breathing. Together, we can make our society sustainable and livable for everyone.



## Youth-As Driving Force

The above-mentioned statistics depict a clear understanding of how climate change has affected the environment and ecosystem of Pakistan over the last few decades. Climate change affects every single one of us, though some may be more prone to its impacts.

So, this part of the blog will be focused on youth– a driving force towards tackling climate change. The youth of a nation is the most productive and efficient group of that respective society. Moreover, the youth emerge as a potent force steering the nation towards a sustainable future. They can be the best sample to be utilized for bringing positive change in a society.

Pakistan is not immune to the impacts of climate change, facing issues such as monster floods, erratic weather patterns, and water scarcity. Apart from that, Pakistan is one of the countries of the global south that has seen some of the most drastic and harrowing effects of climate change. The youth of Pakistan are witnessing firsthand the consequences of environmental degradation, which compels them to take an active role in coping with climate change.

## Inclusion of Youth Advocacy in Policymaking

A democratic state enables its citizens to be represented equally in every developmental stage. The same democracy must be able to bring the youth, who comprise 60% of the country's population, into policymaking, as these policies that have a direct or indirect impact on them. Some of the organs of state have empowered youth to a certain level but it is pertinent to recognize the urgency of addressing climate change and to involve youth representatives in the decision-making process. Consultative forums led by youth contribute to a more inclusive approach to formulating policies that directly impact the environment.

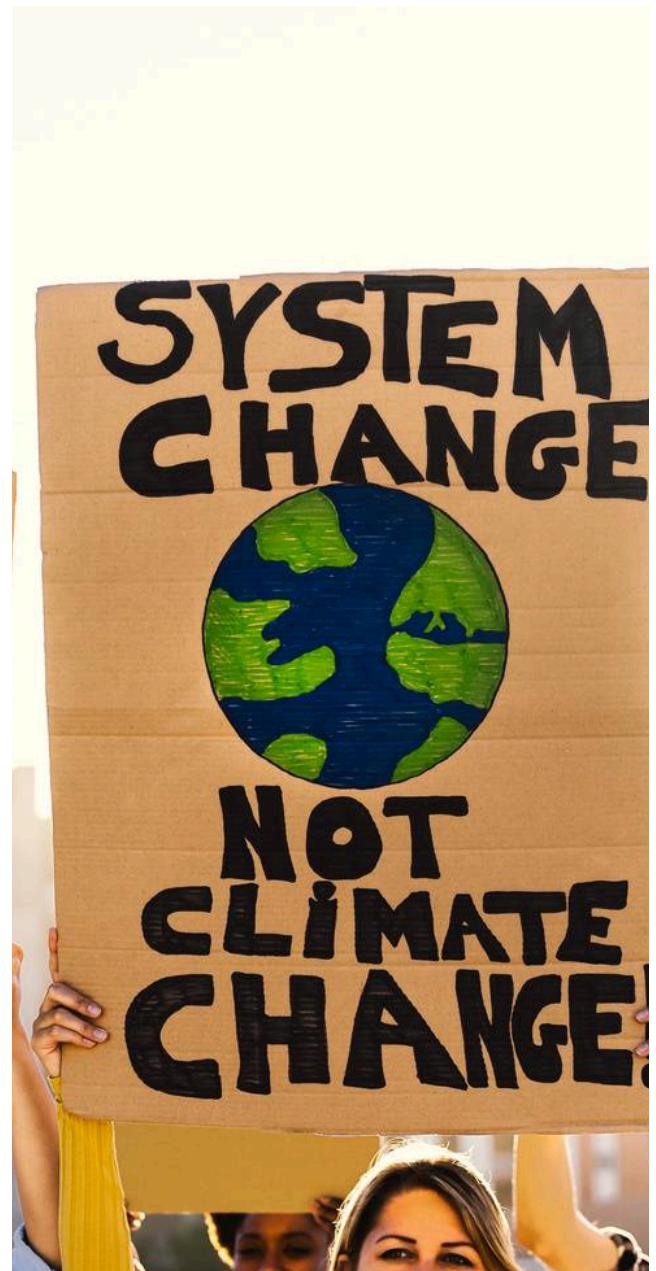
UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA hosted the first Pakistan National Youth-led Policy forum to engage youth in policymaking, implementation, and accountability in 2020. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Usman Dar, who was the Special Assistant to the PM on Youth Affairs at that time, stated, *“Pakistan is one of the youngest countries in the world and youth empowerment is a top priority”*.

## Youth as Key Stakeholders

The contribution of youth in today's world helps cope with climate change. They can bring unique perspectives and innovative ideas. Their inclusion, basically in policymaking brings a much-needed long-term perspective that is often underrated. Additionally, the youth can act as a watchdog, and scrutinize governmental activities, thus ensuring that development objectives are aligned with a sustainable environment. The familiarity of youth with technology helps them to leverage digital tools in taking steps that ensure a sustainable and running future.

## Conclusion

Youth are the most important stakeholders in global efforts towards achieving a sustainable future. Their engagement and solidarity at local and international levels is necessary for making resilient, effective, and adaptive policies. Pakistan must not just empower youth-led initiatives but also support their voices because these voices are not just whispers of today, they are the echoes shaping tomorrow's environmental discourse and action.



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# موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کی وجہ سے خواتین کو درپیش مسائل

آج موسمیاتی تبدیلی ایک بہت بڑا عالمی چیلنج بن چکا ہے۔ اس کے اثرات اب واضح طور پر نسلوں علاقوں گرد و نواہ اور جنس پر نظر آتے ہیں ممکن ہے کہ آنے والے کچھ دنوں میں ان اثرات کی شدت میں غیر متوقع طور پر اضافہ ہوگا۔ مثال کے طور پر قدرتی وسائل کے شعبے بری طرح متاثر ہو سکتے ہیں جیسے زراعت کے شعبے میں کام کرنے والے مرد اور خواتین متاثر ہونے کے امکانات ہیں۔ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی وجہ سے مختلف جنس پر مختلف اثرات رونما ہوتے ہیں مردوں کے مقابلے میں خواتین زیادہ متاثر ہوتی ہوئی نظر آتی ہیں۔ گرمی کی شدید لہریں، خشک سالی، سطح سمندر میں اضافہ اور شدید طوفان غیر مناسب طور پر خواتین کو متاثر کرتے ہیں۔ خواتین جو پہلے ہی جنسی تشدد، بنیادی انسانی حقوق تک کم رسائی جیسے مسائل سے دوچار ہوتی ہیں اس وجہ سے جیسے جیسے موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی شدت آتی جائے گی خواتین کو زندگی گزارنے کے لیے زیادہ جدوجہد کرنی پڑے گی۔ مردوں کے مقابلے میں موسمیاتی تبدیلی کی وجہ سے خواتین کی صحت زیادہ متاثر ہوتی ہے۔ خواتین کو خراب ذہنی حالت، جنسی تشدد اور غذائی عدم تحفظ کا سامنا بھی کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ مثال کے طور پر ایک جائزے سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات کے نتیجے میں حاملہ خواتین کو صحت کے بڑھتے ہوئے خطرات اور دیکھ بھال کی خدمات تک رسائی کی کمی کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے جس کی وجہ سے وہ اپنی زندگی کی جنگ ہار جاتی ہیں۔ خواتین اور بالغ لڑکیوں کو ماہواری کے دوران بنیادی ضرورت کی کمی کا بھی سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ دیہاتوں میں رہنے والے خواتین اور لڑکیوں کو گھریلو کام کاج اور زراعت میں مردوں کے ساتھ کام کرنا، خوراک اور پانی کے وسائل کو گھر کے استعمال کے لیے اکٹھا کرنے میں بڑی محنت کرنی پڑتی ہے۔ جیسے جیسے خشک سالی میں اضافہ ہوتا ہے انہیں روزمرہ کی ضرورت پوری کرنے کے لیے مزید دور سفر کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ اور ان کے وسائل تک رسائی حاصل کرنے میں زیادہ وقت لگتا ہے اور اس طرح خواتین معاشی تنگی کا بھی شکار ہو جاتی ہیں۔ انہی وجوہات کی بناء پر مردوں کے مقابلے میں خواتین غربت میں رہنے کا زیادہ امکان ہے۔ ایک تحقیق سے پتہ چلتا ہے کہ ڈھاکہ کے 1998 کے آنے والے سیلاب میں طبی امداد لینے کے لیے گھروں سے نکلنے والی خواتین کی تعداد مردوں کے مقابلے میں کم تھی۔ یہ اس علاقے کے ثقافتی اصولوں کی وجہ سے ہوا۔ کیونکہ ان کے ثقافتی اصول کے مطابق، خواتین کو بغیر کسی مرد کے گھر سے باہر نکلنے کی اجازت نہیں اور اسی وجہ سے خواتین کو صحت کے مسائل سے زیادہ دوچار ہونا پڑتا ہے۔ جب لڑکیاں اور خواتین بے خبر ہوتی ہیں تو وہ تعلیم حاصل کرنے سے بھی قاصر ہو جاتی ہیں اور ساتھ ساتھ انہیں کم عمری میں شادی، جنسی تشدد، انسانی سمگلنگ، زنا اور گریلو تشدد جیسے حالات کا بھی سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ اس کی حالیہ مثال، ساگھڑ ضلع سندھ کے گاؤں کی 13 سالہ بچی ہے، شاد پور کی رہائشی جو سیلاب سے متاثر ہونے کے بعد زنا کا بھی شکار ہوئی، اس لیے ہمیں اس بات کی طرف توجہ دینے کی سخت ضرورت ہے کہ موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے اثرات کو ہم کس طرح کم کر سکتے ہیں اور اپنی خواتین کو کس طرح تحفظ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

**Ms. Neha is a student at University of the Punjab, Lahore.**



# CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT: YOUTH AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

*Fatima Umar*

*"And no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change."*

Barack Obama State of the Union Address 2016.

Are you interested to know about the severity of climatic changes? Do you want to look forward to the role that you, as youth, can play in this regard? If so, you have come to the right place. But before digging into details, it is essential to know what the climate is. Climate is defined as the weather of a geological area over a long period. Whereas climate change is the shifts in weather patterns over a long period. In this article, we will discuss climate change, its impacts, and how youth can bring about positive changes to save the environment.

## The Urgency of Climate Action

Our environment was not always how it is right now. The weathering conditions were not that severe, neither were there such issues of smog, pollution, etc., that have become disastrous for all biotic and abiotic components of the environment.

Human beings have played a vital role in making the situation worse through their actions. Deforestation, unwarranted cutting of wood, lack of resource management, excessive burning of fossil fuels, etc., have put our environment at stake. And now, if we want our future generations not to suffer from the shortage of the basic necessities of life, we should recognize the urgency of climate actions that are required in this regard and should start taking action to save the environment.

## Youth Engagement as Driving Force for Change

Statistics indicate that globally, approximately 25% of the population is under 15 and only 10% is above 65. Africa is the continent that has the youngest population in the world. This shows that the worldwide youth population is the largest one. And thus, youth have the tremendous potential to act as agents of change.

They can bring about transformational change if they take part in activities that are environment friendly. Youth are considered the biggest asset of any nation because they can work for innovative causes with the overwhelming passion and energy that this age group has.

## Education and Awareness

The most important stage of change is to get educated and to be aware of the matter. Without knowledge, there cannot be any implementation. So, if we want our youth to come forward for environment-saving climate action, we need to educate them and help them with the adequate amount of information and data that they need to know about to be aware of all the facts and figures. This will help them think critically and eventually, they will be able to come up with strategies that can be helpful for climate action. It is crucial to educate our young generation and empower them to such an extent that they can take action.

## Youth-Driven Innovations

There are some innovative programs being carried out by youth worldwide. A few of them are shared here for youth to get inspiration from. A youth group from Azerbaijan has made a social start-up named *Hamsa Recycling*. They use plastic and textile waste to make clothes



and shoes for disabled people. Similarly, *Tree Square* is youth-led innovative model from the Philippines, where the government supports young volunteers in afforestation in urban areas. These serve as great examples indicating that youth can be a driving force for climate action.



## Challenges for Youth

The youth can do a lot if they are given the right direction and set of chances to test their innovations. However, some challenging factors hinder the capabilities of the young generation in bringing about positive impacts in the world.

### Lack of Awareness

The first and foremost challenge for youth is to get educated about the environmental crisis and climate change. They are not aware of the matter and thus do not know the level of intensity of the matter.

### Lack of Guidance and Monitoring

The next level where the youth have to face challenges even after getting educated is the lack of proper guidance and monitoring that they require for stepping into the implementation phase. They do not know how they can put their efforts into the cause of climate action.

### Lack of Opportunities

If they get guidance and monitoring on environmental education, the young activists face challenges in getting opportunities where they can showcase their skills and knowledge for saving the environment.

### Lack of Resources

The last, but not the least, challenge they face after getting opportunities is the lack of financial, social, and other such resources that are essentially required to achieve the goal of creating a healthy environment.

## Impact of Digital Activism

The young people who want to work as activists for climate action might be thinking that if they have such big challenges in their way, they cannot take their first step toward their goal. But that is not something to be disappointed with, as social media is there for them.

Digital media is the most influential resource that is easily accessible to almost everyone. Thus digital activism can play a great role in vocalizing the climate change issue all over the world and bringing youth from different nations on a single platform. It can increase awareness in people, help youth connect with organizations for mentoring and getting opportunities, and ultimately help in fundraising if required for any initiative. These pros of digital activism decrease the risks of challenges to a great extent.

## Global Collaboration

Climate change is not an issue that a single nation or continent is facing. It is an environmental crisis that has consequences for the whole world. And it is obvious that an issue of such a magnitude surely cannot be solved by a single nation. Therefore, global collaboration is required where environmental activists from all over the world should work on the matter and help the youth in overcoming the challenges that they are facing for this cause.

*"I call for the need of world leaders to address climate change and reduce the increasing risk of disasters- and world leaders must include mayors, townships, and community leaders."*

**Ban Ki Moon, Former Secretary-General of the UN**

## Let us Sum It Up!

If we do not stand up and contribute to saving our world today, the next generations will have to suffer more than us. So, take advantage of your passion and energy because ***YOU CAN AND YOU WILL BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE!!***

*The author is a student of Department of Science Education from Lahore College for Women University.*

# ARTWORK CONTRIBUTION



This creative message was developed by Ayesha Asif, a student at the Fatima Jinnah Women University, highlighting the disproportionate effects of climate-induced disasters on women and girls.

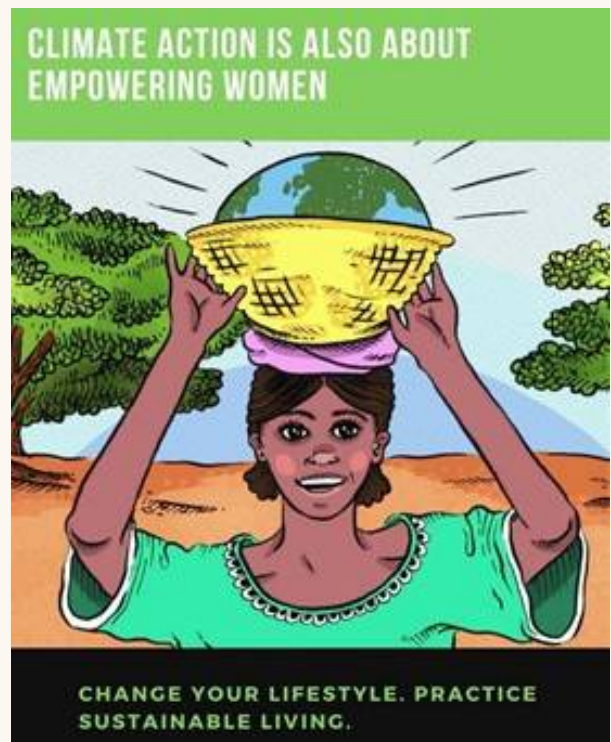


Ayesha Shaban, a student at Fatima Jinnah Women University, highlights the negative and multifaceted effects of climate change on gender equality.



This poster was developed by Ayesha Siddiqa from Fatima Jinnah Women University, demonstrating the effects of climate change on women.

**Women are more vulnerable to climate change. They often face displacement, migration, and gender-based violence. Lack of access to health facilities, safe drinking water, and inadequate representation in decision-making to deal with climate change are some of the challenges faced by women in Pakistan.**



Ilesha Shahzad, a student at Fatima Jinnah Women University uses digital art to stress the need for women's empowerment and amplifying women's voices for climate action.



# ACTIVITIES

Formation and Training of Youth Network of Citizen Journalists on Climate Change



# ACTIVITIES

## Awareness Raising, Advocacy and Dialogues by Youth Network



