

Climate Change and Pakistan- A Short Review

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Received: April 19, 2022; **Published:** April 30, 2022

A change in global or regional climate pattern is called climate change. It is a global, serious and permanent threat to the whole world. In general, lack of rainfall, long summer, shorten winter, floods, droughts etc are occurring due to climate changes, these changes may be due to deforestation, increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂), increase methane levels or increased water vapor levels. Similarly gases also enhance the level of climate change. When the sun rays fall on the earth, the earth reflect those rays back which keeps the earth temperature under control but if the average amount of the gas is too high, it will absorb the rays into the ground which causes the temperature to rise this is also called the green house effect. The Pakistan meteorological department released a report in 2019 in which they said that rainfall in august 2019 decreased by 47% as compared to august 2018. Overall the country has received 28% less rainfall and the only reason is said to be climate change. Pakistan is an agricultural country and if the rains continue to decrease like this, the economy and farmers will be badly affected; even today there are millions of farmers whose crops depend solely on rains. Pakistan ranks 40th out of 196 countries where 600 people die every year due to climate change deaths. There is hardly a Pakistani who does not know about the smog of 2017 which forced everyone to wear mask and now the most dangerous thing is that Pakistan has become the seventh country to be effected by climate change. In 1965 a green revolution took place in Pakistan. Due to which chemical fertilizers started to be used a lot this greatly affected the structure of the earth and enhance green house effect. We are told that the problem of climate change being caused by our neighboring country burning crop which is a normal practice and we also do it.

After the industrial revolution human has been consuming energy at higher rate. There are more and more factories increased burning of fossil fuels and carbon emission of the cars. So the global warming has also increased due to the specific reason the degree of hotness has increased which is leading to the melting of glaciers, the span of winters is becoming short but the degree of cold is increasing. The sad fact is that Pakistan, contribution to the global carbon imprint is really small as compared to some other countries. However, since global warming has no borders it is affecting everyone in negative manners. In April 2017 Pakistan became one of the hottest places on earth when temperature crossed 50°C in District Nawab Shah of Province Sindh.

Every proceeding year is breaking the hottest temperature records of the previous years, 2017 was hotter than 2016, 2018 was hotter than 2017 and so on so forth. The 2016 floods affected more than two million people and the death tall reached to more than two thousand. Drought has also become a major issue of the Pakistan. The province of Sindh and Balochistan have been affected the most due to severe drought and changing climatic conditions. Climate change will also affect the food we eat because floods destroy the crops and droughts do not let them grow which means there is a high chance that soon Pakistan might not have enough food for its own population. Our main exports are wheat, rice, and sugarcane whose production is decreasing every year. In 2016 the production rate of these crops decreases by 6.5% because of high temperature. This crop issue is not only going to leave us hungry but it will also impact our economy negatively. For these hazardous increasing in global warming and changes in climatic conditions we all is responsible for these. Furthermore, we all complicate of this corruption on earth some as characters and some as silent spectators. The time has arrived to break the silence we have entered in era when terrorism has been overshadowed by another specter. That has been chasing us

but we are neglecting, it may be because it's in the background. However, when it makes appearance it brings with a trail of destruction and devastation. Every passing year this ghost is getting closer to us but we are oblivious to it. It still is not too late. The climate change is taking place already but now we need to learn how to survive in these new conditions and also how to control the temperature rates. Some actions we will have to take in personal capacity and some in collective manners and some actions we will have to take as a Pakistani citizen and some in the capacity of global citizen on individual level. We need to decrease our carbon footprint which means we need to consume less energy so that our carbon emissions can also be decreased, for example by using public transportation, ride sharing services, limiting the use of electricity, recycling, reducing our production of waste.

Besides, recently Government of Pakistan has also taken some good steps towards climate change mitigation. Pakistan has become the fastest country to fight climate change and they have achieved their United Nation (UN) climate action goal which calls for urgent actions to combat climate change 10 years before the deadline. As we discussed in above lines that Pakistan is directly affected by climate change such as floods, drought, unpredicted rainfall, high temperature and melting glaciers, so Pakistan has created a proper plan to fight back. Pakistan are protecting forests they already have and planting Billions of trees to create more and more forest. Pakistan is also investing in clean energy, electric vehicle and even in green jobs for sustainability of ecology and mitigate climate change. It is predicted that if Pakistan maintain and continue these climate change mitigation policies for some years then Pakistan will include in the list of safe countries regards climate change.

Volume 2 Issue 5 May 2022

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