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Climate change mitigation and women's economic empowerment

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Abstract

In Pakistan, a country acutely vulnerable to climate change, this study delved into the gendered dynamics of climate sensitivity. It analyzed the correlation between gender and climate vulnerability, with a particular focus on the disproportionate influences on women and the efficacy of adaptation policies. The results showed stark gender disparities in health outcomes, with women more susceptible to the harmful effects of extreme weather events. Women in rural areas struggle to maintain their livelihoods due to water and pasture scarcity, affecting the cattle industry. Additionally, women in agriculture face economic hardships, resource constraints, and societal barriers that compound the adverse effects of climate change on their livelihoods. The paucity of food and water presents significant concerns, resulting in malnutrition and health hazards for women. Women in rural locations are compelled to depend on detrimental fuel sources due to energy shortages, which adversely affect their respiratory health. Conversely, in metropolitan settings, women have limitations in accessing vital services. The study highlights the importance of implementing policies that are sensitive to gender issues and include women in the decision-making processes related to climate change in order to establish communities that are able to withstand and recover from adverse conditions. The policy implications encompass several measures such as adapting to climate change, ensuring women's participation, investing in assistance for rural livelihoods, managing disasters, and promoting gender equality in climate governance. It is crucial to raise awareness and educate people about the gender-specific impacts of climate change in order to strengthen resilience.
Keywords: Climate Change, Mitigation, Women, Empowerment

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1. Introduction

Climate change, a worldwide occurrence, has extensive consequences for ecosystems and the survival of humanity. It presents a clear and specific danger to populations who largely depend on natural resources and do not have the resources to manage environmental catastrophes.[1] Lately, there has been a growing focus on the gender aspect of climate change. Studies suggest that gender has a significant role in shaping pro-environmental behaviors, values, and attitudes.[2] It is important to note that there are disparities between genders in terms of their perspectives and behaviors about climate change. These inequalities have a particularly significant impact on women, and they can be traced back to social and economic factors.[3]

Climate change is projected to inflict damages exceeding $20 billion on Pakistan, a country highly susceptible to its impacts, with the most vulnerable and marginalized populations bearing the brunt of these consequences, thereby hindering progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).[4] Women, as a vulnerable demographic, are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change as a result of gender-based discrimination, restricted resource access, and a significant dependence on depleting natural resources.[5] For example, the 9.1 million women involved in agriculture have a substantial impact on the production and protection of food in Pakistan.

However, they frequently encounter issues such as being paid less than they deserve and being taken advantage of.[6] A comprehensive worldwide investigation has been carried out to analyze the influence of climate change on gender dynamics and environmental actions. Studies have shown that women tend to prioritize the well-being of their societies, leading to a greater likelihood of adopting environmentally conscious behaviors.[7] However, despite their proactive approach, women are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and face unique challenges stemming from societal prospects and economic limitations. The climate change and gender disparity susceptibility is significant, yet there is a notable lack of comprehensive data on women's global experiences, particularly regarding environmental deprivation in critical ecosystems.

The objective of this study was to examine the participation of women in driving transformative actions in response to the problems presented by climate change. The study specifically aimed to comprehend the distinct ramifications of climate change on women, their susceptibility, and the measures they undertake to adjust to these challenges.[8] This study investigated the vulnerability of Pakistan to climate change and explores the methods taken to adapt to it. It highlighted the importance of

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comprehending the vulnerabilities faced by women in order to develop inclusive policies. The objective was to establish enduring, adaptable prospects for women and susceptible groups through the incorporation of policies that are responsive to gender and decision-making that is well-informed. The findings, derived from interviews and United Nations documents and publications, add to the expanding body of literature on the relationship between gender and climate change. This information can assist policymakers, researchers, and development practitioners in developing efficient policies and reducing the impact of disasters.[9]

Excerpts from the section

An analysis of existing research highlights the profound influence of climate change on various critical sectors, encompassing food security, health, water, and migration patterns. This, in turn, leads to significant financial losses, prolonged droughts, and declining soil quality. The five primary areas impacted by climate change are agricultural yield, food security, health outcomes, and migration-related humanitarian crises, which are interconnected and require a nuanced understanding of their complex relationships.[10]

Women's health

50% of the participants reported that the physical and social environment has diverse impacts on women's health concerns. Approximately 40% of the respondents indicated that women are exposed to a significantly perilous situation due to their physical susceptibility in times of crisis. Women are disproportionately affected by the long-term repercussions of climate change, such as droughts or flooding, because they face inequities in resources, talents, and opportunities compared to men.[11]

Conversation

Climate change has far-reaching impacts on various sectors including agriculture, food security, health, water and energy resources, and disaster frequency. [12] However, the effects of these impacts are not gender-neutral, as women disproportionately bear the brunt of resource scarcity and assume additional domestic responsibilities, particularly when men migrate to pursue non-agricultural employment opportunities, exacerbating existing gender disparities.[13]

Conclusion

This study investigates the gender-specific impacts. In conclusion the correlation between gender and climate change sensitivity, with a specific emphasis on the impact on women and the efficacy of adaption techniques. This examination is carried out by conducting interviews in different provinces and areas.

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