

Ethical Framework for Climate Change

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Abstract

Climate change is a major global crisis today. The escalating global climate crisis is forcing a major rethinking of existing ethical frameworks, particularly in developing countries where environmental degradation and need of development are confronted simultaneously. It currently resulting in the frequency of extreme weather events around the world. The United Nation, through annual conferences, provides a platform for participants to develop plans to prevent this crisis and mitigate its impacts. It also provides a platform for developing countries to access climate finance in the form of grants from developed countries for promoting renewable energy sources. Climate change is a serious global issue that can only be solved by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. National and international policies must reflect the risks and benefits of mitigating the climate change. This paper aims to strike a balance between the global need for responsible and equitable climate action with environmental conservation by using both traditional knowledge and modern science.

Keywords: Crisis – emergency; Escalating – increase; Risk – danger; Ethical framework – moral code ; Renewable – clean energy

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a complex and urgent global crisis that affects the entire world and its inhabitants. It refers to long-term change in Earth's various weather elements. Climate change is caused by both natural and human factors but human factors are currently the more responsible because since the 1800s, human activities primarily the burning of fossil fuels have been increasing greenhouse gas emissions. These green house gases act like a blanket around the Earth which stop the heat and increase temperature on Earth Industrialization and scientific development have further accelerated this trend due to this, we need for a proper ethical framework.

OBJECTIVES

- Analyzing causes and impacts of climate change.
- Evaluating mitigation strategies for climate change and Informing policies for sustainable solutions.
- To synthesize existing Literature, identify research gaps and guide future research directions

178	ISSN2277-3630(online), Published by International journal of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Research., under Volume: 11 Issue:03 in march-2022 https://www.gejournal.net/index.php/IJSSIR
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METHODOLOGY

- statistical Analysis based on -Large number studies - Analyzing Large datasets meta analysis-synthesizing results from many studies using metrics like range shifts
- Observational studies: direct measurement and tracking of changes in species distribution, timing of event
- Qualitative methods: case studies, interviews for depth understanding
- Data Collection: from historical records, climate models, and field observations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In november 2016, the United Nation announced global temperatures have risen by 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;. The impact of extreme natural disasters is equivalent to annual loss of \$520 billion in consumption and force approximately 26 million people into poverty each year (World Bank, 2016). The natural causes of climate change on Earth include solar the influence of the sun, volcanic eruptions, shifts in tectonic plates, and minor changes in the planet's orbit. Human factors which is associated with human activities have been added to the natural causes of climate change. Various human activities contribute to climate change, such as generating energy by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, emissions from transportation means, methane emissions from livestock raised for meat and dairy products, and agricultural land emit gases like nitrous oxide due to fertilizer use. So when food production increases, emissions will also increase.

The main cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels to produce energy, power and transport. Fuel burning has increase amount of carbon dioxide by 10–15%, over the past hundred years and 400 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide been released due to fuel burning alone. Manufacturing Industries production and the use of refrigerants add potent greenhouse gases. Cement production is an extreme source of carbon dioxide emissions, which is responsible for about 2.5% of carbon dioxide emissions from industrial processes. Deforestation and farming releases heat catching pollution called greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, after that it causes climate change. Cutting forests for agriculture reduces the number of trees which absorb carbon dioxide, land changing for agriculture releases gases. According to 2015 data, 85% of the forest in amazon has been cut down for pastures and farmland to grow soybeans increasing meat use requires the use of large deforestation . so when meat production increases, the amount of greenhouse gases also increase in the atmosphere which increase climate change. Our daily lifestyles such as the products we purchase, electricity amount that we consume, the food that we eat add up carbon footmarks in atmosphere.

Climate change directly increase harsh weather conditions like heatwaves, soil erosion, forest fires, droughts, floods, and storms. Rising sea levels threats to health as disease, mental stress, hunger, water scarcity, ecosystem unstability, flood and land degradation. It also forces people to

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relocate. Illness and death from Extreme weather events increase stress eagerness and damage. Also increase the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, droughts, floods, wildfires, and storms. Sea level globally are rising by 3.7 mm annually. By 2050, it is predicted to rise by around 30cm. Impacts on agriculture and fishing threaten food supplies. Economic stability is warning by damage to road, homes and other infrastructures. Warming waters and increased carbon dioxide absorption lead to acidification that harming marine life.

Polar ice sheets melting in Greenland and Antarctica, are changing weather patterns. The summer of 2023 was the earth hottest summer, on record 0.23°C warmer than any other summer and 1.2°C warmer than the average summer between 1951 and 1980 (NASA report 2023). Disadvantaged section and developing countries often suffer the force of impacts. Climate change is having uneven impacts on precipitation at global level (FEMA report). Warming temperature have extended and intensified wildfire season. More droughts and heatwaves are projected. (NOAA report).

SUGGESTION – ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

- Education is a main source to control this crisis. It is the only source which provides the comprehensive information and necessary steps to deal this problem. For this it is crucial to include this subject in curriculums at different levels.
- The another step is to admit the unequal distribution of climate change's causes and effects and for those who responsible the prominent responsibility for global greenhouse emissions to slash them without bringing further harm to those who are minute responsible.
- Government policies that highlight sustainable application merged with shifts in consumer behavior are needed to balance these changes. This also helps store the planet's carbon drops.
- To lower the industrial sector's carbon footmark, we need to increase efficiency through better technology and the powerful applications of pollution balancing. It is also needed to rethink our behavior for consumption. For this recycling and reuse should be adopted so that we do not need to be producing so many things in the first place.
- The big climate influence resolutions made by our needs, Our demands and our priorities. We must ourself to rethink these needs, address the demands, and reset our priorities.
- Public transport should be used more extensively to reduce vehicle emissions. We should try to use renewable energy more. We have to take every available opportunity to speed up the shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources.
- Instead of just talking big slogans, we should have faith in our science and our abilities to make the world better.

Conclusion

While natural factors like volcanic eruptions and solar activity can affect climate but have less impact than human factors. Human caused emissions creates a thicker blanket and causing the Earth's average temperature which result is climate change. The world is now warming faster than at any time in human history. It already having a large impact on people and the environment worldwide. So human activities mainly that release greenhouse gases need to be urgently stopped as much as possible to ensure a stable climate and safe world for present and coming generations.

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