

CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY: STORIES FROM THE FIELD



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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.

In the third volume of the Climate Optics magazine: “Climate and Community: Stories from the Field” we bring a collection of the best work that our trained citizen journalists have developed by delving into the heart of environmental challenges faced by their communities. Their stories capture not only the stark realities of climate change but also the resilience of individuals striving for a sustainable future.

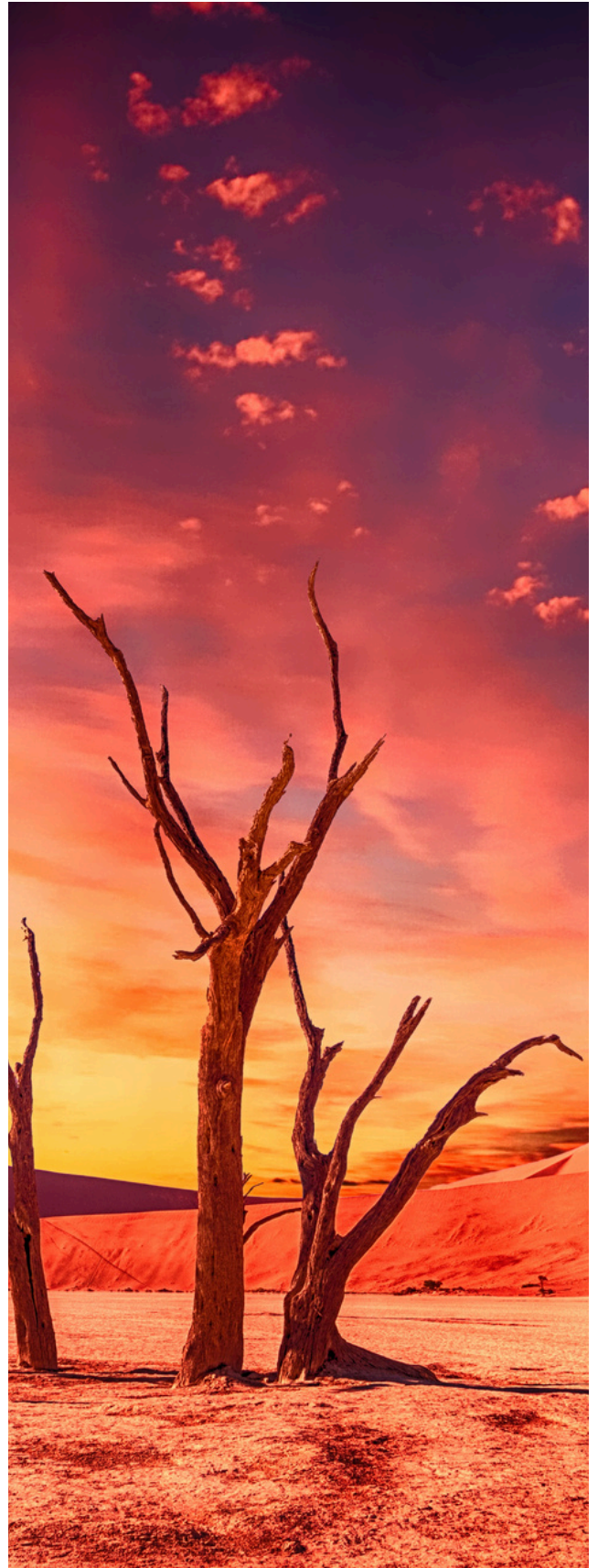
These stories bring to the forefront the often-overlooked human dimensions of environmental crises. Through firsthand accounts and intimate portraits of life on the frontlines, our youth citizen journalists illuminate the profound impacts felt at the grassroots level and within communities across Pakistan. From farmers grappling with erratic weather patterns in South Punjab to residents near Uchali Lake feeling the effects of pollution, these narratives paint a vivid picture of the challenges faced by those least equipped to cope with the consequences of a changing climate. Let us recognize the power of storytelling to drive meaningful change and amplify the voices of these young changemakers who are paving the way for a more environmentally conscious and resilient society.

FOREWORD

Pakistan stands as one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. With a growing population heavily reliant on agriculture, water resources, and natural ecosystems for livelihoods, the nation faces an array of challenges including increased frequency of extreme weather events, dwindling water supplies, and heightened vulnerability to natural disasters such as floods and droughts. This e-magazine, "Climate and Community: Stories from the Field," serves as a nexus of creativity, insight, and activism in the realm of climate change journalism, through blogs, articles, interviews, and artwork, all curated to illuminate the profound impact of climate change on communities across Pakistan.

Featuring a collection of compelling narratives and personal accounts produced by a diverse cohort of youth citizen journalists, this magazine transcends traditional boundaries of storytelling to offer a holistic exploration of the human-centric aspects of climate change. Through intimate narratives, thought-provoking analyses, and evocative artwork, we delve into the lived experiences of individuals grappling with the realities of environmental degradation on a daily basis across Pakistan, particularly those already marginalized and vulnerable.

Join us as we amplify the voices of those on the frontlines of climate change, celebrate the power of storytelling as a catalyst for change, and chart a course towards a more sustainable and equitable future for all.



Unveiling the Unseen: A Tale of Uchali Lake Battling Climatic Crisis and Destruction of a Tourist Attraction

Janeeta Ahmad Awan

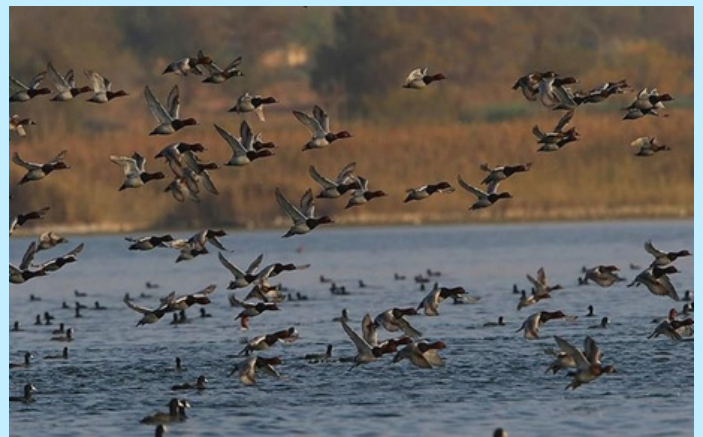


Uchali is a salt-water lake situated in Soon Sakesar Valley, district Khushab in the Southern Salt Range area in Pakistan. Sakesar, which is the highest mountain in the Salt Range at 1525 meters, looms over the lake. It is one of the main tourist attractions of the valley and this natural spot has been discovered recently and has been developed into a visiting site. Soon Valley is my native village, and I conducted this research in my winter holidays during which this area was suffering from the drastic fluctuations of climate change and the whole area faced severe threats of climate change in its crops, lakes, and local community. Soon Valley has three kinds of lakes but Uchali Lake is the largest and the most beautiful among them. In this article, we will explore how climate change has affected this beautiful lake and its local community by being transformed into a polluted and smelly place that has gone totally unmonitored and unregulated.

Uchali Lake in the Past

Being a natural lake located in the heart of the Soon Valley, it had been a popular destination for tourists and locals alike. The lake had a stunning shade of turquoise blue, and its water was crystal clear.

The water sparkled in the sunlight and the surrounding hills and forests provided a stunning backdrop. The lake was also home to a variety of wildlife, including ducks, geese, and other waterfowl. Siberian birds and houbara bustard used to come to this lake in winter all the way from Siberian Lake. The lake was also home to several campsites, making it a popular spot for overnight camping trips.



Uchali Lake Under Severe Threat of Climate Change

The tranquility of this saltwater lake is now under siege, as the severe effects of climate change threaten to strip away its natural allure. One of the most conspicuous signs of climate change's unwelcome embrace is the proliferation of algae. Warmer temperatures provide a conducive environment for the rapid growth of algae, transforming the once crystal-clear waters of Uchali Lake into murky shades of green. This overabundance of algae not only obstructs sunlight from reaching aquatic plants but also depletes oxygen levels, imperiling the diverse ecosystem that once thrived beneath the lake's surface. Fungi, finding solace in the altered climate conditions, have begun to colonize the lake's surroundings. The moist and warm environment has become an ideal breeding

ground for these microorganisms, further marring the landscape and contributing to the degradation of the lake's ecosystem.

The proliferation of algae in Uchali Lake is intricately linked to climate change through a combination of temperature increases and altered precipitation patterns. As global temperatures rise due to climate change; several key factors contribute to the exponential growth of algae in aquatic ecosystems which include:

- Reduced Water Circulation
- Warmer Temperatures
- Nutrient Availability
- Extending growing seasons



Impact of Climate Change on Uchali Lake and its Aquatic Life:

As climate change tightens its grip, the water in Uchali Lake has taken on an unpleasant odor. Elevated temperatures accelerate the decomposition of organic matter, releasing foul-smelling gases into the air. The once-refreshing breeze around the lake now carries a pungent scent, deterring visitors and diminishing the overall experience of this natural spot.

Adding to the predicament is the visible evidence of the lake's increasing aridity. Climate-induced shifts in precipitation patterns and rising temperatures have accelerated water evaporation, causing Uchali Lake to recede. The dwindling water levels not only impact the scenic beauty but also disrupt the delicate balance of the lake's ecosystem, threatening the diverse aquatic

life that once flourished within its depths. As we witness the tangible effects of climate change on Uchali Lake, it serves as a poignant reminder of the collective responsibility we bear in safeguarding our natural treasures.

How has the local community been affected by this climate change?

The local community around Uchali lake including some villages such as Chitta, Uchali and Dhadar has been significantly impacted because the transformation of the lake from a popular visiting spot to a place emitting foul odors has brought numerous challenges. It has disrupted the local economy leading to a loss of livelihoods for many residents. Additionally, the foul odors have posed health risks to the community, causing respiratory problems and other related issues. This immediate shift underscores the urgent need for climate action and adaptation strategies to mitigate the adverse effects on the local population.

In an exclusive interview with the caretaker of Uchali Lake, Mr. Mahmood, who tirelessly watches over the lake day and night, a somber tale of climatic crisis and its severe repercussions on tourism unfolds. He has observed the unfolding environmental challenges faced by the local community and the tourists.

Expressing deep concern, he emphasized the tangible impact of climate change on Uchali Lake's fragile ecosystem. The proliferation of algae, the invasion of fungi, and the unsettling odor emanating from the water have not escaped the watchful gaze of this guardian of nature. He highlighted the urgency for concerted efforts to address climate change impacts, implement sustainable practices, and safeguard the lake's natural charm because he is also suffering from the crisis living there.



Mr. Mahmood, Care-Taker Uchali lake

Impact of Climatic Change of Uchali Lake on Tourism:

Due to hazardous climatic effects on Uchali lake, there has been a severe impact on local people and tourism, such as follows:

- Economic impact on local businesses (local food stalls, cycling, boating practices)
- Negative impact on tourism
- Water scarcity and threat to livelihoods
- Health concerns (respiratory problems)
- Displacement and migration of the local population



Sustainable solutions to the growing destruction in the lake due to climate change:

Addressing the challenges posed by climate change in Uchali Lake requires a comprehensive approach that involves both local and global efforts. Here are some recommended solutions:

- **Ecosystem Restoration:** Implement measures to restore and maintain the ecological balance of Uchali Lake, including the removal of excess algae and restoration of native vegetation.
- **Adaptive Management Strategies:** Develop and implement adaptive management strategies to address the changing climate conditions and their impact on the lake.
- **Sustainable Tourism Practices:** Encouraging eco-friendly accommodations, responsible tourism behavior, and low-impact recreational activities.
- **Legislation and Policy Development:** Policies should be developed that incentivize sustainable practices and penalize activities contributing to environmental degradation.

- **Government and Institutional Involvement:** The role of government agencies and developmental organizations in lake management, tourism promotion, and environmental protection should be strengthened.
- **Citizen Journalism:** It can play a crucial role in raising awareness about the environmental challenges faced by the lake and surrounding community. It can amplify the community's voice and advocate for sustainable solutions.
- **Storytelling and Data-driven Reporting:** It can mobilize support for initiatives aimed at restoring Uchali lake and improving the livelihoods of the local community affected by it.

In conclusion, the plight of Uchali Lake serves as an example of the far-reaching consequences of climate change on our natural treasures. Addressing the environmental challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, ranging from global initiatives to curb greenhouse gas emissions to local, community-driven efforts for sustainable lake management. By implementing recommended solutions, fostering community engagement, and securing institutional commitment, we can aspire to restore Uchali Lake to its former glory. The lessons learned from Uchali Lake resonate globally, emphasizing the interconnectedness of climate, ecosystems, and human well-being, urging us to act as custodians of our precious natural heritage.

The author is a student of Media and Development Communication at University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Lahore's Elegance in the Embrace of Climate Turmoil

Umm e Hani

Lahore, Pakistan's cultural heartland, is dealing with a serious climate crisis that affects both its heritage and its people. The city's air quality has deteriorated to dangerously low levels, making it the world's second most polluted metropolis. This severe scenario is affecting not just the health of Lahore's inhabitants, but also the educational system and economy.

LAHORE, THE CULTURAL HEART OF PAKISTAN, IS A CITY OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE. BUT NOWADAYS IT IS SUFFERING FROM A HUGE CLIMATE CRISIS. AIR QUALITY IS A GROWING CONCERN WITH HIGH LEVELS OF AIR POLLUTION CONTRIBUTING TO RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS AND VISIBILITY ISSUES.

The repercussions of Lahore's deteriorating climate are felt across all sectors of society. High levels of air pollution have led to a surge in respiratory problems among the populace, particularly endangering those with pre-existing conditions like asthma. Furthermore, the extreme weather conditions, exacerbated by climate change, have forced temporary closures of schools, disrupting students' education and academic calendars. This disruption, in turn, has economic ramifications, with decreased consumption patterns affecting businesses and exacerbating financial strain, particularly among low-income groups. The resulting economic hardships have even led to a rise in suicide attempts, highlighting the profound societal impacts of climate change in Lahore.

Youth-led programs like waste reduction campaigns, community gardens, and tree-planting efforts can be extremely important in reducing the negative consequences of climate change in Lahore. In addition to enhancing nearby ecosystems and air quality, these initiatives help people in the neighborhood feel more accountable. These programs have the power to create long-lasting change and increase community resilience to environmental difficulties in the future.

It is critical to present a united front in response to Lahore's climate problem, with the youth spearheading the movement for long-term, sustainable change. Advocating for meaningful action and channeling their collective energy, youth may spur a larger movement towards environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Lahore's youth have the opportunity to create a more resilient and healthy future for themselves and future generations by working together with appropriate ministries and agencies.

The author is a student of Media and Development Communication at University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Battle with Grim Reaper

Fizza Shakeel



Source (cover photo): The Friday Times

Some days ago, Dawn newspaper displayed a cartoon that depicted a threatening and murderous skeleton with a black hooded robe holding a scythe in his hand hovering over Minar-e-Pakistan, a monument in Lahore. This haunting depiction symbolized the pervasive threat of smog, portraying it as a grim reaper poised to wreak havoc and inflict harm. By personifying smog in this manner, the cartoon vividly conveyed the alarming and lethal consequences of air pollution, underscoring its grave impact on public health and well-being. Through powerful imagery, the cartoon served as a stark reminder of the urgent need for collective action to address the environmental crisis specifically in Lahore, and mitigate the harmful effects of pollution for the safety and survival of all.

As December is ending, the smog is intensifying in Lahore and some other cities with highly dangerous air quality index. This mixture of fog and smoke is making life difficult for the citizens of these cities, mostly the vulnerable ones. Though, every citizen and breathing body is vulnerable, some with existing respiratory diseases and ophthalmological problems face severe side effects of this dancing and dangerous gray foggy body upon us.

While discussing with some teenage students who have to go outside for their schooling and other academic activities, they mentioned, *“Our outdoor activities and games have stopped because of this bad weather.”* Activities like playing cricket, badminton, and other sports at night are not easy to enjoy. Firstly, due to visibility, and secondly, the

polluted air makes breathing difficult even for a healthy person.

A 14-year-old boy named Ali with already weak eyesight said *“I cannot enjoy our games in winter with smog like I do in any other weather. My eyes start hurting and the irritation with a burning sensation persists. It forced me to restrain from meeting my friends outside and quit our weekly cricket match in the colony’s ground.”* Also, this teenage boy, like every other boy in Pakistan, is crazy for cricket yet smog influenced his decision to play. This boy was unhappy and wanted authorities to take strict action to control the severity of smog.

Another boy named Hamza, same age as the above-mentioned boy, also said that his routine was harshly disturbed by the smog. He went to the academy in the evening because of time suitability. *“My travel from home to the academy and then from the academy to home on a bike with my elder brother is troubled. In extreme cold days with heavy fog and smog, we risk our lives, health and safety as the visibility is decreased.”* Although winter is a tough season for bikers because of the cold weather, the declined visibility is becoming the leading cause of several accidents.

Sehrish, a student in the ninth grade, spoke about the effects of smog on her life because she has asthma since birth. She said, *“I have to stop going to school when the air gets smoggy because it’s hard for me to breathe. This makes my health worse.”* As the weather becomes smoggier day by day, Lahore screams for the government and authorities to intervene and help the helpless city.

If youth are encouraged effectively and asked to come up with innovative ideas then definitely change is promised. The efforts of youth, along with the relative authorities and organizations, can play a proactive role in advocating for cleaner air and implementing eco-friendly practices. Their collective effort, action, determination, and movement will lead toward a healthier and greener future.

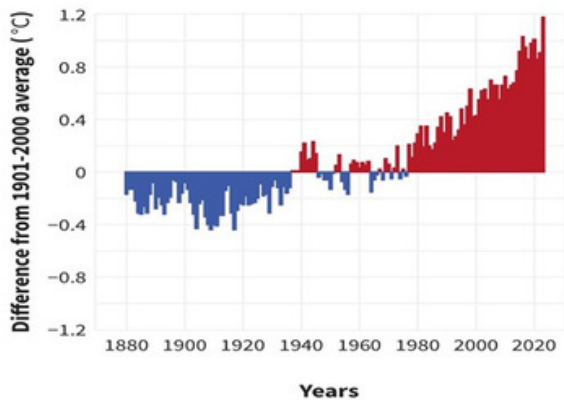
The author is a student of Development Communication at University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Climate Change and its Impact – Youth as Driving Force

Halima Hafeez

There is a famous quote by Susan Rice that drives our motivation: "If you want change, you have to make it, but if you want progress, you have to drive it". Climate change is a pressing global issue with far-reaching implications for our planet and future generations. It encompasses changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, sea levels, and other phenomena. It is primarily caused by human activities such as deforestation, burning of fossil fuels, and industrial processes, which release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and methane (CH₄), trap heat from the sun, leading to global warming and subsequent climate disruptions.

GLOBAL AVERAGE SURFACE TEM



2023 marks the first time on record that every day within a year has exceeded 1°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial level. Close to 50% of days were more than 1.5°C warmer than the 1850-1900 level, and two days in November were, for the first time, more than 2°C warmer.

Climate change results from human activities, releasing greenhouse gases that trap heat and lead to global warming and climate disruptions. Key facts include a 1.1°C global temperature increase since the pre-industrial era and projections of a 3°C increase by the century's end without immediate

action, as well as intensified extreme weather events, accelerated sea level rise, biodiversity loss, and impacts on human health. The UNEP Emissions Gap Report emphasizes that current international commitments fall short of necessary greenhouse gas reductions to limit global warming, calling for urgent and ambitious actions from governments, businesses, and individuals. The UN and its member states advocate for collaborative efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, transition to renewable energy sources, promote sustainable land-use practices, and adapt to the changing climate through initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.

The consequences of climate change are increasingly evident and pose a threat to both the present generation and future generations. As we confront this crisis, it is important to recognize the essential role that youth are playing in driving positive change and leading efforts against climate change. Urgent action is needed to mitigate its effects and secure sustainable development. However, amidst this crisis, the youth have emerged as a powerful force for positive change, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to tackling climate change and driving transformative initiatives.

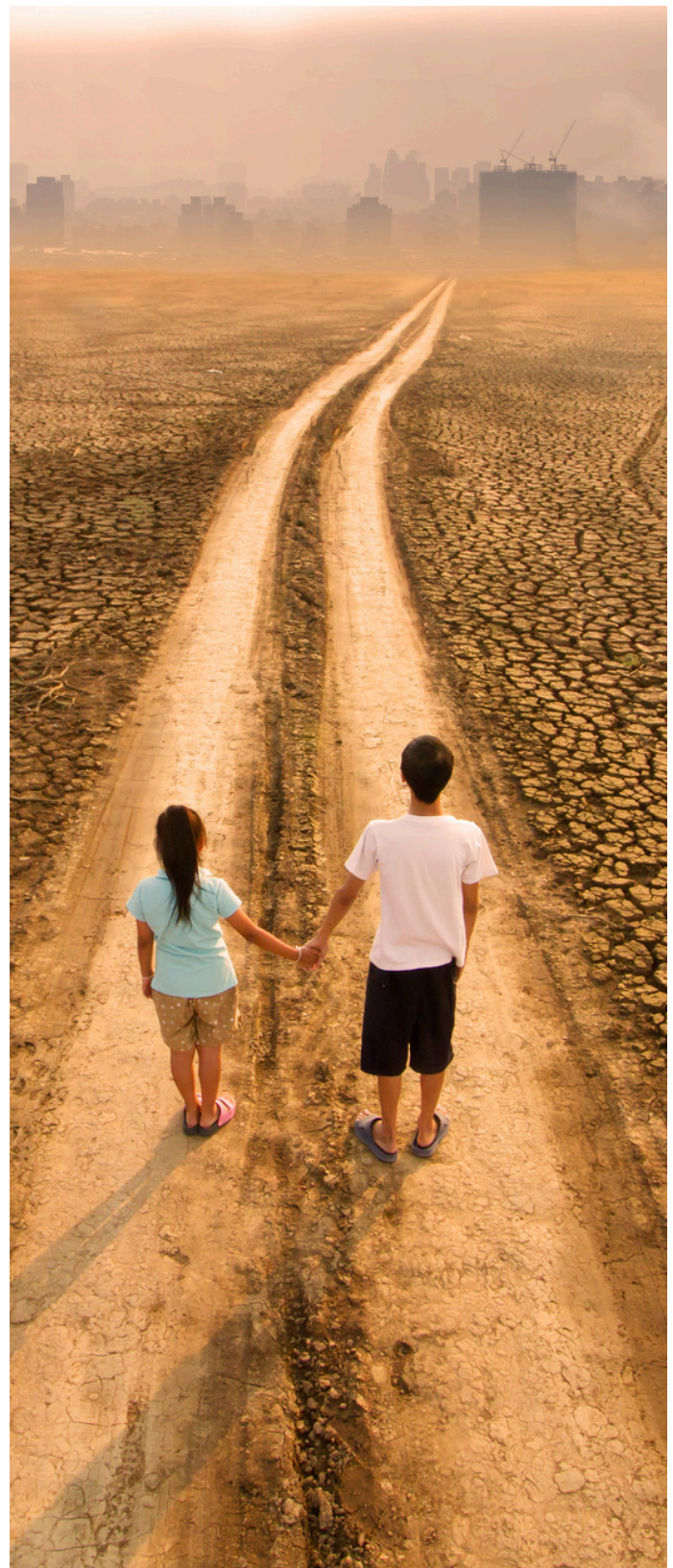
Today's youth are at the forefront of feeling the direct impacts of climate change. The youth are experiencing the direct impacts of climate change and have shown remarkable passion and determination to address environmental challenges. They are actively involved in various initiatives such as renewable energy advocacy, environmental conservation, sustainable agriculture, climate education, circular economy entrepreneurship, policy engagement, and technology and innovation for climate solutions. Countless youth-led initiatives around the globe are taking proactive steps to combat climate change. From grassroots community

projects to cutting-edge technological innovations, young individuals and organizations are making a tangible difference.

The role of today's youth in raising awareness and advocating for sustainable policies cannot be overstated. Through social media, organized protests, and active engagement with policymakers, young people are amplifying their voices and driving meaningful change. Additionally, education plays a crucial role in empowering youth to understand the science behind climate change and actively participate in shaping a sustainable future.

Successful collaborations between youth, governments, and non-profit organizations are pivotal in addressing climate change. By working together, these entities can leverage unique strengths and resources to implement impactful solutions. Case studies demonstrate how partnerships have contributed to reforestation efforts, community resilience programs, and the development of eco-friendly infrastructure. Cultivating a sense of responsibility and stewardship in future generations is essential for sustained progress in combating climate change. This can be done by integrating environmental education into school curriculums, promoting youth leadership in sustainability initiatives, and fostering a culture of innovation and activism.

Youth represent the driving force in combating climate change, and their contributions are invaluable in shaping a more sustainable future. It is imperative to continue supporting, recognizing, and collaborating with young people, harnessing their energy, creativity, and unwavering commitment to safeguard the planet for generations to come. As we collectively strive for a healthier, more resilient world, the involvement of youth remains instrumental in achieving meaningful and lasting change.



The author is a student of International Relations at Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi.

Unseasonal Rains of 2023: Misery of Farmers and Locals

Aiman Tahir Hashmi

“Are we going to end up in unrest this year too like the last year due to extreme weather events?” asked Muhammad Ali, a farmer from the small village of Qadirpur Ran in district Multan. Muhammad Ali was mentioning last year’s rains of May 2022, which ended up destroying his crops and land, leaving him devastated.

Muhammad Ali is not the sole victim of the extreme rains and flood which laid waste to millions of acres of Pakistan’s farmland, killing 1700 people, displacing 7.9 million individuals and causing widespread damage. “If this happens again, then I will be under 3 lakh debt.” Muhammad Ali added, “Just the thought of that disaster happening again this year gives me chills”. He further stated, “I can’t say anything for sure, but unexpected rains in the last month have scared me. All of the wheat that was just near harvesting is in ruins now.” He was flabbergasted and shocked because he had never expected this kind of intense rain.



After the floods of 2022, the extreme rainfall in March 2023 is a matter of concern for climate experts and the meteorological department. The reasons behind these unseasonal rains in the second half of the month are not just frequent western disturbances that have induced cyclonic circulation over India and Pakistan, but rather are the effects of climate change which are making the situation worse. Experts say that climate change will likely increase intense rainfall that can further lead to flooding in Pakistan.



NEAR BEING HARVESTED CROPS OF WHEAT IN RUINS AFTER INTENSE RAINFALL IN QADIRPUR RAN'S VILLAGE DISTRICT MULTAN

In March 2023, large parts of the country experienced intense rainfall and some areas even experienced hailstorms. The start of pre-monsoon activities in the second half of March has made scientists concerned. According to them increasing temperatures as early as February have led to the formation of the local weather system before time. This weather has caused significant damage to major crops in Pakistan such as wheat, which has resulted in economic loss for farmers and food shortage in communities.

The pre-monsoon spell is dangerous especially during this time of the year as not only is wheat almost ready to be harvested, but also many summer fruits are carrying flowers. Most importantly, mango plants which are carrying their pennicles.

From conducting research in the Southern region of Punjab in Multan district, it turned out that intense rainfall in March has caused significant damage to fruit plants. Climate change has been affecting and reducing mango production for the last few years.

Mansoor Gillani, a farmer from the Qadirpur Ran city in the southern region, has a similar story to tell us. He said, "My mango crops have failed twice in the last three years. In March 2022, an unseasonal and intense rain of hail made the boor (mango flowers) fall off the trees inside my mango farm. While during the spring season in 2022, a sudden heatwave not only burned, but also stunted the growth of wheat and sugarcane crops. Now at the start of this year, these unexpected rains and hailstorms have led to the mango boor almost falling off once again. Mango farmers are not expecting a good yield from their fields, as they are anticipating heat waves in the upcoming months. Due to these circumstances, many farmers are giving up on their farms and trying to find other means of income."

Farmers across the provinces of Punjab and Sindh, the two regions responsible for most of the agriculture in Pakistan, are concerned. Earlier this year, there was a rise in temperatures and it is already summer in most parts of the country. Erratic rainfall patterns both temporarily and spatially are forcing a change in crop patterns. This year, rains came unexpectedly and crashed the hopes of farmers who were already struggling from the losses incurred in the previous seasons.

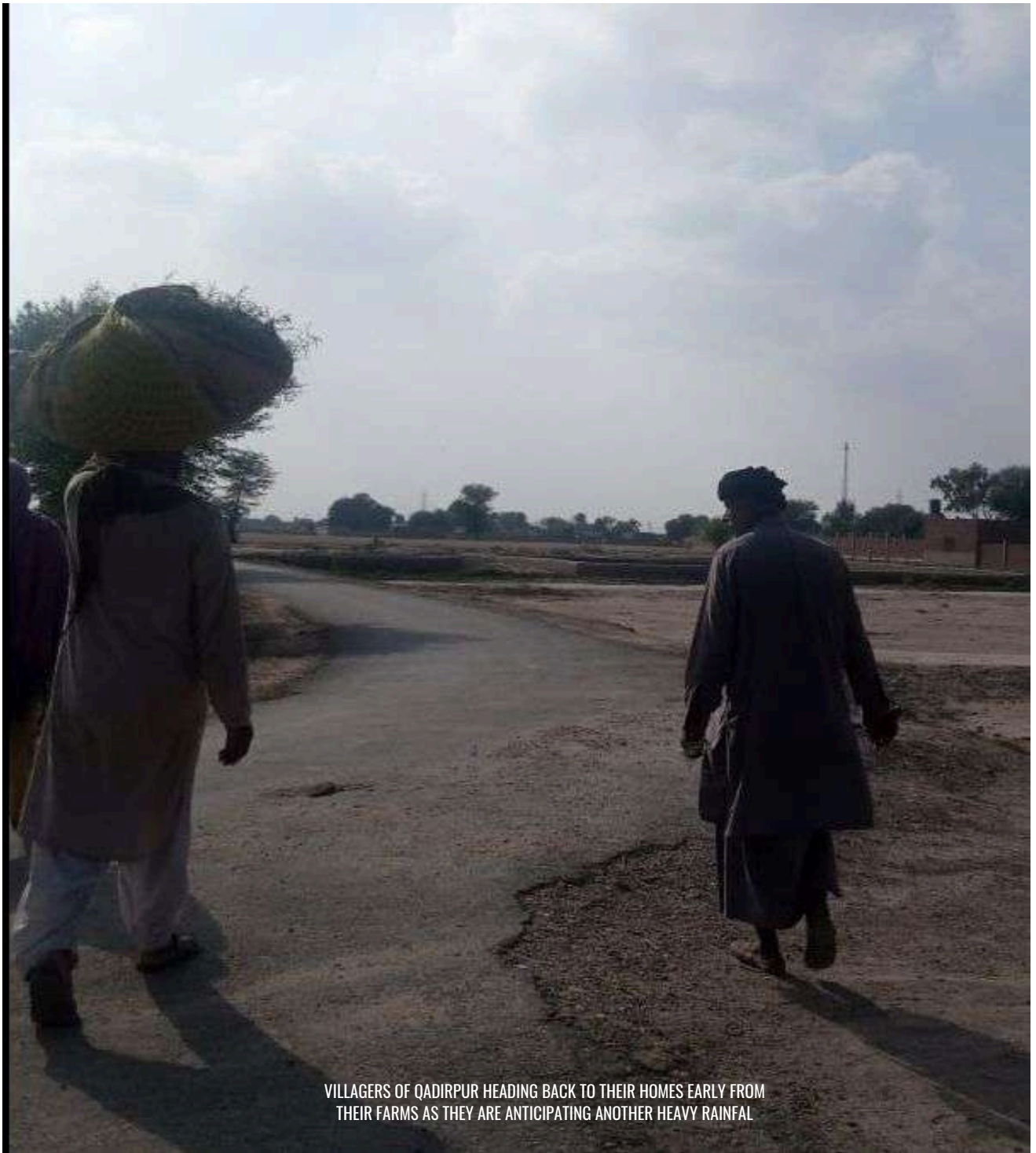
In the dozens of interviews conducted during my fieldwork in villages of district Multan, many farmers and locals have shared their accounts of climate change, variability, and its effects on their incomes, lifestyle, and livelihood. It was also evident that climate change and its consequences are not gender-neutral. The men working in the fields are struggling to make ends meet, but the women in their houses are suffering more.

I met Rukhsana, a 23-year-old housemaid, who agreed to share her story but did not want to be photographed. She belongs to a middle-class family but is currently working as a housekeeper in several homes in the town of Qadirpur. Before this year, she had never worked as her father owned 5 acres of a

falsa orchard. However, the intense rains and hailstorms this March destroyed the orchard, compelling her to find a source of income. "My father was happy that this year his plants were loaded with falsa pennicles which were going to give him a good profit, but after the rain trees are empty and all flowers fell off," said Rukhsana. Unfortunately, instead of making any profit, her father is now in debt. The pesticide spray and other essential sprays, for which he took a loan of 2 lakh Pakistani rupees, have all washed away with the rainwater. Due to this economic loss, she has no choice but to work in other people's homes just to feed her siblings. According to her, "It's hard for me to do this kind of job but I have no option left. By the time I reach home I feel so exhausted and tired, that I just want to sleep but I have a ton of chores waiting for me at home too. I know these times are hard and everyone is struggling." Mr. Rab Nawaz, Rukhsana's father, has now given up on his farm and said, "Everyone around me has advised me to start over but I don't want to invest money in this orchard again. Already, 3 lakh rupees have gone to waste. Putting money and efforts into this field again is a risk because no one knows the upcoming weather."

Rab Nawaz is now getting older and his financial losses have adversely affected his health. According to Rukhsana, her father now has blood pressure issues, struggles with anxiety, and sometimes loses his temper. Rab Nawaz is not the only one who has been struggling with this. Interviewing locals of remote areas, it seems many are frustrated and exhausted. One of them said, "Every year this happens. A lot of rain comes and destroys our crops. This happens again and again, destroying everything we have, but no one is doing anything."

The locals are right. Millions are facing atrocities of climate change but some responsibility lies on the government and administration to provide farmers with sufficient guidance. According to farmers, the weather has become very unpredictable, as forecasts are either inaccurate or nonexistent. There is no telling what might happen next month, next week or even the next day. Farmers, most of them small and medium landholders, are demanding help and guidance from the government regarding climate change. While the government is spending millions of rupees on subsidies for farmers, it would



VILLAGERS OF QADIRPUR HEADING BACK TO THEIR HOMES EARLY FROM THEIR FARMS AS THEY ARE ANTICIPATING ANOTHER HEAVY RAINFAL

also be beneficial to extend funds for awareness sessions on climate change for farmers and on projects that deal with tackling its harmful effects. As one farmer summed up this hopeless situation, “All of the villagers are sad and depressed. Markets are empty, as no one has any money to spend and there are almost no weddings this spring. After a series of frightful back-to-back crop failures, we are all praying for an uneventful season ahead.”

The author is a student at University of the Punjab, Lahore.

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ACTIVITIES






Awareness Raising, Advocacy and Dialogues by Youth Network



ACTIVITIES





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