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## HUMAN RIGHTS IN THREAT- THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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### ABSTRACT

Across the globe several communities are facing the impact of climate change as a daily routine threat. Several communities are losing their cultural & ethnic identity at a faster pace. The policy of government & NGOs towards safeguarding human lives against climatic intimidation have been accused as being very sluggish & insufficient. The communities have started insisting on a new stipulation for their safe living. They have opted for human rights approach to their endangered living. Global approaches towards safeguarding human lives against climatic changes has been a theoretical rather than being practical. The negotiations at Inter National level are not reaching the countries properly. No policy on linking human rights with climate change has been thoroughly successful. This paper examines the impact of climatic changes on human rights & addresses the new strategies which can prove towards strengthening human rights.

**KEY WORDS:** human rights, climate changes, threat to mankind, need for planning, prospective strategies

**“Climate change is damaging food supplies, spreading disease and creating refugees, and it is poised to become the most massive human rights violation the world has ever seen.”**

Kathleen Dean Moore (Oregon State University)

### Introduction

These days climate changes have become a very grave issue producing graver consequences. The whole human race is in danger. The heterogeneous cultural, ethnic, lingual, tribal & racial communities are facing the danger of living. There are two issues in this topic. The first issue is Climate change & the second issue is human rights. Both of the issues are connected with each other.

### Un Convention on Human Rights

The UN general Assembly has declared 10<sup>th</sup> December as human rights day in order to make the people across the globe to understand & identify the importance of human rights. The UN declaration on human rights in its article 25 states that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health & wellbeing of himself & his family including food, clothing, housing, medical care. The United Nations Human Rights Council (2008) said climate change “poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world”. The impact of climatic changes are set to undermine the protection of human rights



(Humphreys Stephens- Human Rights & Climate Change 2010). These are the human rights

1. Free access to safe drinking water
2. Access to unadulterated Food
3. A good & Healthy life style
4. Proper Housing facility
5. A good living space

### **Causes of Climate Change**

There are several causes for climatic changes. The primary reason being the avariciousness of the human beings towards owning & exploiting earth's natural reserves without forethoughts. The following are the primary reasons behind climatic changes

1. Deforesting
2. Exploiting forest reserves without any prudence
3. Grave instances of polluting air through increase in flights & their frequencies
4. Heavy emission of carbon
5. Intense soil erosion
6. Marine reserves
7. Mining, digging, quarrying
8. Ocean degradation
9. Over exploitation of earth's resources
10. Over utilization of river water
11. Serious usage of chemicals

### **The Concept of Human Rights:**

Human beings have only one planet to live & only one planet to save. The optimal utilization of planets resources are causing a serious shortage of food water. Understanding this IN organizations are giving importance to redefining human rights as a concept. The very first sentence of the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights describes, Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Vienna declaration of 1993 says " All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and related. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis". (Humphreys Stephens- Human Rights & Climate Change 2010)

**Instances of Violation of Human Rights** – many problems cause violation of human rights

1. Atrocities due to gender friction
2. Heavy emigration of local people suicidal attacks



3. Heavy irrigation projects leading to evacuation of aboriginals
4. Racial hatred
5. Rampant communal violence
6. territorial boundary disputes
7. Terrorist activities through Bomb blasts
8. Testing of atomic bombs
9. War / incessant aggression ,

### **Effects of Human Rights Voilence**

1. Uncalled for Displacement of people
2. Natural disasters
3. Food scarcity
4. Drinking water scarcity
5. Increased diseases
6. Lessening immunity
7. Loss of natural livelihood resources

These are the clear instances of violation of human rights. It causes threat to a host of human rights.

1. Inhuman working conditions
2. Inhuman treatment of war prisoners
3. Molestation , atrocities ,mass violence
4. Gender discrimination
5. Severe crime against children & women
6. Brutal treatment of soldiers captives , prisoners,

Aggravation of climatic changes are leaving impact on living .( Humpreys stephens- Human Rights & Climate Change 2010).The problems are aggravating because there is no coordination within government, encourage the participation of all stakeholders – especially the most vulnerable – and define the responsibilities of institutions and set deadlines by which the human right in question must be met is absent. There is no adoption of multi-layer strategies towards the fulfillment of human rights (Achieving Justice -Human Rights In An Era Of Climate Disruption International Bar Association 2012).

### **Examples**

1. West Bengal is suffering from inundating floods, & powerful cyclones thereby impoverishing fishing communities due to ocean degradation.
2. The AIR port cities of India are facing acute shortage of fresh air due to heavy increase in flights



3. The people residing near the coastal belt of Arabian sea are always threatened by cyclones
4. The coasts of Orissa & Andhrapradesh are always threatened by cyclones .The temporary evacuation of the people from these sites has become a perennial problem for government
5. The island of Andaman Nicobar are already in threat

### **Prospective Strategies**

1. Investment on low carbon / carbon free economy with appropriate incentives & fund support should be increased
2. People's right to safe drinking water, safe living, pure air are threatened hence people are drinking impure water which is causing serious diseases.
3. People's culture, secured living, disturbance free living are to be strengthened through proper policies.( Humpreys stephens- Human Rights & Climate Change 2010).
4. It requires a sustained effort across a number of years, to promote new, cleaner technologies in industry, to develop renewable sources of energy, and to shift to more sustainable consumption patterns. ( Achieving Justice -Human Rights In An Era Of Climate Disruption International Bar Association 2012)
5. And it demands a comprehensive approach, to ensure for instance that governments which encourage renewable energy do not simultaneously outsource their food and energy production to palm oil plantations or soy-fed livestock farming, which drives deforestation in other parts of the world. (Humpreys Stephens- Human Rights & Climate Change 2010).
6. Human rights bodies must now invoke this approach and apply it directly to climate change, obliging governments to present them with long-term strategies that can achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions and move towards low-carbon societies.( Achieving Justice -Human Rights In An Era Of Climate Disruption International Bar Association 2012)
7. Energy use patterns have to change
8. Long terms social security measures should be taken
9. Climate flexible measures pathways to both social & environmental value
10. Better employment opportunities should be provided through balancing ecological values
11. Violation of civil &social human rights at the cost of environmental preservation is not needed
12. Human development programs should not become anti human right development programs.
13. transparent & stable regimes can play a good role in making stable policies on climate environment



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14. Corporate responsibility should grow.( Achieving Justice -Human Rights In An Era Of Climate Disruption International Bar Association 2012). All these days this has been a linked with global strategies conventions frame works. This should be made center of all dialogues at all national International conventions ( Humpreys Stephens- Human Rights & Climate Change 2010).

### **Conclusion:**

Thus there should be cooperation on national & international level environmental protective safeguards can be an answer to protection of human rights. The unsanctioned excise & misuse of governmental power is a serious concern as government takes up projects which are not environment friendly & environmental harm should be viewed in both local & global perspective Climate changes is a serious human right issue. The global community has a moral and legal obligation to uphold and protect human rights. With climate change set to undermine such rights across the planet, it is time that such principles and foundations for life are placed at the centre of international climate change policy, and elsewhere. Participation of indigenous people in all deliberations is very necessary. The promotion of human right values have to take place at both the levels national & international.

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