

Improving the Effects of Climate Change in Driving Women to Dangerous Work and Prostitution

I. Statement of the Problem:

1. The effects of climate change have become increasingly evident through the resulting extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, storms, and floods; these conditions have caused societies to be disrupted by scattering communities and families. The impacts of climate change are not being felt equally; poor women with few resources are more susceptible to the negative effects of climate change [10]. Climate induced disasters have significantly reduced agricultural output, which is detrimental to women who are not able to adapt and confront these changes in the environment. Additionally, women are subject to gender inequalities that prevent them from coping with the effects from climate change such as disaster strategies. As a result, women have become more likely to engage in dangerous works, such as prostitution, in order to provide for their families. [2]
2. The impacts of climate change are prominent worldwide, but women in developing countries and mountainous regions are more susceptible to the grueling effects. In these regions, the majority of the agricultural workforce are females.[8] Women and men use different methods and strategies to adapt to climate change. Because of growing desertification of farmland caused by climate change, men travel to cities to find new jobs and earn money. Women, due to societal norms, are forced to stay home to take care of their family, changing their pattern of farming for new climate conditions. [6] Due to the negative impacts of climate change, women are being forced to assume the standard role of men; this includes looking after livestock, supervising sales and exchanges of animals, managing pasture, and herding.
3. Women's workloads are further intensified due to increased difficulties in accessing resources; the effects of climate change, including drought, flooding, erratic temperatures, extinction of plants and animals, uncertain rainfall, and deforestation, make it harder to obtain the natural resources needed to secure water, food, and energy for cooking and heating necessary for everyday living [9]. Women and girls are forced to walk longer distances to obtain these resources. As a result, they face increased security issues including harassment and sexual violence [11]. Although women have the ability and knowledge to adapt to the effects of climate, women just have insufficient resources to do so.
4. Poor and disadvantaged women in developed and developing countries are unequally affected by natural disasters; women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men during natural disasters due to sex exploitation, poverty, and lack of education. Adaptation to climate change is difficult for women because they are excluded from decision-making on accessing land and resources critical to their livelihoods. Women often have limited or no control over family finances and assets. In addition, women have little influence over community strategies for adapting, as well as policies supporting women's rights and priorities, because they are underrepresented in local politics. If women do not participate, programs to replace traditional crops with ones better suited to the altered climate change will not address problems women face, and will only focus on only men's needs. [12]
5. Among all women, nearly 70% are trafficked for the sex trade and

other forms of sexual exploitation [4]. A climate-related problem that contributes to this sexual exploitation is security during disasters. Local security safety nets are disturbed by climate-related disasters, breaking down normal social protections, leaving women and children unaccompanied or separated from their family. Women are consequently more vulnerable to the exploitation of human trafficking because of this [2].

6. Despite the vulnerabilities women experience, they are unable to express their specific needs in terms of adaptation. Their extensive knowledge about the environment and resource conservation is useless unless women are recognized in climate policy. Women hold intelligence, experience, and a unique role in agriculture, food security, and management of households. The voices of women, along with their responsibilities and knowledge on the environment and the threats they face needs to be a central part of the adaptation responses to the hostile climate change.[11]

II. History of the Issue:

7. Main decision makers involved in climate change initiatives, such as environmental ministries run by the government, in charge of programmes and policy development, have stated they do not know enough about the links between gender equality and climate change; therefore, the climate change discussion has not paid adequate attention to women. The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) has therefore made their primary goal to ensure that climate change policies, decision making, and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels are gender-responsive.[1]

8. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) sets a global agenda for tackling climate change. UN Women has emphasized the importance of making new climate policy that would ensure women's voices are represented in negotiations in the past, but the gender dimensions of climate change were not incorporated in the UNFCCC process until 2012.[7]

9. Over time, many agencies have started to recognize the effects of climate change on women and a prominent issue; the Commission on the Status of Women deemed climate change as an emerging issue in 2008. Representatives during the session drew attention to the fact climate change creates gender inequalities. They also stressed that climate change has a direct impact on women's lives because of their domestic work and makes their everyday life even more difficult.[13]

10. In 2009, the CEDAW (The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) issued a statement on Gender and Climate Change, revealing its concern about the absence of a gender perspective in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other global policies and initiatives on climate change. It called on States Parties to include gender equality as

a guiding principle in the UNFCCC agreement expected at a future conference. [14]

11. UN Women has brought impacts of climate change on women to attention and advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment as essential to adapting to climate change. The Conference of Parties (COP-18) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in 2012; government agreed on a firm agenda that ensured the adoption of a universal climate change agreement by 2015, that would be functioning entirely in 2020. UN Women followed these negotiations to ensure that decisions adopted at COP-18 incorporated references to gender equality, women's rights and women's contribution in climate change adaptation. [7]

12. Important achievements for women at COP-18 include a decision constituting an important step forward in advancing gender-sensitive climate policy by ensuring that women's voices are represented in the negotiations, and adding the consideration of gender issues in the agenda of the COP. A profile of women as key leaders in the global fight against climate change was raised, which launched of the new pillar by the UNFCCC's "*Momentum for Change Initiative*" to present women as an essential part of the solution in addressing climate change.[7]

III. Potential Solutions:

12. Delegates should consider the following:

- Adaptation programs for women including efforts, incentives, resources, and commitment adapting to climate change will entail.
- The limited participation women have in environmental decision-making
- Empowering women in the process of designing and evaluating strategies to mitigate climate change
- Ensuring women's access, control and ownership of development resources
- Rights of women in regards to food security, non-discriminatory access to resources, and equitable participation in decision-making processes.

IV. Position and Research Tips:

13. Delegates should always remain authentic and should be loyal to their country's position. While delegates develop their position on the topic, please keep in mind the following questions:

- Has your country experienced climate-related disasters in the past?
- What has your country done in the past to improve impacts of climate change?
- Is your country a developed or developing country?
- What roles do women assume in your country?

V. Notes to Delegates

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Addressing the Lack of Maternal Health Care in Both Developed and Developing Countries

I. Statement of the Problem:

1. The lack of neonatal resources for expectant mothers occurs on a global scale. According to the United Nations Development Programme, 287,000 maternal deaths occurred worldwide in 2010 alone [5], though developed nations have practically eliminated their maternal mortality [7].
2. While this issue is prevalent worldwide, the vast majority of complications occur in Less Developed Countries (LDCs) [1]. One woman dies approximately every 90 seconds from childbirth complications globally, and 99% of all maternal mortality occurs in LDCs [7]. Maternal mortality is 15 times higher in LDCs than in developed nations[3]. Effective interventions to reduce neonatal deaths exists, but are not accessible to people living in the poorest part of the world [8].
3. Most deaths of expectant mothers occur either during or immediately following birth. Severe bleeding, infections, eclampsia, obstructed labor, and unsafe abortions are among the fatal complications that arise. Broad, free access to a strong health system, professionalization of midwives, and targeted quality improvement to vulnerable groups could potentially reduce maternal mortality [5].
4. Mental health illnesses, such as depression and anxiety, are also common among mothers both during and after pregnancy. One in three women in developing countries and one in ten in developed countries have been reported to have mental health problems pertaining to pregnancy. [9]. High rates of these particular health problems have been reported from many countries in Africa including Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, South Africa, and a number of others.
5. The lack of maternal healthcare in developing countries not only negatively affects the survival rate of the mother, but that of the child as well. About 40% of all under-five deaths are

neonatal, occurring within the first 28 days of life. In 2011 this amounted to 3 million deaths [2].

II. History of the Issue:

1. Goal number five of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) concentrates on maternal health. The goal was to reduce the maternal death ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015 as well as achieve universal access to reproductive health care by 2015. This addresses antenatal care coverage, contraceptive prevalence rate, unmet need for family planning, and adolescent birth rate. The MDG number 5 was able to reduce maternal mortality by 47 percent [3].
2. There is a disproportionate rate of maternal death in the developing world than the developed world. In 2008, more than 50% of all maternal deaths occurred in only six countries India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo [6].
3. During the early to mid 18th century, Sweden suffered a maternal mortality rate roughly that of an undeveloped country. In 1751 there were 900 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Over the course of many decades the Swedish state introduced measures such as implementing a nationwide program to train midwife attendants, as well as increasing obstetrician care. These efforts drastically reduced the number of maternal deaths to 233 per 100,000 by 1900 [10].
4. Many countries have historically had severe issues with providing obstetrical care to pregnant mothers. One such nation was the country of Mozambique. In 1975 Mozambique had 80 doctors servicing 14 million people. This great lack of medical and maternal health care assistance motivated the country to train a corps of non-physician surgeons, known as *técnicos de cirurgia*, in 1984. Today the *técnicos de cirurgia* perform 90% of all obstetric surgeries [4].

III. Potential Solutions:

The implementation of maternal health is a complicated and multifaceted issue. Keep in mind while forming potential resolutions the following:

- Emerging technologies
- Obstacles in implementation, such as cultural customs and financing
- The abilities of the United Nations and UN Women

IV. Position and Research Tips:

1. Please consider the following questions when researching:

- Does your country supply adequate maternal care to its citizens?
- Is your country a developed or developing country?
- What are some religious or cultural traditions that may impact your nation's stance?

V. Notes to Delegates

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the MUNSA XVIII Conference. It is my desire to see you all come prepared with research so that you may be effective MUN delegates and that we will create effective resolutions on this issue. We are very excited to see you all!

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