

HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

A Research Paper

by

Pragya Singh

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INTRODUCTION

The main research area is climate displacement, also known as climate-induced migration or environmentally induced migration, It refers to the forced movement of people from their homes or places of habitual residence due to climate change. Individuals or communities are forced to relocate either temporarily or permanently as a result of environmental changes. The increase in climate-induced migration in India can be attributed to a surge in extreme weather occurrences such as heat waves, floods, cyclones, and rising sea levels.

Climate refugees, also known as environmental refugees, are individuals who are driven to depart from their native habitats, whether immediately or in the foreseeable future, due to abrupt or gradual changes in their natural surroundings.

This form of displacement poses unprecedented challenges to the fabric of human rights globally. As the planet warms, sea levels rise, and extreme weather events become more frequent, communities, particularly in vulnerable regions, get uprooted from their homes, livelihoods, and cultures.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A preliminary literature review shows that past studies are primarily focused on finding the intersection of climate change, displacement, and human rights presents a complex and urgent challenge that has garnered increasing attention from the academic and policy-making communities. This literature review synthesizes key findings and perspectives on the issue, focusing on the impacts of environmental change on communities in India, the legal and human rights implications for climate refugees, and the broader context of climate-induced migration in the country. Research conducted by Ritu Bharadwaj, a

climate researcher at the International Institute for Environment and Development, underscores the profound impact of environmental changes on communities in India. Bharadwaj's studies, particularly in the environmentally vulnerable Kendrapara area of Odisha, highlight the plight of climate refugees from neighboring countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh. These findings reveal a critical gap in legal and policy frameworks, both nationally and internationally, for individuals displaced by climate change. Bharadwaj's work elucidates the stark reality that, without a legal status as climate refugees, these individuals are often classified as "illegal settlers" in destination countries, fundamentally limiting their access to rights and resources (Bharadwaj, Date Unknown).

The broader context of climate-induced migration in India is alarming, with projections indicating that 45 million people will be forced to migrate by 2050 due to climate disasters, tripling the current number of individuals moving as a result of extreme weather events. This projection underscores the scale of the challenge facing India, highlighting the need for comprehensive policy and legal responses to address the multifaceted issues of displacement, human rights, and climate change adaptation.

The "State of India's Environment-2022" report further emphasizes India's vulnerability, ranking it as the fourth worst-hit country globally in terms of climate change-induced migration. With over three million people forced to leave their homes in 2020-2021 alone, the urgency of addressing the human rights and legal implications of climate-induced displacement cannot be overstated (State of India's Environment-2022).

Research Questions

The main research questions will include-

RQ1: What are the main drivers and causes of climate-induced displacement in India, and how do they intersect with human rights violations?

RQ2: What are the governance and policy responses to climate-induced displacement in India, and how effective are they in upholding human rights principles and protecting vulnerable populations?

RQ3: What are the gender dimensions of climate-induced displacement in India, and how do they impact women's rights, safety, and access to resources and services?

RQ4: How do marginalized populations, including indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, and women, experience climate-induced displacement in India, and what are the specific human rights challenges they face?

RQ5: What are the socio-economic impacts of climate-induced displacement on affected communities in India, and how do they intersect with issues of poverty, inequality, and access to basic services?

RQ6: How do climate-induced displacement and forced migration intersect with other global challenges, such as conflict, poverty, food insecurity, and public health crises, and what are the implications for human rights protection?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

By conducting in-depth case studies in environmentally vulnerable regions of India, such as coastal areas or regions prone to droughts and floods. By doing comparative analysis, comparing the legal and policy frameworks governing climate-induced displacement in India with those of other countries facing similar challenges. This comparative analysis can provide insights into best practices, lessons learned, and potential policy recommendations for India.

Interview

Climate-induced displacement in India has profound impacts on affected populations, as illustrated by the experiences of individuals like Anuj Kumar, a survivor from a village in Assam. Anuj's firsthand account highlights the devastating effects of annual flooding exacerbated by climate change, leading to the displacement of entire communities. His narrative sheds light on the complex human rights challenges faced by displaced populations, including the loss of homes, livelihoods, and access to essential services.

“Our village is situated along the Brahmaputra River, and every year during the monsoon season, the river overflows, inundating our homes and fields. Over time, the floods have become more frequent and severe due to climate change, leading to widespread destruction and loss of life. After repeated floods, my family and I had no choice but to leave our ancestral home and seek refuge in a nearby town”, Anuj said in the interview.

“The challenges were numerous. Firstly, finding a safe place to stay during the floods was a constant struggle. Many families were forced to seek shelter on higher ground or makeshift relief camps, where conditions were cramped and unsanitary. Additionally, the loss of our farmland meant we had to find alternative sources of income, which proved to be incredibly challenging in a new environment where job opportunities were scarce.”

Anuj's village, situated along the Brahmaputra River, faces recurrent flooding during the monsoon season, resulting in widespread destruction and loss of life. The increasing frequency and severity of floods due to climate change have forced Anuj and his family to abandon their ancestral home and seek refuge in a nearby town. This displacement has significant socio-economic implications, as families like Anuj's struggle to find alternative sources of income and access to basic amenities in their new environment”, he said.

In terms of human rights, Anuj emphasizes the profound impact of displacement on the right to a safe and secure home. The loss of homes and farmland due to flooding compromises the right to adequate housing and access to basic services such as clean water and sanitation. Furthermore, Anuj highlights the lack of meaningful consultation and participation in decision-making processes regarding relocation, exacerbating feelings of powerlessness and marginalization among displaced communities.

Anuj's perspective underscores the urgent need for comprehensive and rights-based responses to climate-induced displacement in India. Upholding the rights and dignity of affected populations requires concerted efforts to address the root causes of climate change, mitigate its impacts, and ensure meaningful participation in decision-making

processes. Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, and social protection measures are essential to promote the well-being and resilience of displaced communities like Anuj's.

By integrating the insights and experiences of climate displacement survivors like Anuj Kumar into research and policy discussions, we can better understand the human rights dimensions of climate change and work towards more inclusive and sustainable solutions to address the challenges of displacement in India.

Case Studies

Coastal regions - Odisha

The coast of Odisha is a hotspot for climate change due to a number of factors. It is a region that is prone to cyclones, and in recent years, both the frequency and intensity of cyclones have grown. The susceptibility to catastrophic weather events has risen due to the destruction of mangroves and uncontrolled development activity.

In May 2019, Cyclone Fani struck Odisha, an eastern coastal state in India with a population of approximately 46 million. The state authorities executed a successful evacuation operation, evacuating 1.2 million people within 24 hours, marking it as one of the largest evacuations in history and earning praise from the United Nations. Odisha, previously devastated by a super cyclone in 1999 resulting in about 10,000 fatalities, continues to face frequent cyclonic events and evident effects of rising sea levels and coastal inundation along its Bay of Bengal coastline. According to India's Ministry of Earth Sciences, about 28 percent of Odisha's 550-kilometre coastline experienced erosion between 1990 and 2016, while half of it experienced accretion.

Odisha witnessed one of India's earliest cases of managed retreat in response to decades of gradual shoreline changes and coastal erosion, leading to involuntary displacement and migration in several villages within the Kendrapada district, particularly around the Satabhaya area. As these villages succumbed to cyclones and sea-level rise over the 1980s and 1990s, with the last one submerged in 2011, the state government initiated planned relocation around 2011, eventually establishing a resettlement colony 12 kilometers away in 2016 for 571 families. Despite being lauded as an effective strategy, the relocation process faced criticisms regarding compensation fairness, land rights, loss of livelihoods, and inadequate housing provisions. While academic analysis on the outcomes of such displacement remains limited, it's evident that as the impacts of climate change intensify, larger-scale and costlier relocation efforts may become necessary along the vulnerable coastlines.

Sundarbans

In contrast to Odisha, the Sundarbans in West Bengal presents a more intricate narrative of migration, climate change, and displacement. These lush forests, stretching over nearly 10,000 square kilometers, form one of the world's largest continuous mangrove ecosystems. With about 40 percent of this region located in West Bengal and the rest in Bangladesh, it sustains the lives of over 1.3 million people and plays a crucial role in mitigating the impact of cyclones, as demonstrated during Cyclone Amphan. However, the Sundarbans also grapple with high poverty levels and frequent natural disasters such

as sea-level rise, salinization, cyclones, and flooding, making it one of the most hazardous areas in the Indian subcontinent.

Over the years, the Sundarbans, particularly the Indian part, have faced relentless threats from sea-level rise and coastal erosion. The rate of sea-level rise here exceeds the global average, accompanied by sinking land, resulting in significant land loss along the coastline. By 2050, approximately 1 million people from vulnerable areas of the Indian Sundarbans may need to relocate due to rising seas and coastal inundation, indicating the necessity for large-scale managed relocation efforts in the future.

The plight of coastal erosion in the Sundarbans dates back to 1977, when the government withdrew funding support from two islands, Ghoramara and Lohachara, due to severe erosion. Lohachara vanished in 1991, while Ghoramara has experienced substantial erosion, leading to a drastic reduction in population. The first instance of planned relocation began in the late 1970s, with residents moved to a nearby island named Sagar. However, the shrinking availability of land in Sagar due to erosion raises concerns about the long-term sustainability of such relocation efforts.

While managed relocation has enabled people to remain in the Sundarbans, questions arise about its long-term feasibility. The current development approach, encouraging migration to this resource-rich area without prioritizing long-term vulnerability reduction and economic development, may heighten human vulnerability to sea-level rise.

Himalayan states- Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand, home to a population exceeding 10 million, stands out among Indian states for experiencing a decrease in population size, with some residents choosing to migrate elsewhere. Internal migration accounts for approximately 70 percent of this movement, predominantly from the hilly regions to the plains and valleys. Uttarakhand faces compounded challenges from climate change and associated factors such as deforestation, unplanned urbanization, and inadequate infrastructure like roads. These factors intensify the strain on households displaced by disasters or compelled to relocate within the state. Over the past two decades, a noticeable decline in agricultural productivity attributed to factors like insufficient rainfall, erratic precipitation patterns, and diminishing mountain springs has coincided with an increase in outward migration. This trend is particularly significant as approximately 70 percent of the state's population relies on rain-fed agriculture for sustenance.

North Eastern States- Assam

Assam experiences annual flooding due to the Brahmaputra River and its tributaries overflowing during the monsoon season. These floods are exacerbated by heavy rainfall, glacial meltwater from the Himalayas, and deforestation in upstream areas. Floods lead to extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, crops, and livestock. Displacement occurs as families are forced to evacuate to safer areas or relief camps. Vulnerable populations living in low-lying areas and riverine islands are particularly affected, facing risks of drowning, waterborne diseases, and loss of livelihoods.

Riverbank erosion is a pervasive problem in Assam, where the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers constantly shift their courses, eroding land and displacing communities along their banks. Erosion leads to loss of agricultural land, homes, and public infrastructure, forcing residents to abandon their properties and relocate to safer locations. Vulnerable communities, including indigenous groups and marginalized populations, face challenges in accessing land tenure and resettlement options.

Assam's hilly terrain is prone to landslides, particularly during the monsoon season when heavy rainfall saturates the soil and destabilizes slopes.

Landslides occur in areas with deforestation, construction activities, and improper land use practices. Displacement occurs as families are evacuated from landslide-prone areas to safer locations, often with limited warning or preparation. Infrastructure damage and disruption of transport routes hinder rescue and relief efforts in remote and inaccessible areas.

Assam experiences climate variability and extreme weather events, including droughts, heatwaves, and erratic rainfall patterns, which affect agricultural productivity, water availability, and livelihoods.

Climate variability impacts crop yields, leading to food insecurity and economic losses for farming communities. Displacement occurs as families migrate in search of alternative sources of income or seek temporary shelter in urban areas during periods of water scarcity and crop failures.

Climate-induced displacement exacerbates social vulnerabilities and inequalities in Assam, particularly among indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, and marginalized populations. Displacement disproportionately affects women, children, and elderly

individuals, who face heightened risks of exploitation, abuse, and inadequate access to healthcare and education services. Indigenous communities, such as the Bodos and Mising tribes, face cultural displacement and loss of traditional livelihoods due to environmental changes.

Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh

In Meghalaya, landslides occur in areas with deforestation, improper land use practices, and construction activities, particularly in coal mining areas and urban settlements. Flash floods result from the rapid runoff of rainwater, inundating low-lying areas and displacing communities along riverbanks. Displacement in Meghalaya occurs as families are forced to evacuate from landslide-prone areas to safer locations, often with limited warning or preparation. Infrastructure damage, including road blockages and bridge collapses, hinders rescue and relief efforts in remote and inaccessible areas.

Arunachal Pradesh is vulnerable to glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) due to its proximity to the Himalayas and the presence of numerous glaciers and glacial lakes. GLOFs occur when glacial lakes dammed by moraine walls burst, releasing large volumes of water downstream. The sudden release of water can cause flash floods, landslides, and debris flows, displacing communities along river valleys and downstream settlements. Displacement in Arunachal Pradesh occurs as families evacuate from flood-prone areas to safer locations, often with assistance from local authorities and community-based organizations. Vulnerable populations, including indigenous

communities and remote villages, face challenges in accessing emergency shelters, relief supplies, and medical assistance.

Both Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh are home to diverse indigenous communities with unique cultural identities and traditional livelihoods closely linked to the environment. Climate-induced displacement exacerbates vulnerabilities among indigenous populations, who rely on natural resources for sustenance and cultural practices. Loss of land, forests, and water sources disrupts traditional livelihoods, leading to economic insecurity and social displacement.

Indigenous communities face challenges in preserving their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems amidst environmental changes and displacement. Loss of ancestral lands and displacement from traditional territories further marginalize indigenous peoples, undermining their rights and well-being.

Climate-induced disasters in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh cause extensive damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, and healthcare facilities. Infrastructure damage hinders access to essential services and emergency assistance for displaced communities. Remote and isolated villages face challenges in receiving timely aid and relief supplies, exacerbating risks during disasters and displacement.

Climate-induced displacement in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh has significant social and economic impacts on affected communities, including loss of livelihoods, displacement of families, and disruption of social networks.

Impacts on Human Life, Security, and Socio-Economic Dynamics

In India, climate change exacerbates risks to human life and security through extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, and heatwaves. For instance, the coastal regions of Odisha and West Bengal are particularly vulnerable to cyclones like Cyclone Amphan and Cyclone Fani, which have caused widespread destruction, loss of life, and displacement. Coastal erosion and saline intrusion put millions of inhabitants at risk, jeopardizing their safety, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. Displacement due to climate change often leads to inadequate housing conditions, particularly in low-lying coastal areas and riverine islands. In Sundarbans, erosion and inundation force residents to abandon their homes and relocate to makeshift shelters or resettlement colonies. Temporary shelters lack basic amenities such as clean water, sanitation facilities, and electricity, exposing displaced communities to health risks and social vulnerabilities. Many families struggle to rebuild their lives and secure stable housing, perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization.

Climate change poses significant challenges to food and water security in India, where millions of people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and sustenance. Erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and soil degradation affect crop yields, leading to food shortages and price spikes. In regions like Marathwada in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh, recurrent droughts have driven farmers into debt and distress, pushing them to migrate in search of alternative sources of income. Water scarcity exacerbates conflicts over access to resources, particularly in rural areas with inadequate irrigation infrastructure.

Climate-related impacts on health are multifaceted and complex, ranging from vector-borne diseases to malnutrition and mental health issues. In Sundarbans, increased salinity in water sources contributes to the spread of waterborne diseases like diarrhea and cholera, particularly during monsoon seasons. Extreme heat events pose risks to vulnerable populations, including the elderly, children, and outdoor workers, leading to heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke and dehydration. Urban areas like Delhi experience severe air pollution exacerbated by climate factors, worsening respiratory ailments and cardiovascular diseases.

Climate change disrupts livelihoods dependent on natural resources, particularly in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors. Small-scale farmers and fisherfolk are among the hardest hit, facing crop failures, livestock losses, and declining fish stocks. In rural areas, land degradation and water scarcity force communities to migrate to urban centers in search of employment opportunities. Seasonal migration from drought-prone regions to cities like Mumbai and Delhi exposes migrants to exploitative labor conditions and social exclusion.

Indigenous and tribal communities in India are custodians of rich cultural heritage and traditional knowledge systems deeply intertwined with the environment. However, climate change threatens their ancestral lands, livelihoods, and cultural identities. Projects such as dam construction, mining, and deforestation encroach upon indigenous territories, displacing communities and undermining their land rights and self-determination. The Dongria Kondh tribe in Odisha, for example, has fought against bauxite mining in Niyamgiri hills, asserting their rights and protecting sacred forests.

Climate displacement disrupts access to education for millions of children, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. In disaster-affected areas, damaged school infrastructure, displacement, and loss of livelihoods impede children's enrollment and attendance.

Displaced families often prioritize immediate needs over education, leading to high dropout rates and limited educational opportunities. Girls are disproportionately affected, facing barriers such as early marriage, domestic responsibilities, and safety concerns, further hindering their access to education and empowerment.

Gender-Based Rights and Vulnerabilities

Gender inequalities intersect with climate displacement, exacerbating vulnerabilities and risks for women and girls. In displacement contexts, women often bear the burden of caregiving, household responsibilities, and community resilience efforts. Gender-based violence increases post-displacement, with women facing heightened risks of exploitation, trafficking, and sexual violence. Lack of safe spaces, economic opportunities, and support services further exacerbate their vulnerabilities, underscoring the need for gender-sensitive approaches to climate adaptation and disaster response.

Women are disproportionately affected by climate displacement due to existing social inequalities, gender norms, and differential vulnerabilities. The impacts on women are multifaceted and pervasive, affecting various aspects of their lives, including health, safety, livelihoods, and access to resources.

Women often face greater health risks during climate displacement due to their reproductive roles, caregiving responsibilities, and limited access to healthcare services.

Pregnant women and new mothers are particularly vulnerable to complications during disasters and displacement, including inadequate prenatal care, birthing complications, and postpartum health issues. Lack of access to reproductive health services, including contraception and maternal care, exacerbates risks of unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and maternal mortality among displaced women.

Displacement exposes women and girls to increased risks of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and exploitation. In temporary shelters and resettlement camps, overcrowding, lack of privacy, and inadequate lighting contribute to unsafe environments where women and girls are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Disrupted social networks and breakdown of community support systems further exacerbate risks, leaving women without recourse or protection mechanisms against violence and coercion.

Climate displacement disrupts women's livelihoods and economic activities, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and informal labor, where women constitute a significant portion of the workforce. Loss of crops, livestock, and fishing resources undermines women's ability to generate income and support their families, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity. Lack of access to land tenure, credit, and productive assets limits women's opportunities for economic recovery and sustainable livelihoods post-displacement, perpetuating cycles of dependence and vulnerability.

Displacement often exacerbates inequalities in access to resources such as land, water, and food, with women facing additional barriers due to discriminatory norms and practices. In many communities, women have limited decision-making power over

household resources and land tenure, making them more vulnerable to displacement and loss of assets. In displacement contexts, women may experience exclusion from relief and recovery efforts, with limited access to information, aid distribution mechanisms, and decision-making processes, further marginalizing their needs and priorities.

Climate displacement takes a toll on women's mental health and well-being, with prolonged stress, trauma, and uncertainty affecting their resilience and coping mechanisms. Women often bear the emotional burden of displacement, juggling caregiving responsibilities, concerns for family members, and anxiety about the future. Lack of psychosocial support services and culturally appropriate mental health interventions further compound women's psychological distress, hindering their ability to recover and rebuild their lives post-displacement.

Women play critical roles as caregivers and community leaders during climate displacement, providing emotional support, childcare, and essential services to families and communities. Displacement disrupts traditional caregiving roles, placing additional burdens on women as they struggle to meet the needs of children, elderly relatives, and vulnerable community members. Lack of support services and social protection measures for caregivers further strains women's physical and emotional well-being, limiting their capacity to adapt and recover from displacement.

Women from marginalized and vulnerable groups, including indigenous communities, low-income households, and ethnic minorities, face intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion that exacerbate their vulnerabilities during climate displacement.

Intersectional factors such as caste, ethnicity, disability, and age intersect with gender to compound risks and inequalities, leaving marginalized women disproportionately affected and underserved in relief and recovery efforts.

Addressing the gender dimensions of climate displacement requires gender-responsive policies, programs, and interventions that recognize and address the diverse needs, priorities, and capacities of women and girls. Empowering women as agents of change, decision-makers, and leaders in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction efforts is essential to building resilience, promoting social justice, and achieving sustainable development in the face of climate change.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The findings of this research highlight the urgent need for holistic approaches that integrate human rights principles, gender equality, social justice, and environmental sustainability in addressing the complex challenges of climate-induced displacement in India. Upholding the rights and dignity of affected populations requires concerted efforts from governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the international community to build climate-resilient communities, promote inclusive development, and safeguard human rights in the face of environmental changes.

Climate-induced displacement disproportionately affects marginalized populations in India, including indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, women, children, and the elderly. These groups face intersecting forms of discrimination, socio-economic

inequalities, and limited access to resources, exacerbating their vulnerabilities to environmental hazards and displacement.

Climate change disrupts traditional livelihoods dependent on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and natural resources, leading to loss of income, displacement, and socio-economic hardships for affected communities. Displacement occurs due to floods, riverbank erosion, landslides, and extreme weather events, forcing families to evacuate from hazard-prone areas to safer locations or urban centers.

Displaced populations face challenges in accessing basic services such as housing, clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. Temporary shelters lack adequate infrastructure and amenities, exposing displaced communities to health risks, social vulnerabilities, and inadequate living conditions.

Climate-induced displacement in India is often accompanied by human rights violations, including violations of the right to life, security, adequate housing, food, water, health, education, and cultural identity. Displaced populations face risks of exploitation, abuse, discrimination, and displacement-related trauma, with limited access to legal remedies and justice mechanisms.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate-induced displacement, facing heightened risks of gender-based violence, exploitation, and discrimination.

Displacement disrupts caregiving responsibilities, exposes women to health risks, and limits their access to education, economic opportunities, and decision-making processes.

Climate-induced displacement intersects with other forms of vulnerability, including socio-economic status, caste, ethnicity, disability, age, and geographical location, exacerbating disparities and inequalities among affected populations. Indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, and low-income households face compounded risks and exclusion from relief and recovery efforts.

The governance and policy response to climate-induced displacement in India is fragmented, inadequate, and often reactive, lacking comprehensive legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and funding for disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and human rights protection. Existing policies focus on relief and rehabilitation rather than long-term resilience-building and sustainable development strategies.

Despite challenges, displaced communities demonstrate resilience and adaptation strategies to cope with climate-induced displacement, including community-based disaster preparedness, early warning systems, sustainable land use practices, and traditional knowledge systems. Local initiatives and grassroots organizations play a crucial role in building community resilience and advocating for the rights of displaced populations.

CONCLUSION

Climate change-induced displacement poses significant human rights challenges in India, exacerbating vulnerabilities and inequalities among affected populations. Throughout this research paper, multifaceted impacts of climate-induced displacement on human rights in

various regions of India, including coastal areas, Himalayan states, northeastern states, urban centers, and island territories have been examined. Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, case studies, and empirical evidence, the intersecting dynamics of climate change, displacement, and human rights violations have been highlighted, shedding light on the complexities and urgency of addressing these issues.

The findings of this research underscore the critical importance of prioritizing human rights principles, social justice, and environmental sustainability in responding to climate-induced displacement in India. Vulnerable populations, including indigenous communities, ethnic minorities, women, children, and the elderly, bear the disproportionate burden of climate impacts, facing risks of displacement, loss of livelihoods, and violation of their fundamental rights. Addressing the root causes of climate-induced displacement requires holistic approaches that integrate disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and sustainable development strategies, while upholding the rights and dignity of affected populations.

The governance and policy responses to climate-induced displacement in India must be comprehensive, inclusive, and rights-based, ensuring the meaningful participation and consultation of affected communities in decision-making processes. Strengthening legal frameworks, accountability mechanisms, and international cooperation is essential to address the human rights challenges of climate-induced displacement and promote climate justice at local, national, and global levels. Additionally, investing in community-based adaptation, resilience-building, and livelihood diversification measures can

empower displaced populations to cope with climate impacts and build sustainable futures.

Furthermore, addressing the gender dimensions of climate-induced displacement is crucial, recognizing the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls in adapting to environmental changes and accessing resources and services. Promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and social inclusion is integral to building resilient communities and ensuring the rights and well-being of all individuals affected by climate-induced displacement.

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