

Climate Change and its Impacts on the Planet: A reflection

This paper will reflect what I, Ebba Eneqvist, and three people interviewed know about climate change. The interviews were conducted with three people, who all study in different departments of the Lund University School of Economics and Management. One is studying business economics, the second economics, and the third business law. The interviews were conducted at different times when the interviewee was alone together with me, meaning their answers were independent of each other. Overall, the general knowledge among these students was decent, compared to what we have learned in class, which is positive.

To summarize my own reasoning and knowledge behind climate change I believe that we ended up in this current state because of ignorance and a desire to be ignorant. What I mean by a desire to be ignorant is that we people often live by what we do not know will not hurt us, as the awareness spreads however, the problem will be harder to ignore. Through the revolutions of industrialization and technology, we have used the world's resources without acknowledging the limitations of Earth. I will argue that humans have for a long time put themselves and their needs before the climate.

In the interviews, it is evident that we have all agreed on why we are in this current state of things regarding climate change. A simple answer is the evolution of humanity while another participant developed this statement by arguing that the information given on climate change often has been biased where accurate information is difficult to find. Today, we can see actual statistics and numbers which provide knowledge of states of the environment, whereas historically information has been misrepresented and the problem undervalued. Another answer has also been that people in general have given up on trying to save the planet. A common reasoning is that one person can not do it all, for example, why should I not drive my car when everyone else is? We can all agree that if everyone thinks this way it will be very hard to make a change. This aspect can also be applied to countries as a whole, where it can seem meaningless for one country to reduce its emissions when large countries around the world are not doing anything about it.

The problem of large and rich countries continues when they take advantage of less developed countries and their lacking social structures. Countries but also large companies

can use these countries and places for their benefit such as using land or natural resources, which benefits only them. A common view by the interviewees is that these large companies' actions and effects on the environment are seen through because of the money that is at stake - human and environmental rights do not come first.

In the upcoming 100 years, my first concern is the rising sea levels and melting glaciers, which also was a common answer by all the participants. Some countries are at very high risk for flooding and even ending up below sea level. The rising sea levels also cause irregularities with ocean currents which puts many continents in danger. If the gulf stream for example breaches the Nordic countries are at risk for big changes in the climate. Another issue brought up by one participant was that the ozone layer is at high risk of rupturing, causing even higher temperatures on Earth but also an increase in UV radiation from the sun. Another participant mentioned an article they read about the significant increase in skin cancer, which could likely be caused by this. More thoughts on the future were also that many species are in danger of going extinct, which ruptures the whole ecosystem of the earth.

Looking at the world today, it is argued by the participants that actions definitely have been taken to address the threat of climate change. Firstly, technology seems to play a big role because of media that is able to put more attention to the problem. This involves more people but also younger generations. One participant mentioned here that the media often puts public figures and companies responsible for their actions meaning it is harder for them to get away without consequences. Looking at what actually has been done all participants mentioned the 2030 agenda and also the millennial goals as actions taken by the UN to address the problem. However, as we have discussed in class, the goals should be less voluntary for a substantial change to be seen. Other more direct measures seen are taxes on various things such as plastics and carbon dioxide emissions.

To conclude, a general thought is that the problem of climate change has been ignored for a very long time because people put their own needs and wants before the planet. This has not only resulted in major environmental issues but also inequality, which is addressed in the 2030 agenda. The participants, however, all agreed that the agenda needs to be restructured and hold countries accountable for their actions in order to see a change. It was also discussed that media and digitalization draw more attention to the problem, and also include more people which makes it very hard to ignore. Lastly, the most discussed impact we will see over the next years is the rise in temperatures and sea levels which arguably will have a bigger effect than we think. **893 words.**