

Climate change affects the Indian monsoon and limits the amount of water to replenish groundwater. I remember back in childhood our water pump used to have an operating depth of around 20 feet, in the early 2000s they stopped working because the water level had fallen below 30 feet, and we had to replace it with a more powerful pump.

Around 2010 this pump also stopped working because the ground water level had dropped below 70 feet then we had to buy a more advanced submersible pump. It is still working but the water pressure is not that strong. There is only one explanation, in the past 20 years, we have had mostly short extreme rains and complete dry seasons. It is the weak and moderate sustained rain events that are responsible for groundwater recharge. Sadly, these events are infrequent now.

Talking about climate change and its consequences, I don't think we are going to experience abrupt catastrophic climatic effects such as depicted in the movie "The day after tomorrow". I come from a water-scarce area, here, climate change will manifest itself in ever-growing water queues. A poor and densely populated place like ours is fully dependent on groundwater resources. Any prolonged disruption in monsoon will slowly drain already depleting groundwater resources.

Every morning there will be mayhem on the streets, thousands of people pushing each other and rushing to get to the water tankers, With each passing day this crowd will only get bigger, and along with them will increase mass panic and frustration. I have seen a glimpse of that impending disaster during the recent corona crisis when oxygen shortage had brought the worst out of people, men had become so desperate that they were ready to kill each other over an oxygen cylinder, and women were ready to trade their dignity just to buy some breaths for their loved ones, except it will happen on a much much massive scale. People who can afford it will start moving one by one elsewhere, those who cannot accept the daily water struggle as their fate, and one day there will be nothing left to even struggle for and then mass migration will begin.