

# Violation of Women Human Rights at the time of Natural Disaster is itself a Disaster

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**Abstract:** - The constitution of India provides human environmental rights to ensure social, political and economic justice and equality to its citizens, ensuring amongst others, decent standard of life, to improve public health and sanitation, organize agriculture and animal husbandry to both men and women equally. Every person enjoys the right to a wholesome environment, which is an aspect of the “right to life & personal liberty” guaranteed in the article 21 of the Indian Constitution. All human beings have the fundamental right to reside in an environment adequate for their health and well being. Out of the two concepts of Environmental Rights, the first is “Right to healthy and adequate environment” and the other one is the idea that “Environmental Human Rights can be derived from other human rights, usually-the right to life, the right to health, the right to private family life and the right to property.” But the onset of various environmental issues, especially “climate change”, has created violation of these rights and also potential conflicts between different human rights especially for women. Human rights ultimately require a working ecosystem and healthy environment, but the granting of certain rights to individuals may damage these. Such as the conflict between right to decide number of offspring and the common need for a healthy environment.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### *India Is For Every Human Being Irrespective Of Gender*

India's climate is both diverse and changing. The south experiences tropical climate, through to more temperate conditions to the alpine regions of the north where elevated areas receive sustained winter snowfall. The Himalayas provide a barrier to the cold winds of Continental Asia and helps the development of the monsoon during the rainy season (June-September) when over 70% of the annual precipitation falls. This results in a warm climate across most of India throughout the year, where temperature can exceed 40 degrees, but also falls below freezing in the deserts of North and Kashmir.

Global temperatures have already increased by 0.7 degrees over the past century and are projected to further increase by a minimum of 1.8 degrees to a maximum of 4 degrees before the end of this century, depending on our ability to act quickly to combat climate change. While climate change affects everyone, it is the poor who are on the frontline. This article shows the devastating impacts that climate change is having on the people of India & their rights and highlights the threat to sustainable social and economic development.

### *Impacts of Climate Change On Humans In India And Violation Of The Human Rights Of Women.*

Although agriculture contributes only 21% of India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product), its important in the countries

economic, social, and political field that fabric goes well beyond this indicator. Rural areas are still home to some 72%

of India's 1.1 billion people, most of which are poor and marginalized and rely on agriculture as their main source of income (World Bank 2009). Smaller farms are dependent on timely and sufficient rainfall during the monsoon for high crop yields. However with the changing climate, rainfall patterns have become erratic and reduced leaving farmers exposed to many risks including droughts, floods, disease of both crops and animals and unpredictable market irregularities. Indeed it is estimated that every 1 degree increase in temperature is likely to lead to a 5-10% reduction in yields of some crops. Food security has deteriorated since 1995 and reductions in child malnutrition are unlikely to reach targets set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Climate change will have a significant impact on food security and malnutrition, as changes in patterns of extreme weather events will affect the stability of, and indeed access to, food supplies.

The effect of the rising temperatures across the Earth's surface will lead to changes in average temperatures, rainfall patterns and monsoon timings. Indeed the climate has already begun to change and if we do not act fast, it has potential to undermine human development in India and across the world. As the climate is changing, there is going to be an increasing impact on human health. Temperatures will rise and lead to an increasing frequency of heat waves, ultimately increasing incidents of illness and deaths in India. Food and water supplies will be affected and the rate of disease will escalate, predominantly affecting the poor and marginalized who are often forced to live in overcrowded conditions with limited access to water and sanitation. As coastal population are further displayed rising sea levels, migration will perpetuate

levels of and infection due to the unstable living conditions with limited sanitation facilities and access to clean water and food.

The changing climate and the increasing population of our country will lead to a strain on resources. The widespread affect that climate change is expected to have on agriculture and rural livelihoods will lead to greater migration from rural areas to urban, further straining the resources in these centers too.

Women in India, especially in rural areas, are often responsible for providing daily essentials such as food and water. Climate change will lead to increased hardship for India's poorest women. When a climate change related disasters strike, research has shown that workload on women and girls increases, thus leading to their exclusion from opportunities like education and a diminishment in their equal participation in development. For example, deforestation increases the time women need to spend looking for fuel. Research has further shown that women have means to adapt and prepare for extreme weather conditions.

Many poor women are also actively engaged in agricultural activities, including paddy cultivation and fishing that will be affected by changing weather patterns in India, loss of livelihood will increase their vulnerability and marginalization.

## II. CONCLUSION

Hard measures should be taken in respect of the changing climate to provide better life to the peoples of India. Climate change is mainly influenced by the human activities and is of government concern as well as the individuals. Droughts, floods, loss of crops and other natural disasters are the result of human activities like deforestation, population, pollution etc and on the whole they lead to the violation various human environmental rights like "right to healthy and adequate environment" and "right to life and personal liberty", so should be taken into hard measure by the government for the development of the individual and hence the country, before its too late.

"Women are the power house of the society"

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