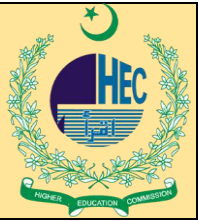




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Print ISSN: [3006-2497](#) Online ISSN: [3006-2500](#)Platform & Workflow by: [Open Journal Systems](#)<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17379371>**The Impact of Climate Change on Women's Livelihoods and Well-Being in Balochistan****Shah Khalid Baloch**

Lecturer, Gender & Development Studies Department University of Balochistan, Quetta

khldbaloch@gmail.com**Dr. Nasreen Samar**

Assistant Professor, Gender & Development Studies Department University of Balochistan, Quetta

samarnasreen@yahoo.com**Dr. Rubeena Batool**

Lecturer, Gender & Development Studies Department University of Balochistan, Quetta

rubeenabatool@yahoo.com**ABSTRACT**

Climate change is a universal problem that has the far reaching consequences with the greatest influence on groups most vulnerable to it especially the women in the developing world. The given case study analyzes the impact of climate change on the livelihood and health of women in Balochistan (Pakistan) in various ways. Balochistan, with its dry climate and socioeconomic barriers is one of the regions with many climatic related problems such as droughts, disorderly rainfall and heat waves. In this research, the researchers explained how climate change exacerbates gender inequalities in Balochistan by widespread literature review. The region is still more sensitive to women, as they are the ones who do farming, who take care of the home and make the community stronger yet have an unfair share of the resources and power. Secondary information revealed that the variability of the climatic system affects the process of agriculture, reducing the crop harvest and complicating the role of women as caregivers and food providers to their families. Their issues are aggravated due to the lack of water and natural resources, which cause impact on their physical and psychological health. Education and employment are also denied to them which makes adapting to such changes even more difficult. To address the impacts of the climate change issues on women in Balochistan we require a practical and comprehensive plan which encompasses policies and measures put in consideration the gender factor. Such things as facilitating the education of women, health care and employment, more women in decision-making processes, and sustainable agricultural practices that are capable of supporting variability in the weather are part of this.

Keywords: Climate Change, Vulnerability, Women's Livelihoods, Women's Well-Being.

INTRODUCTION:

Climate change is a grave issue to the entire globe, yet it impacts most those in an already marginalized and vulnerable state such as women in Baluchistan, Pakistan. Balochistan is a semi dry area that has a harsh climatic condition with extremes in temperature, droughts, and floods. Extreme weather events are becoming even graver when caused by climate change, which causes them to occur more frequently and violently. This impacts negatively on the health and their livelihoods since they frequently need to complete actions such as agriculture, gathering water, and different other duties that are severely impacted by the weather (IPCC, 2021).

The female population of Balochistan is skewed and they inhabit unplanned cities which predisposes them to the impacts of climate change. Women may find it harder to make money and grow crops due to droughts and floods which may cause the failure and depletion of crops. The existing health problems, such as malnutrition and respiratory issues, would also be exacerbated by climate change and are most dangerous to women and children (UNEP, 2021). Indirect impacts of climate change are being experienced by women in Balochistan which include poverty, food insecurity and violence against women. Two sets of inequalities are increasing because of climate change, hindering the access of women to resources and possibilities (Zafar et al., 2023).

It is a study that explores how climate change affects the livelihood and the well-being of women in Balochistan, Pakistan. Secondary data was embraced in the paper to discuss the following main areas:

1. Climate change and its impacts to agricultural livelihoods of women.
2. The impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of women.
3. The impacts of climate change on the poverty and food insecurity of women.
4. The impacts of climate change on violence against women.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

The literature review presents that the climate change does not treat the well-being and health of women in Baluchistan, Pakistan seriously. Currently, the province is experiencing a great number of climate-related issues, among which are water shortage, drought and adverse climatic conditions. Women are the most affected by these challenges because they rely more on natural resources as part of their livelihoods and do not have the capacity to undergo unfavorable consequences of climate change (Ahmed et al., 2012).

Lack of water is the biggest effect of the climate change on the livelihood of women in Balochistan. Women do the main role of collecting the waters in their family and they are the first to suffer whenever there are shortages of water. This may imply that women have to work harder since they should walk long distances and also take more time to get water. It may result in a rise of water resource conflict. (Siddiqui et al., 2018).

One of the issues brought about by climate is drought which complicates how the women can have a source of livelihood in Balochistan. Drought causes crops to be destroyed and loss of animals, which severely affects the families that are based on farming to get food. Women are also the ones that may deal with food production and livestock care, which exposes them to drought (Hussain et al., 2016).

Extreme weather facilities such as floods and landslides are increasingly becoming common in Balochistan due to climate change. These incidents have the potential of destroying houses and infrastructures and they even have the ability of forcing the victims to leave their towns. A greater number of women tend to experience vulnerability when faced with adverse weather patterns since they are more likely to be in poverty and limited to few resources (Fatima et al., 2013).

Besides indirectly affecting the livelihoods of women in Balochistan, climate change is also imposing some indirect effects on the health of women. Food insecurity can be aggravated by climate change, but such a situation has an adverse impact on the health condition of women and their nutrition. Climate change can also result in a greater number of people becoming displaced and migrant and disturbing the social networks of women, consequently leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse (Khan et al., 2017).

GENDER DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN BALOCHISTAN:

Over the past years, scholars have been progressively interested in learning the gender-differentiated effects of climate change in Balochistan. Research indicates that gender is a critical determinant of climate related disasters since women living in the region tend to bear the impact when compared to their male counterparts due to the fact that they are the ones who take care of others, handle water, and cultivate food. Women can be made vulnerable by the social system and gender expectations in Balochistan, which is patriarchal (Agarwal, 2010).

Gender roles and responsibilities

Women in Balochistan mainly attend to the home, which in most of the time, involves fetching water and firewood. The current issues are worsened due to climate change as women have to walk farther distances to obtain water and firewood due to a growing lack of water and deforestation (Saleem et al. 2017).

Access to resources and information

Females in Baluchistan have fewer resources and information as compared to males, and as such, they find it more difficult to address the impacts of climate change. As an illustration, women have less access to land ownership or access to loans and it is difficult to make investments on farming techniques capable of sustaining climate change (Ghani et al. 2017).

Gender-based violence

The prevailing gender inequalities can also be aggravated by climate change as it exposes women and girls to more violence. In an example, climate change usually causes the displacement of women and the latter results in making them more vulnerable to violence.

Impacts on women's health

Climate change affects the health of women in a negative way. Heat waves may cause heatstroke and other health-related problems, which are particularly harmful to expecting mothers and children (Saleem et al. 2019).

POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY**Climate Change and Agricultural Productivity**

Balochistan uses agriculture as the principal source of its economy and the effects of climate change on the state as fluctuating rainfall, droughts, temperature variations directly affect the crop production. According to Ahmed et al. (2018), women who are engaged in farming are facing cumulative problems in making ends meet because of low harvest.

Gendered Division of Labor and Agriculture

Literatures such as Gender and Agricultural Productivity in Balochistan by Khan et al (2016) identify how women and men perform different duties in agriculture sector such as weeding and harvesting. For example, women are usually assigned labor-demanding jobs such as weeding and harvesting. Climate change drives a change in crop patterns and a shortage of water, thereby, having a more significant impact on women in the agricultural sector, which increases their tendency to be poor and starving.

Water Scarcity and Women's Burden

Balochistan has limited water resources and due to climate change, droughts are increased and extended. Women are the ones who suffer most as a consequence of the water shortages due to the fact that they are the ones who collect and use water. According to the results of the researches conducted by Saleem et al (2017), rivers and wells have been drained forcing women to go further.

Food Insecurity and Nutrition

Food security and nutrition are also impacted by changes in the climate that impact farming. It is only that women are vulnerable in periods of food shortage since they are the ones who cook

and provide their families with the right nutrients. A study by Saif et al. (2022) showed that there have been changes in the quality and quantity of food supplied, which makes women difficult to feed their families adequately.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This paper is focused on how climate change affects the lives and welfare of women in Balochistan, which is a state characterized by high susceptibility to climatic changes. In this research, the secondary research methods were mainly used to collect and review the existing data, reports and scholarly articles.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

The research revealed that climate change has severe impacts on the health and livelihood of women in Balochistan. Women would tend to rely on natural resources as a source of food including farming and cattle rearing. Problems associated with climate change such as drought, water scarcity, severe weather conditions are complicating the nature of conducting these activities.

The analysis also indicated that the indirect effects of climate change on the health of women are numerous. The climate change results in inexperienced food safety that is both damaging to the wellbeing and the nutrition of women. Climate change can contribute to more displacement and migration, and hence, it can interfere with the social networks of women and expose them to exploitation and mistreatment.

The study came up with different factors contributing to the fact that women in Balochistan are exceptionally susceptible to climatic change effects. The factors include:

Poverty: Women in Balochistan are prone to poverty compared to males. This complicates the process of them addressing the adverse impacts of climatic changes including the loss of crops and livestock mortality.

Resource deprivation: Women in Balochistan do not have access to their resources such as land, water and income. This renders them hard to cope with the consequences of climate change.

Cultural factors: This fact can make women in Balochistan more susceptible to the impacts of climate change. In Balochistan, women are frequently forced to do the housework and child care, thus they lack time and freedom to travel. This may leave them with problems in accessing help and resource.

CONCLUSION:

The research article goes ahead to highlight the dire successfulness of gender-sensitive policies and initiatives aimed at curbing the negative impact of climate change on women livelihood and wellbeing in Balochistan. It focuses on women strength in the area and also places emphasis on ensuring their efforts are supported to overcome the shifting climatic issues.

Anthropologists and policymakers/practitioners make a series of recommendations that the study concludes with. These are recommendations that include:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Resources that will fund projects and programs that assist women to cope with climate change. This may involve programs assisting in accessing resistant crop varieties to drought and livestock insurances as well as technologies that achieve water conservation.
- Raising awareness on the difference in the impact of climate change on both men and women, including providing women with the necessary resources to deal with the consequences of climate change. This may involve educating women on how they can address climate change and provision of information and resources.

- Analyzing the core factors that make women in the Balochistan region exceptionally susceptible to the effects of climate change, including poverty and the lack of resources. This may involve spending the money in social safety nets and gender equality programs.

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