

Effects of Climate Change on Developing Countries



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Abstract

It is widely accepted that the environment is an intrinsic part of any development effort since it influences and in many cases dictates how people develop. On the other hand, the environmental cost of development and human progress is of critical concern as it raises issues of the ability to sustain progress and intergenerational unity. Over the past decade, there has been a shift in development and climate change discourse towards an understanding that climate change exacerbates existing development challenges, making the poor more vulnerable and pushing those on the margins closer to the edge.

Effects of Climate Change on Food Security, Nutrition and Agriculture

Climate change exacerbates the risk of hunger and under-nutrition through extreme weather events and long term and gradual climate risk such as sea level rises and accelerated glacial melt. It could affect all dimensions of food security and nutrition in complex ways, altering food production, access and utilization as well as nutrition.

Loss of crop land will also come as sea levels rise, reducing the harvest area of a number of countries with low lying fertile deltas.

Selected References

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Definition of Terms

Climate Change refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time.

Developing Countries are countries that depend on agriculture as the mainstay of their economy.



Effects of Climate Change on Education

Climate change has the potential to cause serious disruptions to children's schooling and education is a vital tool in tackling climate change. Children and adolescents from the poorest households are at least three times more likely to be out of school than children from the richest households. An increase in occurrence and intensity of drought and disasters will reduce children's availability time while displacement and migration can reduce access to educational opportunities as well. Climate change has the potential to threaten and damage educational infrastructure directly making it physically impossible for children to attend school.

Cause of Climate Change

Natural Causes-

Volcanic activity

Human Causes-deforestation, burning of fossil fuel

Effects of Climate Change on Access to Energy, Water and Sanitation

Through changes in the distribution of water around the world and its seasonal and annual variability, people will feel the impact of climate change most strongly. The implications of climate change on water and sanitation are strong in spite of the progress. In 2011, 768 million people drew water from an unimproved source with the number of people without access to safe drinking water possibly two or three time higher than official estimates due to unclean sources. The challenge of meeting these needs is complicated by the expected changes in water quantity due to climate change. This affects the operation of existing water management practices and infrastructure such as hydropower and structural flood defense. With high reliance on hydropower in many developing countries, water supply shortages have already caused significant outages and load shedding.

Conclusion

Climate change impacts negatively on development of poor countries due to the interconnectedness of the impact on health, education and water sanitation. Whereas the evidence in some areas may be weak, policy analysts and implementers will have to improve on the quantitative analysis of the direct relationship of the impact.