

UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS AFFECT

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“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed” – Mahatma Gandhi.

Climate change is one of the biggest threats everyone is facing in the 21st century. 'Climate is sometimes flawed for the weather. But climate is different from the weather because it is measured over a long period of time. Whereas, it can change from day to day and from year to year. What comes to your mind when you think about climate change. If you think icebergs are melting or various animal species are getting extinct; you are not alone. Indians are getting concerned about climate change. We know it is real, and we think it is carried, but we tend to think about it in terms that are far removed from our everyday life. In fact, climate change has a direct relationship to all of us, in the most personal way. It has and will have dangerous health impacts on our society, our families, and children. For instance, in 2003 the extreme heatwave led to the death of more than 20,000 people in Europe and cause more than 1500 deaths in India. According to a study by the World Health Organization, it is estimated that between 2030 and 2050, changes in climatic conditions may cause around 250,000 additional deaths per year due to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea, and extreme temperature.

The change in climate does not only affect our health but also cause a great economic impact; which will result in a great change in the GDP and the economic conditions of the world. According to a study, it is estimated that if necessary actions are not taken to address the carbon emission, climate change could cost about 5-20% of the annual global GDP. Reasons like increased hurricanes and other natural disasters bring a great economic loss by damaged properties as well as infrastructures. Coral reefs generate about \$375 billion each year in goods and services, but due to changes in climate, the survival rates of these corals are under threat. Climate change has a great impact on the agricultural sector as well; the changes in the climate have impacted crop productivity, food supply, and food security. Higher temperatures eventually reduced the yield of desirable crops while encouraging weed and pest proliferation. Change in precipitation patterns increases the likelihood of short-term crop failures and long-run production declines.

Climate change is influencing each and every sector of society in its own different ways. Currently, India in its efforts to protect its last diminishing resources is facing environmental and socio-economic challenges. There is a huge change in the air and water quality, and they are worsening each day due to environmental pollution. It is estimated that by 2050, due to an increase in temperature by 2-2.5 o C, water in the river basins of the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra will be reduced. Various steps are taken at both national and international levels to resolve the issue of climate change. But it is not going to happen till each and every person on the planet comes together to save the earth and to provide a better future to the upcoming generations.