

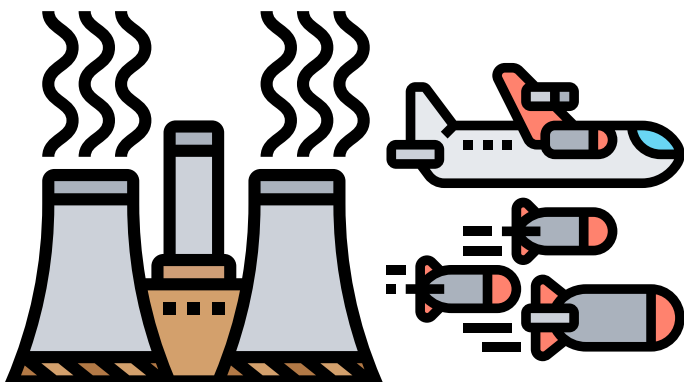
# RISK INVOLVED IN THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON

*By- Nimarpreet Kaur Kalsi*  
*Mata Sundri college for women, New Delhi*

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. The danger from such weapons arises from their very existence.

Nuclear weapons pose a direct and constant threat to people everywhere. Far from keeping the peace, they breed fear and mistrust among nations. These ultimate instruments of terror and mass destruction have no legitimate military or strategic utility and are useless in addressing any of today's real security threats, such as terrorism, climate change, extreme poverty, overpopulation, and disease.

While many thousands of nuclear weapons have been dismantled since the end of the cold war, the justifications for maintaining them remain largely unchanged. Nations still cling to the misguided idea of "nuclear deterrence", when it is clear that nuclear weapons only cause national and global insecurity. There have been many documented instances of the near-use of nuclear weapons as a result of miscalculations or accidents.



The UN office for disarmament affairs agrees that one nuclear bomb “can destroy a whole city potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects”.

## EFFECTS ON HUMANS

The health effects of nuclear explosions are due primarily to air blast, thermal radiation, initial nuclear radiation, residual nuclear radiation, and residual nuclear radiation or fallout.

Nuclear explosions produce air-blast effects similar to those produced by conventional explosives. The Shock wave can directly injure humans by rupturing eardrums or lungs or hurling people at high speed, but most casualties occur because of collapsing structures and flying debris.