

Chapter 1

Interwoven Realities: Gender, Environment, and Human Rights

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ABSTRACT

This chapter aims to narrow the existing information gap between climate change and human rights. This chapter serves as proof that climate change is a significant anthropogenic catastrophe and ecological calamity. To prioritise the interests of the most vulnerable individuals, it argues that decisions on climate change should consider human rights. This chapter emphasises the need for researchers, activists, and political leaders to have a broader perspective on climate change that extends beyond the apparent economic and environmental risks. Moreover, it is imperative to identify a feasible, equitable, and enduring resolution, as this issue poses a threat to fundamental human rights.

“Emphasizing that climate change-related impacts have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination and the right to safe drinking water and sanitation...”

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Climate change poses a significant threat to human rights, particularly impacting the basic rights of marginalized and vulnerable populations such as the elderly, women, children, and individuals living in poverty. Climate change has adversely affected essential needs such as sustenance, hydration, housing, and secure habitats, as well as causing increasing sea levels, erosion, severe weather events, and damage to biodiversity. Climate change poses a significant threat to several fundamental human rights, such as the right to life, the right to property, and the right to a sufficient means of subsistence. The imminent peril of submersion presents a grave menace to susceptible island nations, who risk losing their ancestral territory and cultural heritage if not forcibly relocated, potentially leading to the erosion of their distinctive way of life. Climate change poses a humanitarian dilemma of equal magnitude to its environmental impact. In order to safeguard justice and human rights, it is imperative to implement a climate action strategy that is centered around the principles of human rights. The integration of human rights concepts with climate action can lead to the attainment of transparency, justice, empowerment, and equitable treatment. This chapter aims to narrow the existing information gap between climate change and human rights. Climate change is a significant anthropogenic disaster and ecological calamity, as evidenced by this chapter. To prioritise the interests of the most vulnerable individuals, it argues that decisions on climate change should consider human rights. This chapter emphasises the need for researchers, activists, and political leaders to have a broader perspective on climate change that extends beyond the apparent economic and environmental risks. Moreover, it is imperative to identify a feasible, equitable, and enduring resolution as this issue poses a threat to fundamental human rights.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change poses a significant threat to human rights, particularly by infringing upon the fundamental rights of the most marginalised and vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, women, children, and those living in poverty. Climate change has had adverse effects on fundamental requirements like as sustenance, water, housing, and secure habitats, as well as on phenomena including escalating sea levels, erosion, severe weather events, and damage to biodiversity. Climate change has a significant impact on fundamental human rights such as property rights, the right to life, and the right to earn a living (Atapattu, 2015). Small island countries are in risk of being submerged, which might result in the loss of their native land and identity as well as the forced relocation that could cause a loss of culture. In addition

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