

Climate Change And Its Impact On Adolescent Girls Health: An Insight Indian Legal View

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Abstract

Not everyone is impacted equally by the climate emergency. Climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, mostly because they are over represented among the world's poor, who are heavily reliant on it. on the local natural resources for their sustenance. Women and girls are frequently in charge of ensuring food, water, and firewood for their families, especially in rural regions. Rural women walk greater distances, work harder, and devote more time to obtaining food and resources for their families throughout periods of erratic precipitation and drought. Climate change can worsen current conflicts, inequalities, and vulnerabilities, potentially increasing their risk of gender-based violence. Due to a lack of access to information, restricted mobility, decision-making ability, and resources, women and children are 14 times more likely than males to die during severe weather events. Women and girls account for around 4 out of every 5 persons uprooted by the consequences of climate change. The negative effects on women and girls are compounded by the disruption of essential services during acute catastrophes, such as sexual and reproductive health care. Given their position on the front lines of the climate crisis, women are in a unique position to be agents of change, helping to identify solutions to the problem. lessen the factors contributing to global warming and adjust to its consequences on the planet.

Keywords: Adolescent Girl, Climate Change, Health, Natural Resources

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is having a profound impact on global health: Extreme weather events, heat, water stress and air pollution are already exacerbating health issues and putting stress on overstretched healthcare systems. While in the past climate discussions focused mainly on energy, transportation or agriculture, health has remained a footnote for far too long.

It was therefore high time that health was put formally on the agenda at COP28 and that for the first time, health ministers attended the annual UN climate conference alongside their peers from agriculture, foreign and environment ministries. The COP28 presidency, in partnership with the World Health Organization and the UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention, announced the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, which was signed by over 120 countries.

It sends a strong signal: That climate policies need to shift towards a stronger focus on the social implications and government decisions. The declaration acknowledges the need for governments to prepare healthcare systems to cope with climate change and covers a range of areas, including reduction of emissions, increased financing for climate and health solutions, and the building of more climate-resilient health systems.

LITERATURE REVIEW

R. SUKUMAR AND H. SURESH

The flora history of the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore) has been investigated.

The western Ghats in Southern India have mountainous areas with an elevation of more than 2,000 meters above sea level. evergreen forests (3 plant types) mixed in with vast grasslands (C3 or C4)types), with reference to climate change from the late Quaternary through stable using carbon isotope analysis of peat deposits to identify C3 or C4 plant kinds.

They talked about the ramifications of the tropical mountain ecosystem, including in particular the make-up of the communities of angiosperms and vertebrates.

They drew attention that endemic animals like the Nilgiri would not. because of changes in the ecosystem and climate, the face is more vulnerable to extinction.

The purpose of a study performed by U.K. Kothiyari and V.P. Singh (1996) was to determine on trends in India's Ganga basin's temperature regimes and precipitation patterns the average yearly temperature for India as a whole, as well as the monsoon and yearly rainfall entirely, as well as on the amount of monsoon rain, the number of rainy days, and the annual maximum. The temperature of the Ganga was monitored using nonparametric methods. "Rainfall and temperature trends in India" is the title of their study, which aims to identify its trends. According to the study's findings, rainfall variables were trending downward. There was an upward tendency in temperature. Additionally, they noticed that these Trends started to emerge in the latter part of the 1960s and are now intangible. consequences for the Indian economy. This research makes a recommendation to design and manage the India's water resource system, but also a link between agricultural output and an attempt is made to identify climatic trends.

Evaporation time series were examined by N. Chattopadhyay and M. Hulme (1997). research on data from various sites throughout India, as well as for the whole nation The paper "Evaporation and potential evapotranspiration in India under conditions of recent and upcoming climate change".

They studied various seasons on both a short-term (15 years) and a long-term basis only on a short-term basis for pan evaporation and on a long-term (32 years) basis for transpiration that might occur.

The study analysis revealed that potential and pan evaporation both have an impact.

India has experienced a reduction in evapotranspiration in recent years.

The most likely meteorological variables responsible for such changes were identified. Future forecasts of possible evapotranspiration, as well as its constituent parts using data from six different world climates, develop energy and aerodynamics terminology for India.

Problem Statement

Climate change has become social as well as economic issue. Some argue that warming is either non-existent or too minor to worry about, some argue that the consequences are too mild to justify costly policy responses and other argue that the consequences are so threatening that immediate action is called for. Some sociologists declare that these consequences are spoiling mans' life in terms of life expectancy, health assurance and resources availability, at the same time how can economists stay away from this matter?

Because of the problem of climate change there is a need to develop a new paradigm which will ensure the long term survival of the agriculture growth process in India, so that it will benefit not only the present but, also the future generations. There is therefore, an urgent need to develop ways to cope up from changing climate, because the correlation between climatic conditions and agriculture growth of India is ensured by many studies and researches.

This study aims at studying the problem of climate change and its impact on health of adolescents girls in India. The study will endeavour of bring together scarce and scattered literature and data on "Climate Change" as well as on "impacts on health of gender specific and age specific ", so as to make it possible to build a clear picture of such a big problem- climate change situation in India. Further, this study aims at systematic analysis of the problem, the causes, consequence and possible solution of climate change.

Finally, it aims to find out some facts and figures which may be useful as a guide to policy formation in matter concerning "Climate change and Adolescents girls health impacts in India". Because climate change is a worldwide issue and need global effort in a coordinated and concerted way on a continuous basis, so the study is essential to create awareness and empower the Indians to protect themselves from the negative impacts of changing climate as it can produce disastrous impacts on this age group and thereby, growth of India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Adolescent is a very important stage of development among the Homosapiens, which is also called a second decade of the life (WHO, 2001). There is a huge diversity among adolescents at the same age and between the ages. On one side they are sexually active; on the other side they are not physically and emotionally mature and dependent on others. In some cases, they have their own children. —Each year, between 2 and 4 million adolescents undergo unsafe abortions, most often carried out illicitly by

unqualified practitioners (WHO, 2001). There is great diversity among adolescents of the same age, depending on the individual's sex, level of physical, psychological, social development and on the social environment and within the culture of the wider society. Yet many adolescents do die prematurely. —Every year, an estimated 1.7 million adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 lose their life because of accidents, suicide, violence, pregnancy related complications and illnesses that are either preventable or treatable. Millions more suffer chronic ill health issues and disablement that may have a lifetime impact (WHO, 2001). In Indian society, there is a lack of communication and discussion between parents and adolescents especially about sensitive issues. The present research study entitled —A study of Health of Adolescent Girls in climate change scenario. It is an attempt to understand the health issues of adolescents with their physical, biological, social, psychological and emotional aspects and relationship with the family environment.

Every research needs a design that involves the plan of a research. Research design is an integral part of research process and a systematic plan to study a specific problem. —A research design is the specification of methods and procedures for acquiring the information needed. It is the overall operational pattern or framework of the project that stipulates what information is to be collected from which source and by what procedure.

The present study is exploratory cum descriptive in nature involving the Interview, Observation and Interview schedule as research tools. The main focus is on factfinding and explore the new concepts of adolescent girl's mental health and obtain clarity about the emerged issues related to the awareness and prevention of mental health. Exploratory research studies also known as formulative research design the major function of which is formulating and study a problem through the literature reviewed for a more specific investigation. The aim of an exploratory study is clarification of concepts, establishing priorities for future research, to seek new insight and collection of data about the actual conditions. Further, the research is descriptive the fact-finding exercise that it was in line with the usage of structured interview schedule and based on a representative sample and the data obtained are subjected to quantitative analysis. These approaches were used for the present study with the help of suitable tools for collecting data for the sample population. The researcher had made an attempt to interpret the collected facts with the quantitative as well as qualitative analysis.

The Indian Supreme Court's historic decision in *M.K. Ranjitsinh & Ors. v. Union of India*, came at a time when the climate problem was posing existential threats. The constitutional change is represented by the & Ors. (2024). The Court ruled for the first time that the "right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change" is essential to the fundamental the rights guaranteed by Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantee the right to equality and life. Initially, the case focused on safeguarding the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, but its scope eventually broadened to encompass India's larger commitments under international environmental agreements and its constitutional obligation to protect human life, health, and equality in the face of a quickly shifting climate.

The decision, which was based on earlier precedents like *Virender Gaur v. State of Haryana*, (1994) and *M.C.*, successfully integrated this right into the constitutional structure. *Mehta v. Kamal Nath* (2000), where the court connected the right to life with environmental integrity. But this ruling goes beyond that. It establishes a clear right to protection from climate change, particularly when it disproportionately impacts the underprivileged, indigenous communities, and other at-risk groups. Food shortages from failed crops, droughts, rising sea levels, and pollution pose a threat to human health and income as well as a denial of dignity and equality, in contravention of both Article 21 and Article 14.

The Court's Judgment

The Court observed that India does not have a single climate change law but rather a legislative framework that includes the Energy Protection Act of 1986, the Environment Protection Act, and other laws. The Conservation Act of 2001 demonstrates a consistent legislative desire to address environmental deterioration. Additionally, the Constitution's Articles 48A and 51A(g) were emphasized for placing obligations on the State and people, respectively, to safeguard the environment.

International law and treaties served as the foundation for the Court's decision. It reaffirmed India's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly Article 3(1) of the UNFCCC, which calls for governments to take action. to safeguard current

and future generations "on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities." Additionally, the Court cited the joint statement made by five UN treaty bodies in 2019, which stated that neglecting to lessen foreseeable climate damage might be tantamount to a violation of international law. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights's contribution to COP 21 in Paris, which clearly violates human rights commitments, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights's contribution to COP 21 in Paris, which explicitly violates human rights obligations. recognized the connection between human rights abuses and climate change.

International Acclaim

India is now part of a growing worldwide movement that seeks to establish environmental protection as a fundamental human right. In 1976, Portugal became the first nation to include the right to a healthy environment in its Constitution. Over 155 nations have since ratified some version of this right via regional human rights treaties, statutory law, or constitutional provisions, confirming it. the global community agrees that the environment is essential to human health. The United Nations General Assembly's 2022 resolution declaring access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment a universal human right has strengthened this movement in recent years.

Globally, India is not the only nation that acknowledges environmental harm as a violation of rights. The Dutch Supreme Court ruled in *State of the Netherlands v. Urgenda*, Foundation (2015) that emissions should be reduced in order to safeguard rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. rights under the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), specifically Articles 2 and 8. In the case of *Held v. State*, (2024), the Montana Supreme Court of the United States decided that young plaintiffs have a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes a stable climate. It applied rigorous scrutiny, upheld the plaintiffs' standing, and overturned a state regulation that prohibited greenhouse gas emissions from being taken into account during reviews.

The Indian court highlighted how climate change disproportionately affects women and marginalized populations. Based on UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 and reports from the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, the Court recognized that there was a deficiency. The lack of clean energy access worsens gender inequality and health dangers, especially in rural India, where indoor air pollution continues to be a silent killer.

In the end, this ruling is not just about environmental governance or species protection. It is a human rights determination, acknowledging that sustainable development, clean air, and a healthy environment are fundamental human rights. And climate resilience cannot be separated from human dignity. As the former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud pointed out, "Without a clean environment which is stable the right to life is not completely realized because it is unaffected by the vagaries of climate change." "The defining task of the 21st century is making peace with nature," according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres. India joins a chorus of nations demanding immediate, rights-based climate action worldwide as a result of this revolutionary decision. Some dissenting opinions still exist, though, with wealthier, oil-rich nations reversing course on their promises to achieve climate targets. The battle against climate change is essentially a struggle for justice.

The key constitutional change is represented by & Ors. (2024). The "right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change" was recognized by the Court for the first time as being essential to the fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 21 and 14 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and equality. Initially, the case centered on the protection of the endangered Great Indian Bustard, but it eventually widened its focus to include India's larger responsibilities under international environmental accords and treaties. its constitutional obligation to protect human life, health, and equality in the face of a quickly changing climate.

The decision relied on prior precedents like *Virender Gaur v. State of Haryana*, (1994) and *M.C. to ground this right within the constitutional framework*. In *Mehta v. Kamal Nath* (2000), the Court established a direct connection between environmental integrity and the right to life. But this decision goes beyond that. It establishes a clear right against climate change, particularly when it disproportionately harms the poor, native communities, and other marginalized groups. Rising sea levels, droughts, food scarcity from failing crops, and pollution endanger health and livelihood as well as represent a denial of human dignity and equality, which contravenes Articles 21 and 14.

The Court's Evaluation

India's legislative framework, which extends from the Environment Protection Act (1986) to the Energy Conservation Act (2001), does not have a single piece of climate change legislation, the Court observed. The continued legislative goal of preventing environmental destruction is reflected in the Conservation Act of 2001. Additionally, attention was drawn to the responsibilities imposed on the State and citizens, respectively, by Articles 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution for protecting the natural environment.

The Court's decision was heavily influenced by international law and treaties. Specifically, it restated India's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly Article 3(1), which calls upon nations to take action. "on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities" to safeguard current and future generations. The Court also cited the joint declaration made by five UN treaty bodies (2019) stating that failing to take action to lessen potential climate damage may constitute a breach of international law. violation of human rights obligations, as well as the contribution by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to COP 21 in Paris, which explicitly acknowledged the links between climate instability and human rights deprivations.

Objectives of the Study

From the above discussion we see that there multiple problems are associated with climate change and female age group falling under the specific category world be worst affected, which in turn, will affect the future growth of India. Keeping in view the above, this study will analyze the problem of climate change and its impact on the health of gender specific age group nation as a broad objective. The major objectives of this study are:

- To understand the event of climate change and its impact in India profoundly.
- To assess the vulnerability of the Indian Health Sector to climate change and its impacts.
- To analyze the intensity of the factors of environment degradation and climate change separately.
- To describe environmental degradation, climate change and adolescents girls health impact growth situation of India
- To identify the prominent factors of climate change in India

CONCLUSION AND JUDGEMENT

A person learns to establish himself in society and find his own identity. As a result, it is one of the most all the developmental processes and difficult times in life. The cause of this is that the the portion of the worldwide discussion that should focus on adolescence and its related concerns is due to the unprecedented number of young people in the world today.

Over 3 billion of the 7.2 billion people on Earth are under the age of 25, making them With about 1.2 billion people, or 42% of the world's population, classified as teenagers. One of the group of young people are teenagers between the ages of 10 and 19. One out of every six people in the world dies, and there are about 1.1 million adolescent deaths annually. When considering the mental health of teenagers worldwide, it is estimated that that 14%—or 1 in 7—of 10- to 19-year-olds have mental health issues, but that these issues are not addressed. continue to be mostly untreated and unnoticed, and teenagers with mental health issues Social exclusion, prejudice, and stigma are all prevalent in these situations. (influencing one's willingness to seek assistance), academic challenges, and risk-taking actions. infringements of human rights and physical ill-health" (Adolescent health: WHO, 2021).

The fact that we live in the twenty-first century, when the globe has made significant progress in nearly every area of existence, including: Nonetheless, the truth remains that mental health and health care are not the same thing. In the so-called advanced countries, the issues related to it are still regarded as taboos. and not much is said or talked about it in society. This entire study is based on the mental health of the adolescent females is so crucial.

This element of their life must be addressed before any discussion of it is possible on a global scale. Adolescence Being a girl has been described as a unique phase in a woman's life. It is also a It is connected to and accompanied by a number of other physical, even if there are physiological and cultural behaviours that are shared by all the cultures in the world.

Differences in how people recognize and facilitate cultural variances are highlighted by the variation's

adolescence as a unique period. It is the period of an adolescent girl's existence when the A woman's life is founded on a strong base. A physically and mentally healthy foundation is necessary.

The empowered women of the future will be the well-prepared adolescent girls. Because of how our society is structured, women are among the most vulnerable. This vulnerability begins at birth and affects several segments of our population. Problems like son meta preference and low are brought about by our culture. Tolerating girls in the family, killing female fetuses, giving less priority to girls' education, and early age marriage level, lack of, causing financial and social dependence understanding of menstruation management and related topics

All of these concerns contribute to it positive that women's lives are incomplete without mental health issues and that they must consistently fight mental health issues. The extent and, thus, the severity of the issues varies between men and women, as do the approaches and The methods for addressing these issues also differ. –It is also observed that during Girls have particular needs during adolescence, including physical, emotional, and psychological ones.to be satisfied socially. The non-fulfillment or insufficient fulfillment of these needs give rise to a variety of biological, social, and psychological issues. If the These girls may be helpful if their social and psychological needs are recognized.by understanding their social and psychological challenges, a support plan can then be developed to address them.

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