

# Causes and Effects of Climate Change in Education

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**Dr. T. Vinsela Jeev**

*Assistant Professor of History  
Bishop Heber College (Autonomous), Trichy*

## Abstract

*Climate change is a predominant and an alarming affair in today's world. Climate change is occurring at a very fast rate, and its effect is visible all around the world. It creates a deep impact and rapid changes in every sphere of life. It affects the living condition of every section of the world population, and children are also experiencing the effects. One of the most important element that transforms the human life is education. Education determines the future of the planet and changes every human life. Climatic change has a direct impact in education too. The primary impact of climate change on education arise from the effects of extreme weather events, such as heavy rain accompanied by flash floods, strong winds and hail storms with short and long-term consequences. More than 90 percent of schools in many areas were destroyed in the wake of the disaster. Some of the important defects of Climate Change on Education, challenges and risks to education from Climate Change in Society, Destruction of the School Infrastructure, Health Complication of School students, Impacts of Climate Change on Education and so on. Climate Change affects the teaching staff too, in turn reduces their contribution to the student community and society, leads to the reduction of the rate of transformation and radical changes of the society.*

**Keywords :** Climate Change, Education, Globe, Students, Schools.

## Introduction

Climate change occupies a prime place in every changes of the planet. Rapid urbanisation and material world led to dramatic change in the environment. Increase of population too compelled the human beings to convert the vegetation into inhabitations and factories, that made the nature to take another turn that was hazardous to living beings. Climate change also has a negative impact on the health of children in the long run. It directly leads to hunger and malnutrition among children. Stunting, both physically and mentally, is a result of malnutrition. Education determines the future of the planet and changes of every human life. Drought and increasing temperature leads to poor harvests and food scarcity which have negative impacts upon educational attainment. Extreme weather events reduce the availability of safe drinking water, compromise sanitation and increase the incidence of weather related diseases such as malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, leading to absenteeism and possible withdrawal of children from school.

Beside the primary impacts, climate changes has secondary impacts on education, arising from the ways in which households respond to, or choose to cope with and adapt to climate change as evidenced by income supplementing activities of household members,

migration and child marriages. The primary cause of climate change is human activities – like cutting down forest, power generation creates tremendous changes in the climate. Human activities release gases into the atmosphere called greenhouse gases, which slowly warm the planet, creating climate change. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Today in the United States, electricity and transportation (cars, trucks, and planes) are responsible for the release of a major portion of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Climate Change and Education**

The present climatic conditions and deterioration in them have created challenges and issues in the field of education. According to the report of UNESCO, every year, 17.2 million people around the globe got displaced from their homes because of natural disasters. Mass displacement from the home ground not only leads to an overall deterioration in living conditions but also causes disruption in education. School infrastructure was also destroyed due to natural disasters, triggered by climate change at several occasions. This exposes how education is eclipsed under the shadow of climate change. If climate change crushes down the human society as we know it today, what use will it be to educating the future generation for the coming years? Therefore, it is important to create radical changes in the society and also stakeholders to know about the challenges and risks that threaten global education due to climate change.

### **Challenges to Education**

Every year, the climate change poses a risk to 2.2 billion children globally, and this number is ever-increasing. The resolution for climate change challenges is necessary if the aim is to preserve the future of those children. The data from UNICEF offers insights into how serious problem arises due to climate change in the life of children and their education at the grass root level.

### **Destruction of School Infrastructure**

Destruction of the school infrastructure is an important factor that affects education. School buildings and infrastructure are very crucial for the success of the education system around the globe. Due to the climate change, natural disasters are increasing in number and affect the communities and educational infrastructure. When everything is destroyed by natural disasters, the first instinct of the leaders shall be not to rebuild schools, but focus on basic needs like shelter, food and compensation. Therefore, the children of affected areas are kept away from school education for years. More than 90 percent of schools in many areas were destroyed in the wake of the disaster.

### **Health Complication of School Students**

Health complication also has a negative impact on the health of children in the long run. It leads to hunger and malnutrition among children. Stunting, both affected physically and mentally, is a result of malnutrition. Stunting can lead to poor performance of the children in school. This also leads to the failure of objectives in the field of education. Children in their initial stage of development in the early five years fall prey to heat stroke diseases and dehydration due to climate change. In this way the climate change not only affects and cripples the education system, but the development of the future generation.

### **Financial Implications**

Financial reasons keep children out of school at several occasions. The present generation of children and adults are witnessing most of the effects of climate change, and these impacts are affecting them greatly. However, the ramifications of this will also be felt by future generations.

Parents are grappling with hunger, poverty and financial issues as a snowball effect of climate change. For example, some families at the grassroots level who earn a living by farming are facing acute poverty because they are unable to produce crops and sell a lot of them. This induced poverty triggers the lack of education for the child as they cannot afford education in the long term. The basic issues of hunger and money take the front seat when climate change poses a challenge. Financial problem can lead to relationship problems, physical health problems, and mental health issues, such as depression or anxiety. The most common financial problems people may face are lack of income, unemployment, unexpected expenses and inflation.

### **Impact of Climate Change on Teaching Staff**

Climate change does not spare the teaching staff too. It also affects them on many aspects. No one really escapes the threats put up by climate change. For example, if there is a natural disaster like drought, flood, or cyclone in an area, it might cut the area off from the outer world. When it is cut off, the teachers who travel to that place to teach the kids can no longer reach the place. Even though a teacher is living in the area, any property loss or injury due to climate change effects can cause a disruption in the services. With the absence of proper teaching staff, the education system of a place crumbles and does not support the children of the area.

### **Impact on Education**

The impacts of climate change are felt everywhere on the earth. However, the most affected areas at the present time are the tropics. The temperature rise in the tropical areas, coupled with extremely high rainfall, causes disruption in the schooling years of the children of those areas. Even though measures are being taken to limit the effect of global warming and climate change, the efforts need to be scaled up. According to report of IPCC 2022, limiting the global warming by 1.5°C is not safe for all and additionally 350 million people will face water scarcity by 2030. The water scarcity and other naturally triggered issues in people's lives will ultimately affect the growth and education potential of the children. The mitigation of climate change risks and the resolution of issues from a very early stage is important for the continuation of child development and education. The awareness of climate risks and possible outcomes can start inside the classroom itself. Apart from educating the future generation, the education system can also teach adults to take responsibility and make climate-conscious choices in the present. The natural disasters becoming frequent and are coupled with other risks too. It is important that stakeholders and education officers should come up with solutions to support children's schooling and development.

### **Conclusion**

Knowledge regarding this phenomenon helps young people to understand and tackle the consequences of global warming, encourages them to change their behavior and helps them to adapt to what is already a global emergency. Education is a crucial factor that promotes climate action helps people to understand and address the impacts of the climate crisis, empowering them with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed to act as agents of change. It aims to help individuals understand the complex nature of climate change, and to empower them to take action to mitigate and adapt to its effects. Those awareness education takes many forms, including classroom instruction, public awareness campaigns, community-based initiatives, and online resources, that helps to create a better society.

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