

**THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE HEALTH AND NUTRITION AMONG  
WOMEN IN INDIA**

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**Abstract**

India has a climate of tropical monsoon in which the climate is largely depending on the blow of monsoon wind. Indian climate is very peculiar and so much so it has changes over time. There are many factors affecting the changes in climate including the natural forces of photosynthesis, eruption of volcano and vapours. But the man made changes are more problematic and this is due to the dreadful land use pattern, large use of vehicles, emission of green house gases from factories, polluting water outlets and deforestation. The changing climate leads to several problems like global warming, increasing sea water level, water and air pollution, increasing heat, droughts and floods and ozone layer depletion. These are not only affect the economic conditions but also the social life of the country. The health problem confronted by the society is an important issue among this and the health of women and children need a great concern. Several studies found out that the lower socio-economic status, extreme poverty and malnutrition lead women to more vulnerable to climate change than their male counterpart. The biological difference between men and women is another important reason for this vulnerability. This study analyses the impact of climate change on the health and nutrition among women in India.

**Key words:** climate, women, food insecurity, health, poverty, malnutrition.

**Introduction**

India is the seventh largest country in the world, having an area of 3,287,263 lakh square kilometres, and is bounded by three oceans on its southern, south-western and north-eastern regions. India lies on the tropical region and shares its boundary with seven countries. The Indian sub continent occupies many mountain ranges and hills including Himalayas on the north, karakoram on the west, Ghasi and Miso hills on the east and they have an important role in determining the climatic conditions in the country. Indian climate is usually said to be tropical monsoon in which the blow of monsoon wind determines the climate. The word monsoon is derived from an Arabic word 'mausim' which means seasonal reversal in the direction of wind and so the Indian climate is very unique.

Climatic conditions have a great influence in the lives of people. The change in climate leads to many problems in the economy including indebtedness, environmental degradation, food insecurity, adverse impact on infrastructure, global trade and macro economic variables, increasing inequality and number of poor and also spread of diseases. The severe climate change may cause furious disasters including natural disasters like volcano eruption, heavy snow fall, flood and drought, rising sea level and man-made troubles of deforestation, green house gases, rising temperature, ozone layer depletion and pollutions. A study taken by Centre For Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) in 2018, found that the most common disaster type in India was flooding (55%), followed by storms (22%), extreme temperatures (11%), landslides (7%), earth quakes (4%) and drought(1%). According to World Air Quality Report, 2020, the top thirty five polluted cities out of fifty in the world are from India. The country also stands twelfth position among sixty countries in emitting Green House Gases (GHGs) (Climate Change Performance Index, 2021) and was the seventh worst-hit country due to the extreme weather conditions in 2019 (Global Climate Risk Index, 2021).