



Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence: A Study of Flood-Affected Women in Rural Sindh, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This study highlights a significant trend among nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in coping with the challenges they frequently face. Across the world, many NGOs are increasingly transforming into social enterprises. The core reason for this shift is the chase of self-sustainability, particularly financial sustainability, to achieve their long-term objectives of sustainable socioeconomic development. Through a literature review and case study method, this study explores the reasons behind these transformations and NGOs' innovative strategies. The research also emphasizes the institutionalization process, examining the needs, challenges at various stages, and opportunities NGOs encounter. To provide more precise insights, this study presents brief case studies of three renowned NGOs from different countries that have commercialized their activities by offering various revenue-generating products and services. Based on a detailed study and the concepts presented, the research recommends several policies to governments, stakeholders, and other concerned bodies. This simplified concept will help readers, concerned stakeholders and scholars understand this area better and add valuable knowledge.

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Introduction

Violence is defined as "any act of gender-based violence that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering, including the deprivation of liberty, whether it occurs in public or private life" (Sujatha, 2014) in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of

Violence Against Women, Resolution 48/104 of December 20, 1993. Environmental instability and gender inequality are closely linked to gender-based violence, and they impede social and economic advancement in addition to negatively impacting community well-being. Violence against women is more common than against men worldwide (Camey et al., 2020). Data indicates that gender-based violence affects roughly one in three women (The World Bank, 2019). The widespread violence and discrimination prevent victims from thriving and surviving as they typically would.

For many years, there has been much discussion and debate about domestic violence, a persistent problem. It can be interpreted and characterized in a number of ways; some define it as violence related to dowries, while others call it partner assault or wife bashing. The term "climate change-induced violence against women" is frequently used in studies that focus on violence against women, especially that which results from economic marginalization, poor social standing, and unfair treatment during climate-related disasters. In addition to aggravating already-existing gender disparities and raising rates of violence against women in disaster-prone areas, the effects of climate change have dramatically raised the dangers to the livelihoods of vulnerable populations around the world. South Asian nations face serious dangers such food and water shortages, relocation, and health concerns, making them among of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change (McAdam & Saul, 2010). Different populations are affected by climate change in different ways, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2018). Large-scale migration is anticipated in many nations as a result of water scarcity, agricultural disturbances, coastal floods, and increasing sea levels (McAdam & Saul, 2010).

There are important sociological ramifications of climate change as well (Myers, 1993). According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2015), women are especially at risk during man-made and natural catastrophes, as they are more likely to experience domestic and sexual abuse, which can have detrimental effects on their sexual and reproductive health. Women, who are already among the most abused and disenfranchised populations, are frequently subjected to physical and emotional abuse during and after catastrophes, both in relief camps and in homes (Rahman, 2013). For instance, reports of extensive sexual and physical abuse, as well as sexual harassment, against women and even young girls following the 2005 Kashmir earthquake were reported (Mehta & Manjari, 2007). Despite the necessity of addressing gender-specific concerns in climate change, there has been minimal progress in this field due to a dearth of research that incorporates a gendered viewpoint, as highlighted in the most recent UN Women report (Glemarec, 2016). According to the paper, merely labeling women as "vulnerable groups" minimizes their agency and role, so reducing their capacity to impact change. One of the main suggestions is that gender issues be included in climate change planning by giving women and girls more agency and a voice, as they are increasingly at risk of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence during disasters. The research also points out that "transactional sex"—women having sex in order to gain access—is mostly to blame for the abuse.

In contemporary gender and development research, gender-based violence in the wake of catastrophes is becoming a more prominent topic. Following natural disasters, there is a discernible trend of an increase in violence against women, which is frequently made worse by persistent discrimination that persists even after the event has gone. The physical and social well-being of women is adversely affected by this prejudice, which raises the risk of domestic violence. Significant mental stress can be brought on by things like poverty, losing one's work, and the trauma of losing a loved one. This can then produce irritation and even

violence in households (Molyneaux et al., 2019). It is commonly known that both man-made and natural disasters worsen mental health and increase the likelihood of depression. One of the most alarming outcomes is the increase in violence against.

Women in the Asia-Pacific area are notably underrepresented in studies on climate change and its effects, according to McLeod et al. (2018). In these research, gender-specific experiences and viewpoints are frequently disregarded. In a similar vein, Djoudi and Brockhaus (2011) discovered in their research on Mali that women's workloads rise in tandem with the impact of climate change on their livelihoods and dependence on forests and water.

Research has shown that climate change exacerbates gender-based violence, particularly in drought-prone regions of South Asia, where women and girls face heightened risks while traveling long distances to gather essential resources like firewood and water (Westermann & Pretty, 2005). Similar patterns have been observed in Bangladesh, where flooding increases women's exposure to harassment and other forms of violence due to disrupted social structures and displacement (Nasreen, 2012; Azad et al., 2013). These findings highlight how environmental crises deepen existing vulnerabilities, disproportionately affecting women in crisis-affected areas. Various economic groups experience climate change-related migration at various rates. Compared to those who are wealthy, marginalized and economically disadvantaged groups are more prone to migrate often (Udas et al., 2019). According to Sahavagi et al. (2015), after the earthquake, Nepal's rate of violence against women sharply increased. Additionally, reports show that rape and sexual assault are more common in camps for temporary settlement (Udas et al., 2019). The social acceptability of male dominance and religious views that uphold male superiority are also significant contributors to gender-based violence (Masson et al., 2019). Similarly, a research by Azad et al. (2013) on flood-induced vulnerabilities in northern Bangladesh showed how the harassment and violence experienced by women were made worse by flood circumstances.

Literature Review

Neither wealth nor gender are immune to the effects of climate change. According to recent research, men and women, as well as the rich and the disadvantaged, experience the consequences of climate change in different ways. Research indicates that women experience more inequality in climate-stressed settings because of their gender (Rahman, 2013). Not only do calamities affect women differently, but they also often react differently. For instance, women died at higher rates than men after a number of significant catastrophes, such as the 2010 mega floods in Pakistan, the 2007 cyclone in Bangladesh, the 2003 European heatwaves, and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami (Dasgupta et al., 2010).

Table 1: Latest research and the gaps

Year	Examined aspects	Research Gap	Citations
2000	Cleanliness issues in camps faced by the adolescent	Climate-change induced violence study is missing, while contributing with the related variables	Rashid, & Michaud, 2000.
2005	Direction of risk management towards disaster	Gender based research in climate is absent	Davis et al., 2005.
2008	Variation and extenuation research	Vulnerabilities towards women is missing	Women enteric vulnerability

			analysis is missing
2009	Research focusing on disaster risk management	Women enteric violence focus was missing	Enarson, E. 2009; Neelormi & Ahmed 2009
2010	Study focusing on disaster risks	Vulnerabilities analysis towards women is focused but the a local context rather aboard	(Nasreen, M. 2010; Dasgupta and Sarathi 2010)
2010	Literature review focusing on women facing disaster	The research lacks the empirical cases	Baten, & Khan., 2010.; Alston and Vize, 2010
2015	Policies towards climate change and gender based research	Violence towards climate change and their impact is lacking in the research	Glemarec, & Olshanskaya. 2016; Khan & Arrow, 2015
2018	Climate change Adaptation study	Climate change impact violence study is missing	Mcleod et al., 2018.; Rahman, 2013.; CARE. 2015
2019	Violence towards gender in particular	involvement associated with climate change is lacking	World Bank (WB). 2019; Masson et al., 2019.
2020	Policy Analysis	Future research directions	Camey et al., 2020.

Climate change has deemed to be the problematic to the well-being and contributes in natural disaster. About 24.2 million people were relocated as a result of such disasters in 2016 alone (Cerna-Turoff et al., 2019). Particularly for women and young girls, the disruption of family structures and the disintegration of social and community networks during catastrophes increase the risk of violence (Kolbe et al., 2010). The foundation of the disparities women experience is the idea of their vulnerability. Women are more at risk than men in comparable circumstances due to things like restricted access to resources, information, education, and disaster preparedness initiatives. Women's vulnerability in Pakistani society is greatly exacerbated by their disadvantaged status. Women frequently shoulder a greater workload as the primary caretakers for the elderly, the disabled, children, and the unwell, which exacerbates emotional stress (Dasgupta et al., 2010).

In particular, Cerna-Turoff et al. (2019) divide violence against women into two categories: sexual violence and physical violence. However, in many instances, emotional or psychological violence is underreported and not sufficiently recorded (Sriskandarajah et al., 2015). However, studies agree that emotional violence can cause serious damage and have long-lasting repercussions similar to other types of abuse (Madkour et al., 2011).

In climate-stressed conditions, women are usually in charge of providing care, such as food and water, which causes them to physically and emotionally exhaust themselves in order to

satisfy the requirements of others. Many girls drop out of school to help their moms with tasks like cooking, getting water, and getting rid of trash since these tasks frequently take precedence. One could consider this load to be a type of psychological abuse (Rahman, 2013). Furthermore, family systems may disintegrate as a result of partner and domestic abuse under such trying conditions. According to McLeod et al. (2018), the death of a child or loved one can intensify psychological stress, which has a detrimental impact on the victim's mental health. According to a 2019 study by Molyneaux et al., stress brought on by disasters can exacerbate violence against women.

Typically, women are in charge of providing care, such as food and water in climate-stressed conditions, which causes them to physically and emotionally exhaust themselves in order to satisfy the demands of others. In order to help their mothers, many girls drop out of school to help with tasks like cooking, getting water, and getting rid of trash. According to Rahman (2013), this burden may be viewed as a type of psychological abuse. Furthermore, in such stressful situations, partner and domestic violence can cause family structures to disintegrate. Losing a child or loved one can increase psychological stress, which has a detrimental effect on the victim's mental health (McLeod et al., 2018). Stress from disasters can lead to violence against women, according to a 2019 study by Molybdenum et al. carried out.

Women are more susceptible to sexual harassment in refugee camps or temporary shelters following natural disasters because they frequently lack adequate sanitary facilities. Violence is more likely when there is a lack of privacy and separate restrooms and facilities for bathing (Nasreen, 2010). The safety of women in refugee camps is seriously threatened by these subpar facilities. Rapes and kidnappings of women and girls increase during disasters like floods. Furthermore, because young girls and women are frequently unable to defend themselves, human trafficking also increases (Rahman, 2013).

A pervasive chauvinistic phenomena, violence against women because of their biological gender is rooted in the thinking of many men and women worldwide (Masson et al., 2019). One of the most effective strategies men employ to oppress women and uphold their inferior position is gender-based violence. This element is frequently overlooked in research on gender-based violence, including those on relief efforts (Glemarec, Qayum, & Olshanskaya, 2016). These studies usually focus on disadvantaged groups as a whole, although women are often ignored as a unique group. The problem of violence against women in post-disaster settings has been neglected and underreported in part because of this oversight (Masson et al., 2019).

Domestic violence against women in Vanuatu surged by 300% during the post-cyclone period and subsequent relocation after Cyclone Pam, according to CARE (2015). In their investigation of the effects of catastrophes on women, McLeod et al. (2018) pointed out that the risk of violence rises both physically and psychologically. Girls are frequently compelled to drop out of school in order to assist with the increased domestic chores, which restricts their chances for personal growth. Unfortunately, the link between gender-based violence and climate change-induced disasters is frequently overlooked in studies aimed at enhancing women's and girls' knowledge and capacity.

Rational of Study

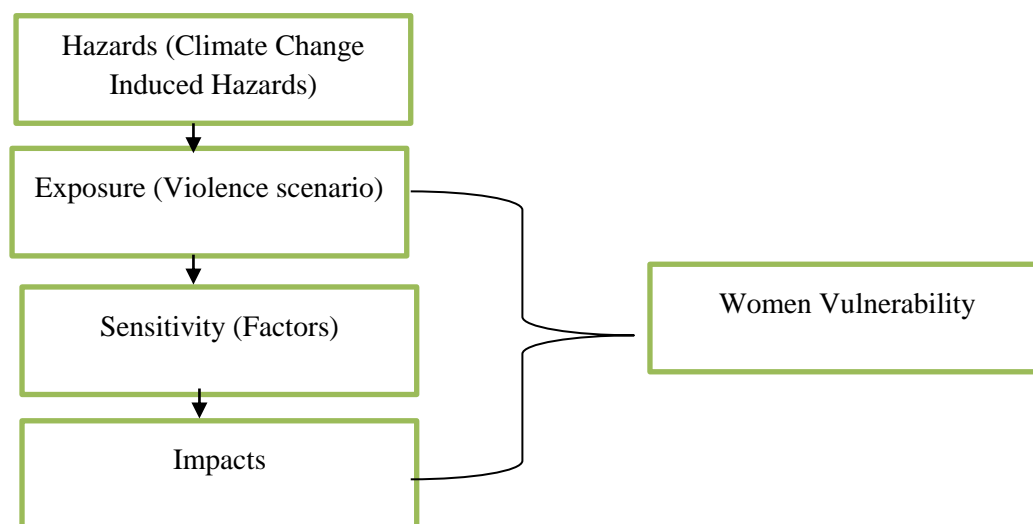
According to Germanwatch (2018), Pakistan is among the top ten nation's most at risk from the long-term effects of climate change. Extreme weather events, water intrusion from rivers and oceans, droughts, and floods are Pakistan's main vulnerabilities. These factors increase the risk of infections and epidemics and cause shortages of food and water. Women's

struggles are made worse by these obstacles. It's interesting to note that a survey of the literature found that there aren't many direct research on gender-based violence or climate-induced violence in Pakistan. This study was conducted to close this gap and investigate the relationship between gender-based violence and climate change. The research gaps found in each study are highlighted in Table 1, which summarizes studies carried out during the previous ten years. Although gender-based climate-induced violence has been studied in a number of settings, no thorough investigation has been carried out in Pakistan, it was pointed out. This study's main goal is to gather firsthand victim testimonies in order to investigate evidence of increasing violence in climate-induced circumstances.

Theoretical Framework

All phases of disaster response and climate change planning are subject to the human rights of women as stated in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Gender-sensitive methods are also required in disaster risk reduction policies, strategies, and programs, according to the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" (2015–2030) (CEDAW, 2018). So far, the fig-1 shows the research framework highlighting the key components and their connection with women vulnerabilities in associated with climate change.

Figure 1: Research Framework



Myers (2002) investigated the relationship between violence, population expansion, and resource constraint. Subsequent research has demonstrated how the masculinized management of resources and duties results in climate-related threats to women, despite the fact that his study did not expressly focus on women (Sasser, 2012). Examining how climate change disproportionately impacts women, who are frequently regarded as one of the most vulnerable groups of people despite playing a crucial part in household livelihoods, has gained attention as the conversation around gender changes (Annecke, 2014). According to Masika (2002), women's vulnerability is increased by unequal gender relations, especially in developing nations. Resilience in the face of climate-related calamities is significantly influenced by a person's social and economic standing. As a result, women in developing nations frequently experience the worst effects, where Violence against women has been ignored in several studies that have looked at their susceptibility. Vulnerability analysis methodologies now in use are often comprehensive and approach vulnerability holistically (Yohe & Tol, 2000). The Risk Hazard (RH) Model (Warrick, 1980; Turner et al., 2003) was

modified for this investigation. According to the RH model, exposure from a hazardous event eventually leads to vulnerability and the effects that follow. The study assesses women's vulnerability to violence by taking into account a climate-induced hazard scenario, like floods, as shown in Figure 1, the study evaluates women's vulnerability in terms of violence by considering a climate-induced hazard scenario, such as floods.

Objectives of the research

The main concern towards objective for the study is to identify the climate change induced violence towards women in rural areas of Sindh.

The research focused on the primary objective focusing on climate change in connection with violence towards women in rural areas of Sindh.

Methodology

This exploratory study collected primary data using qualitative methodologies in order to answer these two issues. Qualitative interviews were also carried out in order to record women's viewpoints via their own accounts (Merriam, 2009). Areas close to Larkana and Khairpur, where makeshift flood shelters had been set up, were the main locations for data collecting (ADB, 2017). Twenty interviews were conducted, with ten women interviewed from each area. In order to compare and contrast results and enable validation through data triangulation, data was collected from two different districts (Holloway, 1997).

Data Collection and Analysis

For this study, a twelve-question interview guide was developed. While the subsequent six questions concentrated on the second research question, the first six were intended to answer the first one. The researcher herself gathered the qualitative data, and participants gave their informed consent for their answers to be used in scholarly works. To make the interviews easier to read, they were first done in Sindhi and then transcribed into English. In order to answer the study questions, the gathered data was carefully examined, and important themes were found.

Participants

Purposive sampling was used to choose study participants. The selected women have lived in the settlement camps for two years or longer. Compared to women who had just arrived, those who had been in the camps longer were more accustomed to the atmosphere and more eager to relate their stories. The researcher was able to interact with participants more personally because she was a native Sindhi speaker and lived in one of the districts that were chosen. The women received assurances of their privacy and a thorough explanation of the study's goal prior to the start of the interviews. To attest to their voluntary involvement and the use of their data for research, a consent form was signed. Every attempt was made to provide the participants with a secure and welcoming environment. Interviews were done one-on-one because the subject matter was delicate.

Limitations of the Study

Women's hesitation to engage in the study because they were afraid of their names being exposed was a major obstacle during the data gathering phase. The participants consented to

participate in in-depth interviews after being reassured of their confidentiality and the decision to forego audio recordings. After being gathered, the data was coded for analysis and transcribed into English. The researcher's fluency in Sindhi was a major asset in overcoming this obstacle since it allowed for easy communication and preserved the interviews' organic flow.

Results and Discussion

A thorough theme analysis was carried out after the interviews were examined. The examination of the gathered data revealed the following major topics. Three major categories were used to roughly classify the women's experiences of violence. According to Masson et al. (2016), emotional violence is defined as verbal, mental, or emotional abuse that is frequently committed by intimate partners or strangers in reaction to stressful situations, gender-specific roles, or cultural restrictions. Similarly, physical violence includes the physical abuse that women experience both during and after disasters. Partners frequently commit this sort of violence against women because of poor social standing and stress brought on by financial loss (Masson et al., 2016). Sexual Violence encompasses a range of sexual harassment behaviors, including unwanted physical contact.

Emotional Violence

The first subject of gender-based violence, emotional violence, was influenced by the participants' shared emotional distress after the natural disaster. A participant said, "We don't have enough food in the camps, and I feel guilty because I can't provide my son with the nutrition he needs."

One of the main causes of stress for women is the sense of helplessness brought on by their incapacity to support their families. Women in Pakistani society, who are usually the family's major caretakers, frequently feel personally accountable for providing for the needs of their family members, especially the elderly, children, and those with disabilities. Women are mostly responsible for cooking and serving meals, which puts a great deal of strain on them to meet the needs of the home given their restricted mobility (UN Women Watch, 2015). According to Enarson (2009), women's stress levels are increased in developing nations due to the weight of these obligations, particularly during climate-related disasters.

Similar responses were also discovered by McLeod et al. (2018), who found that women experienced domestic abuse from partners or family members during droughts brought on by climate change, especially when water scarcity disrupted everyday activities like drinking, cooking, and washing. According to Udas et al. (2019), the issue is made worse when male family members pass away or become incapacitated following a natural disaster, leaving women to shoulder the extra load. These ladies are frequently the subject of verbal abuse from their spouses or other family members. One mom talked about her horrific experience: "I lost everything in the floods, including my daughter. "Why am I still alive?" is the only question I ask myself. Depression is frequently brought on by the extreme stress caused by losing loved ones in disasters. However, similar occurrences are often disregarded in rural areas where there is a lack of awareness regarding mental health issues. The death of a family member during a disaster is frequently associated with high levels of mental stress (Alston & Vize, 2010). Rather than being consoled, this lady was held accountable for failing to provide her kid with better care. "My husband is in the city to provide food for us," she added. It's been eight months since I last saw him. Before, we never spent a day apart her relatives.

Another major cause of stress for women, particularly in the aftermath of a disaster, is spousal separation. Families are frequently forced to live apart due to financial difficulties and the struggle for survival, with men looking for employment elsewhere and women taking care of the children. One of the main emotional stressors that is frequently mentioned is this separation. Emotional violence can also be attributed to structural injustices and a lack of social support. Male family members frequently move to the city to work after a disaster, leaving women to handle the responsibilities of running the home, overcoming the pain of losing their home, and navigating financial challenges. When spouses don't recognize the struggles their wives endure, the problem gets worse. Research indicates that strong social According to studies, there may be a higher risk of psychological violence in rural areas due to strong social and psychological influences (UNCC, 2019). One respondent revealed, "Before all of this, I had never left my house; no male had ever seen my face. We no longer have any privacy and live like way. Before, I was a shy woman, but today I appear to have lost my shame.

Women are frequently forced to assume the tasks and responsibilities that are traditionally performed by men when male family members migrate; this is a position for which they are not always ready and may cause them to feel ashamed. In Sindh, women are supposed to stay within the house and are frequently prohibited from socializing with men outside of their veils due to strongly segregated cultural and religious standards. For many women, the inability to continue certain cultural customs—like wearing veils—while residing in public areas following a disaster is a significant source of stress. Due to their exposure to a shared living area and the male gaze, these women's emotional health is jeopardized. Research shows that since they must deal with new social roles and circumstances, women—especially those who are displaced by disasters—have greater levels of stress and sadness (McLeod et al., 2018).

Physical Violence

In Pakistan's rural communities, domestic violence and opposition to women's independence are frequently accepted as normal. Because of this, women who are uprooted by natural disasters and reside in shelter camps still have to deal with their spouses' aggressive conduct. The following quote from one of the rural women interviewed demonstrates how, in spite of the anguish and hardship of displacement, domestic violence has been internalized as a regular part of life:

"My husband gets angry and hits me if I can't give him cold water after a long day of work. But what can I do? Sometimes I can't find ice, and other times, I just can't afford it."

"This statement highlights the second theme of physical violence. A surprising finding was that many women accept this kind of abuse as a sign of male dominance and feel powerless to change their situation. The same respondent shared, 'I have nowhere else to go. And if he doesn't take his frustration out on me, who else will he? I'm his wife, and it's my duty to endure it.'"

According to Connell (2020), the belief that male dominance is normal and that women should play a submissive role is the reason why many societies tolerate violence against women. The uncritical acceptance of these rules by women themselves reinforces this societal construct. Such customs have their roots in well ingrained social norms, and religious explanations serve to further legitimize women's subordination. Many of the women who participated in the interviews said they were okay with verbal and physical abuse, and they

frequently blamed the aggressive conduct on the stress that the male family members were under as a result of the circumstances. According to Neelormi, Adri, and Ahmed (2009), women are typically viewed as the major caretakers in traditional settings, handling duties like cooking, getting water, and looking after the kids, youngsters and the ill, as well as handling domestic duties. They often see the violence that results from their failure to fulfill these responsibilities as a kind of punishment for their alleged transgressions rather than as abuse.

Additionally, Bourdieu (2001) noted that in societies where gender discrimination is accepted and justified by both men and women as a normal aspect of social life, male supremacy endures. Women frequently suffer in silence as a result of men, such as husbands and other male family members, using violence as a way to vent their resentment and frustration due to the normalizing of gender inequity. Instead of reporting physical abuse, many women accept it as a part of their destiny. Disasters and climate change can intensify domestic abuse, making matters worse for women, as the study's data also shows. This problem is not limited to impoverished nations; according to UN reports, this kind of violence also happens in more developed countries (UNCC, 2019).

Community-based physical violence is another type of abuse that women experience, especially when they are vying for basic necessities in camps and shelters. A participant commented, "Things are somewhat better now, but in the early months, we were often injured while trying to gather food due to the chaos and the fighting between men."

The distribution of essentials in these circumstances frequently benefits the stronger people, leaving the weaker people—like women—to bear the brunt of the consequences. During droughts, McLeod et al. (2018) noted cases of possible physical violence against young girls who were fetching water from far-off places. Many women do not report these instances because they are uncomfortable talking about or making them public, according to their study. Nearly half of the women at shelters in Bangladesh, according to a comparable survey, felt insecure and that the facilities were not suitable for their requirements, especially for women and girls. Despite this, they chose not to address the problem. The Khan Foundation and Arrow (2015) study also brought attention to the inconvenience of using the restroom alongside guys. The results showed that almost all respondents (93%) said that women's needs were not taken into consideration when designing the emergency shelters or transitional homes. They drew attention to the dearth of private restrooms and inadequate sanitation. The absence of private areas presented extra difficulties for expectant moms and nursing mothers on top of these worries.

Sexual violence

In Pakistan, sexual harassment and violence are taboo topics that are rarely documented. One participant revealed during the questioning, "The restrooms in the camps are far away."

According to what I've heard, some men attack girls in the bushes. This leads us to the third subject, which emphasizes how sexual violence is. Sexual assaults are more likely to happen in the shelter camps since they were not built with women's protection and unique needs in mind. Families tend to conceal many of these instances in order to preserve their reputation. According to one reply, "We all know about it, but we don't talk about it because we don't want to bring shame to the family and it's considered a matter of family honor."

This result is consistent with a study conducted by the Khan Foundation and Arrow (2015), in which participants stated that, in order to preserve their family's honor and reputation, they

frequently concealed their experiences of sexual harassment and molestation from male family members and authorities. Given how miserable the living circumstances were, the majority of women concurred that visiting the shelters was their final option.

"Men here stare at us all the time, and when our male relatives are away, some try to shove or touch us inappropriately," said one participant. However, what are we able to do?

In camps for refugees and disaster relief, sexual abuse and harassment are commonplace. According to reports, sexual harassment and molestation are commonplace in these makeshift shelters, and women and girls frequently experience more than just physical or domestic abuse (UNCC, 2019). Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment, according to Bartlett (2008), in large part because of the shelters' inadequate layout and lack of seclusion. Similarly, Davis et al. (2005) noted that congested transitory housing camps and shelters greatly raise the risk of sexual violence against women during climate-related emergencies. Because these camps are rarely designed with women's safety or particular needs in mind, even basic amenities like restrooms are unsafe. "I never leave my daughter alone; I even go with her to the bathroom because it's not safe here," a senior respondent said, sharing her experience.

In a research conducted in flood-prone districts of Bangladesh by the Khan Foundation and Arrow (2015), similar findings were made: women were shown to be more susceptible to sexual violence in shelters, which caused many to completely avoid utilizing these facilities. After disasters, emotional stress tends to increase, especially for displaced people residing in temporary accommodation. Violence can result from heightened tensions and emotions of irritation brought on by things like crowding, invasions of privacy, and disruptions of everyday routines. According to Parkinson et al. (2014), violence is not just a problem in developing nations; even in more developed countries like Australia, there is a rise in violence against women during or after natural disasters.

One elderly woman described her traumatic experience: "My daughter was only twelve when I arrived at this camp, and she passed away. People now claim that she must have been sold by unscrupulous individuals. Women's and children's trafficking frequently increases during disasters. A number of women who were interviewed reported that their daughters or children were missing. According to research, many women prefer to remain behind during natural disasters rather than seek safety in shelters because of the lack of privacy and security (Sharmin and Islam, 2013). Social concerns like these are frequently disregarded in favor of concentrating on the scientific aspects of disasters in many research on climate change. Women's autonomy in making survival decisions is frequently limited by socially defined roles and expectations (Baten and Khan, 2010). These findings are supported by the Khan Foundation and Arrow (2015) study, which found that 20% of women in shelters reported experiencing sexual harassment, including rape and forced sex. In a similar vein, many of the ladies I talked to said nothing about these issues.

Conclusion

This study emphasizes how women are aware that stress due to climate change raises the risk of violence against them. Participants talked about how they had experienced sexual, physical, and emotional abuse at the hands of both strangers and family members. This first-hand account makes it clear that violence brought on by climate change needs to be included in larger studies and conversations on the phenomenon. Initiatives aiming at ending gender-based violence should prioritize gender-sensitive climate action strategies. In order to

accomplish this, studies of climate change must incorporate a gender perspective that emphasizes the experiences of women. Additionally, it is imperative that women be included more actively in climate change initiatives, guaranteeing their involvement in policy creation and decision-making. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender violence must be addressed. Women must be included and acknowledged if communities are to become more resilient and prepared for disasters. A gender-responsive strategy that recognizes the unique needs and experiences of each gender is crucial for planners.

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