

## Extents of Climate Change: Future with Youth

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The only planet in our solar system that is home to life is Earth. Water, oxygen, a rich atmosphere, and a suitable surface temperature are among the special environmental factors that allowed the complicated process of evolution to take place on Earth. The atmosphere plays a crucial role in preserving the circumstances necessary for life on Earth. Increases in greenhouse gas concentrations may lead to increased warming, which may then have a bigger effect on global temperatures and cause the phenomena known as climate change. Any sustained, notable alteration to the "average weather" that a particular area experience is referred to as climate change. The terms "average weather" can refer to average wind patterns, precipitation, and temperature. It involves changes in the variability or average state of the environment over periods of time ranging from millions to decades. These changes can be brought about by natural processes occurring on Earth, outside factors such as changes in the amount of sunlight received, and more recently, human activity. The purpose of this study article is to evaluate the respondents' degree of awareness among young people about climate change, its effects on people, and the effects of human activity on the climate.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Environment, Human Activities, Youth

### Introduction:

The adage "climate is what we expect, weather is what we get" is correct. Weather and climate are often confused. The weather is what you see on TV every night; it includes information on humidity, rainfall, wind speed and direction, cloud cover, and minimum and maximum temperatures throughout various locations. The term "weather" refers to the state of the outdoors at a specific location and time.

According to climatologists, thirty years is the amount of time required to determine a place's climate. It includes the typical weather for a location. For instance, the weather in Bangalore and Pune is reported to be pleasant, whereas Kochi experiences mostly rainy conditions. Delhi, on the other hand, has a generally dry environment, whilst Mumbai and Vishakhapatnam have humid ones.

The weather can shift quickly; after an hour of rain, the sun may appear. The climate is also subject to change. The earth's climate has been fluctuating naturally. One example of this kind of climatic change is the ice ages of the past. Such shifts used to take a very long time to happen. The pace of change is quicker now. The earth is becoming warmer, which is another change.

Although there is ongoing debate among climate scientists on the rate and extent of global warming, virtually all agree that the planet is warming. It has been verified that the current global temperature is higher than it has been during the previous two millennia. The average global temperature increased by almost 0.6oC in the 20th century.

The industrial revolution began some 220 years ago when factories were built and mass production employing machinery was introduced. To operate, machines require energy. Fossil fuels, which include coal and oil, provide the majority of this energy. Burning fossil fuels increases the levels of nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, methane, ozone, and chlorofluorocarbons. Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are the gases that are listed. Our actions have released enormous amounts of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere over the past 200 years. This time, it is obvious that people are to blame for climate change.

Every summer, a few "really hot" days happen to all of us. That does occur; it resembles having a fever for two to three days. However, it is cause for concern if the temperature does not go down and continues for several days or weeks. Similar to this, there will be consequences if global temperatures rise for an extended length of time, even by a tiny degree.

Small temperature changes could have significant effects. More will change as a result of climate change than just the earth's climate. Everything in earthly existence will be impacted, either directly or indirectly.

### **Extents of climate change:**

#### **Weather Extremes**

There will be more cyclones, storms and floods. Most places will become hotter some will become drier and others wetter. We will experience more violent weather events – heat waves, drought, floods (because of heavier rainfall and melting glaciers) and intense storms.

#### **Shrinking glaciers and melting sea ice**

Glaciers and ice caps are sensitive indicators of climate change. Mountain glaciers are already shrinking. The Arctic Sea is becoming very thin, especially in late summers. In August 2000 there was no ice at all at the North Pole; it was in a stretch of open water.

#### **Rise in sea level**

The ocean's water level will rise as a result of glaciers and polar ice caps melting. Together with the expansion of sea water brought on by global warming, this would raise sea levels and submerge coastal regions and tiny islands. For instance, two island states that might be impacted by sea level rise are Tuvalu and the Maldives.

River delta locations are likewise considered high-risk environments. Numerous areas are already vulnerable to flooding. Numerous individuals reliant on these bountiful farming regions would experience hardship. Many coastal towns as well as the densely populated deltas in Egypt, Bangladesh, India, and China—where a large portion of the world's rice is grown—would be submerged in water with a one-meter rise in sea level.

#### **Loss of ecosystems and biodiversity**

Animals and plants would have to relocate in order to adapt to the changing climate. Those that are unable to migrate will eventually vanish. With the disappearance of their habitats, those acclimated to colder climates will go extinct. Changes in the local climate would have an impact on the vast diversity of life found in many national parks, wildlife reserves, and coral reefs, posing a threat to them.

According to scientific projections, the single greatest threat to the 22,000 polar bears that still exist worldwide is climate change. Sea ice is necessary for polar bears to embark on their hunting trips in search of their main prey, ringed seals. Bears are unable to forage for extended periods of time to accumulate adequate fat reserves to last them through the winter since the Arctic Sea ice is melting earlier in the spring. They become frail by the end of the summer and are unable to care for their young.

#### **Agriculture production**

Because of global warming, regions of the world that are currently producing rice, wheat, and other food grains

would no longer be able to do it at the same quality. Food availability will eventually be impacted by this. Prolonged droughts might occur in some areas due to increased evaporation and drier soils. Pests, agricultural diseases, and weeds would all become more prevalent in the drier regions that require irrigation.

Agricultural land would be lost as a result of sea level rise flooding coastal areas. Additionally, it would cause seawater to seep into coastal aquifers, which would have an impact on agricultural output.

#### **Effect on human health**

One of the direct effects we would experience is deaths from heat waves and other weather extremes. Tropical illnesses that potentially spread to the current temperate zones of the earth include yellow fever, dengue fever, malaria, and encephalitis.

#### **Objective of the study:**

The objectives of the study are:

1. The general objective of the study is to assess the level of awareness among youth regarding climate change.
2. Analysis of the life-style of youth which is responsible to enhance footprints on planet Earth.
3. Suggesting the strategies regarding the healthy environment.

#### **Hypothesis:**

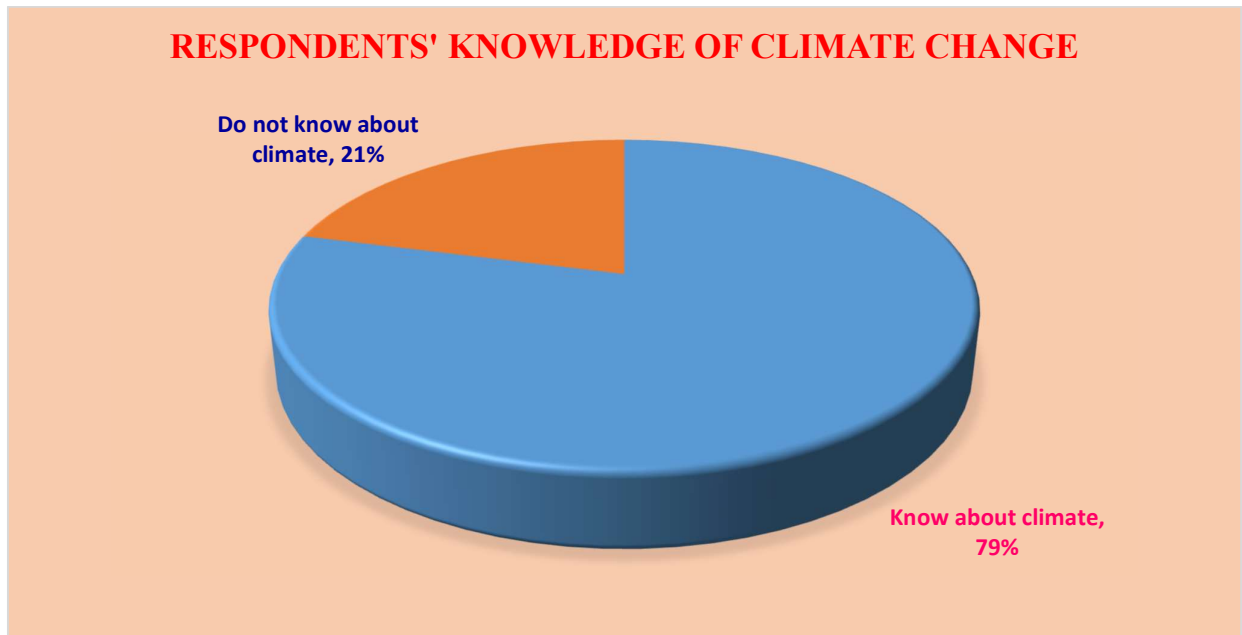
1. Lack of interest among youth to follow the norms of sustainable environment is increasing the anthropogenic causes of climate change.
2. Low level of knowledge is accelerating the people towards harmful activities which are affecting climate adversely.

#### **Research Methodology:**

- ❖ **Research design-** Descriptive Research.
- ❖ **Universe and sample-** The youth of University of Lucknow, Lucknow, U.P., India will be the universe and 100 youth (age limit of 18-25 years) will be purposively selected as sample.
- ❖ **Source of data collection-** Primary, secondary and tertiary.
- ❖ **Tools of data collection-** Interview Schedule, Observation Guide
- ❖ **Techniques of data collection** –Interview and Observation
- ❖ **Classification and Analysis of Data** – Through editing, coding and tabulation.

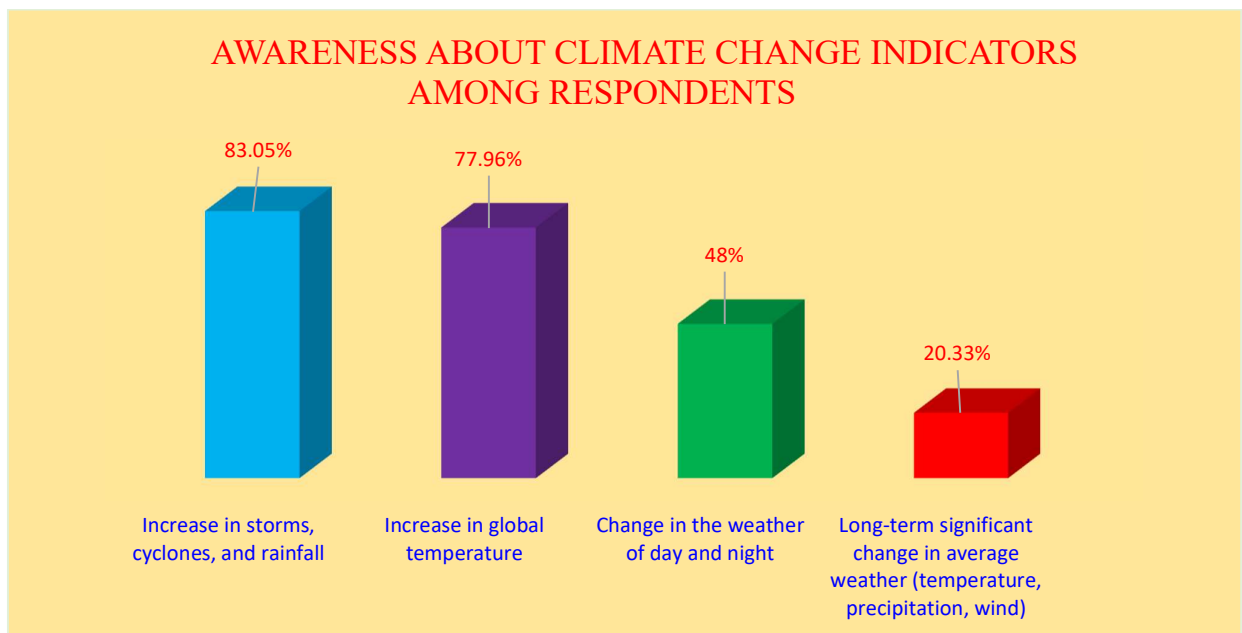
#### **Result and Discussion:**

The analysis shows the responses of respondents regarding climate. The majority of the respondents, i.e. 79 percent, reported that they know about climate and only 21 percent do not know about climate.



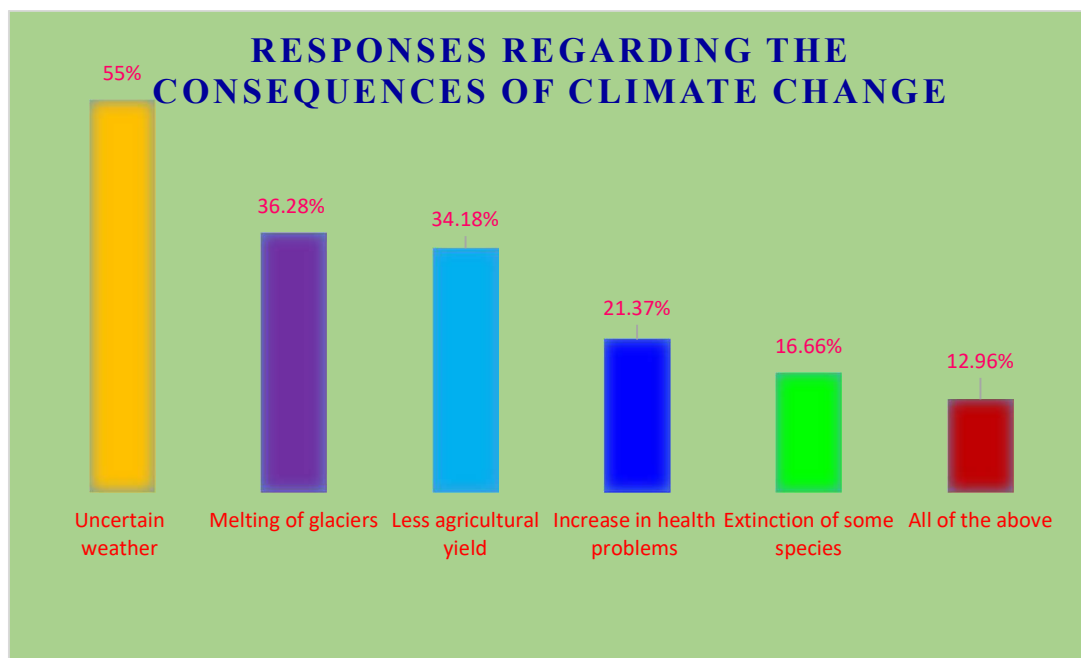
Questioning about the knowledge regarding climate change shows that an overwhelming majority of the respondents i.e. 60 percent know about climate change phenomenon followed by 30 percent of the respondents do not know about climate change phenomenon.

Thus, it may be concluded that majority of the respondents i.e. 60 percent know about climate change phenomenon from which 83.05 percent responded that increase in storms, cyclones and rainfall is indicating the climate change followed by 77.96 percent respondents responded that increase in global temperature is indicating climate change phenomenon, 48 percent of the respondents responded that change in the weather of day and night is indicating the climate change and only 20.33. respondents responded that long term significant change in average weather (average temperature, precipitation, and wind pattern) is indicating climate change phenomenon. The analysis of the responses about knowing climate change proves the hypothesis that our youth is very little aware with the phenomenon of climate change.



55 percent reported that uncertain weather is indicating the climate change followed by 36.28 percent respondents

responded melting of glaciers is indicating climate change phenomenon, 34.18 percent of the respondents responded that less agricultural yield, 16.66 percent respondents responded that extinction of some species is indicating the climate change phenomenon, 21.37 percent respondents responded that increase in health problems among human beings is indicating climate change phenomenon and 12.96 percent respondents responded that all of the above causes are indicating climate change phenomenon. Thus, it may be concluded that very few percentages of respondents i.e. 12.96 percent knows about all conditions which are indicating towards climate change effects.



The responses show the awareness of respondents regarding the human activities responsible for climate change. 65 percent respondents responded that human activities are responsible for climate change and 35 percent respondents responded that human activities are not responsible for climate change.

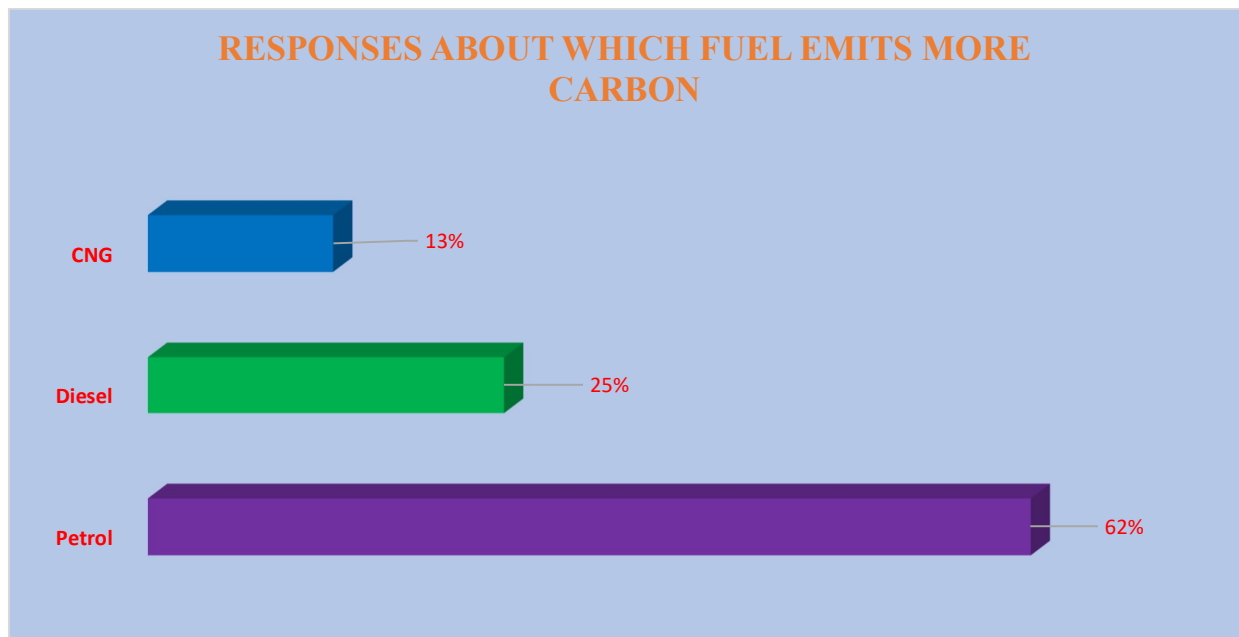
The responses of respondents regarding preferable things under luxurious life style show that 83 percent respondents prefer AC under luxurious life style followed by 76 percent respondents responded that they prefer more use of electronic goods under luxurious life style, 87 percent respondents responded that they prefer more use of personal vehicles under luxurious life style and 27 percent respondents reported other things under luxurious life style like eating food outside branded goods, going multiplexes etc.

Hence, the analysis of the Responses about knowing climate change proves the hypothesis that, youth don't have interests to follow the norms of sustainable environment, they take it very easily without concentrating on the adverse impact of climate change on human life. Because now-a-days, materialistic achievement (in form of comfortable life style) has become the concern of first importance among youth.

The analysis shows the means of transport in daily life being used by the respondents. 54 percent respondents responded they use public transport in their daily life and 46 percent respondents responded they use private vehicle in their daily life for transport.

The responses regarding more use of private vehicle are responsible for more carbon emission that majority of the respondents i.e. 72 percent responded that more use of private vehicle is responsible for more carbon emission followed by 18 percent respondents responded that more use of private vehicle is not responsible for more carbon emission and 10 percent respondents did not know about it.

The analysis shows the awareness of respondents regarding use of fuel in their home vehicles. 62 percent respondents use petrol in their home vehicles followed by 25 percent respondents use diesel in their home vehicles and 13 percent respondents responded they use CNG in their home vehicles.

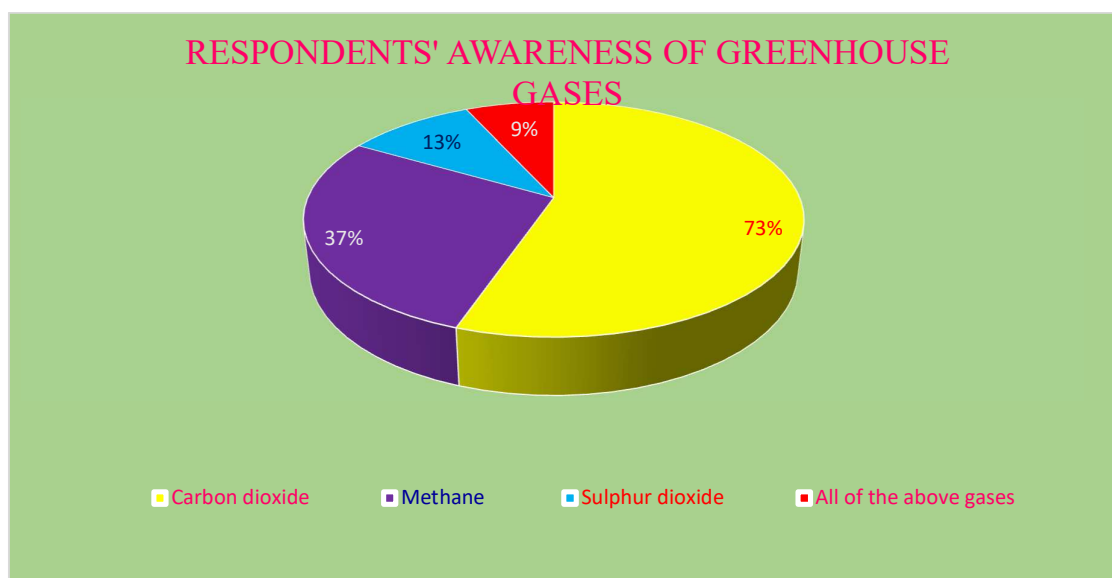


The analysis incorporates the awareness of respondents regarding quality of fuel which emits more carbon. 53 percent respondents responded that petrol emits more carbon followed by 45 percent respondents responded that diesel emits more carbon and 2 percent respondents responded that CNG emits more carbon.

Both analyses show less knowledge of carbon emission regarding fuel among youth. As diesel emits more carbon in compare to petrol; and CNG emits very little in compare to both of the fuels. Hence, the hypothesis that low level of knowledge accelerating the people towards harmful activities which are affecting climate adversely is proved.

The analysis incorporates the awareness level of respondents regarding the knowledge of Green House Gases (GHG<sub>s</sub>). 64 percent responded that they know about GHG<sub>s</sub> followed by 36 percent respondents responded that they do not know about GHG<sub>s</sub>.

The analysis shows awareness of respondents regarding the knowledge of Green House Gases. 73 percent responded to carbon dioxide as Green House Gas followed by 37 percent respondents responded to methane as Green House Gas, 13 percent respondents responded to Sulphur dioxide as Green House Gas and only 9 percent respondents responded that all of the above given gases are Green House Gases.



Only 9 percent youth were aware that all the mentioned gases come in the group of GHGs, so the analysis of the responses proves the hypothesis that Because of having less knowledge of climate change phenomenon people are unknowingly tended to those activities which are accelerating this phenomenon.

More carbon emission is responsible for more GHGs. The analysis shows responses of respondents regarding this knowledge. 53 percent responded that more carbon emission is responsible for more GHGs. 27 percent respondents responded that more carbon emission is not responsible for more GHGs and 20 percent respondents responded that they do not have any idea about it.

Responses proves the hypothesis that our youth is very little aware with the phenomenon of climate change on human life. If some of them are aware, they don't have interests to follow the norms of sustainable environment.

### Global Warming and Deforestation

For a healthy environment, trees should cover 33% of the area. However, because of our frank attitudes, it isn't occurring. As trees breathe in carbon dioxide, they also exhale oxygen, which is necessary for all other living things to survive. The trees are an excellent way to remove greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Every tree should be kept from being chopped down, and more should be planted and cared for until they reach maturity. This is because trees absorb carbon dioxide for a lifetime, provide shade and beauty to the surrounding area, keep the atmosphere cool, reduce dust particles in the air, and even lessen noise pollution.

The analysis shows awareness of respondents regarding the knowledge of Green House Gases which is responsible for Global Warming. 58 percent respondents responded that Green House Gases are responsible for Global Warming, 40 percent respondents responded that Green House Gases are not responsible for Global Warming and 2 percent respondents responded that they do not know about it.

The analysis shows the awareness of respondents regarding the knowledge that Deforestation is responsible for Global Warming. 71 percent responded that deforestation is responsible for Global Warming followed by 22 percent respondents responded that deforestation is not responsible for Global Warming and 7 percent respondents responded that they do not know about it. So, the analysis of the responses proves the hypothesis that youth is very little aware with the phenomenon of climate change on human life. If some of them are aware, they don't have interests to follow the norms of sustainable environment, they take it very easily without concentrating on the adverse impact of climate change on human life.

The data demonstrates that respondents are aware of the value of trees. Seventy-four percent of respondents said that trees are beneficial because they purify the air, while twelve percent said that they lessen dust particles in the atmosphere. Sixty-three percent said that trees protect animals and birds and provide food, thirteen percent said that they protect the environment by reducing noise pollution, ninety-one percent said that trees keep the

atmosphere cool, and seven percent said they agreed with all of the aforementioned reasons for the importance of trees.

Thus, the examination of the replies supports the theory that while some young people are aware of the issue of climate change, they are not motivated to adhere to sustainable environmental standards and instead take it for granted without considering the negative effects on human existence.

### **Energy Consumption**

Energy consumption is one of the main human-caused factors contributing to climate change, and it is mostly caused by the global, especially Asian, usage of fossil fuels like coal and petroleum. The transportation and electric power generation industries are two major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. India makes up 15% of the world's population, although just 3% of the world's energy is consumed there. However, India's development plans place a strong emphasis on energy conservation and the steps needed to ensure effective energy use.

Fossil fuel is utilized to generate power (without the usage of alternative energy sources). It is commonly known that carbon emissions into the atmosphere are caused by the combustion of fossil fuels. Therefore, increased energy use immediately results in increased carbon emissions. When not in use, lights, TVs, laptops, music players, and fans may all be turned off to save energy, money, and the environment. Western preserved or junk food requires a significant amount of gasoline to carry by trucks and airplanes, whether the commodities are coming from abroad or domestically, and more energy is required for storage. Using food that is in season and locally grown can thereby reduce climate change and save a significant amount of energy.

The analysis reveals the respondents' attitudes toward their accountability for energy consumption and whether they should leave their electronic devices in standby or on. Seventy-three percent of respondents said they occasionally leave their electronic devices on or in standby mode, while eighteen percent said they always do so and nine percent said they never do. Thus, the examination of the replies supports the theory that while some young people are aware of the issue of climate change, they are not motivated to adhere to sustainable environmental standards and instead take it for granted without considering the negative effects on human existence.

The investigation reveals the respondents' opinions about whether junk food or preserved food requires more energy to preserve. Most respondents—57 percent—said that eating junk food or preserved food uses more energy. Thirteen percent of respondents said they were unsure about it, and thirty percent said that eating junk food or preserved food did not require extra energy. Consequently, the answers support the theory that our children have limited awareness of the effects of climate change. Even if some of them are informed, they are not motivated to adhere to sustainable environmental standards.

According to the analysis, respondents were aware that more energy usage results in higher carbon emissions. Of those surveyed, the majority (56%) said that higher energy use results in higher carbon emissions. Thirty percent of respondents said that increasing energy use did not increase carbon emissions, and fourteen percent said they were unaware of this.

The premise that our youth have very little awareness of the problem of climate change is supported by the responses. Even if some of them are informed, they are not motivated to adhere to sustainable environmental standards.

The study displays the respondents' answers on how to reduce carbon emissions and the effects of global warming. According to the survey, there are several ways to reduce carbon emissions. Firstly, 33% of respondents suggested avoiding preserved or junk food. Secondly, 31% suggested using alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, or bioenergy. Lastly, 25% suggested using fossil fuels like coal, petroleum, or natural gas as little as possible to reduce carbon emissions and global warming. Finally, a mere 11% suggested combining all of the aforementioned options.

### **Side Effects of Climate Change**

One glaring illustration of the detrimental effects of human activity on the state of the environment is the ozone



hole or ozone layer depletion. According to a previous UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) assessment, South Asia is coated in pollution up to three kilometers deep, which is to blame for altered weather patterns, a decline in winter crops, and the thousands of deaths caused by allergies, cancer, and respiratory illnesses. Ozone layer holes allow some damaging UV radiation to reach a higher altitude on Earth, increasing the risk of skin disorders, cancer, and allergies in humans.

The ozone layer is predicted to return to 1980 levels (before to the ozone hole's formation) by 2066 over the Antarctic, 2045 over the Arctic, and 2040 for the remainder of the planet if present practices continue. The Antarctic ozone hole's magnitude fluctuated, especially between 2019 and 2021, and this variation was mostly caused by weather patterns. Nevertheless, since 2000, the size and depth of the Antarctic ozone hole have been gradually increasing.

It is wonderful to hear that the ozone recovery is progressing as planned, as per the most recent quadrennial report. It is impossible to overstate the contribution that the Montreal Protocol has made to mitigating climate change. According to Meg Seki, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme, "the Protocol has evolved into a true champion for the environment over the last 35 years." "The Scientific Assessment Panel's evaluations and assessments continue to be an essential part of the Protocol's work that assists in educating policy and decision makers."

Future impacts of climate change will be greater in the areas of health, agriculture, animal habitat, and glacier retreat. Sea levels will rise as a result of glacier retreat. Drought and flood-like conditions brought on by sea level rise would exacerbate issues like a lack of arable land, potable water, and places for living things to live, among other things.

The analysis displays the respondents' replies with respect to the items that are impacted by climate change. A total of 61 percent of respondents stated that climate change is having an impact on their health, followed by 41 percent who said it is having an impact on agriculture, 37 percent who said it is having an impact on their natural habitat, 53 percent who said it is having a rapid impact on the melting of glaciers, and only 32 percent who said it is having an impact on all of the aforementioned alternatives.

The study displays the respondents' answers about the causes contributing to the reduction of arable land as a result of climate change. Just 12% of respondents said that all of the aforementioned factors combined will be to blame for the reduction of agricultural land resulting from climate change, while 37% of respondents said that the rise in sea level will be the primary cause. In addition, 56% of respondents said that drought and 58% said that floods would be the primary causes of the reduction in agricultural land.

The analysis displays the respondents' responses regarding the problems that they believe will arise in the future as a result of the melting of glaciers. Of those who responded, 39% said that the lack of agricultural land would be a major problem caused by the melting of glaciers, followed by 77% who said that the lack of drinking water will be a major problem caused by the melting of glaciers, 32% who said that the lack of habitat and shelter for living things will become a major problem in the future, and only 21% who said that all of the aforementioned problems will arise in the future as a result of the melting of glaciers.

### **Use of Plastic & Climate Change**

Fossil fuels are used to make plastic; 4% of the world's yearly petroleum production is used directly to make plastic, and an additional 4% is burnt to power the process. The usage of plastic as a result contributes to the annual emission of at least 100 million tons and maybe as much as 500 million tons of carbon dioxide into the environment. How terrifying is this fact? Therefore, it is imperative that we stop using plastic in our daily lives, even if it is inexpensive or readily available. However, the value of the future to us is incomparable to the low cost.

Rather than this, they are also accountable for the deaths of numerous animals with potentially dangerous consequences and drainage issues in reservoirs, rivers, and sewers.

The responses of the respondents about using bags for marketing are displayed in the study. Ninety-one percent of respondents said they use plastic bags, while eighteen percent said they also use jute bags, eleven percent said they occasionally use paper bags, and nine percent said they use cloth bags for marketing.

Products made of plastic are to blame for the acceleration of climate change. The degree of information about its detrimental impact on climate change is taken into account in the analysis. 54% of respondents said that plastic products are to blame for the rise in climate change, while 17% said that plastic products have no role in the rise in climate change. In response, 29% of respondents said they were unaware of it.

Therefore, the aforementioned analyses support the theory that our kids have little awareness of the problem of climate change. Even if some of them are informed, they are not motivated to adhere to sustainable environmental standards.

The 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP25, is the 25th United Nations Climate Change conference. It was held in Madrid, Spain, from 2 to 13 December 2019. The decisions about the carbon market and emissions cuts were delayed to the next climate conference in Glasgow. The United States, Russia, India, China, Brazil and Saudi Arabia were the main opponents of these measures. On the other side, the European Union reached an agreement about The European Green Deal that should lower its emissions to zero by 2050. Also, many commitments were made by countries, cities, businesses and international coalitions. For example, the Climate Ambitious Coalition contains now "73 countries committed to net zero emissions by 2050, as well as a further 1214 actors (regions, cities, businesses, investors) who have pledged the same goal". All the information about the pledges (governmental and non-governmental) is streamed to the Global Climate Action portal. According to scientists, talks focused on some of the rules for implementing the 2015 Paris agreement, but the overriding issue of how fast the world needs to cut greenhouse gas emissions has received little official attention. Urgent UN talks on tackling the climate emergency are still not addressing the true scale of the crisis, one of the world's leading climate scientists has warned. A quarter of the world's population are at risk of water supply problems as mountain glaciers, snow-packs and alpine lakes are run down by global heating and rising demand.

The UN Climate Change Conference, which takes place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024, is anticipated to center on financing because countries need to raise trillions of dollars to significantly cut their greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard people's lives and livelihoods from the increasingly severe effects of climate change. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels and encourage investment in the Sustainable Development Goals, the conference will also be a crucial occasion for nations to publish their revised National Climate Action Plans.

### **Conclusion:**

For the first time ever, daily temperatures in 2023 will be more than 1 degree Celsius over the pre-industrial levels for that time of year between 1850 and 1900. About half of the days had temperatures that were higher than 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to 1800–1900, and two days in November had temperatures that were higher than 2 degrees Celsius for the first time. These concerning circumstances are sufficient to make one actively take responsibility for the human causes of climate change. In the context of climate change, youth can be the change agent or torch bearer to reduce it and encourage adaptation solutions. Only the hard realities of local and global environmental practices can be altered by young people actively participating in the community and providing innovative ideas, inventive legal tools, and environmental principles.

### **Things can be done to minimize climate change:**






- ❖ Recycle everything you possibly can. When discarding anything, ask yourself where it might be utilized. Support local recycling efforts and legislation. Do not be concerned with whether you will make money on your recycling. Do it because it makes sense.
- ❖ Buy natural products like wood cotton and wool only and purchase only containers of glass, aluminium, tin and cardboard. Avoid purchasing non-recyclable plastic.
- ❖ Get the fullest possible use of non-renewable and minimally recyclable products. Write on both sides of the paper and use that scrap wood. Simply because our society gives the illusion of free-flowing resources, does not be utilized to the maximum extent possible. Resources are too often taken for granted and misused.
- ❖ Be selective in purchase of wood products like paper.

- ❖ Be prudent about the products and packaging materials you purchase, as not all wastes can be recycled. Everyone must be accountable for their waste, so plan accordingly. Think about where it will go and how it will be disposed of when you purchase something. If there is no place to recycle it, do not buy it.
- ❖ Purchase products made from recycled material whenever possible.
- ❖ Plant native trees and see that they grow. Protest the cutting of any healthy tree in your community. Trees are often sacrificed in the name of development of new curb or underground pipe line. Even dead trees are needed by the wildlife.
- ❖ Minimize your use of electricity. Utilize natural light or change saving lights.
- ❖ Upgrade the insulation in your home. Insulate your hot water heater.
- ❖ Turn your thermostat down put on a sweater.
- ❖ Keep your car in good condition.
- ❖ Take public transportation, ride your bicycle or walk instead of using your car for short distance.
- ❖ Obtain as much of your energy as possible from renewable sources like sun and wind. Solar water heaters are cost efficient over lifetime use.
- ❖ Compost household food wastes for an organic garden in your backyard.
- ❖ Join with the others in the cause of global ecology and supporting national environmental organizations. There is strength and power in numbers.

These suggestions are needed to incorporate at public, private and individual's level which can save our planet and can enhance our steps towards sustainability. It will not be enough to talk about it, but act on it. Only by action, before it is too late, the earth can be replenished and maintained as a viable support system for all inhabitants.

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