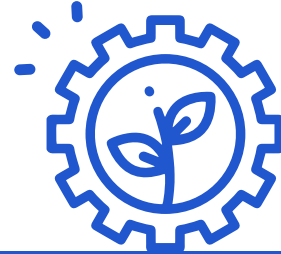


Green Innovation



Pakistan's climate crisis is an amalgamation of acute depletion of water, air quality, melting glaciers, land etc. due to malpractices around resource use. As one of the top ten countries affected by climate change, the urgency to act on climate change is immediate.

Pakistan's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions recorded for the year 2011-12 was 369 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.¹ 45.9 percent of this emission came from the energy sector, while 44.8 percent of this came from the agriculture and livestock sector.

Projections estimate that Pakistan loses 0.52 percent per unit GDP due to the climate change. Between the years 1999 to 2018, Pakistan reportedly faced 152 extreme weather events that have caused a collective economic loss of approximately three billion USD.²

But climate change is not causing economic losses alone. The social cost of climate change is also substantial. Pakistan's rising annual temperatures, heat waves, and rising sea levels are leading to more intense hot and cold weather, decrease in crop yields (particular rice and wheat), and a drastic decrease in water availability per capita.³

While tangible impacts of climate change take place, the primary challenge for Pakistan is creating enough discourse around the negative effects of climate change, to catalyze tangible commitments towards climate change resilience. This includes both, change in structural and institutional policies, and change in people's behaviour. For Pakistan to truly commit to combating climate change, it has to address the way that the energy and agriculture and livestock sectors work.

While that remains pertinent, in order to drive institutional change, galvanizing the youth to create momentum can be helpful.

Under these circumstances, tapping into the potential of the youth can be an effective catalyst for ground-up change in behaviour and practice. Additionally, empowering the youth can create a paradigm whereby they can hold policy makers accountable, and demand action on climate change. Ergo, one of the drivers for climate change can be tapping into the potential of the youth, and their penchant for innovation. In capacitating the youth to take charge, climate change resilience can be built in communities.

1 Asian Development Bank. (2017). Climate Change Profile of Pakistan

2 Finance Division, Ministry of Finance (2020). Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20. Islamabad: Government of Pakistan. Available at https://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapter_20/16_Climate_Change.pdf

3 Asian Development Bank. (2017). Climate Change Profile of Pakistan