

Gendered Health Impacts of Climate Disasters in India: A Human Rights and Socio-Economic Analysis.

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Abstract

Climate change should not only be regarded as an environmental issue because, as seen in this paper, one of its impacts is on women's health, which is a fundamental human right. Women have the least socio-economic resources to survive these climate-induced disasters, and hence, they suffer the most. The intersection between climate vulnerabilities and socio-economic inequalities obscures the fundamental rights of women, particularly their access to healthcare and safety. These rights are ensured by different international frameworks such as CEDAW, SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The analysis presented in this paper applies to one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change: India. The paper focuses on five disaster-prone states in India and studies the impact of global warming on women's health and children's welfare. West Bengal (Sundarbans) suffers from recurrent cyclones (Amphan, Aila) which impacts thousands by cutting off access to much needed healthcare. In Rajasthan, unbearable heat drives millions to the brink of starvation as they are already suffering from droughts, ultimately catching them in a never-ending cycle of poverty. Floods from the Brahmaputra River destroy several districts in Assam every year, causing internal displacement that raises infection rates amongst women. Odisha loses women to post-disaster malnutrition and anaemia as Cyclone Fani wipes out the healthcare infrastructure. Nelson describes Bihar as a laughing stock when discussing flooding, as it continuously restricts access to hospitals, sealing helpless women in a suffocating environment where maternal and infant mortality rates soared.

This study employs an intersectional framework to investigate the disparity in the provision of disaster relief services, health care services, and policies that are responsive to gender issues within the context of climate change. It underscores the crucial requirement for disaster policies that are sensitive to gender and human rights as well as the protection and promotion of climate resilient health systems. The paper aims to foster interactions among policymakers, practitioners, and scholars to address climate governance challenges that affect the health and socio-economic positions of women through integrating perspectives from global cases and best practices.

Keywords Climate change, Women's Health, Human rights, Gender justice, Disaster vulnerability..

Introduction

Climate change has emerged as a significant global challenge, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, particularly women. According to the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023)**, extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, droughts, and heatwaves have intensified, leading to adverse health outcomes for marginalized communities. Women, especially in developing nations like India, face heightened risks due to their socio-economic status, limited access to healthcare, and gender-based inequalities (**UN Women, 2022**). Climate-induced disasters exacerbate these vulnerabilities, making it essential to examine the interplay between environmental change, women's health, and socio-economic stability.

Research Problem

Climate-induced disasters have far-reaching consequences, particularly for women's health and economic independence. Studies by the **World Health Organisation (WHO, 2023)** and **International Organisation for Migration (IOM, 2021)** indicate that climate-related events increase maternal health risks, malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and mental health burdens among women. Additionally, displacement due to climate disasters exposes them to increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and economic exploitation. The existing policy framework in India, while addressing climate adaptation, often overlooks gender-specific vulnerabilities, necessitating a comprehensive investigation into the gaps in governance and human rights protections (**NITI Aayog, 2022**).

Significance of the Study

This study aims to bridge the knowledge gap by analyzing the direct and indirect consequences of climate disasters on women's health and socio-economic conditions. The research will explore how climate change impacts fundamental human rights, including access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, as emphasized by **CEDAW (2018)** and the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 3 & 5)**. By highlighting the intersection of climate change, health, and human rights, the study seeks to inform policy interventions that prioritize gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies.

Research Questions

How do climate disasters impact women's health across different regions in India?

What are the socio-economic consequences of these health challenges?

How do policy responses align with international human rights frameworks and gender-sensitive climate adaptation strategies?

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a **qualitative research approach** to analyze the intersection of climate change, women's health, and human rights in disaster-prone regions of India. The research is designed to provide an in-depth understanding of how climate-induced disasters exacerbate health vulnerabilities and socio-economic challenges for women across different geographic and environmental contexts.

Research Design

The study follows a **case study methodology**, focusing on five climate-affected states in India: **West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Odisha, and Bihar**. These states were selected based on their exposure to different climate disasters and the severity of their impact on women's health. The research examines how varying climatic conditions—such as cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves—contribute to gendered health risks and socio-economic instability.

Data Collection Methods

Secondary Data Analysis:

Government reports from **NITI Aayog, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** on climate resilience and public health policies.

International reports from **IPCC (2023), WHO (2023), UN Women (2022), and IOM (2021)** to contextualize India's challenges within a global framework.

Academic literature and peer-reviewed journals discussing the climate-health-gender nexus.

Comparative Case Study Approach:

West Bengal (Sundarbans – Cyclones and Flooding): Examining the impact of Cyclone Amphan and its effects on maternal health and displacement risks.

Rajasthan (Droughts and Heatwaves): Investigating how extreme heat affects reproductive health and increases anemia rates.

Assam (Brahmaputra Floods): Analyzing the rise in waterborne diseases among displaced women due to sanitation challenges.

Odisha (Cyclones and Food Insecurity): Assessing malnutrition and access to healthcare post-Cyclone Fani.

Bihar (River Flooding and Maternal Mortality): Evaluating how limited healthcare access in flood-affected regions contributes to high maternal and infant mortality rates.

Policy Analysis:

Evaluating the effectiveness of **India's climate adaptation strategies** in addressing gender-specific health concerns.

Assessing **international best practices** from gender-responsive climate policies in countries such as **Bangladesh and Sub-Saharan Africa** for comparison.

Data Analysis

The collected data will be analyzed using a **thematic analysis approach**, identifying patterns in how climate disasters impact women's health and socio-economic conditions. A comparative framework will be used to assess **policy gaps, adaptation failures, and opportunities for gender-inclusive climate governance**.

Ethical Considerations

Since the study relies on secondary data sources, ethical concerns primarily revolve around **ensuring accuracy, credibility, and unbiased interpretation of information**. Reports and case studies from reputable organizations will be cross-verified to maintain **research integrity and objectivity**.

HYPOTHESIS

H₁: Women in climate disaster-prone regions experience higher health risks compared to men, including maternal complications, malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and mental health issues, due to unequal access to healthcare and socio-economic constraints.

H₁: Climate change-induced displacement increases gender-based violence (GBV), as women in temporary shelters or informal settlements face heightened risks of trafficking, sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse.

H₃: Socio-economic inequalities are intensified by climate disasters, forcing women into low-wage informal labor, increasing their economic dependency, and restricting access to education and financial autonomy.

H₄: Government policies and climate adaptation strategies fail to address gender-specific vulnerabilities effectively, as most disaster relief frameworks focus on infrastructure and economic recovery rather than integrating gender-responsive healthcare and social protection systems.

H₅: States with gender-inclusive climate policies and community-based interventions demonstrate better health and socio-economic outcomes for women compared to states with weaker gender-sensitive policies.

H₆: International best practices in gender-responsive climate governance can provide valuable insights for strengthening India's climate resilience framework, ensuring better protection of women's health and human rights.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Climate Change and Human Rights Perspective

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a **human rights issue**, as it exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and disproportionately affects marginalized groups, particularly women. According to the **United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948)**, all individuals have the right to life, security, and an adequate standard of living. However, climate-induced disasters—such as cyclones, floods, droughts, and extreme heat—threaten these rights by displacing communities, limiting access to healthcare, and increasing socio-economic insecurities. The **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)** emphasizes the need for gender-responsive policies, particularly in climate resilience and disaster preparedness. Furthermore, **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 and 5** advocate for ensuring good health, well-being, and gender equality, both of which are compromised when climate change disproportionately impacts women's health.

Gendered Health Impact of Climate Change

Women face distinct health challenges due to climate change, including **increased maternal health risks, malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and mental health burdens**. The **World Health Organization (WHO, 2023)** highlights that extreme weather conditions contribute to higher rates of maternal mortality, anemia, and reproductive health disorders. Additionally, climate-induced displacement forces women into conditions where access to healthcare, hygiene, and nutrition is severely limited, increasing their vulnerability to infections and complications. Research by the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023)** indicates that women in developing countries, particularly in rural and coastal areas, suffer from disproportionate health risks due to their dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods such as agriculture and fishing.

Intersectionality Approach

An intersectional lens is essential to understand how climate change affects women differently based on **social, economic, and cultural factors**. The **International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2021)** reports that women from lower socio-economic backgrounds, indigenous communities, and conflict-affected regions experience compounded vulnerabilities due to environmental displacement, loss of livelihoods, and gender-based violence. Intersectionality helps highlight the **link between environmental vulnerability and gender discrimination**, where women not only face health burdens but also structural inequalities in accessing education, employment, and decision-making opportunities. The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 2023)** advocates for integrating gender-sensitive adaptation policies that address these compounded effects.

V. CLIMATE CHANGE, WOMEN'S HEALTH, AND SOCIO - ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN INDIA

Climate change disproportionately affects women's health and socio-economic well-being, particularly in disaster-prone regions. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023)** highlights that women in low-income and climate-sensitive areas face greater exposure to extreme weather events, leading to severe health risks and economic marginalization. Additionally, the **World Health Organization (WHO, 2023)** emphasizes that climate-induced health crises, such as waterborne diseases and malnutrition, exacerbate gender inequalities and hinder sustainable development efforts.

5.1 Health Impacts of Climate Disasters on Women

Maternal and Reproductive Health

Extreme weather conditions such as heatwaves, floods, and droughts increase the risk of miscarriages, stillbirths, and maternal mortality. According to **UN Women (2022)**, pregnant women in disaster-affected areas face limited access to prenatal and postnatal care, resulting in higher rates of complications and mortality. The **World Health Organization (2023)** further reports that rising temperatures contribute to preterm births and pregnancy-related complications, particularly in regions with inadequate healthcare infrastructure.

Waterborne Diseases & Sanitation

Climate-induced disasters frequently disrupt access to clean water, leading to a surge in waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea. Women, particularly in rural and flood-affected areas, suffer disproportionately due to their caregiving roles and menstrual hygiene needs. Research by the **International Organization for**

Migration (IOM, 2021) highlights that lack of proper sanitation facilities in displacement camps exposes women to infections and reproductive health issues, further exacerbating gender-based health disparities.

Mental Health Burden

Women affected by climate disasters experience significant psychological distress, including trauma, anxiety, and depression. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 2023) underscores that displacement, loss of livelihoods, and the breakdown of social support systems contribute to rising mental health issues among women in disaster-affected regions. Additionally, the emotional burden of managing family well-being in post-disaster settings further exacerbates stress levels.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Climate-related displacement increases women's vulnerability to gender-based violence, including trafficking, domestic abuse, and sexual exploitation. **UN Women (2022)** reports that in post-disaster environments, women often face heightened risks of assault due to unsafe living conditions in temporary shelters. Similarly, research by the **International Organization for Migration (2021)** found that forced migration due to climate change has led to an increase in human trafficking cases, particularly in regions experiencing prolonged droughts and food shortages.

5.2 Socio-Economic Consequences for Women

Loss of Livelihoods & Economic Marginalization

Climate disasters significantly impact women's financial stability by destroying traditional sources of income, such as agriculture and fishing. Women engaged in informal labor sectors suffer from job losses, pushing them into economic dependency or exploitative labor conditions. According to **NITI Aayog (2022)**, women in climate-affected regions experience greater income disparities and have fewer opportunities for economic recovery compared to men.

Education Disruptions

Extreme weather events and displacement often force young girls to drop out of school, limiting their future opportunities. Research by the **United Nations (2015)** on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 3 & 5) highlights that climate disasters disproportionately disrupt girls' education, as they are often expected to take on caregiving responsibilities when families face economic distress. Furthermore, in disaster-hit areas, inadequate schooling facilities and early marriages further reduce educational attainment among young girls.

Social Displacement & Migration

Climate change has triggered large-scale migration, forcing women into urban slums with poor living conditions and inadequate healthcare. According to **UNHCR (2023)**, displaced women face challenges in accessing legal documentation, social protection, and health services, increasing their vulnerability to economic and social exploitation. Furthermore, climate-induced migration disproportionately affects rural women, as they are often excluded from decision-making processes in relocation and adaptation strategies.

CASE STUDIES: CLIMATE-AFFECTED STATES IN INDIA

Climate change has intensified the frequency and severity of natural disasters in India, disproportionately impacting women's health and socio-economic stability. This section presents case studies from **West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Odisha, and Bihar**, highlighting how climate-induced disasters exacerbate gender-specific vulnerabilities.

6.1 West Bengal (Sundarbans - Cyclones and Flooding)

The Sundarbans region in West Bengal is highly susceptible to **cyclones and coastal flooding**, which pose serious health risks to women. **Cyclones Amphan (2020) and Aila (2009)** displaced thousands, with severe consequences for pregnant women and new mothers. A study by **UN Women (2022)** reported that nearly **25% of pregnant women in cyclone-affected areas lacked access to maternal healthcare**, leading to an increase in miscarriage and infant mortality rates. Additionally, post-disaster displacement heightened the risk of **human trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV)**, as identified by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB, 2021)**.

Key Statistics:

Serial No.	Indicator	Pre-Disaster	Post-Cyclone Amphan (2020)
1	Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	113 Per 100,000 Births	152 Per 100,000 Births
2	Reported Cases of GBV	250 (2019)	480 (2020)

6.2 Rajasthan (Heatwaves and Droughts)

Rajasthan experiences **extreme heatwaves** and **prolonged droughts**, significantly affecting women's health and livelihoods. The **India Meteorological Department (IMD, 2023)** recorded that in 2022, Rajasthan experienced **48°C+ temperatures for 15 consecutive days**, leading to increased cases of **heatstroke among pregnant women** and higher **anemia rates due to dehydration and malnutrition**. Male migration in search of work leaves women responsible for both household and agricultural labor, further straining their health. **NITI Aayog (2022)** noted that **68% of rural women in Rajasthan** suffer from **iron deficiency anemia**, worsened by climate-induced food shortages.

Impact on Women's Health in Rajasthan

Heat-induced miscarriages and stillbirths increased by **12%** in rural areas (2022).

Water scarcity forced **65% of women** to travel **over 3 km daily** to fetch water.

6.3 Assam (Brahmaputra Floods and Waterborne Diseases)

Assam is prone to **annual floods from the Brahmaputra River**, which lead to widespread displacement and **poor sanitation conditions**, severely impacting women's reproductive health. According to the **Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA, 2023)**, over **5.4 million people** were affected by floods in 2022, with women in refugee camps facing **increased risks of urinary tract infections (UTIs), reproductive infections, and inadequate menstrual hygiene**. The **World Health Organization (WHO, 2023)** reported that in flood-hit regions, **over 45% of pregnant women lacked access to medical care**, leading to an increase in maternal mortality rates.

Key Statistics:

Serial No.	Health Indicator	Assam (Pre-Floods)	Assam (Post-Floods 2022)
1	Access to Sanitation (%)	72%	46%
2	Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	215 Per 100,000 Births	270 Per 100,000 Births
3	UTIs & Reproductive Infections	18%	36%

Example: During the 2022 floods, a study conducted by UNDP found that 70% of women in relief camps lacked access to sanitary products, leading to increased infections.

6.4 Odisha (Cyclones and Post-Disaster Health Crises)

Odisha frequently faces **severe cyclones**, with **Cyclone Fani (2019)** displacing over **1.5 million people**, as reported by the **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA, 2020)**. The cyclone **damaged 80% of health centers** in affected districts, leaving women with **limited access to reproductive and maternal healthcare**. A report by **UNFPA (2021)** highlighted that in post-disaster shelters, **malnutrition among women increased by 30%**, leading to complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

Key Findings in Odisha

Pregnant women in cyclone-affected districts had 40% less access to medical care compared to non-affected areas.

Anemia prevalence among women increased from 52% to 63% post-cyclone.

6.5 Bihar (River Flooding and Rural Health Crisis)

Bihar faces recurrent **river flooding**, displacing **millions of people annually** and disrupting healthcare access. The **Bihar Health Department (2023)** found that floods in **2021-22** led to a **25% increase in maternal mortality rates**, as expectant mothers were unable to reach hospitals on time. Additionally, **school closures due to flooding** disproportionately affected girls, with **over 80,000 female students dropping out in 2022**, as reported by the **Bihar Education Board (2023)**.

Key Issues in Bihar

High maternal mortality rates: Floods increased MMR from **261 to 310 per 100,000 births** in affected districts.

Girls' education disruptions: **35% of displaced girls** did not return to school after floods.

Food insecurity: **68% of affected women** reported malnutrition and lack of dietary diversity.

POLICY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Climate-induced disasters in India have disproportionately impacted women due to systemic policy gaps and inadequate response mechanisms. Despite existing national and international frameworks addressing climate resilience, gender-sensitive policies remain **underdeveloped and poorly implemented**. This section evaluates **gaps in current policies** and presents **global best practices** that can inform **gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies**.

7.1 Gaps in Existing Policies

Lack of Gender-Sensitive Disaster Policies

Women face **unique health and socio-economic vulnerabilities** in climate-affected regions, yet disaster response policies remain largely **gender-neutral**, failing to account for **maternal health needs, access to sanitation, and safety concerns**. The **National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP, 2019)** lacks provisions for **gender-responsive healthcare infrastructure**, leaving women in **post-disaster relief camps without essential maternal care services**. A report by **UN Women (2022)** highlighted that in post-cyclone shelters in **Odisha**, only **30% of women had access to menstrual hygiene products**, significantly increasing the risk of infections.

Weak Implementation of Climate Resilience Plans

Although India has introduced **climate resilience plans**, their implementation **fails to reach marginalized women** in rural and disaster-prone areas. **NITI Aayog (2022)** found that **only 18% of rural women** affected by floods in **Assam and Bihar** received targeted disaster relief support. Moreover, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (2023)** reported that **over 40% of maternal healthcare facilities in flood-prone districts** were non-operational during extreme weather events.

Insufficient Protection Against GBV Post-Disasters

Post-disaster environments **increase the risk of gender-based violence (GBV)**, yet **legal and psychological support systems remain weak**. A study by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2021)** found that in **West Bengal**, post-Cyclone Amphan, **trafficking cases of young girls rose by 21%** due to displacement and economic distress. However, the **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005)** does not include **disaster-related GBV cases**, leaving survivors without sufficient legal recourse.

Table 1: Policy Gaps in India's Disaster Management Framework

Serial No.	Policy Area	Existing Issues	Impact on Women
1	Disaster Relief	Lack of gender-sensitive healthcare in relief camps	Increased maternal health risks
2	Climate Resilience	Weak outreach to rural women	Low adaptation capacity
3	GBV Protection	No specific legal framework for post-disaster GBV	Rising trafficking and violence cases
4	Economic Support	No dedicated financial aid for women post-disaster	Greater economic dependency

7.2 Global Best Practices and Policy Recommendations

Integrating Gender-Sensitive Climate Policies

Countries like **Bangladesh** and **Sub-Saharan Africa** have implemented **gender-responsive climate adaptation frameworks** that India can adopt. **Bangladesh's Gender Action Plan for Climate Adaptation (2021)** integrates **women-led disaster response teams**, improving relief accessibility. Similarly, **Ethiopia's National Gender and Climate Change Strategy (2020)** has **trained over 10,000 women in climate-resilient agriculture**, reducing economic vulnerabilities in drought-prone areas.

Improving Healthcare Infrastructure for Climate Resilience

India must strengthen **women's healthcare access in climate-vulnerable regions** through **mobile health clinics and telemedicine services**. A study by the **World Health Organization (WHO, 2023)** found that in **rural flood-affected regions of Assam**, **maternal mortality decreased by 27%** with the introduction of **mobile maternity units**.

Diagram 1: Mobile Healthcare Model for Climate-Resilient Regions

Mobile Clinics	Equipped with maternal healthcare, vaccinations, and first aid services.
Telemedicine Hubs	Remote consultations with doctors for maternal and reproductive health.
Emergency Response Teams	Rapid medical assistance during climate disasters.
Community Health Workers	Trained women providing healthcare education and basic medical care.
Relief Shelters with Medical Facilities	Ensuring hygiene, nutrition, and safety for displaced women.

Strengthening Women's Economic Participation

Financial independence is **critical for women's climate resilience**. Countries like **Nepal** have implemented **microfinance programs for women in disaster-prone regions**, improving **post-disaster economic recovery**. A study by **UNDP (2022)** in Nepal found that **women-led climate initiatives resulted in 40% higher disaster recovery rates**. India can integrate similar models, focusing on:

Skill development for displaced women in climate-affected regions.

Microfinance and low-interest credit schemes for women-led businesses post-disaster.

Incentives for women in sustainable agriculture to strengthen economic resilience.

Legal and Human Rights Protections

Women's **safety and dignity** must be prioritized in disaster response. The **UN Framework on Climate and Human Rights (UNFCCC, 2023)** recommends **integrating gender-based violence (GBV) protections into national climate policies**. India should:

Amend the **Domestic Violence Act (2005)** to include **post-disaster GBV cases**.

Establish **women-led safety monitoring units** in relief camps.

Implement **emergency helpline services for women in climate-affected regions**.

Table 2: Global Best Practices and Their Impact

Serial No.	Country	Policy Implemented	Impact on Women
1	Bangladesh	Women-led disaster response teams	30% higher relief accessibility
2	Ethiopia	Gender-focused climate training	10,000+ women trained
3	Nepal	Women's microfinance for climate recovery	40% higher disaster recovery rates
4	India (Proposed)	Gender-integrated disaster policies	Reduced health & economic vulnerabilities

CONCLUSION

Climate-induced disasters have intensified vulnerabilities for women, particularly in terms of health risks and socio-economic stability. This study highlights that extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, droughts, and heatwaves disproportionately impact women by increasing maternal health complications, malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and mental health challenges. Additionally, these disasters exacerbate economic hardships, force displacement, and heighten exposure to gender-based violence, particularly in post-disaster shelters where women lack access to adequate healthcare and legal protection. Case studies from West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Odisha, and Bihar illustrate that despite India's ongoing efforts in disaster management and climate resilience, the absence of gender-focused policies has left women struggling with limited access to essential services, financial independence, and security. Addressing these gaps requires a shift in climate governance that places women's needs at the center of adaptation strategies.

To mitigate these growing challenges, a comprehensive and gender-responsive approach to disaster planning and climate adaptation is essential. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure in climate-affected areas by introducing mobile clinics, telemedicine, and maternity care services can significantly reduce maternal mortality and improve overall well-being. Additionally, legal frameworks must be reinforced to ensure that women are protected from

trafficking and gender-based violence in post-disaster settings. Economic resilience must also be a priority, with targeted programs promoting financial inclusion, skill development, and employment opportunities for women in climate-vulnerable communities. Furthermore, adopting international best practices from countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, and Ethiopia—where women-led climate initiatives have proven effective—can offer valuable insights for strengthening India's climate resilience framework. Collaborative efforts between governments, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions will be key in ensuring that climate adaptation policies are inclusive and effective.

While this research provides critical insights into the intersection of climate disasters, women's health, and socio-economic vulnerabilities, there remains a need for further exploration. Future studies should expand their geographical scope to include other climate-vulnerable regions such as the north-eastern states of India, Himalayan communities, and drought-prone areas like Maharashtra and Gujarat. Additionally, cross-national comparative studies can offer valuable lessons by analysing how gender-inclusive climate policies in different parts of the world have successfully addressed these challenges. Long-term research is also necessary to understand how climate-induced displacement affects women's education, employment, and overall quality of life over time. Moreover, the integration of technology and innovation in climate adaptation—such as digital financial services, renewable energy solutions, and climate-smart agriculture—should be explored to empower women as key stakeholders in climate resilience.

As the impacts of climate change continue to escalate, the need to prioritize women's health, safety, and economic security in disaster response and adaptation policies becomes more urgent. Recognizing women not only as vulnerable populations but as active agents in climate resilience is crucial for achieving sustainable and equitable development. By fostering gender-sensitive policies and ensuring meaningful participation of women in climate governance, India can take significant strides toward building a more inclusive and resilient future..

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