

A Study on Consequence of Climate Change on Arid Regions: A Special Reference to Rajasthan State

***Parveen Kumar**

Abstract

The rapid environmental change adds to the widespread worry on a global scale. The noble Coronavirus held the globe in peril for the last several years, resulting in severe financial losses and fatalities. At the same time, the extraordinary environmental situation was being exacerbated by the super climatic events. The whole globe came together and took on various commitments made in several UN conferences, culminating in the Paris Convention, to both implement moderation and transformation measures to lower the discharges in order to minimize the effects of environmental change. Everyone from the United Nations saw the Sustainable Development Goals plan in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro with the intention of securing a stable future for the world and its inhabitants. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have 17 objectives, were adopted in 2015. Goal No. 13 of the SDGs addresses sincere efforts to combat environmental change and its effects in all geographic areas, including bone-dry regions. The study aims to provide a summary of the arid region's environmental weaknesses and to identify the key challenges that environmental change poses to the area's future course of events. The article goes on to explore the impact of environmental change in a parched area and the various, cost-effective approaches to address its issues. It concludes with suggestions for reducing the impact of environmental change in Rajasthan's dry climate.

Keyword: environmental change, global, Rajasthan, Sustainable Development.

Background

The greatest challenge facing us now is environmental change, which poses a danger to our society, economy, and temperament due to a vast array of repercussions. Land-based carbon sinks are not infinite, according to the August 2019 IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land. The paper notes that future hardship brought on by aggravating factors like flood, dry season, fire, or terrible administration might threaten any sequester advantages. The climate of the planet has been altered throughout the last 3.5 billion years by volcanic eruptions, variations in solar radiation, the center region shifting slowly on sliding subterranean plates, effects from enormous meteorites, and several other factors.

The environment has undergone prolonged cold seasons and an unnatural shift in meteorological conditions during the last 900,000 years. An increase in ozone-depleting compounds, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), in the air is primarily responsible for the perpetual human environmental

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change. An explanation on the "Environment of India during 2020" was published by the Indian Meteorological Department and released on January 4th, 2021. This data demonstrates that the annual mean land surface air temperature that appeared across India in the middle of 2020 was higher than typical. Since cross-country data have been kept since 1901, the year 2020 has boiled the ninth most.

The whole globe came together and honestly accepted the many commitments made at several UN conferences, culminating in the Paris Convention (12th December 2015), to implement both relief and variation measures to reduce discharges. All United Nations representatives in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 agreed that the Sustainable Development Goals plan would help ensure a bright future for the planet and all of its inhabitants. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were mandated in 2015 with 17 goals; SDG Goal 13 was seen as the tightest efforts to combat environmental change and its influence on all geographical characteristics, particularly arid regions.

The responsibilities and obligations of the national, state, and local governments were outlined in the Indian Constitution. India introduced the Climate Action Portal in 2020 to monitor and lessen the effects of climate change. The site will provide details on the many climate drives that various line services have taken, allowing consumers to acquire updated status on these drives. India's climate profile, its NDC targets, two-sided and multilateral involvement, etc. are the portal's key sections.

Objective of Study

- This research was conducted to present an overview of the climatic sensitivity in Arid Rajasthan
- To look back in time to comprehend current developments.

Linkage of Climate Change to the Arid Area

More over 30% of the surface of the earth is covered by arid areas, including desert and semi-desert regions, making them the largest terrestrial biomes in the world. They are commonly predicted to be among the species most vulnerable to an increase in Earth's temperature. In any event, there are still significant flaws with regard to the practical effects of increasing CO₂ or future environmental change in very dry (parched) contexts. Understanding certain paleoclimatic data as analogs to future settings puts forward the idea that overall environmental change may cause dry places to receive increased precipitation and, when necessary, turn out to be more important organic frameworks. The conditions predicting changes in precipitation in modern deserts are occasionally revealed as indicators of a logical extension in the helpfulness of dried zones because of the CO₂ increases, despite the notable weaknesses about the responsiveness of dry biological systems to the constant climatic changes. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) fourth assessment report, the temperature has increased and is expected to do so in the future if no action is done. The absence of water in these arid areas will likely increase as dry regions get dryer and wetter, respectively. Environmental change will have an influence on the possible progress problems we face

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in a variety of areas, not only ecological ones. Additionally, it will have an impact on the 2.5 billion people who live in dry biological systems. A different billion people live in the extremely dry (parched) regions, which make up 40% of the global land area and represent 35% of the total population. Approximately 55% of severely dry (parched) renters reside in rural areas. 70% of renters in rural areas and over 90% in agricultural nations are living in extremely dry (parched) environments. Most of the world's least fortunate individuals, in terms of wealth, reside in dry areas. The least fortunate people in the earth in terms of money often reside in dry areas. The majority of dry biological systems eventually experience effects from expanding asset demands, unrealistic administrative procedures, and human-induced environmental change, which creates a great deal of additional strain. In general, dry/parched structures are vulnerable to the magnitude and pace of environmental change, and the vulnerability of those who live there will increase going forward if their adaptability limit worsens.

Area of Study: Arid Rajasthan

In a region dominated by desert and semi-desert ecosystems, water is scarce, and aeolian processes are more responsible for soil degradation. One example of a dry environment is Rajasthan, which has been threatened by climate change over the last several decades.

About Arid Rajasthan

The Indian hot, dry area, which includes the western portions of Rajasthan (19.6 Mha, or 69%), Gujarat (6.22 Mha, or 21%), and Haryana and Punjab (2.75 Mha, or 10%), is structured between 22 30' and 32 05' N scopes and from 68 05' to 75 45' E longitudes. An immense portion of Rajasthan's northern-western region, which includes 12 districts, is covered by the hot, dry zone. In actuality, the dispersal of precipitation in space is very disproportionate [8]. According to Census 2011, this arid region has a total population of around 27,115,542 people living within a 208,746 sq. km. area. The dry district, particularly the review location, accounts for around 60.99% of the state's territory and 39.51% of its population. 12 locations, including Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Pali, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Barmer, Jalore, Hanumangarh, and Sriganganagar, are included in the completely dry region of Rajasthan.

Effects of Climate Change in Rajasthan's Arid Region

Due to an overall decrease in precipitation, Rajasthan will likely continue to face water shortages. In a similar vein, the State is most susceptible to the effects of climate change and has the least amount of adaptability. Because of a dangerous climatic development, total precipitation is anticipated to decrease and evapotranspiration is likely to increase, despite the fact that a 20% increase in all-India summer rainstorm precipitation is forecast for Rajasthan (an unnatural weather change). It makes sense given the arid Rajasthan's climate, namely Western Rajasthan, which is prone to a number of disasters including floods, drought, earthquakes, and wind zones. Rajasthan has seen the greatest risk of even floods

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During the last ten years in India. Rajasthan saw deluges that were 42.2 mm, or 136% over normal, during the 2019 post-storm season. East Rajasthan had 37.8 mm of precipitation, which is 47% more than usual, whereas Western or Arid Rajasthan received 45.7 mm, or 294% more than usual. Rajasthan saw a 44.9 mm storm in the 2020 pre-rainstorm season, which is 114% more than usual downpours. West Rajasthan received 44.7 mm, which is about 100% more than usual storms. East Rajasthan had 45.2 mm of rain, or 138% more than usual downpours. explains the Rajasthan area precipitation flying guide. With a drop in precipitation, an increase in temperature and aridity, and an extension of both, the climate over Western Rajasthan is still looking favorable. The band of very dry (dry) weather has moved eastward, speeding up the process of land corruption (land debasement) and resulting in desertification. The lack of water resources (assets) makes the region even more defenceless (weak) to environmental change.

The government authority in the area has greatly improved the area's numerous water sources over the last twenty years, and as a result of these initiatives, the northwestern portion of the region has achieved remarkable agricultural productivity and yield. To mitigate the impact of climate change and its effects on the dry Rajasthan, the channel water system has been improved in certain areas, which has increased the course of land devaluation that has to be monitored.

Action Taken by The Rajasthan Government to Minimize the Effect of Climate Change

The development of Rajasthan's Climate Change Agenda (CCAR) in 2010 was an important step in addressing the state's climate challenges. This was a major initiative launched by the state administration since Rajasthan is the largest state in the nation and has notable deficiencies in terms of sensitivity to climatic restrictions, shifting capabilities for responding to risks, and open doors that may be accessed.

Rajasthan published a State Environment Policy (SEP) in 2010 that identified the major environmental issues the state should solve to maintain sustainable development and fair economic growth. Few sectors under the State Environment Mission have been considered fundamental in the sense that they are affected by climate change. Human well-being, agriculture and livestock, improved energy efficiency, especially energy from the sun, and crucial information for climate change are included in the aforementioned topics.

The CCAR documented several state requirements for adaptation and mitigation plan and action between 2010 and 2014 as part of the Rajasthan Environment Mission. State-specific missions for Rajasthan were developed, underlining the necessity for major policy and strategy changes to address research gaps and demands while also considering the state's shortcomings and constraints. The CCAR identified a list of techniques within the current seven state-level Task Forces, such as Water Resources, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Forestry and Biodiversity, etc., that report to the respective Principal Secretary/Secretary of the Department.

Rajasthan State Action Plan on Climate Change

The Rajasthan Action Plan on Climate Change (RAPCC), which focuses on genuine areas of action in an orderly and time-bound manner, promotes the basic districts as indicated under the CCAR. In

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consultation with the Rajasthan State Environment Policy and Environment Mission, this has been done. The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) now has a "Environmental Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Cell" that will likely serve as a central agency for planning concerns relating to environmental change in the State. The CCAR was written after the Cell had been established in April 2010 and had been safeguarded. A team has been formed by the state of Rajasthan to concentrate on carrying out the environmental mission. The goal of RAPCC is to achieve realistic development by enhancing social adaptability in Rajasthan and reducing defenselessness (weakness) to the impacts of environmental change. Fig. explains how the RAPCC approach graph works. The RAPCC envisions strategies and action centers for ecological transformation. Agriculture and animal husbandry, Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change, Human Health, Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Forestry and Biodiversity, Urban Governance, Sustainable Habitats, and Water Resources are the main areas that fall within the purview of RAPCC.

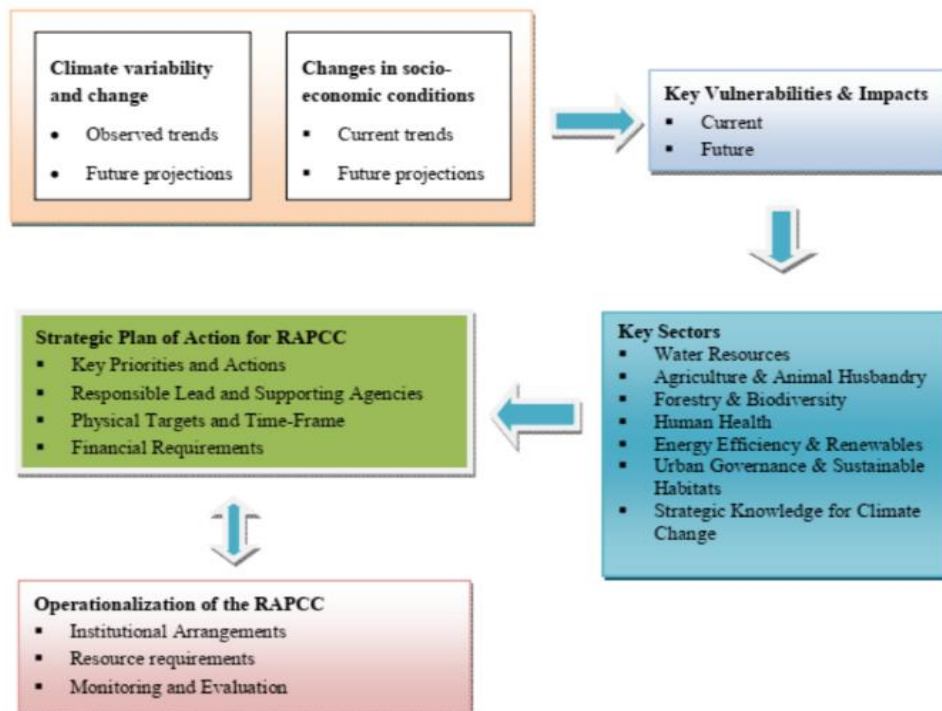


Fig. RAPCC Approach

Source: RAPCC Documents, Government of Rajasthan

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Mukhya Mantri Jal Swawalamban Abhiyan

In Rajasthan, precipitation often lasts for a very long time, which hurts agricultural productivity. Due to farmers' reduced agricultural output and the conversion of arable land to non-usable land, there is a lack of fuel, feed, and milk due to their precarious financial situation. The fundamental explanation for the current situation is the scarcity of water [12]. Agricultural and animal husbandry are the main occupations of the state's 75% provincial population. Given these state-specific circumstances, Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan was aware of the need to use the Four Waters-Rainfall, overflow, Ground Water, and in-situ Soil Moisture keeping watershed or Cluster/index catchment as a unit for Western Rajasthan, where there is insufficient precipitation and no defined drainage lines, making it the best illustration of the danger posed by climate change.

The Objectives of "Mukhya Mantri Jal Swawalamban Abhiyan" are

- To guarantee solid execution of water conservation and water reaping related practices in country districts through the blending of plans and plans of different associations keeping in view the momentum rules.
- Execution of deals with individuals' help by persuading residents and beneficiaries/recipients.
- Get-together of open flood (water, groundwater, underground water, and in situ soil sogginess) in-country area by treatment of catchment, genuine utilization of available water gathering structures, overhaul of the non-usable water procuring plans, and progression of new water collecting structures.
- Improvement of Forest, land, water, and fauna environments and keeping watershed/bunch/list as a unit for regular administration of resources (assets). Persevering through
- Solution of drinking water by making the Village free because of water.
- To broaden the Irrigated region through water preservation and reaping.

The task has arrived at stage V. The Creation of water storing structures, recovery of old plans, watershed improvement, water safeguarding, and water gathering related practices are brought out through relationship of plans of various divisions, and works are assisted through people's advantage in the previously mentioned Program

Conclusion

Rajasthan has the most ludicrous openness and least adaptable ability to environmental change issues, according to the above findings. Given the overall trend of decreased precipitation, the state is projected to experience more water shortages. With a decrease in precipitation and an increase in warmth and aridity, the climate across Western Rajasthan is clearly showing indications of improvement. The dry environment belt has advanced eastward, strengthening the direction of land

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corruption and accelerating the desertification process. The Rajasthan government has been experimenting with various strategies to lessen the effects of climate change, such as the formulation of CCARs and RAPCCs. In fact, there are several planning records that directly or indirectly address environmental problems, such as Master Plans arrangements, URDPFI regulations, RADPFI rules, and so forth. However, there are gaps in the planning records that may account for the insufficient implementation of the plans. It is crucial to include various partners, such as government organizations, civil society organizations, businesses, private areas, and individuals, to advance regional clear-cut solutions to address the effects of environmental change that can help advance the alleviation and variation with moving in Arid Rajasthan.

***Assistant Professor
Department of Geography
Shree S.J.D Agarwal (Tola)
Smrati Mahila P.G. College,
Kalri, Rajgarh, Churu**

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