

CHAPTER 7

RE-MARGINALIZING THE MARGINALIZED: IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE INDIAN RURAL COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT

“Before the landslide: Wayanad tragedy is a warning – don’t ignore ecology” was the headline of a news report by Indian Express dated August 3, 2024, covering and analysing the devastating impact of floods leading to catastrophic landslides in Kerala. Surrounded by the young Himalayan cover and long shoreline, India’s varied and dynamic geographical conditions are specifically susceptible to climate change. This research paper aims to explore the multifaceted effects of climate change on rural communities in India outlining the vulnerability of India’s diverse geographical landscape to climate change and highlighting the disproportionate impact on rural populations. The paper subsequently explores the characteristics and effects of climate change on rural communities, analyzing meteorological phenomena such as droughts, floods, and cyclones, and their consequences for agricultural output and food security. The research paper concludes with certain policy and implementation recommendations suggesting a way forward.

Keywords: *Climate Change, Rural Communities, SDGs, Migration, Resilience*

NATURE AND IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

A survey conducted by the Forum of Enterprises for Equitable Development (FEED) in conjunction with the Development Intelligence Unit (DIU), covering 6,615 farmers across 21 states, indicates that an alarming 80% of marginal farmers in India have experienced crop losses attributable to adverse climate events in the preceding five years. (Forum of Enterprises for Equitable Development, 2024).

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