

## Impact of Climate Change on Women in Rural India

Nibedita Khuntia

Department of Biology, Maharaja Agarsen College, University of Delhi

**Abstract.** This article analyses the disproportionate impact of climate change on women residing in rural parts of India. Using secondary data sources and other literature, it argues how women are at higher risk socially, economically and on account of health. However, despite this vulnerability, women are important change makers and are leading the fight against climate change at the grassroot level. It highlights the work done by two such women groups based in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. It also briefly comments on the future plan of action to create a gender-sensitive approach to mitigating climate change.

**Key Words:** climate change; women and health; fuel wood; fetching water; rural India; grassroot level

### 1 Introduction

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change defines the phenomena as "a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods". The annual report published by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) pointed out that the primary cause of global warming was burning fossil fuels for human activities. Deforestation is also a leading cause.

The reasons for such environmental degradation are manifold. Some examples are population growth, technological advancements and economic progress. A growing population has endless needs. The most basic of those is food and settlement – both of which require large forests areas to be cleared both for housing and for food production. Other needs of a growing population can be met through technological progress. However, technological progress itself affects the environment adversely, say for instance, through generation of e-waste, air pollution, water pollution etc. Technological progress is essential for economic growth, which leads to higher incomes. However, higher incomes encourage a culture of consumerism. As people earn more money, they buy more food, more cars etc., reinforcing the vicious cycle of environment

# VEETHIKA-An International Interdisciplinary Research Journal

[About](#) [Aims and scope](#) [Editorial Team](#) [Current](#) [Archives](#) [Contact](#)



## Current Issue

**Vol 8 No 1 (2022)**

**Published: 2022-03-01**


## Articles

### **Aphid seasonality and host plant relationship: A Review**

Debkumar Sahoo, Biplab Mandal, Sudipta Kumar Ghorai

1-6

 PDF


 CHECK FOR UPDATES

### **Teaching Motivation: The Kung Fu Panda way**

Surabhi Singhal

7-10

 PDF

 CHECK FOR UPDATES

### **COVID-19 induced adoption of online teaching by school teachers in India**

Rajni Khokher

11-14

 PDF

**Jaya Verma, Rajiv Kumar Verma**

1-10



**Modern Retail Industry Market Size and Potential**

**Amrita Kaur**

11-19



**An Analysis of the Composition and Trends in the Foreign Trade of Bangladesh and India**

**Barenya Nayak, Anushruti A**

20-33



**Corporate Business Strategy and its Challenges**

**Ved Prakash Bansal**

34-38



**Impact of Climate Change on Women in Rural India**

**Nibedita Khuntia**

39-47



**Understanding Ipsative Assessment**

**Tulika Prasad**

48-51



ISSN 2320-4540

# *The Public : Problems and Solutions*

An International Refereed & Peer-Reviewed Research  
Journal Related to Higher Education for all Subjects

सामान्य जनता की विभिन्न समस्याओं की शोध-चेतना  
सम्बन्धी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शोध-पत्रिका

(Hindi - English Quarterly Journal)

Volume 7 No. 2

APRIL - JUNE 2017

UGC Approved No.48845, 47263

SLRF IMPACT FACTOR : 2.362

Editor in Chief

**Dr. Mukesh Kumar Malviya**

E-mail: [shodhpatrikabhu@gmail.com](mailto:shodhpatrikabhu@gmail.com)

Cell : 91-8004851126

## CONTENTS

1.	Entrepreneurship for increased competitiveness and sustainability of Handloom Industry <b>*Janmejy Khuntia**Dr. Shiba C. Panda***Kanika Nagpal</b>	1-4
2.	A critical assessment of availability of drinking water sources and sanitation as per Millennium Development Goals <b>*Dr. Nibedita Khuntia</b>	5-8
3.	AMENDED LAW OF CONSUMER PROTECTION IN INDIA : IN THE LIGHT OF ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT, DECREE AND ORDER <b>*Ms. Manjit Kaur **Dr. Dinesh Babu</b>	9-14
4.	The Constitution Strengthened and Weakened-An Overview <b>*Dr. Shripad Kulkarni</b>	15-21
5.	Women Empowerment: A Legal Study <b>*Vivek kumar</b>	22-28
6.	The interdependence of poverty, education and gender discrimination in Bihar : Efforts for development <b>*Baidehi Kumari</b>	29-31
7.	Diasporic Issues in Bapsi Sidhwa's <i>An American Brat</i> <b>*Nikhil Pratap Singh</b>	32-36
8.	LEGAL EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA <b>*Dr Mukesh Kumar Malviya</b>	37-38
9.	धर्म पुरुषार्थ : एक विमर्श <b>*कादम्बरी शर्मा</b>	39-49
10.	दलित चेतना का अखिल भारतीय एवं वैश्विक परिदृश्य <b>*राजू बैठा</b>	50-53
11.	भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य में भक्ति की अवधारणा <b>*मनीष कुमार मिश्र</b>	54-58
12.	वेदों में श्रम की महत्ता तथा वर्तमान सन्दर्भ में इसकी प्रासंगिकता <b>*डा. श्रीश कुमार तिवारी **डा. गगन सिंह</b>	59-61
13.	भारत में गरीबी : गरीब ग्रामीण महिलाओं की वस्तु स्थिति का एक समाजशास्त्रीय मूल्यांकन <b>*राधा प्रजापति</b>	62
14.	स्वातंत्र्योत्तर उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में जातिगत आन्दोलनों के विभिन्न परिप्रेक्ष्य : एक ऐतिहासिक अध्ययन <b>*राकेश कुमार त्रिपाठी</b>	63
15.	समाजिक न्याय की पृष्ठभूमि में शिक्षा और समाज <b>*डा० सुरेश प्रसाद</b>	64
16.	भारत में लोकतंत्र का स्वरूप <b>*सुजाता कुमारी</b>	65
17.	Eastern Uttar Pradesh: A Saga of Underdevelopment <b>*Dr. Ajay Kumar Srivasatava</b>	66

## A critical assessment of availability of drinking watersources and sanitation as per Millennium Development Goals

\*Dr. Nibedita Khuntia

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi, Delhi

### Abstract

Availability of drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities are basic minimum requirements of life. Absence of these requirements create poverty and hunger as well as inflict insult to human existence. It is the primary responsibility of the governments and dedicated agencies in each and every country all around the world to provide such facilities to the population by setting targets to achieve in a time bound manner. The Millennium Development Goals(MDGs) are such targets set by countries jointly to be achieved by the year 2015 in pursuit of human development. One of the goals is to provide drinking water sources and sanitation. The present analysis gives the status of achievement in this area in India.

**Key words:** Drinking water, sanitation, rural, urban, pollution, piped, improved, unimproved

### Introduction

Water supports life on earth. Freshwater provides water for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, transport, electricity generation and recreation. It also creates habitats for a diverse range of animals and plants and provides cool bridge and fresh air. The inland water bodies are the sources of this fresh water. India is blessed with rich varieties of inland water resources needed to sustain human life. As per Government of India Report on Water Quality for the year 2015-16, the length of rivers, streams, springs and canals measure more than 1.95 lakh Kms while approximately 74 Lakh Hectares of water bodies are available in the country which include reservoirs, lakes covering 29.26 lakh hectares, tanks and ponds covering 24.33 lakh hectares and rest about 20 lakh hectares offloodplains, and wetlands (bogs, marshes, and swamps), derelict water and brackish water. All these water bodies including rivers and ponds are the principal sources of water for consumption to sustain life. India is a highly populated country with a population of 121 crore as per 2011 census. This is a huge number and division and distribution of resources including water are big issues before the government. In fact, access to clean water is a prominent global issue.

### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Water and Sanitation

Existence of rivers and other water bodies said above does not ensure supply of water to households for drinking purpose. Intermediary sources or infrastructure must be created to make water available to households. The broad idea is to eliminate hunger, poverty and ensure a decent standard of living for all. The global co-operation among countries to achieve this came in the form of Millennium Development Goals (MDSs) when 191 countries signed agreement in September 2000. There are eight MDGs reproduced below as taken from the websites of United Nation (UN), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) etc. The MDGs are as follows: 1.to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2.to achieve universal primary education 3.to promote gender equality and empower women 4.to reduce child mortality 5.to improve maternal health 6.to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases 7.to ensure environmental sustainability; and 8.to develop a global partnership for development.

Provision of drinking water sources and sanitation to every household is crucial to fulfilment of these goals. WHO and UNICEF have enlisted two types of sources – Improved and Unimproved – for both drinking water and sanitation respectively. Types of drinking water sources are given in Box 1 and types of sanitation sources are given in Box 2 which are self-explanatory.

Box 1: Types of drinking water sources	
Improved drinking water sources	Unimproved drinking water sources
Household connection	Unprotected well
Public standpipe	Unprotected spring
Borehole	Rivers or ponds
Protected dug well	Vendor-provided water