

Ecofeminist Perspective: Climate Change and its Impact on Women

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ABSTRACT

Climate change is one of the environmental issues that continues to be a challenge for global life. The occurrence of climate change has a major impact on the lives of every group of people. This ecological problem has increased gender inequality and gender-based sexual violence in society. In this article, we will discuss further the impact of climate change on women. The method used to conduct research and analysis in this study is to use qualitative research methods to explain the phenomenon. The data were carried out using literature studies using theoretical frameworks. Data collection techniques are carried out by observation and relevant literature studies. Through this article, we will learn how climate change impacts women's groups. The results showed that climate change has an impact on women, especially women in developing countries. The impact of climate change on women can be seen from women's limited access to welfare and impact on women's health access. Declining water quality due to climate change has an impact on women who have the responsibility as the main water provider for household needs. The occurrence of climate change also has an impact on women's health due to water scarcity and pollution.

Keywords: *Climate Change Impacts, Women, Ecofeminist Perspectives*

ABSTRAK

Perubahan iklim merupakan salah satu isu lingkungan yang terus menjadi tantangan bagi kehidupan global. Terjadinya perubahan iklim berdampak besar pada kehidupan setiap kelompok masyarakat. Permasalahan ekologi inilah yang mengakibatkan meningkatnya kesenjangan gender serta kekerasan seksual berbasis gender pada masyarakat. Pada artikel inilah akan dibahas lebih jauh mengenai dampak yang diberikan perubahan iklim terhadap kelompok perempuan. Metode yang digunakan untuk melakukan penelitian dan analisis dalam penelitian ini adalah dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif untuk menjelaskan fenomena tersebut. Data dilakukan dengan menggunakan studi pustaka dengan menggunakan kerangka teoritis. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan observasi dan studi pustaka yang relevan. Melalui artikel ini akan diketahui bagaimana dampak terjadinya perubahan iklim pada kelompok perempuan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perubahan iklim berdampak pada perempuan, khususnya perempuan yang berada di negara berkembang. Dampak perubahan iklim terhadap perempuan dapat dilihat dari keterbatasan akses perempuan dalam mewujudkan kesejahteraannya serta berdampak terhadap akses kesehatan bagi perempuan. Menurunnya kualitas air akibat perubahan iklim berdampak kepada perempuan yang memiliki tanggung jawab sebagai penyedia air utama untuk kebutuhan rumah tangga. Terjadinya perubahan iklim juga berdampak pada kesehatan perempuan karena kelangkaan dan polusi air.

Kata kunci: Dampak Perubahan Iklim, Perempuan, Perspektif Ekofeminis



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1. Introduction

Based on reports related to climate change states that emissions produced by humans easily increase the earth's temperature by 1.1 degrees Celsius, which is predicted to also rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the years to come. The increasing temperature of the earth will cause glaciers to slowly disappear which means millions of global residents will experience limited access to clean water and will experience a high risk of extinction. The impact of climate change is very clear where extreme weather is increasingly frequent. Climate change is not a trivial issue, because one of the consequences of climate change is that hot weather has caused an increase in deaths by 40% in the world's population. The impact of climate change, especially on developing countries, has a greater impact on women living in developing countries. The chances of survival to be able to adapt to the effects of climate change are very small. The likely situation is suffering that creates gaps in information, decision-making, and access to resources and training. This makes it more difficult for women to reach various assistance in terms of anticipating threats that occur due to the impact of climate change. In addition to the threat of women's access in terms of realizing welfare, the impact that is likely to be experienced by women is on their health aspects. Women's limitations in terms of health services make climate change such as extreme heat ultimately easily increase the spread of disease.

2. Method

The method used to conduct research and analysis in this study is to use qualitative research methods to explain the phenomenon. To be able to relate the phenomenon, data were carried out using literature studies using theoretical frameworks. Data collection from literature study methods is taken from various sources such as the internet, journals, and books. Descriptive qualitative is a method that describes in a complex way reality and society. Descriptions can further review an issue so that it can find clues from the event. Descriptive qualitative centered on 5W + 1H, which is to obtain further and more thorough facts.

3. Result and Discussion

A. Climate Change

The occurrence of climate change is triggered by human activities themselves. Humans are the main cause of climate change that occurs. One of them is the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas. Fossil fuel gas emissions account for more than 75% of rising climate change. The burning of these fossils produces greenhouse gas emissions that blanket the earth, consequently generating solar heat and raising temperatures. Gas emissions that cause climate change are such as carbon dioxide and methane. Examples are the use of gasoline to drive cars and landfills from which methane emissions originate. In addition to the consequences of greenhouse gas emissions, the cause of climate change is a decrease in land that can absorb carbon dioxide. With the reduction of millions of hectares of forest resulting in climate change resulting in an increase in carbon dioxide, there is no sequestration.

Climate change is a change in the physical condition of the earth's atmosphere. Climate change is influenced by several elements including air temperature, air pressure, wind, humidity and rainfall. In the

IPCC publication the current state of the earth it is undeniable that humans are involved in increasing temperatures in the atmosphere, oceans, and land.

B. Ecofeminist Perspectives

Women are often associated with issues related to injustice. Injustice against women in the environment begins with understanding human injustice to the environment around them. Attempts to define women are often linked to natural traits. Earth is a symbol of "Mother Earth", this symbol places the earth as a place of loving grace. It is He who protects what is inside, including the people who are in it. The qualities of love and protection are often constructed as natural qualities, and these two qualities are similar to feminine qualities. Feminist and environmental movements have overlapping goals, both building global practices based on patriarchal and authoritarian models to undermine women's status by defining them as nature or natural states.

The word Ecofeminist comes from two words, ecology and *feminism*. Ecology itself is a science that discusses the relationship of living things such as nature, animals, and plants. This ecological science is closely related between one species and another species that can form ecosystems. Feminism is a movement that demands equality and justice rights for women. This feminism arises because there is an assumption that women experience oppression and exploitation. This movement wants to stop the injustices that happen to women. According to ecofeminist Karen J. Warren, society is shaped by values, beliefs, education, and behavior that use patriarchal frameworks.

Feminist and ecological movements aim to support each other, both movements want to create the view that there is a connection between women and nature. Ecofeminists see the relationship between women and nature as both experiencing oppression and also how the patriarchal system has become very dominant.

C. The Impact of Climate Change on Women

Climate change is a threat to every group of global society. However, the impact of climate change affects gender relations, where there is a gap between men and women in terms of impact. The greater impact was experienced by women's groups. This happens because there is an unequal division of power be it access to education, employment, health, and all forms of inequality. Women are often responsible for collecting and producing food, collecting water, and finding fuel for heating and cooking. With climate change, these tasks have become more difficult. Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods have a greater impact on the poor and most vulnerable, especially since it is likely that 70% of the world's poor are women. Women in their lives are more likely to depend on the environment as a source that supports their lives. Today, women are also a group with limited resources, especially in terms of education. Unleashing women's knowledge and abilities is an important opportunity to create effective climate change solutions for the benefit of all.

Some of the impacts that must be received by women's groups due to climate change which threatens the livelihoods, welfare, and progress of women include:

1. Women and Biodiversity

According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, climate change will be the leading cause of biodiversity loss by the end of the century. For example, with deforestation accounting for an average of 20% of anthropogenic carbon emissions, protecting natural habitats can reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. In addition, protecting mangroves and drought-tolerant crops can help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as flooding and famine. In rural areas of Africa and Asia, both women and men rely heavily on biomass such as timber, food crops, waste, and forest resources for energy production and livelihoods. However, in the face of climate change, the ability of women and men to access the resources they need is limited. It is important to note that biodiversity loss does not only impact people's material well-being and livelihoods. It also affects safety, resilience, social relationships, health, and access to freedom of choice and action. Much of the loss of biodiversity has had a major impact on poor communities in developing countries. Declining fish stocks have had a major impact on traditional fishermen and local communities that depend on fishing, and these are some examples. In addition, deforestation in many parts of the world means that wood, the most commonly used solid fuel, is stored far from human habitation. In poor communities in most developing countries, women and girls are responsible for obtaining traditional fuel, a task that is physically demanding and can take 2 to 20 hours or more per week. As a result, women have less time to do household chores, earn money, participate in politics and other public activities, read and acquire other skills, or simply rest. Sometimes girls come home from school to help collect fuel, and the cycle of helplessness continues. Despite the need to constantly seek resources due to environmental degradation, women and girls are more vulnerable to injury when carrying heavy loads over long distances, and are also at risk of sexual harassment and violence.

2. Access to Water

Climate change has a significant impact on freshwater resources, affecting the availability of water used for domestic and production purposes. The consequences of the increasing frequency of floods and droughts make this goal even more feasible, especially for vulnerable groups, including women responsible for water management at the household level. In developing countries, women and girls bear the burden of collecting water for their families and spend most of their time each day carrying water from distant sources. Water from distant sources can rarely meet daily needs and is often contaminated, so women and girls also have to bear the consequences due to poor hygiene. For example, in cases where groundwater is heavily contaminated with arsenic, increased levels of arsenic in the diet will increase exposure to rural communities and other low socioeconomic groups. As a result of health problems, among others: ulcers, scabs, brown spots on hands and feet, swelling of the limbs, and loss of taste. Arsenic exposure also manifests as skin lesions which often have negative social repercussions for victims of arsenic poisoning – this situation is especially worse for women who may be shunned, ostracized and stigmatized, marketed for their appearance – this also affects

women's abilities. Single or married, and in many cases unmarried, women are more vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. In the context of climate change, inadequate access to water and poor water quality not only impact women, their responsibilities as primary water providers, and the health of their families, but also impact agricultural and livestock production; and increase the total amount of labor used to collect, store, protect, and distribute water.

3. Impact on Women's Health

Possible health climate change scenarios include increased morbidity and death rates from heat waves, floods, storms, fires, and droughts. In addition, environmental threats due to climate change increase the risk of developing serious diseases. In addition to the above evidence on the impact of climate on women's health through water scarcity and pollution, there is ample evidence that the incidence and spread of infectious diseases are related to climate and weather. This points to the increasing threat of infectious diseases such as cholera, malaria, and dengue, as well as the risk of longer seasons and wider geographic spread of disease outbreaks. Climate determines the geographic distribution of infectious diseases, but weather affects the timing and severity of epidemics. For example, mosquito-borne diseases are very sensitive to climate change. Heat increases the frequency of mosquito bites and accelerates the process of maturation of the parasites it carries. Temperatures that tend to rise will accelerate the development of parasites. In addition, ever-increasing eating habits along with climate change will most likely increase the prevalence of waterborne diseases, especially waterborne and vector-borne diseases, affecting millions of poor people each year. In addition, the increased prevalence of the disease tends to worsen women's service to family members and community Members who are sick. These diseases include malaria, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and diarrhea.

4. Women and Energy

Energy in particular is a very important field, and renewable energy is often touted as a key technology in mitigating climate change. Many people question the role of women in energy issues. Here, energy is mainly considered as electricity for electrical equipment and supplies, gasoline and diesel for motorcycles and cars, and petroleum for natural gas. Dealing with these various media (electric power and fuel) is often seen as a man's job, and women are not expected to be involved in electricity generation or fuel distribution. Because of this mindset, women and men have different educational and social expectations, and women are usually excluded from discussions about energy planning and policy. This exclusion also means that women do not participate or contribute to improving key climate change mitigation strategies. In developing countries, especially poorer areas, some energy currently comes from traditional biomass fuels such as wood, charcoal, and agricultural waste, and collecting and managing these fuels is strictly women's business.

This is a factor why women are considered to have no role in the energy sector. Given these many responsibilities and duties, women in developing countries need to be actively involved in

national energy decision-making. Women need to be more engaged to help manage energy supplies more effectively and productively in the face of climate change and to eliminate reliance on biomass fuels to lift communities out of poverty.

The link between energy and women and climate change is particularly large in regions with the availability of modern fuels and reliance on biomass fuels for activities such as cooking, heating, and lighting. It is in these developing countries that women according to existing traditions have the responsibility to collect fuel and provide food. Women need to be more engaged to help manage energy supplies more effectively and productively in the face of climate change and to eliminate reliance on biomass fuels to uplift communities.

4. Conclusion

Climate change is not a trivial issue, because one of the consequences of climate change is that hot weather has caused an increase in deaths by 40% in the world's population. The impact of climate change, especially on developing countries, has a greater impact on women living in developing countries. This makes it more difficult for women to reach various assistance in terms of anticipating threats that occur due to the impact of climate change. In addition to the threat of women's access in terms of realizing welfare, the impact that is likely to be experienced by women is on their health aspects. Women's limitations in terms of health services make climate change such as extreme heat ultimately easily increase the spread of disease. Climate Change The occurrence of climate change is triggered by human activities themselves. However, the impact of climate change affects gender relations, where there is a gap between men and women in terms of impact. Today, women are also a group with limited resources, especially in terms of education, Unleashing women's knowledge and abilities is an important opportunity to create effective climate change solutions for the benefit of all. Some of the impacts that must be received by women's groups due to climate change which threatens the livelihoods, welfare, and progress of women include:

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In addition to the above evidence on the impact of climate on women's health through water scarcity and pollution, there is ample evidence that the incidence and spread of infectious diseases are related to climate and weather. In addition, ever-increasing eating habits along with climate change will most likely increase the prevalence of waterborne diseases, especially waterborne and vector-borne diseases, affecting millions of poor people each year. Women and Energy Energy in particular is a very important field, and

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