

Community Adaptation to Climate Change: A Case Study of District Chitral



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Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	7
1.1. Significance.....	7
1.2. Aim of the study	11
1.3. Research Objectives.....	11
1.4. Research Questions.....	12
1.5. Limitations of the Study	12
1.6. Conceptual Framework.....	13
2. Literature Review.....	13
2.1. Background of the Study.....	13
2.2. Location of District Chitral and the Study Area.....	16
2.3. Climate of District Chitral	18
2.4. Community Adaptation.....	19
3. Research Methodology.....	22
3.1 Sample Selection.....	22
3.2 Variables	22
3.3 Study Area	23
3.4 Population Frame.....	23
3.5 Unit of Analysis	23
3.6 Time Horizon.....	23
3.7 Instrument Development Selection	24
4. Results.....	24
4.1. Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture	24
4.1.1. Main crops grown in the study area	25
4.1.2. Farming Practices	26
4.1.3. Have there been any changes in the availability of water?	27
4.1.4. Changes observed in the agricultural practices and cropping pattern?.....	28
4.1.5. Livestock/poultry distribution in the study area	29
4.2. Impact of Climate Change on Livelihood Assets	32
4.2.1. Legal Ownership of Assets	32
4.2.2. Means of livelihood as per household. Is there any specific shift of livelihood options due to climatic changes?.....	33
4.2.3. Other relevant household information	35
4.3. Climate Change and Disaster Management.....	40

4.3.1.	Information on Temperature	41
4.3.2.	Information on Precipitation	42
4.3.3.	Are summers and winters getting hotter or warmer over the past 25 years?	43
4.3.4.	Are glaciers melting at faster rate as compared to previous years?	45
4.3.5.	How does the community get to know about early warning and about the disaster risks?	46
5.	Key Findings	47
5.1.	Findings about the climate change impact on agriculture	47
5.2.	Findings related to the climate change impact on livelihood	49
5.3.	Findings related the climate change and disaster management	50
6.	Conclusion	52
7.	Recommendations.....	53
7.1.1.	Recommendations for reducing the impact of climate change on agriculture.....	53
7.1.2.	Recommendations for reducing the impact of climate change on livelihood	56
7.1.3.	Recommendations for reducing the impact of climate change and disaster management.....	57
8.	References List (APA).....	59

List of Acronyms

AKAH	Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
AKRSP	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis
CRI	Climate Risk Index
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KII	Key Informant Interview
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
IDP	Internally Displaced People
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
NA	Not Available
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PPR	Pastedes Petits Ruminant
TV	Tele Vision
VO	Village Organization
WO	Women Organization

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Abstract

During recent years, the impact of climatic change has been observed through the country. According to the Global climate risk index 2020 study, Pakistan is amongst the top 10 countries badly affected by the climate change with annual average during 1999 to 2018. On contrary Pakistan contributes only 0.8% of the world's total greenhouse gases and placed at 135th position in the world's ranking. While climate change is badly affecting the human lives and their livelihood assets, it also provokes different types of hydro-meteorological hazards which is now frequently occurring in different parts of the country. The harsh reality is that we have to accept these changes occurring and hence need to take different adaptation and mitigation measures to tackle these climatic changes. Realizing the fact, although the Government of Pakistan gave it high priority and for this purpose, a separate ministry has already been established which are taking different adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce the consequences of climate change. Communities are always at the verge of facing consequences therefore it is of high importance to aware the communities on climate change adaptation options so they can adjust their lives and livelihood measures that are climate smart and disaster resilient.

The electronic and print media have diverted attention of the government and non-government stakeholders towards District Upper and Lower Chitral of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Both districts are located in extreme northern part of the province with high altitude barren mountains, harsh cold winter, dry hot summer, heavy snowfall, glacier melting, lack of basic services and on top of that the Lowari tunnel is the only connection between Chitral and rest of the country. During recent years, Chitral has faced different disasters including river and flash floods, snow avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods, land sliding and drought, while Chitral is also exposed to earthquake hazards due to its physiographic location and has been facing frequent jerks of earthquakes. Due to recent increase of disasters events and further located in far off areas, the rural communities located in the high mountains are badly affected as their livelihood assets and agriculture are always badly affected by the frequent disasters.

Through this research study, an attempt has been made to collect data in the field, analyze the climatic changes, explore key findings and suggest different recommendations for the communities, government and non-government stakeholders to support the communities in taking adaptation measures to adjust lives with the climate change.

Key Words: Climate Change; Community Adaptation; Agriculture; Disaster; Livelihood; Disaster Management.