

**Assessing Gender-Responsive Climate Action Strategies in
Pakistan through the lens of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG
13 (Climate Action)**



By

Khadija Mustafa

(MS PCS 00000399607)

Department of Peace and Conflict Studies

Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS)

National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

Islamabad, Pakistan

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Khadija Mustafa

(Registration No: 00000399607)

A thesis submitted to the National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad,

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Master of Science in

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Supervisor: Dr. Humaira Shafi

Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS)

National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST)

Islamabad, Pakistan

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Signature:  _____

Name of Supervisor: Dr. Humaira Shafi

Date: _____

Signature (HoD):  _____
HoD PCS
Centre for International Peace and Stability
NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
Islamabad

Date: _____

Signature (Dean / Principal):  _____
ASSOCIATE DEAN
Centre for International Peace and Stability
NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
Islamabad





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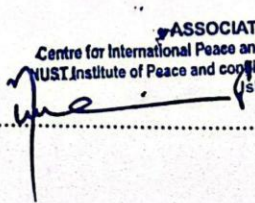
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- 1. Name: Dr. Muhammad Makki Signature: 
- 2. Name: Dr. Sanaullah Khan Signature: 
- 3. Name: Signature: 
- Supervisor's Name: Dr. Humaira Shafi Signature: 

Head of Department:  Date: 
Centre for International Peace and Stability
HOD PCS
NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
Islamabad

COUNTERSIGNED

Principal / Dean:  Date:
ASSOCIATE DEAN
Centre for International Peace and Stability
NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
Islamabad

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Student Name: Khadija Mustafa

Signature: 

Examination Committee:

a) External Examiner 1: Dr. Muhammad Makki

Signature: 

b) External Examiner 2: Dr. Sanaullah Khan

Signature: 

Name of Supervisor: Dr. Humaira Shafi

Signature: 

Name of HOD: Dr. Ansar Jamil

Signature: 

HoD PCS
Centre for International Peace and Stability
NUST Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to all the courageous women who weave threads of resilience and have paved their way for rights, visibility and a hopeful tomorrow.

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of climate change has not only exacerbated human suffering but also limited human freedom and choices. Climate change affects everyone, however, the impacts of climate change are not equal. The vulnerability index varies from human to human and among different communities. Women and men experience the effects of climate change differently, where women are disproportionately impacted due to many socio-political and economic factors. This research investigates how gender considerations are integrated into climate action strategies in Pakistan, analyzing through the frameworks of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The study focuses on recent national climate policies, particularly the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) 2022 and the National Adaptation Plan 2023, to assess their gender responsiveness. By using a gender-responsive climate action framework, the research delves into climate-gender nexus and explores the intricate relationships of climate change, gender inequality, and interlinked socio-cultural dynamics. Understanding gender and climate linkage has been found important in forming inclusive, effective and operative strategies to address climate change and promote gender equality. Findings reveal women's critical but often overlooked vulnerabilities to climate threats and their under-representation in climate-related policy planning and decision-making. Gender considerations are integrated into Pakistan's current climate policies. Yet, this integration does not translate into effective implementation, with a disjunction between recognition and actual planning, which indicates a significant gap in policy execution. By exploring the intersection of gender, climate, and policy, the study investigates Pakistan's decision-making processes, different stakeholder involvement, collaboration efforts, and future directions, aiming to foster greater resilience in Pakistan's climate adaptation efforts. The thesis proposes enhanced political commitment to gender-inclusivity and improving women's participation in climate policy-making.

Keywords: Climate change, gender equality, gender-climate nexus, sustainable development goals, gender-responsiveness, climate action strategies.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Since the beginning of the 21st century, rapidly accelerating climate threats and unprecedented challenges have confronted the world. Over time, threats of climate change have become more evident with significant impacts on gender. As a result, literature and efforts on the nexus between gender and climate change have been developed over the years. It has been found that climate change has exacerbated existing gender inequalities. Different gender norms and power dynamics have contributed to women's insecurity in an already climate-changing world as a threat multiplier (The United Nations - Peacebuilding 2015). Various research initiatives now focus on understanding the intersectionality between gender and climate change. It thus provides opportunities to explore the linkages between both as a cross-cutting lens, majorly through human experiences. It has also alarmed the need for a comprehensive framework and integrated actions to address the interconnectedness.

While discussing the intersection between gender and climate, it is important to understand the gender perspective and its core concepts. Climate Change impacts women and men differently. Their capacities to cope with, limit, and respond to, climate change impacts are also distinct. Frequent disasters resulting from climate change increase women's vulnerabilities and create a link to their social position where social institutions, ethnicity and gender identity play important roles (Kabeer 1999). Vulnerabilities and gender inequality are also linked, when women face limited access to services, scarcity of natural resources and increased vulnerability to rights violations, and, especially in risk-prone and conflict areas, the instances of Gender-based Violence (GBV) also increase (UN Women 2022). Therefore, the impacts and vulnerabilities related to climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities. Gender characteristics and social norms serve as social barriers that make it difficult for women to take shelter during disasters. As, vulnerability traits are linked to physical, social, economic, and environmental aspects, they increase individual and community's susceptibility to disasters

(Ahmed and Eklund 2021). Similarly, various climate stressors and environmental changes affect the security of a state by exaggerating social stress related to resource scarcity, development and competition. If such dynamics go beyond the adaptive capacity of a state, it can lead to increased instability.

In recognition of gender and climate vulnerabilities and building an effective response, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 38/4 “to conduct, from within existing resources, an analytical study on the integration of a gender-responsive approach into climate action at the local, national, regional and international levels for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women...” (OHCHR 2018) driving from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The resolutions aim to address challenges of the climate change, and related gender inequalities and promote sustainable peace and development. Practitioners and policymakers, as an outcome of increased Non-traditional Security Threats (Azam 2023) (Rochford 2023), intend to contribute and enhance the capacity of women in environmental and human security to gain peace and security.

As Smith, Olosky, and Fernández explicate “Where women can overcome structural barriers to their participation, they are uniquely positioned to contribute to sustainable natural resource management, climate-resilient communities, and enhanced peace and stability” (2021, 1). Exploration of the issues of climate change, gender inequalities, and sustainable development has thereby become more evident. Understanding gender and climate linkage has been found important in forming inclusive, effective and operative strategies to address climate change and promote gender equality. By identifying and working on the unique experiences of different genders, policymakers can work in the direction of sustainable and impartial solutions.

This research delves into the critical intersection of these challenges by assessing gender-responsive approaches to climate change, from the insights of SDG 5 and SDG 13, within Pakistan's adaptation strategies. It also incorporates a nuanced understanding essential for informed and comprehensive gender-responsive climate action. Pakistan is also improving its ability to cope with climate-related risks and natural calamities. Concerning SDG 5 (achieving gender equality) and SDG 13 (taking climate action), several measures, plans, and strategies are being developed in Pakistan. Recently, Pakistan developed national strategies; Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) 2022 and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023, that remain significant steps towards incorporating gender-responsive approaches to climate change in Pakistan. Policy initiatives like ccGAP and NAP aim to back and strengthen institutional

processes to improve and empower women's participation in climate change adaptation and resilience.

With the inclusion of gender perspective, Pakistan is working to mainstream gender in climate change policies and ensuring women's specific needs and perspectives in climate-related decision-making. This includes encouraging women's participation in climate change committees, forums, and other mediums where significant decisions are made, focusing on building capacity, training, educating, and financing to improve women's skills and expertise in areas. Additionally, efforts are being made at the national and provincial levels to develop Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies and Gender Action Plans (GAP) to increase the country's sustainability against climate change. Pakistan is working significantly and recognizes the link between gender and climate change to leverage and co-benefit gender equality and climate action. By doing so, it is working to enhance women's social position and address gender-based vulnerabilities to climate change. Pakistan is stepping to navigate into understanding and addressing the complex interplay between climate and gender considerations, yet it needs an extensive roadmap towards developing equitable and resilient pathways. By thoroughly assessing the nuanced perspectives of gender vulnerabilities in the realm of climate change, this study seeks to analyse some seminal insights to evaluate the achievements, shortcomings, and potential avenues for enhancing gender equality and climate resilience in Pakistan.

1.2 Problem Statement

In the face of ever-increasing challenges set out by climate change and gender inequalities; the research aims to address the critical gap and the effectiveness of gender-responsiveness in Pakistan's climate-active strategies. The intersection of gender equality (SDG 5) and climate action (SDG 13) gives a critical area of concern in Pakistan, with numerous challenges; under-representation of women in climate-related policy-making and their growing vulnerabilities to climate threats. The lack of a gender-specific environmental and climate security framework calls for a fundamental gap in both policy-making and implementation. The overarching problem is based on the pressing need to assess how the policies and strategies incorporate SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), as also signified in international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, it aims to assess how adequately Pakistan, in its approaches, encapsulates the unique vulnerabilities faced by women in climate-related adversities. By

exploring the intersection of gender, climate, and policy, this study inspects the achievements, limitations, and prospects for enhancing the inclusivity of both genders and climate effectiveness in Pakistan's evolving landscape.

Recently, Pakistan has developed Climate Change Gender Action Plan 2022, gender inclusive National Adaptation Plan 2023 and some other measures such as the formulation of a national Disaster Risk Finance (DRF), completion of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) program in many cities, and establishment of early warning systems, however, a major gap persists in the assessment of these initiatives to honestly evaluate gender-responsiveness in climate adaptation strategies. This research pursues to unveil this complexity by inspecting the scope of policies, mechanisms, and institutions in addressing the gendered dimensions of climate change adaptation. Resultantly, the study explores qualitatively, the intricate relationship of gender, climate change, and policy-making in Pakistan's context and thereby provides actionable insights and recommendations to bolster sustainable development, gender equality, and climate resilience in Pakistan. Hence, the research employs a cross-cutting lens that goes beyond traditional analyses and instead focuses on the nuanced intersection of gender, climate, and policy.

1.3 Research Questions

Main Research Question

1. How effectively do Pakistan's climate-related strategies align with SDG 5 and 13 to address gendered perspectives on climate-related vulnerabilities?

Sub-Research Questions

2. To what extent do Pakistan's climate action strategies incorporate gender vulnerabilities and what can be the significant outcomes of integrating gender-responsive climate action in the policies of Pakistan?
3. What key roles do policymakers and government officials play in shaping and implementing these strategies?

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To assess how effectively Pakistan's climate adaptation strategies align with SDG 5 and 13 to address gendered perspectives on climate vulnerabilities.
2. To gauge the extent of recognition and integration of women and girls' distinct vulnerabilities in Pakistan's climate adaptation policies and to identify outcomes

resulting from the integration of gender-responsive climate action policies in Pakistan.

3. To analyse the key roles and contributions of policymakers and government officials in formulating and implementing these strategies.

1.5 Literature Review

More than 30 years ago, in 1988, the first-ever textbook that talked about women and the environment was published (Dankelman and Davidson 1988). Ever since, many aspects of the nexus of women and the environment endured significant changes. Of all environmental challenges, climate change was a major challenge as it exacerbated all other related issues of the 1980s: water, energy, land use and biodiversity conservation. At the same time, the human rights factor underwent major changes and the relationship between men and women surfaced as a diverse issue to be dealt with. Having manifestations of dynamic gender characteristics, the discourse of environment expanded with the inclusion of women as a subject matter.

Firstly, Denton (2002) in his paper explores the dimensions of gender, climate change vulnerability, its consequences, and adaptation. The paper examines the relationship between gender roles and norms and various inequalities and how they shape men's and women's experiences of adaptive capabilities in the face of climate change. The importance of gender-responsive adaptation strategies came out as a crux of the research that concluded how climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation are crucial for women and there is a need for emphasis on gender-sensitive approaches to address the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men to promote gender equality in different policies and practices.

Moreover, Kabeer (2005) critically examined the third Millennium Development Goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. The progress made to achieve this goal and inherited challenges of gender inequality remained widely incognizant. The paper intends to highlight the need for targeted interventions and the role of policy-makers to address the root causes of gender inequalities while economically, socially and politically empowering women (Kabeer 2005, 13-25). To achieve sustainable development, gender equality must be addressed and while the issue has been problematized, significant gaps still exist.

In the meantime, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and the Fourth Assessment Reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) highlighted some unprecedented environmental changes due to human interventions and innovations. The

severity of the matter called for an urgent need to understand the environmental changes going on and their impacts on human livelihoods and human lives. For the first time, this concluded to draw the attention of students, scholars and policy-makers to develop a basic knowledge of climate change and related dimensions, of which gender perspective came out to be evident.

Congruently, the collective struggle for gender equality and climate action to explore women's vulnerabilities and adapt mechanisms to overcome the issues became more evident by incorporating a gender lens to view and problematize various climate issues by the states. This gender-transformative lens may seek ways to improve the socio-political and economic elements of a state to understand adaptation efforts in an advanced manner. More recently, international commitments are being manifested in the form of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (2018-2023) that set out areas of priority for adaptation, mitigation and financing programs to mainstream gender in climate change. These range from increasing women's capacity and knowledge through workshops and exchange programs, and pursuing full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women in national and international delegations. Moreover, it seeks to prioritize gender considerations in the areas of concern for all Parties Conference (CoP) to enhance climate-related resources and integrate gender priorities (Resurrección et al. 2019, 38).

“Gender mainstreaming in climate change” explores the interlinkage between gender issues and climate change. It highlights the importance of diagnosing differential effects of climate change on men and women, and the necessity to address these inequalities in climate policy and practices. UN Women and NDRMF Pakistan define *Gender inequality* as “the differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities” (2020, 10). For years Pakistan has strived for equality in rights and honour for women and girls which has had serious impacts on the country's socio-economic and political growth (Nousiainen et al. 2013). Consequently, for long-term sustenance, gender equality remains an important development goal that is lacking in Pakistan's perspective on climate change strategies.

1.5.1 Climate Change and Gender Responsiveness in Pakistan's Strategies

This theme focuses on various gender-responsive climate change policies and strategies adopted by Pakistan to address gender-specific impacts of climate change. It examines the initiatives that aim to enhance women's participation in decision-making processes to improve

their access to resources while assessing the gender considerations in Pakistan's initiatives in climate change policies and strategies.

Firstly, The National Climate Change Policy (2012) serves as a guiding paper on climate change to achieve climate-resilient development socially and economically. In early 2011, the Ministry of Environment along with UNDP Islamabad, developed Pakistan's 1st policy on climate change. After being approved by the Federal Cabinet in September 2012, it was launched by the newly developed Ministry of Climate Change. Keeping in view the gender analysis, Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy 2012 deliberates "Pakistan fully recognizes that women are powerful agents of change. It is therefore vital to ensure participation of women and gender experts in all policies, initiatives and decisions relating to climate change." (Chaudhry 2017, 43-46). However, its implementation part of the policy-making is still lagging. To date, women's vulnerabilities in climate change and its role in Pakistan's sustainable development are overlooked.

Concurrently, the Ministry of Climate Change in Pakistan, as a relatively new institution, by then worked effortlessly to address and evaluate the threats and challenges related to climate change in Pakistan. It demanded climate change financing and institutional capacity that led to the formation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Ever since it has closely worked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to strengthen its capacity of key stakeholders. The GCF remained the first climate finance mechanism that mainstreamed the gender perspective in Pakistan. It recognizes gender-responsive climate programmes to develop sustainable adaptation and mitigation. It also demanded women's engagement, gender focal points and the enhanced role of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to enhance cross-sectional and institutional capacity on gender-climate change issues (Green Climate Fund 2019).

In the midst of climate-related extreme events, Pakistan updated its policy of the NCCP in 2021 focusing on adaptation to nature-based solutions. With perspective to gender, it highlighted that climate change has differentiated drivers and impacts on women, children and underprivileged regions. Communities and people in such areas are disproportionately marginalized, more vulnerable and least resourced. In Pakistan, women of rural areas engaged in the agriculture and forest sector are highly climate-sensitive. Further, women are more susceptible to extreme climate events and calamities mainly due to their gender roles and division of labour with far fewer assets and resources to recover from disasters. NCCP 2021 stands comprehensive in

admitting these challenges and vulnerabilities of women to advocate a sustainable and resilient path for women being powerful agents of change. National Climate Change Policy also include women in greater climate action to work and collaborate in enhancing gender-responsiveness at national and regional levels (“National Climate Change Policy- 2021” 2021).

IUCN and the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan with the economic support of the Green Climate Fund, launched Pakistan’s 1st ever Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) in 2022. Pakistan is ranked among the most vulnerable and cross-sectoral states to be affected by climate change with women being left out of the picture when it comes to decision-making regarding climate action. The ccGAP aims to ensure women's influence and participation in climate decisions to increase its effectiveness. It includes inclusive policy dialogue, capacity enhancement and pilot projects for women to increase gender equality. The process of ccGAP-making included the collaboration of key sector experts from IUCN, civil society, think tanks, academia and leadership to bolster and strengthen women in climate action (IUCN and MoCC 2022).

Lastly and recently, Pakistan developed the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan 2023-2030 to build more resilience against the impacts of climate change. The plan proposes to form climate adaptation into development planning. It also recognizes the need to counter the gender gap to enhance climate resilience. The plan identifies vulnerabilities of some key sectors of a state that have impacted the progress of the adaptation strategies. The National Action Plan (NAP) for 2023-2030 further acknowledges the role of the Climate Change Ministry to work and collaborate in countering growing climate risks (Ministry of Climate Change and Government of Pakistan 2023). However, the search results do not give sufficient information on how the National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan will address gender issues and show a lack of clarity in its plans of action.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

Gender-responsive climate Action is a newly developed comprehensive approach driving its roots from SDG 5; Gender Equality and SDG 13; Climate Action. On 5th July 2018 Human Rights Council adopted a resolution and requested OHCHR “to conduct, from within existing resources, an analytical study on the integration of a gender-responsive approach into climate action at the local, national, regional and international levels for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women” (Human Rights Council resolution 38/4) , (OHCHR 2018). It directly links gender equality and empowerment with climate change. Women remain the

most vulnerable impacted by increased levels of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation. Similarly, they face an exclusion from the processes of decision-making and policy-planning specifically related to climate change, environmental crisis and reduction of inequality. However, it is widely recognized that women have a central role in response to climate change locally, nationally and internationally. From this point of view, gender mainstreaming into climate-related policies and projects is pivotal to both tackling climate change and reducing gender inequality.

Ultimately, Gender-Responsive Climate Action seeks to effectively promote gender equality by recognizing women's vulnerabilities, needs, opportunities, and susceptibility related to climate action. This approach intends to empower women domestically, socially and in broader political planning and processes. At the same time, it demands a strong understanding of external factors that affect gender equality like the destruction of natural resources by climate change and the experiences of women, children, elderly and disabled groups as the most vulnerable to be impacted by climate change.

Broadly, it includes some key elements; recognizing gender differences (UN Women 2015), equitable participation and influence women may carry in climate change decision-making, gender mainstreaming into climate finance mechanisms and ensuring gender-responsive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and gender-equitable access to resources (the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) 2017). It also incorporates building capacities and awareness among stakeholders through training and education programs and developing linkages to evaluate the effectiveness of gender-responsive climate actions (UNDP and Ministry of Environment, Lebanon 2020).

The concept also analyses the effect of climate change on women, men, boys and girls in different ways and forms inter-sectional discrimination and makes them more vulnerable. It entrails how systemic discrimination can impact climate change in its relation to health, food security, livelihoods and human mobility, among other things. It also recognizes how excluding women and girls from climate action will not only make it less effective and exaggerate climate harm but also undermine the importance of inclusivity. Taking into view, the legal, ethical and moral considerations, the meaningful, informed and effective participation of women and girls forms the core base of gender-responsive climate action.

1.7 Research Methodology

This is a qualitative study based on exploratory, descriptive, and evaluative approaches. The research methodology for this study employs a combination of primary and secondary research methods to assess climate-related strategies and policies through a gender-responsive lens. The primary data in this research has been collected through interviews of key stakeholders, including government officials, climate and gender experts, climatologists and advocates from the Ministry of Climate Change, the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), The World Bank, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), International Water Management Institute and Asian Development Bank. The sample size included 8-12 interviews in total. The interviews gave valuable insights into the governmental roles and development, implementation, and effectiveness of policies in Pakistan, with a keen analysis of gender considerations and integration in decision-making.

In addition to interviews, the research involved analysis and extensive review of governmental reports, databases, policy documents and frameworks, significantly National Climate Change Policy 2012, its updated version of 2021 and the recently adopted Climate Changed Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) 2022 and lastly, National Adaptation Plan 2023). The analysis offered a comprehensive understanding of the present dynamics and integration of gender considerations into Pakistan's climate-related strategies. It also highlighted the intricacies of decision-making processes, key barriers and challenges involved and the future of gender responsiveness in Pakistan. The results of the interviews and policy review helped in understanding the current dynamics and the necessary need for well-informed, actionable policies that must address environmental challenges and gender-specific vulnerabilities. Resultantly, the research presents a holistic perspective on climate policy refinement and curbing the impacts of climate change more effectively.

Subsequently, the research used secondary data analysis techniques to find out and study the relevant literature on gender-responsive climate action and strategies adapted globally and nationally. This provided a broader context and background information with a comprehensive assessment of gender considerations in existing policies and finding any gaps or inconsistencies. The findings from both primary and secondary data sources were thematically analysed, allowing for the detection of recurring themes in the interviews. This enabled a combined, comprehensive and nuanced approach to enhance responsiveness in Pakistan's climate-related strategies.

1.8 Significance

The research grasps paramount significance on multiple fronts. Firstly, it works to enhance Pakistan's climate resilience efforts by assessing the effectiveness of climate action strategies, thereby improving the nation's preparedness in mitigation and adaptation against climate change. It also addresses the critical yet undervalued component of gender in climate policies, striving to lessen the unequal vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. Gender-responsive climate action directly aligns with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 (advancing gender equality) and SDG 13 (climate action). Further, the research signifies the importance of recognizing and integrating gender-specific vulnerabilities within climate policies. It elevates gender inequality while empowering women to better adapt against gender disparities in climate-related challenges. Lastly, it analyses the role of policymakers and government officials in planning and implementing policies and thereby provides an opportunity to strengthen the foundation of informed and evidence-based decision-making in Pakistan. This interdisciplinary approach provides a nexus between climate science, gender studies, and policy analysis and ensures a nuanced perspective. It essentially tackles the intricate barriers of climate change, gender, and policy.

ORGANISATION OF THE CHAPTERS

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Chapter 2: Literature Review

- Literature Review

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- Research Design
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Chapter 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Sustainable Development Goal 5; Gender Equality

Various international agreements outline the role of women and the need for aligning gender perspectives in the next decade. They offer an open space for human rights, social justice and women's movements. From 1975 to 1995 they marked an important series of milestones for women's rights under UN Women Conferences (namely, Mexico in 1980; Copenhagen in 1985; Nairobi in 1990; and Beijing in 1995) while another notable UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, 1994. Each resulted in a Plan for Action for governments and national policymakers. International law also provided a notable agreement; CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) in 1979. Recently, the force behind different policies to improve the position of women gained new motivation through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDG 5 is devoted to gender equality to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”. The goal refers to a series of challenges; discrimination, violence against women, reproductive health, ownership rights and technology. It sets 9 targets for women and girls: to end all forms of discrimination; eliminate all forms of violence; and harmful practices; value unpaid care; ensure full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership; access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; reforms for equal economic rights; empowerment through access to technology and adoption of sound and enforceable legislation. Queisser (2016) observes that no single state in the world claims to have attained full gender equality. SDG 5 mainly talks about women's economic vulnerabilities in workplaces and fewer opportunities to develop their careers. Policymakers are thus focusing more on the better provision of public services, infrastructure and social safety policies.

According to Harcourt (2005), the MDGs remained a setback for rights-based approaches to development and gender equality. The MDGs were mostly seen as a donor-driven programme that did not confront structural inequalities. Kabeer (2005) critically examined the third Millennium Development Goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. The progress made to achieve this goal and inherited challenges of gender inequality remained widely

incognizant. The work highlighted the need for targeted interventions and the role of policy-makers in addressing the root causes of gender inequalities while economically, socially and politically empowering women (Kabeer 2005, 13-25). To achieve sustainable development, gender equality must be addressed and while the issue has been problematized, significant gaps still exist. Esquivel and Sweetman (2016) observe that the potential of international declarations and pronouncements lies in the poor clarity to implement agreements, lack of will that the policies needed to work, and insufficient resources. The looming question arises; to what extent the SDGs will contribute to improving the situations of women and girls? Does the SDG framework reorganize the meaning of development including women, rather than using women in their present unequal roles to boost up the existing, fundamentally unsustainable, development model?

2.2 Sustainable Development Goal 13; Climate Action

The UN has defined five targets and eight indicators when it comes to SDG 13; Climate Action. The targets define the goals while indicators characterize the metrics to track whether the targets are achieved. Initiating a debate, it is important to note that the economic cost of natural disasters reached \$350 billion in 2010. Doni, Gasperini, and Soares (2020) studied some important factors of SDG 13 and climate change. It represents an ambitious and determined agenda that includes many actors, at an international and national level, in the public and private segments, with an important role played by sustainable finance. In various documents, SDG 13 appears to be one of the most investigated goals as collectively countries, governments, international agreements, public and private sectors and industries can contribute to the achievement of the battle against climate change. In addition, climate change also has a global reach because it stimulates the attention of the scientific community from an interdisciplinary standpoint.

SDG 13 further elaborates on five key targets to be achieved by 2030. First, strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate hazards and natural disasters in all states. Second, integrating climate action measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Third, improving education, advocacy and communal and institutional capacity for climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction. Fourth, implementing the commitment undertaken by developed countries to collect \$100 billion annually from all sources to address the needs of developing countries and lastly, promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate-related planning and management, with a focus on women, youth and local

communities (United Nations Sustainable Development 2015). This relationship between climate change being a state-level problem and a global challenge allows for a research front whose inferences are important from the implementation point of view, as well as for a deepening comparative analysis of the problems faced by global humanity.

2.3 Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change

More than 30 years ago, in 1988, the first-ever textbook that talked about women and the environment was published (Dankelman and Davidson 1988). Ever since, many aspects of the nexus of the women and environment endured significant changes. Of all environmental challenges, climate change emanated as a major challenge as it exacerbated all other related issues of the 1980s: water, energy, land use and biodiversity conservation. At the same time, the human rights factor underwent major changes and the relationship between men and women surfaced as a diverse issue to be dealt with. Having manifestations of dynamic gender characteristics, the discourse of environment expanded with the inclusion of women as a subject matter.

Primarily, Denton (2002) explores the dimensions of gender, climate change vulnerability, its consequences, and adaptation. The paper examines the relationship between gender roles and norms and various inequalities and how they shape men's and women's experiences of adaptive capabilities in the face of climate change. The importance of gender-responsive adaptation strategies came out as a crux of the research that concluded how climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation are crucial for women and there is a need for emphasis on gender-sensitive approaches to address the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men to promote gender equality in different policies and practices.

Next, Harcourt and Escobar (2005) looked into 'gender' to majorly focus on the aspects of inequalities between men and women, and their respective positions, roles and needs. Women, in particular, are focused on giving visibility to their perspective. The book further remarks on women in need rather than only focusing on feminist analysis and gender relations. It further emphasized the political importance of women, beginning with how women themselves experience it.

Too often the differences between women and men become smoothed away in progressive analytical frameworks. Knowledge about women continues to be hardest to come by, and

although many of us work in feminist theory, we try in this book not to assume that readers share that knowledge, but instead bring it in when it helps explain the story we are telling.

(Harcourt and Escobar 2005, 2)

In the meantime, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and the Fourth Assessment Reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) highlighted some unprecedented environmental changes due to human interventions and innovations. The severity of the matter called for an urgent need to understand the environmental changes going on and their impacts on human livelihoods and human lives. For the first time, this concluded to draw the attention of students, scholars and policy-makers to develop a basic knowledge of climate change and related dimensions, of which gender perspective came out to be evident.

Gender remains a significant indicator of vulnerability during and after climate events. Alston (2014) explains that gender vulnerability is intensified by a loss of control over natural resources, including water, production means, information, and decision-making; poverty; a collapse of educational and employment opportunities; and augmented exposure to unsafe conditions. Women remain more susceptible to living in poverty, having no ownership over land and resources to protect them in a post-disaster situation, having minimal control over production, revenue, education and training, reduced access to institutional support and information, and lack of authority and positions in decision-making bodies. Women are also more constrained by their gendered roles and responsibilities for the aged and children during and after a climate event and thus are more likely to pass away and or be exposed to violence.

The collective struggle for gender equality and climate action to explore women's vulnerabilities and adapt mechanisms to overcome the issues became more evident by incorporating a gender lens to view and problematise various climate issues by the states. This gender-transformative lens may seek ways to improve the socio-political and economic elements of a state to understand adaptation efforts in an advanced manner. More recently, international commitments are being manifested in the form of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (2018-2023) that set out areas of priority for adaptation, mitigation and financing programs to mainstream gender in climate change. These range from increasing women's capacity and knowledge through workshops and exchange programs, and pursuing full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women in national and international delegations.

Moreover, it seeks to prioritize gender considerations in the areas of concern for all Parties Conference (CoP) to enhance climate-related resources and integrate gender priorities (Resurrección et al. 2019, 38).

The conflict aspects of climate and gender vulnerabilities were explored by Ide, Tobias, Marisa O. Ensor, Virginie Le Masson, and Susanne Kozak (2021). They investigated into nexus of gender-climate and conflict and pointed out four findings: the role of gender in increasing or decreasing conflict owing to environmental degradation; how climate change can cause social unrest disrupting the notion of peace and security, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and other human security threats; roles of women can initiate peacebuilding and address power structures; and lastly, gender-based inequalities about climate change can generate disarticulated data for the analysis part of making policy frameworks (Ide et al. 2021).

2.4 Gender-Responsiveness and Climate-Related Strategies in Pakistan

The theme “gender mainstreaming in climate change” explores the interlinkage between gender issues and climate change. It highlights the importance of diagnosing differential effects of climate change on men and women, and the necessity to address these inequalities in climate policy and practices. UN Women and NDRMF Pakistan define *Gender inequality* as “the differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities” (2020, 10). For years Pakistan has strived for equality in rights and honour for women and girls which has had serious impacts on the country’s socio-economic and political growth (Nousiainen et al. 2013). Consequently, for long-term sustenance, gender equality remains an important development goal that is lacking in Pakistan’s perspective on climate change strategies.

Firstly, The National Climate Change Policy (2012) serves as a guiding paper on climate change to achieve climate-resilient development socially and economically. In early 2011, the Ministry of Environment along with UNDP Islamabad, developed Pakistan’s 1st policy on climate change. After being approved by the Federal Cabinet in September 2012, it was launched by the newly developed Ministry of Climate Change. Keeping in view the gender analysis, Pakistan’s National Climate Change Policy 2012 deliberates “Pakistan fully recognizes that women are powerful agents of change. It is therefore vital to ensure participation of women and gender experts in all policies, initiatives and decisions relating to

climate change.” (Chaudhry 2017, 43-46). However, its implementation part of the policy-making is still lagging. Women's vulnerabilities in climate change and its role in Pakistan's sustainable development are still overlooked.

Concurrently, the Ministry of Climate Change in Pakistan, as a relatively new institution, by then worked effortlessly to address and evaluate the threats and challenges related to climate change in Pakistan. It demanded climate change financing and institutional capacity that led to the formation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Ever since it has closely worked with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to strengthen its capacity of key stakeholders. The GCF remained the first climate finance mechanism that mainstreamed the gender perspective in Pakistan. It recognizes gender-responsive climate programmes to develop sustainable adaptation and mitigation. It also demanded women's engagement, gender focal points and the enhanced role of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to enhance cross-sectional and institutional capacity on gender-climate change issues (Green Climate Fund 2019).

Amid climate-related extreme events, Pakistan updated its policy of the NCCP in 2021 focusing on adaptation to nature-based solutions. With perspective to gender, it highlighted that climate change has differentiated drivers and impacts on women, children and underprivileged regions. Communities and people in such areas are disproportionately marginalized, more vulnerable and least resourced. In Pakistan, women of rural areas engaged in the agriculture and forest sector are highly climate-sensitive. Further, women are more susceptible to extreme climate events and calamities mainly due to their gender roles and division of labour with far fewer assets and resources to recover from disasters. NCCP 2021 stands comprehensive in admitting these challenges and vulnerabilities of women to advocate a sustainable and resilient path for women being powerful agents of change. National Climate Change Policy also include women in greater climate action to work and collaborate in enhancing gender-responsiveness at national and regional levels (“National Climate Change Policy- 2021” 2021).

Zaidi (2022) reviewed climate-related policies and found that many sectors need a gender-sensitive guidance framework, particularly in understanding women's differentiated burdens in climate stress. Given international obligations and national policies, efforts are underway in agriculture, water, forestry, energy, disaster management, and urban planning. He further acknowledges Pakistan's efforts in gender mainstreaming policies although the policy frameworks lack implementation in their current actions. Pakistan faces a long-term capacity

deficit characterised by the sectors mentioned earlier. This combined with the disrupted water availability and frequent natural disasters due to Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change stress has produced precarious situations, particularly for women. Women are widely involved in full-time labour and secondary working conditions owing to their dependence on the natural environment for their livelihood. He also contends to address inequality, there is a need to incorporate principles of climate equity in policy frameworks and the ethos of institutional transparency. These principles must include distributive justice and intergenerational equity to enhance women's stakes as beneficiaries of climate-related policies and frameworks. (Zaidi 2022, 18-24). Further, it raises fundamental questions to research about who interventions are intended for, and whether or not institutions and policy-makers are devising gender-responsive policies for women in need.

2.5 Comprehensive Analysis of Pakistan's Gender-Inclusive Climate Strategies

To conduct a comprehensive analysis of Pakistan's gender-inclusive climate strategies, it is important to analyse two key documents: the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) of 2022 and the National Adaptation Plan spanning 2023. The ccGAP 2022 is a recently developed framework that integrates gender perspectives into climate-related policy-making and actions of Pakistan. The policy recognizes the differentiated gendered impacts of climate change and outlines a plan of action that not only seeks to empower women's ability to cope with climate change but also pave a road for their enhanced participation. Further, the National Adaptation Plan 2023 also provides an inclusive framework that addresses gender-specific needs and enhances resilience against climate change vulnerabilities. It recognizes how gender disparities and vulnerabilities can be catered to and how women could play an agent of change in Pakistan's climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. This comprehensive analysis of the aforementioned policy documents brings critical and significant paradigm change in understanding the diverse dynamics of climate change while building inclusive approaches to tackle the impacts of climate change.

2.5.1 *Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) 2022*

IUCN and the Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan with the economic support of the Green Climate Fund, developed Pakistan's 1st ever Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP). Pakistan is ranked among the most vulnerable and cross-sectoral states to be affected by climate change with women being left out of the picture when it comes to decision-making regarding climate action. The ccGAP aims to ensure women's influence and participation in

climate decisions to increase its effectiveness. It includes inclusive policy dialogue, capacity enhancement and pilot projects for women to increase gender equality. The process of ccGAP-making included the collaboration of key sector experts from IUCN, civil society, think tanks, academia and leadership to bolster and strengthen women in climate action.

The ccGAP initiated the assessment of the cumulative effects of climate change on the economy. In the year 2021, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank reported an annual cost of \$38 billion for the country (WB and ADB 2021). The ccGAP also demonstrates the principles for the Government of Pakistan to ensure the inclusivity of strategies and enhanced leadership of women in climate action. The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2021 and ccGAP outline the priority areas and objectives to improve gender-sensitive adaptation. They recognize differentiated effects of climate change on men and women specifically women engaged in rural agriculture practices and their vulnerability to extreme weather events and natural disasters. It also outlines the importance of women's participation in leadership and technical gender experts in all policies to promote climate action.

Pakistan's ccGAP is aligned with the NCCP 2021 aiming to integrate gender-climate nexus in six priority areas: disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, forests and biodiversity, integrated coastal management, water and sanitation, and energy and transport. Both strategies outline actions such as mainstreaming gender perspectives at national and regional levels, and reducing women's vulnerability especially in rural areas when it comes to water and food insecurity and livestock management. It undertakes the need and contribution of women in the management of natural resources and other areas impacted by climate change and focuses on gender differences in climate change adaptation actions. Moreover, it sets out gender-sensitive criteria in climate adaptation and implementation of measures that focus on women's needs and their role in decision-making.

The ccGAP gives a gender-responsive approach to climate action with a recognition of how various communities are impacted by climate change differently with their ability to cope, respond and adapt to the effects (IPCC 2014). Climate change impacts the poor more as they rely on natural resources and local practices for their livelihood. These people often have less capacity to deal with the damage of natural disasters and extreme weather events (FAO 2015). But even among all, women are most vulnerable and are disproportionately affected (UNDP 2016). Yet they have a lacking role in decision-making, planning and development (Profeta 2017). Women's inclusivity is not only a question of equity but also a necessity when it comes

to national development. Women not only face exclusion from economic opportunities but are subject to pervasive Gender Based Violence (GBV) at cultural and societal levels (UNFPA 2022).

Globally, gender-responsive climate actions have demonstrated effectiveness in natural resource management, food security, investment in public goods, and many other activities aimed at building climate resilience. Women facing social and structural inequalities become a barrier to contributing to and benefitting from development initiatives. Hence, women's participation is pivotal for climate-related policy and planning. Through ccGAP, Pakistan recognizes that both women and men have an equal part to play in climate action and calls for a commitment both in law and government to amend the imbalance. Keeping this in view, ccGAP identified key principles for gender inclusivity such as enhancing representation by elevating the voices of women leadership in climate policy and planning. Moreover, it pointed to a need for institutionalization to strengthen coordination and measures for gender mainstreaming by developing and updating policies. It calls for the collection of gender-disaggregated data to make it widely available, and use to improve programs and decision-making. Lastly, it asks for enhanced monitoring and evaluation of progress on implementation and to course correct where necessary (IUCN and MoCC 2022).

2.5.2 National Adaptation Plan 2023

Recently, Pakistan developed the National Adaptation Plan 2023 to build more resilience against the impacts of climate change. The plan proposes to form climate adaptation into development planning. It also recognizes the need to counter the gender gap to enhance climate resilience. NAP calls for implementation, adaptation and inclusion from the gender lens. And, enhanced collaboration among different key stakeholders to mobilize climate action. In a way, it targets SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) simultaneously and mutually reinforcing. It overviews the country's unique vulnerabilities and plans out adaptation strategy in seven key areas: the agriculture-water nexus; natural capital; urban resilience; human capital; disaster risk management; and gender, youth, and social inclusion. (Ministry of Climate Change and Government of Pakistan 2023).

The adaptation in Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion element identifies gender; Women, youth, persons with disabilities, transgender, and religious minorities, among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Pakistan. It insists on promoting and protecting basic

human rights against discrimination, and violence and countering the factors impart to social exclusion and discrimination. However, the socioeconomic and cultural dynamics of Pakistan lack access to opportunities for education, skills development, livelihoods, and decision-making. The NAP points out how climate change can cause disproportionate challenges for different marginalized groups, aggravating their social disparities. They face higher risks of impacts from climate change owing to their lack of capacity and low human capital. These can lead to women paving into additional workloads, for example, spending more time collecting water and firewood. Girls' education is disrupted and oftentimes leads to negative repercussions such as child marriage. The physical and mental health of women, children and youth is widely impacted. Moreover, the lack of data on persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups leads to their exclusion in the planning and implementation of programs and policies.

Lastly, the NAP identify gender as the main factor in Pakistan's low labour force participation. Where there is one in four (23%) women labour force in comparison to four in five (81%) men. About 60% of women are unemployed, uneducated or lack training and skills (World Bank 2023). Girls in poor households are 22% less likely to attend school as compared to boys (Government of Pakistan, Bureau of Statistics 2023). Resultantly, the literacy rate of women is 46% as compared to 69% of men ("Literacy Rate, Adult Female (% of Females Ages 15 and Above) –Pakistan" 2024). About Pakistan's massive gender gap, many factors play a part such as low accessibility of schools, security issues, societal norms, and competing household burdens (Government of Pakistan, National Gender Policy Framework 2022). All of these factors contribute to the increased vulnerability of women and girls in Pakistan owing to its traditional sociocultural norms and dynamics.

Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is an organized framework used for carrying out research. Its main objective is to determine and use the necessary tools and procedures to collect and analyze data. Research methodology signifies the investigation conducted by the researcher and how a researcher must obtain valid and reliable data that aligns with the aims and objectives of the research. Thereupon, this chapter proposes to outline the means and methods employed in this research, while also providing insights into the limitations and restraints that may affect the accomplishment of the research objectives.

3.1 Qualitative Research Design

To accomplish this, I employed a methodology that combined Qualitative Research with a mix of descriptive, and evaluative approaches. The research used both primary and secondary research methods to assess and analyze Pakistan's climate-related policies and strategies through a gender-responsive lens. Further, the approach critically evaluated the themes and patterns addressed in existing discourses to grab a nuanced understanding of variables under research. The research majorly relies on primary data sources with the necessary utilization of secondary data by studying relevant literature related to gender-responsive climate action plans and strategies extensively. Given the need and urgency of gender responsiveness in Pakistan's climate-active policies, a comprehensive research approach is used. This involved real-time interviews with the key stakeholders including gender and climate experts, advocates, policymakers, analysts and government officials from the relevant organizations, governmental departments and ministries. Moreover, it was supplemented by critically evaluating the governmental documents and policies of the past and under-making.

The research also utilized thematic analysis as a method to assess the interviews and investigate how gender, climate and policy are interlinked and reinforced. This technique is used to interpret interviews and responses to enhance the understanding of the policies and strategies designed to deliver the primary needs and challenges within the context of policy-making in Pakistan. Moreover, it also involves the analysis of governmental policies, documents, and past initiatives aimed at countering the impacts of climate change. Recently in 2022, Pakistan

developed a Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) that integrates the gender-responsive element into climate change policies and strategies. With this, Pakistan stepped to align its climate efforts and prospects more inclusively and gender-responsive. The main objective of using thematic analysis is to gather a comprehensive understanding of the data. It also helped review the effectiveness and contextual relevance of policies and strategies accustomed to the unique conditions of Pakistan.

The research design also includes an extensive review of government reports, databases, policy documents and frameworks to analyze various facets of policy-making, ascertain potential loopholes, and assess the implementation of these policies. It seeks to understand various considerations that policymakers take into account while forming and addressing the needs of communities specifically women and children affected by climate change. Moreover, interviews with various policymakers and analysts helped understand the processes involved in decision and policy-making. This unveils the key factors that impact the overall effectiveness of climate action strategies in achieving their intended goals.

In addition, the designed research highlighted the importance of research-based policy-making and the expertise required to devise a comprehensive strategic vision for climate change and security at a national and human level. Most significantly, the research problematized the under-representation of women in decision-making related to climate change and gender-responsiveness. It also highlighted how equipped professionals and the greater role of women in decision-making can play a crucial role in understanding the complexities of climate-related challenges. The research thereby imparted effective and equitable outcomes. In essence, the study unveiled the importance of specialized governmental processes and expertise in enhancing the overall effectiveness of gender responsiveness and climate action measures in Pakistan.

3.2 Research Design

In this phase of studies, a questionnaire, comprising 10 thoughtfully crafted questions was developed To examine the gender responsiveness of climate movement techniques at both governmental and network levels, each query was designed with precision, looking for focused information to discover the necessity for specialized expertise and competencies in the realm of climate change coverage-making. The questionnaire aimed to extract insights mainly

relevant to the interviewees' areas of expertise, ensuring a centred and nuanced exploration of the situation matter.

The research covered each face-to-face and online interview format, enhancing the flexibility and performance of the data series system. This approach recognizes the diverse contexts wherein the interviews take area, accommodating the preferences and logistical concerns of the individuals. The considerate crafting of questions, coupled with the numerous interview formats, goals to create surroundings conducive to extracting complete and detailed responses. The emphasis on particular know-how and abilities in climate change policy-making in the questionnaire aligns with the overarching purpose of assessing gender responsiveness in weather action strategies. This cautiously designed study technique laid a sturdy basis for subsequent facts evaluation, ensuring that the amassed information is not handiest comprehensive but also intricately aligned with the study's objectives.

3.3 Data Collection

In this research, the methodology involved conducting interviews in a semi-structured format, characterized by a set of open-ended questions designed to elicit a broad spectrum of responses. The rationale behind this approach changed into to ensure a complete exploration of the problem count number. This technique, as described by Adams (2015), combines both constant and open-ended questions, facilitating dynamic and attractive discussions with experts in the discipline. The semi-established nature of the interviews furnished the researcher with a strategic benefit. It allows for the presentation of particular inquiries directly tied to the study's problem, making sure of a centred exploration of pertinent issues. Similarly, the technique maintained flexibility by employing the inclusion of observe-up questions, thereby allowing the researcher to are seeking for in additional explanations and delve deeper into emergent subject matters for the duration of the interviews.

Each interview session varied between 25 to 40 minutes. To attain in-depth insights from individuals, sufficient time was allotted to ensure the performance of the records series system. Most importantly, previous written consent was acquired from all of the contributors to document the interviews, a step essential for the next transcription and thematic analysis. The recorded interviews were meticulously transcribed to convert spoken phrases into written text, facilitating a thorough and systematic analysis. This procedure aligns with the broader goal of contributing substantively to the prevailing literature. To make certain the interview manner

stays focused and without delay applicable to the study's objectives, the stock was advanced thoughtfully. Questionnaires were developed and the findings of the literature review were reported, providing a complementary link between existing knowledge and the direct insights gained from the interviews, the methods of encounter provided the depth of the discussion was not only improved but also enhanced the overall coherence and relevance of the research findings. Nevertheless, qualitative research methods relied on semi-structured interviews, audio recordings, transcripts, and thematic analysis, to provide nuanced understandings of the relevant Through this approach design, the research aims to provide valuable insights into academic discourse.

3.3.1 Primary Sources

The research primarily relied on data collection, incorporating face-to-face and online interviews through social media platforms like WhatsApp, Zoom, and Google Meet, encompassing officials from significant non-governmental and governmental organizations such as the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN Women and other noteworthy government authorities like the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Notably, the officials included Social Safeguards, Environmental Specialists, Gender and Climate Experts, Climate Finance and Fund Managers, Consultant on Climate Policy and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Experts from varied aforementioned institutes.

The interviews were recorded diligently and transcribed to facilitate a comprehensive assessment. The inclusion of real-time interviews provided some unique perspectives from experts, fostering a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the subject matter. In addition to conducting interviews, some authoritative sources such as governmental reports, databases, policies, and other official documents in Pakistan were analyzed extensively. This inclusive approach favoured a comprehensive examination of climate action and gender-responsive strategies, leveraging insights from both qualitative interviews and a thorough abstract from established governmental frameworks and initiatives. While assessing the sources, the study aims to validate the research and depth of its findings, stipulating an all-inclusive perspective on SDG 5 gender equality and SDG 13 climate action within the policy standpoint of Pakistan.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources

This research thoroughly drew upon a range of secondary sources, such as previously published papers, books, articles, journals, newspapers, and magazines. These diverse sources of information enabled an extensive analysis of the research. Adequate academic literature related to Sustainable Development Goals of Gender Equality, Climate Action and their nexus served as valuable supplementary data for developing concepts and literature review. Further, it helped delve into the ongoing considerations of policy-making and strategies in Pakistan, significantly in relevance to climate change and gender responsiveness. Similarly, the research also analyzed the past policies and state dynamics to evaluate the efficacy, and shortcomings of the policies underway.

3.4 Data Sampling

The criteria for data sampling are rooted in detailed considerations of the relevance of the topic, reliability, validity, and the potential for replicability of the research. In the same manner, the sampling decisions are made keeping in view research objectives, understanding its significance, and the participants' expertise to capture a comprehensive array of perspectives. The objective of this approach is to collect data that is not only pertinent and reliable but also contemplative of the varied viewpoints. It is hence essential for a thorough evaluation of the research's central themes.

This evaluative research mainly relied upon purposive sampling based on a non-probability data sampling technique where a researcher chooses the participants that provide the most relevant data for their research, such as experts in a particular field or people with a specific understanding of the subject matter. Purposive sampling can thereby be defined as a sampling method in which respondents are selected based on their utility to the study and picking cases which can be utilized having limited research resources effectively (Campbell et al. 2020). The sample in this research is small; thereby, the data collected through interviews is incremented with secondary sources. In the context of my research of assessing gender-responsiveness in climate action strategies, purposive sampling helped strategically choose the key stakeholders from various institutes. This ensured that the data collection was highly relevant and rendered valuable insights into the effectiveness of policy-making, enhancing the extent and specificity of the analysis.

To further elaborate on the proposed methodology for testing the findings, it is necessary to explain the rationale for the selection of 8-12 targeted experts for the interview. This deliberate selection was aimed at ensuring a comprehensive climate assessment of climate policies in Pakistan by including individuals with specific qualifications and experience. A selection of experts who are recognized and have been heavily involved in policy development or technical professionals provides a basis for valuable insights. By targeting individuals who have played a significant role in policy development or have significant technical expertise, the research is expected to gain positive knowledge and practical experience. This grade not only improved the quality of the research but also made it more accessible and deeper for the students.

Furthermore, the inclusion of both male and female technocrats reflects and introduces a bias towards peer engagement in the review process. By testing perspectives from different sources, the research seeks to generate new understandings of the topic and recognize the importance of different perspectives in policy making. Prior to the interviews, explicit and informed consent was obtained from each participant, which confirms the ethical judgments of the study. This ensures that participants are fully aware of the purpose of the study, their role in it and the potential consequences of their contribution. Furthermore, the availability of the interview materials was carefully planned to demonstrate a commitment to respect the participants' time and schedule, as an aid to professionalism and the overall integrity of the study. The ethical standards set by the relevant authorities were reasonably complied with. The credibility of the research contributes to responsible and transparent knowledge in the field. This successful approach with stakeholder choice, consensus and cooperation establishes a solid foundation for the research methodology and allows for the exploration of comprehensive climate response strategies in the context of Pakistan.

3.5 Data Analysis

Analysis and Analysis of Gendered Climate Management Strategies in Pakistan Data were analyzed through thematic analysis, focusing on interviews with experts and using government databases as primary sources. Themes research involves a systematic approach to identifying patterns, themes and meanings in qualitative data. It aims to uncover underlying themes and patterns in the data, providing a comprehensive understanding of the topic. The thematic analysis provides a broader lens through which to examine the respondents' perspectives, shedding light on issues that are emphasized or marginalized. The process involves writing

interviews based on original concepts and careful coding, editing codes, categorizing, describing, and revealing key themes and insights.

Thematic analysis is the process of identifying, exploring, and reporting patterns or themes in data in qualitative research. It improves the effectiveness of the data primarily due to its ability to identify, analyse and report themes in complex data. Key steps in thematic analysis include; First, familiarize yourself with the data by listening to recordings and taking notes or taking detailed notes. In addition, codes are used to identify basic patterns and themes. This is an iterative process where codes are reviewed and amended. Identified topics are reviewed to ensure accurate disclosure. Each topic is then defined and given an appropriate name. This helps ensure topics are well-defined and accessible. Finally, the findings are compiled into a report with their titles, their interpretation, and supporting information. Any multimedia data (e.g., video, and audio recordings) in the event may be used with the consent of the participant.

This approach delves into the subtleties of language, exposing the nuanced mechanisms through which perspectives are constructed and conveyed in discourse. By focusing on themes and patterns, thematic analysis enhances the depth and richness of the data analysis process, contributing to a more nuanced and insightful exploration of the subject matter. The resulting themes, derived from thematic analysis, established a robust foundation for the research findings section, ensuring a comprehensive and informed examination of dynamics within the language and an understanding of gender dynamics embedded in climate policies.

3.6 Research Limitations

Some of the biases that this research may have been exposed to due to the methods employed are as follows.

3.6.1 Interviewee Bias

When conducting interviews, the studies acknowledge the possibility of interviewer bias, whereby participants may give socially preferred answers or change their answers depending on the context, the characteristics of the interviewer, or perceived expectations. To address this, open-ended questions will be asked while maintaining anonymity and confidentiality to reduce concerns about social desirability. Additionally, behavioural observation and a comprehensive review of existing academic literature on similar topics would increase the credibility of the findings. Simultaneously, potential bias stemming from key stakeholders' and experts'

involvement will be considered, recognizing that their perspectives might align with institutional viewpoints. To counteract this, affiliations of key stakeholders will be transparently disclosed. Cross-verification processes will further be implemented to promote a balanced analysis, reducing the likelihood of skewed evaluations of climate adaptation policies.

3.6.2 *Small Sample Size*

A small sample size was a limitation of this research because of its inadequate representation of the subject matter. A sample size of 8 to 12 people may not capture the full diversity and complexity of perspectives within the targeted groups, such as government officials, policymakers, and climate experts. The findings derived from this limited sample may lack generalizability to the broader population, raising questions about the representativeness of the insights gathered. It also signifies limited variation in responses, potentially hindering the identification of diverse opinions and experiences. However, stratified participants that are purposefully selected based on specific characteristics, were taken for a more comprehensive understanding and clearly stating its implications in the research findings section would contribute to the transparency and credibility of the study.

3.6.3 *Temporal Constraints*

The cross-sectional nature of the study means that it provides a snapshot of opinions and experiences at a specific point in time. This design limitation may ignore the dynamic and changing nature of climate policy and gender ideologies. Survey findings may not adequately reflect long-term trends, changes, or perceptions over time. Consequently, the findings of the study may lack the depth of context necessary to understand gendered climate policy-making in Pakistan. To counter this limitation, a historical analysis is provided to examine the development of climate policy and gender theories in Pakistan to develop a more comprehensive understanding of male-centred climate policy and gender-responsive over time

3.7 *Data Storage*

The data obtained from the research was stored in a password-protected Google Drive folder, which was kept updated as the research progressed. The data shall be made available to researchers from the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Center for International Peace and Stability (CIPS) upon request.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

This study placed a paramount emphasis on preserving moral requirements, making sure a radical and transparent technique with members. Before their involvement, members had been carefully knowledgeable and consent was obtained through an in-depth records sheet and consent shape, each of which was signed. Additionally, contributors acquired the interview questionnaire ahead, enhancing transparency and permitting considerate attention to the topics to be mentioned. These measures have been implemented now not only to uphold the dignity, autonomy, and rights of the contributors but also to sell a knowledgeable and reflective engagement throughout the interview manner. The meticulous attention to ethical considerations in this scholarly pursuit reflects a commitment to safeguarding the well-being and rights of those involved in the study.

Chapter 4

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

The impacts of climate change are multifaceted with widespread socioeconomic and environmental effects around the globe. The phenomenon of climate change has not only exacerbated human suffering but also limited human freedom and choices. However, the impacts of climate change are not equal. The vulnerability index varies from human to human and among different communities. The states and individuals with fewer resources are more susceptible to its negative impacts while those in position and power benefit from their ability to sustain. From an intersectional point of view, the impacts of climate change are diverse based on age, ethnicity, class, and in particular, gender. Gender includes varying roles, responsibilities, attributes and rights of men and women across the world. The impacts of climate change are even greater when it comes to social and legal inequalities between women and men. This has resulted in a power imbalance where women face unequal access and restricted authority over resources and services, such as education, land ownership and decision-making opportunities. These gendered sociocultural roles and responsibilities have led men and women to experience climate effects differently, exacerbating climate vulnerabilities for women (Lorena Aguilar, Margaux Granat, and Cate Owren 2015).

Women's sociocultural role and position, their access to resources, security and survival, limited mobility and lacking role in decision-making and policy planning have made them more vulnerable in society as compared to men. To address climate vulnerabilities efficiently, it is important to understand the risks associated with men and women, as well as their socioeconomic and political contexts. Additionally, there is an enhanced need for recognition of women's role in climate change adaptation and mitigation. The pertinence scales from a woman's unique knowledge and adaptive capacity to combat climate change adversities. Instances show how women have advanced and adapted to the extreme weather and climatic changes as effective coping mechanisms (Tom Mitchell, Thomas Tanner, and Kattie Lussier 2007) that have played an integral part in reducing climate-related vulnerabilities.

Similarly, women's assigned gender role of informal reproductive work, related to household caretaking and traditional agriculture knowledge, responsibilities and resource management, has created an opportunity for women to be agents of change in solution to climate change. Therefore, in bringing an effective response against the challenges of climate change, an inclusive climate policy, action and advocacy are necessary which must respond to the rights, priorities and diverse needs, of all people. In 2015, Climate action was initiated under a broader global sustainable development agenda, mainstreaming gender as an effective response to work for an equal and sustainable future.

More recently, various states have been recognizing the gendered climatic impacts and as a result, are developing gender-inclusive action plans to adapt to climate change and related vulnerabilities more effectively. This provided an opportunity to not only understand the growing gender inequalities but also recast responses and realities of both women and men, for more effective, long-term, and equitable adaptation solutions (Skinner 2011). It is thereby, significant to recognize and address the nuanced perspectives, identities, issues and burdens of both men and women in the face of changing and growing climate vulnerabilities.

4.1 Conceptual Foundations

As a concept, gender-responsive climate action drives its bases from climate-gender nexus and explores the intricate relationships of climate change, gender inequality, and interlinked socio-cultural dynamics. The nexus highlights how climate change impacts different gender identities in their capacity to adapt and respond against climate impacts and adds to their vulnerability index. In 1988, the first-ever book that talked about women and the environment was published (Dankelman and Davidson 1988). Ever since, many aspects of the nexus of women and the environment endured significant changes. Of all environmental challenges, climate change emerged as a major challenge that exacerbated all other related issues of the 1980s associated with water, energy use and biodiversity conservation. Concurrently, the human rights factor underwent major changes and the relationship between men and women surfaced as a diverse issue to be dealt with. Having manifestations of dynamic gender characteristics, the discourse of environment expanded with the inclusion of women as a subject matter.

Subsequently, Denton (2002) explored the dimensions of gender, climate change vulnerability, its consequences, and adaptation. His work examined the relationship between gender roles and norms and various inequalities and how they shape men's and women's experiences of

adaptive capabilities in the face of climate change. The importance of gender-inclusive adaptation strategies came out as a crux of the research that concluded how adaptation against climate change vulnerabilities is crucial for women and there is a need for gender-sensitive approaches to address the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men to promote gender equality in different approaches and policies.

Comprehending the gendered impacts of climate change, the concepts of vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and resilience are important to understand. Climate vulnerability refers to the level of susceptibility of an individual or a system to the adverse impacts of climate change. From a gendered perspective, due to existing inequalities in access to resources, services, decision-making, and social support systems, women often face exacerbated vulnerabilities. Different gender roles and values limit the ability of women to adapt to climate change impacts owing to their vulnerable positions, especially in regions where resource management and community leadership are restricted. Moreover, adaptive capacity is the ability of an individual or a system to sustain the consequences and potential damages of climate change. Due to varying socio-economic and political barriers, women face many constraints that hamper their unique knowledge and adaptive qualities, such as their experiences in managing resources and coping capabilities against environmental changes to enhance climate resilience. Lastly, resilience is the ability of an individual or a system to retain the structure and maintain the functioning capacity for operationalisation, and the ability to adapt amidst climate stress and change (BU Global Development Policy Centre 2022). Therefore, it is important to understand the gendered perspective of vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and resilience in the ever-changing climate as crucial subjects to promote gender equality and enhance climate action.

4.2 Development of the Concept “Gender-Responsive Climate Action”

Gender-responsive climate action is a newly developed comprehensive approach driving its roots from SDG 5; Gender Equality and SDG 13; Climate Action. SDG 5 directs to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls in all spheres of life. It also recognizes that gender equality is a requisite for sustainable development and that women's empowerment is pivotal in achieving all the SDGs. It emphasizes governments to tackle structural barriers and address sociocultural and political dynamics that perpetrate discrimination against women and girls. It also signals to strengthen accountability and legal frameworks to promote women's labour force participation and ensure responsiveness to women's and girls' rights. It must be done by increasing investment and financing across sectors, including agriculture, education,

and healthcare by governments and key stakeholders. Lastly, governments must strengthen their local statistical systems to collect merit-based, accessible, and reliable data to monitor the progress and assist evidence-based policy formulation (IISD SDG Knowledge Hub 2017).

SDG 13 aims to take earnest action to combat the impacts of climate change that are disrupting national economies and affecting lives on every continent. Climate change has intensified the irregularities in weather events such as intensified heat waves, floods and droughts with environmental degradation causing the rise in sea levels, shifting climate patterns and extreme weather patterns. Climate Action targets to strengthen resilience and adaptation by integrating national adaptation policy planning and strategies. By doing so, it also aims to improve individual and institutional capacity to adapt and mitigate against the impacts of climate change. Further, it commits to accumulating \$100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing states against climate change. Lastly, it calls for effective mechanisms and climate-related planning focusing on youth, women, local and marginalized communities (UNDP 2017).

Both SDG 5 and SDG 13 are critical for achieving sustainable development and ensuring a better future for all. As a result, on 5th July 2018 Human Rights Council adopted a resolution and requested OHCHR “to conduct, from within existing resources, an analytical study on the integration of a gender-responsive approach into climate action at the local, national, regional and international levels for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women” (Human Rights Council resolution 38/4, OHCHR 2018). It directly links gender equality with climate change. Women remain the most vulnerable impacted by increased levels of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation. Similarly, they face an exclusion from the processes of decision-making and policy-planning specifically related to climate change, environmental disaster and reduction of inequality. However, it is widely recognized that women have a central role in response to climate change locally, nationally and internationally. From this point of view, gender mainstreaming into climate-related policies and projects is pivotal to both tackling climate change and reducing gender inequality.

The concept entails assessing the effects of climate change on women and men in different ways and forms of intersectional discrimination that make them more vulnerable. It also finds how systemic discrimination can impact climate change in its relation to health and food insecurity, livelihoods and human mobility, among other effects. It also recognizes how excluding women and girls from climate action will not only make it less effective and

exaggerate climate harm but also undermine the importance of inclusivity. Taking into view, the legal, ethical and moral considerations, an effective, meaningful and informed participation of women and girls forms the base of gender-responsive climate action.

Eventually, the framework of Gender-Responsive Climate Action seeks to promote gender equality by recognizing women's specific vulnerabilities, needs, opportunities, and susceptibility related to climate change. This intends to empower women not only domestically and socially but also in broader political planning and processes. Simultaneously, it stresses a strong understanding of varying and dynamic factors that affect gender equality like the exposure of children, women, elderly and disabled groups as the most impacted groups by climate change.

The IUCN Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2018) defines gender responsiveness in the following terms: "To identify and understand gender gaps and biases, and then act on them, developing and implementing actions to overcome challenges and barriers, thereby improving gender equality.

(IUCN 2018)

4.3 Core Elements of Gender-Responsive Climate Action

As debated earlier, women and girls remain the most vulnerable group of individuals who are impacted by climate change. Many factors, disproportionately affect women and girls, such as their limited access to resources, education, and decision-making opportunities, particularly in low and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). Here more women are employed in sectors such as agriculture and therefore they are more susceptible to risk and impacts of disaster. These vulnerabilities are further exacerbated by their roles related to managing the household and community resources which can lead to intensified food insecurity, poverty and health threats. Hence, the impacts of climate change are further exaggerated with an increase in gender inequality, making women a more vulnerable and disadvantaged segment of society. For instance, due to scarcity of food, women are more likely to face undernourishment and hunger, while limited access to resources, economic opportunities and education hinders their ability to adapt to climate change (Pinho-Gomes and Woodward 2024).

Women from marginalized groups be it the elderly, disabled, migrant or indigenous women, face even greater risk and vulnerability due to the intersection of multiple forms of inequality.

Women are largely underrepresented in decision-making procedures and processes related to climate change which limits their ability to influence policies and programs that affect their lives. This lack of representation further exacerbates their vulnerability to climate change (Andrijevic et al. 2020). Limited access to resources including education, healthcare, and economic opportunities further exacerbates the vulnerability of women and girls in their ability to cope and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In conflict-prone and disaster-affected areas, there are even more instances where women and girls are more susceptible to sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and other forms of violence during times of crisis (Desk 2021).

To address these and enhance gender responsiveness in climate action, some key elements are identified; recognizing gender differences (UN Women 2015), equitable participation and influence women may carry in climate change decision-making, gender mainstreaming into climate finance mechanisms and ensuring gender-responsive Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and gender-equitable access to resources (the International Institute for Sustainable Development [IISD] 2017). It also incorporates building capacities and awareness among stakeholders through training and education programs and developing linkages to evaluate the effectiveness of gender-responsive climate actions (UNDP 2020).

Gender-responsive approaches aim to actively examine and address gender inequalities. These approaches involve targeted actions to empower women in their traditional settings including households and communities as well as in broader policy planning processes (Bridget Burns and Amy Lee 2015). Angie Dazé and Julie Dekens (2017) identified three key components of enhancing gender responsiveness in policies: recognizing the gender differences in needs, opportunities and capacities; equal participation of men and women in decision-making and equal access to economic resources and benefits resulting from investments in adaptation between men and women.

In 2017, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change together with participating parties, the secretariat and relevant organizations initiated Gender Action Plans (GAPs). These plans prioritise gender-responsive climate action through 5 priority areas (UNFCCC 2017). First, building the capacity, knowledge and communication. The gender action plans seek to incorporate the understanding and expertise of stakeholders on the integration of gender perspectives into policies. There is a need to apply such understanding and expertise in areas under the premise of the Paris Agreement and programmes and projects

working on the ground. Second, removing gender imbalances and enhancing women's leadership and participation for a full, equal and meaningful response to climate action and the UNFCCC process. Third, strengthening the coherence and integrating gender considerations within the UN entities and stakeholders towards the implementation of mandates and activities related to climate action. Fourth, they aim to ensure gender-responsive implementation of the Paris Agreement. Lastly, concerning implementation entails monitoring and reporting on gender-related mandates to enhance effectiveness.

3.2 Integrating Gender Equality with Climate Action: The Need and Opportunities

Climate change affects everyone. Yet women and men experience the effects of climate change differently, where women are disproportionately impacted due to gender inequalities. To effectively respond to climate change, it is important to understand how the issues of access and control over resources, institutional structures, and social, cultural and governmental decision-making can cause gender inequalities. Therefore, gender mainstreaming based on gender analysis came out to be a vital component of policymaking to enhance climate action. Mainstreaming gender considerations in climate policy, action, and approaches will be more efficient, effective, and equitable by being responsive to and providing broader benefits to address the needs of women and men, including through compensation and shared benefits (Bridget Burns and Amy Lee 2015). Moreover, women have come out to be the agents of change in addressing this threat. Women's role in political processes, natural resource management, adaptation and mitigation has been evident which has increased their need for climate action.

Gender mainstreaming in climate change, at present, is measured mainly through improvement and effectiveness in outcomes rather than adopting an intersectional analysis for the fulfilment of rights and obligations. At the state level, the policy frameworks remain fragmented between sectors which makes it difficult to ensure systematic gender mainstreaming at all levels. There is a growing need for policy-driven methods, strongly linked to national climate adaptive policies instead of working on women-focused projects to enhance climate action and gender equality. There is observed a large gap between commitments and implementation attributed to the lack of systematic gender mainstreaming when it comes to gender-responsive climate strategies and actions at the national level (The UN Women 2015).

Research shows that women and children are 14 times more likely to die than men in a climate-related disaster (OECD 2023). Additionally, women, as primary users of traditional energy sources, face heightened health risks. The repercussions extend to their sexual and reproductive health, with climate-related disasters disrupting access to essential services, including family planning, menstrual hygiene products, safe abortion, and maternal and newborn health assistance. The context of chronic hunger for women and girls is further exacerbated by climate change, leading to increased health vulnerabilities (M. R. Smith and Myers 2018).

In total, 80% of the displaced population due to climate change remains women. It increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence GBV, human trafficking, sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment (UNICEF South Asia 2023) (UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency 2022). In Pakistan, the devastating floods of the year 2022 caused 650,000 pregnant Pakistani women deprived of access to healthcare and were forced to give birth under the open sky (UNFPA Pakistan 2022). This left more than 8 million women to manage their hygiene and menstruation without any necessary resources or facilities (Philipp 2023).

Data from 2021 indicates that both official donors and large philanthropic foundations targeted financing for climate change and gender equality at the same time. Official Donors provided over USD 867 million that simultaneously tackled climate change, through mitigation or adaptation, and reduced gender inequalities as their main objective. This represents less than 1% of ODA that year. Meanwhile, available data for private philanthropy indicates that both climate and gender objectives rarely coincide. Only USD 20 million in grants tackle climate change and gender equality, significantly less than 1% (OECD, 2023).

Despite these challenges, women are the agents of change in climate mitigation and adaptation. Their knowledge, especially in sustainable agriculture, builds resilient global food systems. Empowering women and girls become a force for local climate solutions, including resilient agriculture for enhanced food security (OECD, 2023). Women's expertise in biodiversity, agriculture and sustainable practices contribute significantly to sectors like the circular economy (One Young World 2022). Women-led advocacy groups, exemplified by initiatives like restoring the Ecuadorian Andes' páramo ecosystem (UN Women 2022), actively drive change on these agendas in climate programmes and international policy dialogues. Women's knowledge, experiences, and voices are critical in shaping climate change programmes and influencing funding.

In conclusion, gender-responsive climate movement is vital for effective weather alternate mitigation and adaptation. The intersection of gender with climate vulnerability highlights how inequalities exacerbate the impacts of climate change, in particular for ladies and marginalized organizations. Women, often bearing the brunt of climate-related adversities because of systemic inequities, have proven resilience and management in adapting to those challenges. Recognizing their specific roles and integrating their understanding into weather techniques not only complements the effectiveness of these efforts but also promotes broader social fairness. Embracing gender-responsive approaches ensures that weather guidelines are inclusive and equitable, addressing the precise wishes and contributions of all people. This holistic attitude is important for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals, fostering sustainable improvement, and building resilience towards climate influences. By aligning gender equality with climate motion, we can power extra comprehensive and just solutions, ensuring an honest and resilient future for everyone.

CHAPTER 5

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The final chapter assesses the interlinked concept of gender-responsive climate action in strategies in Pakistan and how these strategies integrate with Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 13 (Gender Equality) and (Climate Action). The chapter also addresses the gendered perspectives on climate-related vulnerabilities. The assessment is done by detailed thematic analysis of the responses gathered through interviews. This chapter provides a thorough understanding of the current practices and perspectives on climate action through a gender-responsive lens. It is further divided into three sections, each answering one of the primary research questions of the thesis. The sections are further divided into key subsections to give a thorough and nuanced analysis of the responses obtained from key stakeholders and subject experts.

The first section assesses Pakistan's climate-related strategies and approaches and evaluates how these strategies integrate gender considerations through current practices and perceptions. The second section evaluates the scope and extent to which Pakistan's climate-related strategies address and acknowledge gender vulnerabilities. By doing so, it finds out the challenges of mainstreaming gendered perspectives in the context of Pakistan and the needs and effectiveness of the policies. It also targets the measures and opportunities required to foster more inclusive approaches in achieving climate resilience, gender parity, and policy planning. Finally, the third section values the efficacy of Pakistan's gender-responsive climate action strategies by examining the key role of policymakers and government officials in shaping and implementing these strategies. It also presents insights into Pakistan's policy-planning and decision-making processes, the subtleties of key stakeholders involved, and the future of gender-responsive climate action in Pakistan.

The thorough assessment of these sections helps understand the pertinence of gender-responsive climate action in Pakistan's climate adaptation strategies and discusses the findings and analysis of the responses obtained from the key stakeholders including policymakers, experts and advocates such as Climate Social Safeguard and Environmental Specialists, Gender and Climate Experts and Consultants on Climate Policy and Gender and Social Inclusion from

various governmental departments and organizations; MoCC, NDRMF, NCSW, the World Bank and the ADB. Through this structure, the chapter seeks to critically assess the interconnection of gender and climate in Pakistan's approaches, while offering valuable insights for future policy planning and implementation.

Section I

5.1 Assessment of Gender Considerations in Pakistan's Climate Policies; Current Practices and Perceptions

Climate change poses significant challenges globally, impacting vulnerable populations disproportionately, with women often bearing a greater burden in disaster scenarios (Interview Respondent 5). Despite policy frameworks, such as the Climate Change Gender Action Plan 2022 launched by the Ministry of Climate Change, the integration of gender considerations remains inconsistent and often insufficient in Pakistan's climate-related policies (Interview Respondent 8). This section examines the extent to which Pakistan's climate strategies align with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), focusing on gendered perspectives and vulnerabilities.

Respondent 1 highlights a gap between awareness and implementation, noting that while there is recognition of gender impacts, policies lack effective integration and planning to address these vulnerabilities. The lack of gender-specific strategies exacerbates the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, reflecting a broader oversight in policy frameworks.

If you see the connection and ask me about it, the people are sensitized, especially the decision-makers that gender-wise there is a need to do work on how females are getting affected by climate change. Recognition has a place but there is no incorporation of planning in the policies. While keeping gender aside, we are at the stage where normal strategies are not even devised or implemented with results.

(IR 1 Interview Transcript 1)

Respondent 2 underscores the inadequacies in current policies, emphasizing that while gender impacts are acknowledged, practical measures to mitigate these effects are lacking. This points

to a gap in policy implementation, particularly in ensuring equitable access and empowerment for women in climate resilience efforts. Upon questioning the Deputy Management at the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF); do you think that gender considerations are being integrated into Pakistan climate-related strategies, the respondent stated: "No, not up to the standard. It is touch-based but not satisfactory. In conditions of floods today, our gendered impacts are greater. Women are impacted, their freedom, facilities, and access to information are impacted mostly due to their household chores and roles" (IR-2, Interview Transcript 2).

While respondent 3 critiqued external interventions, highlighting challenges in aligning gender considerations with local socio-cultural contexts. This perspective calls for nuanced approaches that must respect local norms while integrating gender-responsive strategies in climate initiatives. "My response will not be a traditional response...all the UN agencies and the Charter conferred upon them and agreed that whenever they are working in some country, they have to respect the social norms of that specific country" (IR-3, Interview Transcript 3).

The gender expert on climate policies identified implementation gaps as a critical barrier, citing political instability and bureaucratic hurdles that hinder effective policy execution. "Overall, there are policies...But when it comes to the implementation of the policies, this is where challenges arise...Main challenges are devising a well-knit, inclusive implementation plan, allocating resources, pooling technical resources..." (IR-4: Interview Transcript 4). This suggests a need for robust implementation frameworks that address gender disparities and enhance resilience-building efforts.

Further, Pakistan's Consultant on Climate Policy in the World Bank acknowledges governmental efforts in policy formulation but highlights significant challenges in translating policy intentions into tangible outcomes at the local level. The respondent mentioned that the government of Pakistan has launched the Climate Change Gender Action Plan that shows gender considerations are part of policy design. "When it comes to implementation, especially at the local level, that is where it becomes challenging" (Interview Respondent 5). This gap stresses the need for strengthened implementation strategies that prioritize gender-responsive approaches in climate resilience initiatives.

Respondent 6 highlights the need for the integration of gender-responsive approaches in climate policies based on empirical evidence of heightened vulnerabilities among women and

children in disaster scenarios. This imperative is needed for the policies that not only acknowledge but also effectively address gender disparities in climate resilience strategies.

There's a lot of research on this already...women and children are 14 times more likely to die in the case of a natural disaster or climate disaster...You cannot argue against the fact that there are benefits when it comes to integrating gender-responsive approaches...

(IR-6 Interview Transcript 6)

The next respondent recognised the advancements in gender integration within climate strategies but emphasised the need for robust implementation to realize the full potential of gender-responsive policies (Interview Respondent 7). This suggests a positive trajectory towards inclusivity but underscores ongoing challenges in achieving comprehensive gender equality in climate adaptation and mitigation.

Lastly, the National Expert on Gender and Climate critiques existing policies as gender-blind, emphasizing the necessity for targeted gender considerations to effectively address women's vulnerabilities in climate resilience efforts. The response highlighted the policies and plans as being “not really gender-responsive” and lying somewhere between gender-blind and gender-neutral while also arguing that “gender neutrality doesn't help...We have to integrate gender consideration and focus on women within the policies” (IR-8, Interview Transcript 8). This highlights a critical gap in policy frameworks that must be addressed through inclusive and gender-responsive strategies.

Section 1: An Analysis

This section provides an overview of current perceptions and practices regarding gender integration in Pakistan's climate policies. The responses provided shreds of evidence on the integration and awareness versus the implementation gaps within Pakistan’s climate-active policies and strategies. It acknowledges that there is a recognized awareness of the need for gender-responsive approaches within Pakistan's climate policies. Yet, this awareness does not translate into effective implementation with a disjunction between recognition and actual planning, indicating a significant gap in policy execution. While gender impacts are foreseeable, the policies remain inadequate in practical terms. Another highlighted viewpoint among respondents remained the lagging localized gender-responsive climate action. There is

an intricate interplay between the globally formed frameworks and their application when it comes to the local sociocultural contexts, norms and realities. In forming policies, it is important to align different aspects and ensure gender considerations that are culturally sensitive and contextually applicable. While there has been advancement in integrating gender lenses when it comes to policy-making yet, the lack of implementation remains a recurring theme. Policies are moving in an inclusive direction but there are no practical steps to realize the intended outputs. Some of the major themes discussed were political will, governmental instability and bureaucratic barriers that hinder an efficient implementation. It demonstrates intricate systemic issues within policy execution and the need for a paradigm shift in policy planning and making. Thence there is a need for targeted considerations to effectively address the vulnerabilities of gender in climate adaptation strategies.

Section 2

5.2 Analysis of Gender-Responsive Climate Strategies in Pakistan: Challenges, Effectiveness, and Necessary Strategic Measures

5.2.1 Subsection A: Challenges of Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in Climate Adaptation Strategies in Pakistan

This section identifies the challenges and barriers to integrating gender mainstreaming into climate-related policies. While contextualizing the environment of Pakistan, the interviewees' responses shed light on the challenges alongside a series of socio-cultural, systemic and institutional laggings that impose hurdles in effective policy implementation. The obstacles to mainstream gender in policies concerning climate are multifaceted. Namely, political instability, the will of politicians, sociocultural aspects, institutional inertia, resource constraints, gender-blind perspectives, awareness and advocacy gaps and institutionalized biases, surfaced among others. For advancing gender equality and effective and resilient climate action, overcoming these barriers holds primary importance. There is a need to bring concerted efforts, capacity building, and enhancing inclusivity to bring a paradigm shift and empower women in their resilience to climate change.

The Deputy Management Environment from NDRMF highlighted the issue of advocacy as a significant barrier to gender mainstreaming in climate adaptation. The entrenched socio-cultural and political attitudes prevalent in Pakistani society often limit women's viewpoint in

decision-making and processes related to environmental management and climate resilience. It also notes that without active advocacy and awareness of the real-world benefits of policies, their effectiveness is compromised.

We make policies for the sake of it and do not implement them religiously and practically. If I consider myself an implementor and do not advocate it further, then how will people understand it? The policies are made on a document without realising how on-ground situations are. The human psyche always seeks for its benefit...So, it is important to tell people and the common man its benefits... make our policies user-friendly.

(IR-2 Interview Transcript 2)

Another respondent emphasized on political instability of the government as a critical barrier to gender considerations in climate policies. There is frequent change in the leadership that puts forward the issue of prioritising decisions and also leads to inconsistent policy frameworks. The lack of sustained commitments and political disruption inhibits the response of long-term planning and implementation while also diverting attention and resources away from issues like climate change and its effective response (Interview Respondent 3). The efforts of building consensus and ensuring continuity across the political and institutional factions are thereby necessary to overcome this barrier.

Another important barrier pointed out was the institutional inertia that exists within government bodies. Regardless having policy mandates and policy frameworks for gender mainstreaming, the organizational and bureaucratic processes often prioritize the conventional and developmental agendas over gender-specific interventions (Interview Respondent 4). This institutional inertia hinders the effective completion and implementation of gender-responsive strategies, enabling gender inequalities that fabricate into and weaken climate-resilient initiatives. Restructuring institutional practices to incorporate gender considerations into decision-making frameworks is primary for achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

Respondent 5 emphasized the resource constraints as a major obstacle to mainstreaming gender considerations. The limited technical expertise and resource capacities restrict the execution of gender-responsive policies and deter efforts to address women's specific vulnerabilities to

climate change. The constraints in resources not only undermine efforts to mainstream gender concerns but also limit the effectiveness and need of interventions aimed at enhancing gender resilience to climate impacts. Mobilizing sufficient resources and creating technical capacities are critical to overcoming this barrier.

Respondent 6, a Technical Expert on Gender and Climate argues on the lack of awareness and advocacy of gender issues among policymakers and implementers. The insufficient knowledge of how gender vulnerabilities, social context and underlying forces intersect with climate impacts leads to ineffective understanding and further integration of gender considerations in policy interpretation and implementation. Improving awareness, advocacy and building capacity among policy planners and implementers are vital steps to mainstreaming gender deliberations in climate adaptation strategies. Prioritizing education and advocacy of key governmental and organizational stakeholders about the importance of gender equality to bring climate resilience and fostering inclusivity holds prime importance in effective policy frameworks.

A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) expert assessed the gender-neutral approach prevalent in policy-making and advocated for a directed and targeted approach with gender-specific interventions. The absence of gender-sensitive indicators and leaps in monitoring and evaluation of frameworks further exacerbate gender disparities in climate change. Implementing a gender-sensitive approach requires assessing and re-evaluating current mechanisms to ensure their effectiveness (Interview Respondent 7). It is thereby important to analyse if the policies capture the differential impacts of climate change on men and women. Integrating gender-sensitive markers can enhance accountability and transparency in climate policy and execution.

The national expert and representative of Pakistan on Climate and Gender in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) talked about institutionalized gender biases as a barrier within Pakistan's strategic notion of decision-making. There is an underrepresentation of women in decision-making, leadership roles and technical positions. This limits their influence and recognition in shaping climate policies that inadequately address their needs and priorities (Interview Respondent 8). Addressing the customary and institutionalized gender biases requires promoting gender parity and contribution in planning, decision-making and enhancing participation in climate governance. Encouraging and advocating for women as agents of change will foster inclusive and equitable sociocultural and environmental change.

5.2.2 Subsection B: Effectiveness of Integrating Gender-Responsive Approaches into Climate Adaptation Strategies

The integration of gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation strategies in Pakistan is essential for enhancing environmental sustainability and resilience, promoting social equity, bringing adaptive change in behaviour at a community level, economic empowerment, improved resource management, health and security and inclusive governance. The responses from the key stakeholders presented and indicated recognition of benefits as part of integrating gender responsiveness into climate policy. It signals an elevated sense of recognition at the policy level that effective integration of gender considerations can lead to more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities, capable of withstanding and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

5.2.2.1 Enhanced Sustainability and Resilience

Overall, responses stressed the importance of gender-inclusive approaches and policies to enhance sustainability and resilience in climate adaptation. For instance, respondent 1 underlines that sustainability is fundamentally linked to gender inclusivity, suggesting that engaging women in climate adaptation ensures enduring and prevailing strategies. "...it will bring gender inclusivity and the communities will be more sustainable..." (IR 1, Interview Transcript 1). This perspective aligns with the broader understanding of incorporating inclusivity to strengthen community resilience. By addressing the needs and contributions of all members, the overall effectiveness of adaptation efforts can be boosted.

Similarly, respondent 6 underscores that the effectiveness of climate adaptation strategies is significantly improved when gender considerations are integrated. "It will improve the effectiveness of our strategies and plans...if the component of gender is not incorporated, the policies will not be effective" (IR-6, Interview Transcript 6). This is because such strategies are more relevant and responsive to the diverse needs and realities on the ground. Without incorporating gender, climate strategies risk being incomplete and less effective, as they fail to address the specific vulnerabilities and contributions of women. On the contrary, gender considerations will enhance the effectiveness of climate adaptation strategies by making them more relevant and responsive to diverse needs and realities on the ground.

5.2.2.2 Advancement in Social Equity and Empowerment

Gender-responsive strategies are essential in advancing social equity and empowerment. By focusing on the specific vulnerabilities faced by women, these strategies not only promote inclusive development but also encourage and empower women within their communities. The empowerment of women argues on a matter of equity, based on enhanced adaptive capacity of communities and leveraging the strengths and perspectives of all members. As stated, "When our policies and plans are gender-responsive, they are more inclusive, definitely empowering the women, gender and the communities" (IR-5, Interview Transcript 5).

5.2.2.3 Adaptive Behavioural Change and Community Resilience

In traditional dynamics, the role of women is limited to household chores and their well-being. Interviewee 2 underscores the need and role of women as mothers in awareness and bringing a positive impact on her children's understanding of climate impacts. "If a mother is aware, her children will be better trained and aware of the impacts as well" (IR-2, Interview Transcript 2). This points to the crucial role of women in disseminating knowledge and fostering adaptive behaviours within families and the need for gender-prioritized efforts in climate policy. Women's awareness and participation in climate strategies can affect household behaviour positively, contributing to improved adaptive capacity and resilience at the grassroots level.

5.2.2.4 Optimization in Resource Management and Economic Empowerment

Engaging women in climate-related activities leads to efficient resource management and economic empowerment. As respondent 6 insisted, "While engaging them in different gender roles, it will lead to efficient resource management". Incorporating women in sectors like ecotourism and renewable energy will not only advance resource management but also create economic opportunities, promoting economic resilience, particularly in local communities and rural areas (Interview Respondent 6). This dual gain of optimizing resources and empowering women economically argues for inclusive and gender-responsive climate strategies.

5.2.2.5 Improved Health and Well-being

Respondent 6 also highlights the health benefits of gender-responsive interventions. For instance, "Introducing clean cookstoves will improve their well-being and the indoor environment of their houses" (IR-6, Interview Transcript 6). Such eco-friendly technologies can bring improved health security and a clean environment to their homes, particularly in rural areas. This indicates how localized solutions and gender-responsive strategies can improve the

well-being of women, which in turn contributes to the overall community resilience. Gender-responsive health interventions thereby are important as they can mitigate health risks associated with climate impacts.

5.2.2.6 Strengthened Governance and Decision-Making

Lastly, inclusive governance is another important benefit of gender-responsive approaches. Including and representing more women in decision-making processes reflects diverse perspectives and needs, advancing resilient and adaptive communities. This inclusivity and diversity in governance ensures that climate adaptation is more comprehensive and effective. As emphasized, "It will improve governance as more women will be included in decision making and forming it more inclusive with diversifying community representation" (IR-6, Interview Transcript 6). Hence, inclusive governance, facilitated by gender diversity in decision-making processes is a direct reflection of varying needs and perspectives, thereby are key to strengthened and adaptive communities.

5.2.3 Section C: Strategic Measures Necessary to Address Gender-related Climate Vulnerabilities in Pakistan

Integrating measures like engaging women in policy-making and leadership, political prioritization for effective policy implementation gender-inclusive technical education and advocacy, empowerment through local engagement and ensuring social inclusion and accessibility—is crucial for addressing the unique vulnerabilities of women and girls to climate change in Pakistan.

5.2.3.1 Integrating Women's Perspectives in Climate Adaptive Policy-making

Various respondents emphasized the importance of integrating women's perspectives into climate change policy-making processes including engaging women in decision-making and equal opportunity in participation. The integration of gender perspectives is crucial in enhancing the effectiveness and inclusivity of climate policies in Pakistan. There is a need for gender-focused approaches and mainstreaming gender considerations across all levels of policy planning and implementation. "The organizations ... should incorporate the female voice in policymaking" and "The organizations...should incorporate the female voice in policymaking...research work can help develop facts and figures on how climate change is affecting" (IR-1, Interview Transcript 1). This emphasizes the value of integrating female perspectives into policy processes to ensure a comprehensive understanding and effective

mitigation of climate impacts. By focusing on research and data-driven solutions, policymakers can better address gender-specific vulnerabilities and tailored interventions. The national expert on gender and climate from the ADB had also underlined an increasing need to involve women in policymaking. This enables diverse insights and experiences, leading to targeted responses against specific vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. "My first priority would be ... engaging them at the policy level, and getting first-hand knowledge from them" (Interview Respondent 8).

5.2.3.2 Leadership and Political Prioritization for Effective Policy Implementation

While interviewing different stakeholders, the role of leadership and political prioritization for gender equity emerged as critical factors in enhancing the effectiveness of climate policies. Different experts highlighted the need for women's leadership and integration of gender considerations in policy planning and budgeting processes. "The key challenges include lack of women leadership and political priority on climate policy" (IR-5, Interview Transcript 5). There is a growing need for women's leadership and local governance to drive effective climate actions. Policy frameworks that prioritize gender equity and enable women to make their voices heard in decision-making processes are essential building blocks for developing more inclusive pathways toward sustainable development.

5.2.3.3 Promoting Gender-Inclusive Technical Education and Advocacy

Other highlighted elements remain advocacy and technical education of women to strengthen inclusivity and diversity in policy formulation. Respondents emphasized the need for collaborative advocacy efforts and the role of political leaders in sensitizing and driving inclusive and impactful climate action. "On the policy level, it's again about advocacy...our government is making an effort...to build capacities...and ensure implementation of strategies" (IR-4, Interview Transcript 4). This underscores the importance of advocacy and institutional capacity-building in policy implementation. By advocating for gender-inclusive policies and enhancing governmental capacities, policymakers can overcome implementation barriers and ensure the effective execution of climate strategies. Similarly, interviewee 7 stresses the importance of identifying and supporting champions for gender equity within political and policy-making spheres. These champions can play a pivotal role in overcoming implementation challenges by advocating for inclusive policies and ensuring that gender considerations are prioritized in resource allocation and decision-making processes.

Moreover, in bringing effectiveness and talking about specific measures to promote gender inclusivity in climate resilience, there is a need to enhance women's participation in technical education and empowerment in economics. As stated, "Promote technical education among women ... beyond traditional roles" and "Create employment opportunities in relevant sectors" (Interview Respondent 8). By empowering and diversifying skill sets and income sources, women are better able to withstand and recover from climate-related impacts.

5.2.3.4 Empowerment and Inclusion through Local Engagement

Local engagement emerges as a critical factor in enhancing the efficacy of climate strategies. Respondents underscored the significance of empowering local communities, particularly women, through awareness, capacity building, and involvement in decision-making processes. Respondent 2 emphasizes the importance of grassroots-level engagement in shaping effective climate policies. By understanding local contexts and involving community stakeholders in policy design, policymakers can foster ownership and sustainable practices that resonate with local needs and capabilities. "There is a need to work at a very grassroots level...identify the understanding level of the working class...policies must be designed to achieve desired outcomes" (IR-2, Interview Transcript 2).

Respondent 5 describes how the central government, usually is unaware of the specific needs of the affected areas and lacks the nuanced understanding needed to create effective policies for those in remote or rural areas. Instead, there is a need to advocate for a system where local communities have a significant role in decision-making and implementation, emphasizing the importance of Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) rooted in indigenous knowledge. This approach supports inclusive disaster risk management and ensures that resources and policies are tailored to the specific needs of different regions. As quoted from the response:

Vulnerability is anchored in access to health, access to education, access to better infrastructure, and access to representation at the local level... The only way that will happen is if there is a representation of those people at the local level so they can come up with solutions that are... Community-Based Adaptation. It is based on indigenous knowledge, and it leads to inclusive disaster risk management.

(IR-5 Interview Transcript 5)

Moreover, respondent 6 also advocates for localized strategies that resonate with rural communities, where women are often central to agricultural practices. This approach not only enhances awareness but also fosters ownership and effective implementation of sustainable practices. By empowering local communities, policymakers can leverage grassroots knowledge to tailor interventions that are contextually relevant and sustainable. "We need to make them aware about the severity of the issue...empower them by involving them in decision making" (IR-6: Interview Transcript 6). Local engagement emerges as a critical factor in enhancing the efficacy of climate strategies. Respondents underscored the significance of empowering local communities, particularly women, through awareness, capacity building, and involvement in decision-making processes.

5.2.3.5 Ensuring Gender-Responsive Social Inclusion and Accessibility

Lastly, the Gender and Climate Expert from NDRMF stipulated the situation of women in decision-making and highlighted the importance of social inclusion and accessibility in climate adaptation initiatives.

How many women are on board? How many people with disabilities? Or any representative of, these, vulnerable segments of society is on board. How many gender-focal persons are on board? Whenever there is any process of consultation, or discussion about the policies...whether it's about developing a policy or it's about the implementation of those policies, whether it's about the allocation of the resources, equal distribution of the resources or getting the feedback and reviewing it.

(IR-4 Interview Transcript 4)

The expert highlighted how the understanding of gender is only limited to women and does not include other vulnerable segments of society in policy planning and decision-making. These include diverse groups of people including women and girls, people with disabilities, transgenders, elderly and Indigenous communities, "are not made part of, there is not even an effort to make them part of this whole process" (Interview Respondent 4).

Moreover, respondent 8 also concluded under the same debate: “We have to look at our strategies...benefiting socially excluded groups” and highlighted the need for accessibility considerations in our policies "Ensure facilities are accessible to people with disabilities" (Interview Respondent 8). Addressing the needs of socially excluded groups, including women from minority communities and individuals with disabilities, ensures equitable access to resources and support during climate emergencies. This inclusive approach fosters community cohesion and resilience.

Section 2: An Analysis

Climate change is a dynamic process posing diverse vulnerabilities. The inclusion of a gender-responsive lens into climate adaptation strategies is a growing theme to not only enhancing environmental resilience but also promoting social equity, economic empowerment, health and well-being, and inclusive governance. While analysing the responses, there has been recognition of the benefits of integrating gender considerations into climate policies to enhance sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience in communities, capable of withstanding and adapting to the impacts of climate change. However, the full potential can only be achieved by the implementation of these policies. Pakistan climate-related policies majorly face implementation challenges and formidable barriers, including diverse and complicated socio-cultural and traditional aspects, political instability, institutional inertia and resource constraints of the governments, awareness gaps, gender-blind perspectives in policies, and institutionalized biases. There is a concerted need for efforts and aid institutional change, building capacity and foremost empowering women's leadership in the political realm. Curbing these barriers also needs comprehensive long-term and short-term approaches, for instance, working for stable and reformed governance structures, institutional modifications, resource mobilization, coordination among stakeholders, community engagement, education and promotion of gender-sensitive policy frameworks and gender parity in decision-making roles. By incorporating female voices and mainstreaming gender considerations at all levels of policy planning and decision-making, the development and implementation of responsive climate action can be achieved. This affirms a holistic approach to climate adaptation and resilience that ensures equitable environmental security for all the members of the community.

Section 3

5.3 Analysis of Decision-Making Factors, Stakeholder Collaboration, and Future Directions for Gender-Responsive Climate Action in Pakistan

5.3.1 *Subsection A: Key Factors Influencing Decision-Making on Climate Adaptation and Gender Equality in Pakistan*

5.3.1.1 Inclusion of Women in Climate Change Strategies

The interviewee highlighted the prevailing exclusion of women from strategy planning processes in Pakistan, despite recent international and national efforts to increase their involvement. The response underscores the critical vulnerability of women to climate impacts, such as structural collapses during extreme weather events, which disproportionately affect them. This vulnerability, as expressed by the interviewee, underscores the urgent need for gender-sensitive approaches in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

If we look here, women are not ahead in strategy planning of any kind. Now international organizations and strategies are being made by the government of Pakistan, now we have been sensitized in this sense that women should have their role in it. But, overall females are not part of the planning strategy and there is no recognition of them. It should be recognized, the vulnerability of the female should be recognized.

(IR-1 Interview Transcript 1)

The interviewee's statement reflects a gap in policy implementation where despite nominal recognition, tangible inclusion of women in decision-making processes remains inadequate. This gap not only perpetuates gender inequality but also hinders effective climate action. The acknowledgement of vulnerability underscores the importance of integrating gender perspectives into climate strategies to ensure they address the diverse needs and experiences of all stakeholders.

5.3.1.2 Challenges and Barriers in Women's Decision-Making Roles

The interviewee discusses the formidable challenges women face in participating effectively in decision-making processes, particularly within legislative assemblies, ministries, and organizations. Key points raised include the issue of women being appointed to quota seats based on connections rather than merit and the pervasive gender-based violence and harassment experienced in various workplaces, including legislative assemblies (Interview Respondent 4). The interviewee emphasizes the critical role of leadership commitment and supportive environments in enabling women and technical focal persons to implement gender equality policies effectively.

It also underscores systemic barriers such as nepotism, gender bias, and lack of authority given to technical personnel, which hinder effective policy implementation and decision-making. Despite the existence of policies promoting gender equality and anti-harassment, gaps persist in their implementation due to insufficient delegation of authority and resources. The interviewee advocates for collaborative efforts with supportive individuals and organizations committed to human rights to strengthen women's voices and create inclusive decision-making spaces.

5.3.1.3 Differential Approaches in Climate Projects: Local vs. International Perspectives

The interviewee discusses the distinct approaches taken by local government-led projects versus those initiated by international organizations or NGOs in Pakistan. According to the response, local projects prioritize addressing immediate, tangible issues faced by Pakistan, reflecting a focus on real problems within the country. In contrast, international initiatives often emphasize capacity building and structural strengthening, indicating a focus on broader, long-term goals and soft segments.

So, it depends from sector to sector. For example, if a project is coming from a sub-national level, from a directorate, or some government office, it will be more focused towards the real issues and problems that Pakistan is facing. And if a project is being developed by the UN side or some international NGO, that project will be more focused towards soft segments. So there's a clear differentiation between the two programs.

The response highlights a critical divergence in priorities between local and international climate initiatives. While local projects aim to address immediate challenges and align closely with national priorities, international efforts tend to emphasize broader developmental goals and capacity-building initiatives. Understanding these differing priorities is crucial for policymakers to effectively integrate both local needs and international best practices into comprehensive climate strategies that are responsive to Pakistan's specific context.

5.3.1.4 Political Barriers to Gender-Responsive Policies

The responses upon inquiring about the challenges faced in gender mainstreaming of the policies highlighted some other important factors; institutional and political barriers. They majorly hinder the integration of gender-responsive policies in climate-related strategies in Pakistan. One of the responses emphasised that gender considerations are often superficially included in policies without a deep understanding of their importance. Besides the male-dominated sectors and ministries, there is a strong resistance to taking gender issues seriously. Additionally, intense political corruption and internal governmental politics further complicate the efforts to implement effective climate policies and initiatives. As respondent 7 emphasized, “Gender is always seen as an add-on and just something to tack on a policy to check it off their list ... But there's still no deep understanding of why it's important to have these protections in policies.” The response also stresses the challenges of mainstreaming gender considerations realistically into practical policies. For instance, the National Adaptation Policy and Climate Change Water Policy lack practical and positive inferences. The reluctance of policymakers, influenced by a male-dominated atmosphere and internal political dynamics, poses significant hindrances. Addressing these barriers requires raising awareness and advocacy about the importance of gender-responsive policies in climate action and navigating complex political dynamics in Pakistan to ensure true implementation and effectiveness.

5.3.1.5 Government Commitment and Institutional Challenges

The examinee also discusses the lack of governmental commitments as a key factor adversely influencing decision-making processes regarding climate and gender inclusiveness in Pakistan. Although there exist policies and institutional structures like the Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) and the National Commission and Women's Commission (NCSW), women remain underrepresented in decision-making roles. The interviewee criticizes the

insensitivity of decision-making bodies dominated by men towards gender-responsive policies, often viewing gender interventions as additional costs rather than integral components of mainstream strategies.

The key factor I would say would be that commitment from the government is not there. This is one of the key factors that really negatively influence gender consideration. Government do talk about what they want to do ... for gender responsiveness, and then there's also that priority is not there.

(IR-8 Interview Transcript 8)

The response highlights the pervasive issue of insufficient government commitment to integrating gender responsiveness into climate policies and practices. Gender issues are often dealt with insensitivity by decision-making bodies which are male-dominated and consider gender interventions as a mere additional expense. This kind of attitude not only makes policy implementation ineffective but also maintains gender disparities within the operations and approaches of government.

5.3.2 Subsection B: Collaboration Challenges in Gender-Responsive Climate Action Decision-Making: Enhancing Engagement and Effectiveness

To ensure that gender-sensitive climate action is achieved in Pakistan, all actors involved, including policymakers, government officials and development partners need to collaborate effectively. Many stakeholders interviewed emphasized the importance of having a common approach, inclusive participation and institutional support for enhancing engagement and effectiveness in climate change adaptation.

Respondent 1 underscores the importance of harmonizing strategy formulation and execution by having all players on one platform since the current efforts are inefficiently carried out: “The government should regard a platform where everyone has an opportunity to come forward. We must plan together as everything that comes under this strategy must be implemented very well.” This means that such a system should be put in place with contributions from every stakeholder. Additionally, Respondent 3 highlights the need for public-private partnership as he/she argues for urgent partnerships to address existing gaps in climate resilience: “Put a killer criteria in any work or project... If you have included such an aspect like that its existence

should stop there and then...Let us work together...I want every individual working in their areas..." This reflects the need for decisive criteria and cross-sector collaboration to ensure effective climate action.

Inclusivity in policy discussions and implementation is a recurring theme, as highlighted by Respondent 4: "How many women, how many representatives of these marginalized or right-based themes... are on board?" This underscores the critical need for meaningful participation of marginalized groups, particularly women, in climate action planning and execution. Moreover, development partners play a significant role in integrating gender-responsive climate actions into their agendas, as noted by Respondent 5: "Development partners are making sure that climate change and gender-related sensitivities are part of future projects." This indicates the importance of international cooperation in embedding gender considerations into climate projects. Enhanced coordination among governmental bodies and stakeholders is advocated by Respondent 6, who states: "With effective coordination among provincial departments... and ministry at the federal level... we can devise climate resilient strategies." This calls for better alignment and cooperation at all administrative levels to develop and implement effective climate strategies.

Respondent 7 identifies gender-sensitive project planning and implementation as crucial for capacity building and institutional integration. The respondent says "There needs to be... gender sensitivity training for all staff... and it has to be institutionalized." Therefore, the key message here is that training and institutional reforms are needed to ensure that the climate action framework embraces gender parity. Lastly, Respondent 8 points out how centralized coordination could facilitate the harmonization of diverse sectoral interests and enhance planning efficiency: "One agency must lead... and must bring everyone together... to do the planning side." This implies that a leading agency is required to consolidate actions and simplify the planning process to deliver improved results.

5.3.3 Subsection C: Future of Gender-Responsive Climate Action in Pakistan

When looking into the future landscape of gender-responsive climate action in Pakistan, findings from different stakeholders indicate both challenges and opportunities. Though there is a shift towards mainstreaming gender in climate action strategies in Pakistan, there are significant obstacles such as gender-neutral planning as well as inadequacy of the mainstreaming process. The insights provided by stakeholders underscore the need for robust,

inclusive policies that prioritize gender equality and empower women in climate resilience efforts.

5.3.3.1 Examining the Future Potential of Gender-Responsive Climate Action Strategies

Respondents emphasize a positive outlook for the future of gender-responsive climate action in Pakistan, though challenges remain. Respondent 1 points out that the current acknowledgement of women's vulnerabilities is a step forward, but there is a pressing need to include women's voices in strategy development to ensure more effective outcomes.

The future is better and it needs to be improved if we really want to develop implied strategies that give better results. Currently, it has been recognized that the vulnerability of women is to a great extent, and there is damage done. If female is not included, we are not incorporating the voices of the majority population.

(IR-1 Interview Transcript 1)

Respondent 2 highlights that increased education and awareness among women and the general public about climate change provide a foundation for improved gender-responsive strategies. The growing understanding of climate impacts, including awareness of changes in weather patterns, is expected to drive more informed and inclusive climate action.

If I talk about gender, it will improve in future because women are educated and have access in terms of jobs. If you talk about climate change, people are becoming aware, they know the rains these days are because of climate change and even the children understand it.

(IR-2 Interview Transcript 2)

5.3.3.2 Navigating Challenges and Opportunities for Gender-Responsive Climate Action

Respondent 7 observes positive trends related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but notes the need for greater progress on SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The ongoing pressure to improve gender-related SDGs can create opportunities for integrating gender considerations more deeply into climate action strategies.

I see some positive vibes... particularly with having so low kind of progress on SDG 5... I really see here that, you know, with this whole pressure that, you know, in improving progress around SDG 3 and which is very much linked to not just the climate change, SDG, but also with other others as well.

(IR-7 Interview Transcript 7)

Respondent 8 critiques the gender-neutral nature of some existing plans and emphasizes the need for dedicated gender policies. This feedback suggests that while there is progress, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all aspects of climate action remains a critical area for improvement. "It was good to have that plan, but I would say that again, it was a gender-neutral plan... Instead, every department was asked to develop a separate gender policy and separate gender collection plan."

5.3.3.3 Significance of Policymakers and Government Officials in Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action

Respondent 4 stresses the importance of involving both government and non-governmental stakeholders to ensure that climate strategies address the needs of diverse population segments. The inclusion of women and marginalized groups in policy development is crucial for creating responsive and effective climate strategies. Without broader inclusion, policies may fail to address the specific needs of these groups, leading to less effective outcomes.

If all the related stakeholders, whether government or whether non-government... don't make it more inclusive, then it won't be responsive. It won't be able to address the differential needs of a larger segment of society. For example, more than 50% population are women.

(IR-4 Interview Transcript 4)

Respondent 5 further underscores the importance of placing women and local communities at the centre of climate strategies. Ensuring that these groups have ownership and involvement in strategy development and implementation is key to advancing gender-responsive climate action. Policymakers must engage with local communities to create strategies that are both relevant and sustainable.

I think it's important that when these strategies are being built, women and local communities are at the centre of these strategies. Otherwise, if everything is just done in government offices without any ownership of the local community, then this is not going to go forward.

(IR-5 Interview Transcript 5)

Section 3: An Analysis

Section C focuses on the future path of Pakistani gender-responsive climate action by exploring some of the opportunities available and the challenges that need to be overcome. The success of these programs depends on several key areas: education and awareness building, gender mainstreaming, and inclusive policy formulation. Education and awareness are fundamental tools for changing public perceptions and garnering support for climate-sensitive gender strategies. More knowledge concerning how gender intersects with climate change can lead to better decision-making processes which are all-inclusive, towards more informed choices in this regard. On the same note, integrating women into national policies on climate change allows for targeting strategies that consider specific needs or vulnerabilities experienced by different genders hence promoting equity and efficiency. To develop comprehensive climate action plans, it is important to improve inclusiveness in policy making. This involves actively involving diverse stakeholders such as women and marginalized communities during the planning and implementation stages of projects. Policymakers need to have inclusive policies ensuring that their climate strategy is impartial and takes care of the various hardships faced by different groups in society. However, Pakistan still faces enormous difficulties ahead despite these positive moments. Structural barriers, political opposition, and institutional constraints can impede progress. Overcoming these barriers requires the concerted efforts of all stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations and international partners. By addressing these challenges and taking advantage of opportunities for adaptation, Pakistan can enhance its climate resilience and better align its climate actions with gender equality goals. Ultimately, engaging with these principles will be critical to achieving a sustainable and just climate.

Conclusion

In conclusion, incorporating gender perspectives into climate action planning in Pakistan is an important but underemphasized aspect that significantly affects the effectiveness and outcomes of these strategies. Data from the interviews reveal some key differences in the current approach to climate policy, where gender considerations are often relegated to secondary status rather than banished to climate policy and operational in particular. This exclusion weakens not only the viability of climate action strategies but also the unique vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. It is also inevitable. To address this, gender sensitivity needs to be increasingly embedded in every aspect of climate policy from preliminary planning to final implementation, to ensure that women's voices are not just heard but central to decision-making processes.

The relative importance of male and female wave strategies is greatly influenced by several key factors. First, it is important to include and integrate gender perspectives throughout policy formulation and implementation to achieve comprehensive and impactful outcomes. This collaboration should be evident in all processes, including budgeting and project evaluation. Community involvement and empowerment also play an important role; engaging women and local communities in climate action not only adapts interventions to specific contexts but also increases their sustainability and efficacy. Furthermore, advocacy and political will are necessary to overcome barriers to implementation. Political leadership commitment and institutional support can drive change to better integrate gender considerations into climate policy. Furthermore, leadership that prioritizes gender equality is key to ensuring that these metrics are not just boundaries but policy priorities.

Looking ahead, the future of gender-based climate action in Pakistan is characterized by potential and significant challenges. While there is hope for greater awareness of gender issues and how to better engage with them, significant challenges remain. These include deep-rooted environmental challenges and the need for effective policy implementation. However, there are opportunities to use global pressures and progress on gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals to further integrate gender perspectives. Politicians play a different role in this constraint; their commitment to inclusive policy, active engagement with marginalized groups and capacity to solve policy problems will lead to success in future climate action strategies. The road ahead requires dedicated efforts to overcome existing challenges and to offer new opportunities for inclusive and effective climate action policies, thus climate resilience and sustainable development goals in Pakistan have improved.

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APPENDIX A

PLAGIARISM REPORT

Assessing Gender Responsive Climate Action Strategies in Pakistan by Khadija Mustafa -Supervisor Dr Humaira Shafi.docx

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APPENDIX B

THESIS RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Khadija Mustafa

MS PCS, CIPS, NUST

khadijaghumman@gmail.com (+92311 5092454)

Do you believe that currently gender considerations are being integrated into Pakistan's climate-related policies? (If yes then, to what extent do Pakistan's climate adaptation policies address the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls?)

How do you see the potential benefits of integrating gender-responsive approaches into climate adaptation strategies?

Being a policy expert, how do you perceive and prioritize gender-responsive climate action while shaping climate-related strategies in Pakistan?

What are the key factors that influence decision-making processes related to climate adaptation and gender equality in Pakistan?

What are the key challenges or barriers to mainstreaming gender considerations in climate adaptation strategies in Pakistan?

How can these challenges be addressed to improve the effectiveness and bring inclusivity to climate policies in Pakistan?

What specific measures or initiatives do you think are necessary to address the unique vulnerabilities of women and girls to climate change in Pakistan?

How can different stakeholders (policymakers, climatologists, and government officials) collaborate more effectively to enhance gender-responsive climate action in Pakistan?

How do you envision the future of gender-responsive climate action in Pakistan?

APPENDIX C

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I volunteered to participate in a research project conducted by Khadija Mustafa from the National University of Sciences and Technology. I understand that the project is designed to gather information about Gender-Responsive Climate Action strategies in Pakistan through the lens of gender equality (SDG 5) and climate action (SDG 13).

My participation in this project is voluntary. I understand that I will not be paid for my participation. I may withdraw and discontinue participation at any time without any penalty.

1. I understand that most interviewees will find the discussion interesting and thought-provoking. If, however, I feel uncomfortable in any way during the interview session, I have the right to decline to answer any question or to end the interview.
2. The interview will last approximately 15-25 minutes. Notes will be written during the interview. An audio tape of the interview and subsequent dialogue will be made. If I don't want to be taped, I will not be able to participate in the study.
3. I understand that the researcher will not identify me by name in any reports using information obtained from this interview and that my confidentiality as a participant in this study will remain secure. Subsequent uses of records and data will be subject to standard data use policies which protect the anonymity of individuals and institutions.
4. I understand that the data will be stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. There will be no one present during the interviews except the researchers and the participants and access to the transcripts and data will be restricted to the researcher, their supervisor and the participants (should they request access to it).

I have read and understood the information sheet provided to me. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction, and I voluntarily agree to participate in this study.

I have been given a copy of this consent form.

My Signature

Date

My Name

Signature of the Investigator

For further information, please contact:

Khadija Mustafa - khadijaghumman@gmail.com (+92311 5092454)

APPENDIX D

THESIS INFORMATION SHEET

It has been found that climate change has exacerbated existing gender inequalities. Different gender norms and power dynamics have contributed to the insecurity of women in an already climate-changing world as a threat multiplier. Various research initiatives are now focused on understanding the intersectionality between gender and climate change. It thus provides opportunities to explore the linkages between both as a cross-cutting, majorly through the lens of human experiences.

Understanding gender and climate linkage has been found important in forming inclusive, effective and operative strategies to address climate change and promote gender equality. By identifying and working on the unique experiences of different genders, policymakers can work in the direction of sustainable and impartial solutions. In that reference, Pakistan is also improving its ability to cope with climate-related risks and natural calamities.

Pakistan is working to mainstream gender in climate change policies and ensuring women's specific needs and perspectives in climate-related decision-making. This includes encouraging women's participation in climate change committees, forums, and other platforms where important decisions are made, focusing on capacity building including training, education, and resources to improve women's skills and expertise in areas. By doing so, it is working to enhance women's social position and address gender-based vulnerabilities to climate change.

The research will assess how adequately Pakistan, in its approaches, encapsulates the unique vulnerabilities faced by women in climate-related adversities. By exploring the intersection of gender, climate, and policy, this study inspects the achievements, limitations, and prospects for enhancing the inclusivity of both genders and climate effectiveness in Pakistan's evolving landscape.

Overall, this study thoroughly examines the nuanced perspectives of gender vulnerabilities in the realm of climate change, this study seeks to analyse some seminal insights to evaluate the achievements, shortcomings, and potential avenues for enhancing gender equality and climate resilience in Pakistan.

APPENDIX E

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTIONS

Interview Respondent 1: Transcription - Ms Shabeeb Hussain (Social Safeguard Specialist at NDRMF)

I will ask you a few questions Sir, first of all, I would like you to introduce yourself.

My name is Shabeeb Hussain and I am DM Social Safeguard at NDRMF with experience of 22 years overall. I have worked as a Social Safeguard Specialist for 8 to 10 years in the government's Irrigation Department. Before that, I worked with a few International Organizations; such as the European and Canadian High Commission, so if we look at the 2010 floods and all the disasters that have happened till now, I have worked directly or indirectly in all.

Sir, you have experience with gender issues and climate change-related policies as well. How would you assess the current integration of gender consideration into Pakistan climate-related strategies?

If you see the connection and ask about it, people are sensitized, especially the decision-makers, that gender-wise there is a need to do work on how females are getting affected by climate change. Recognition has a place but there is no incorporation of planning in the policies. Keeping gender aside, we are at the stage where normal strategies are not even devised or implemented with results. People have a sense of time and decision-making should be made gender-wise here. Women are being greatly affected by climate change. If you look at climate change, it is getting worse day by day and its intensity is also increasing and there is no measurement as to how and in which direction it is going. Okay, we have done some work on forecasting through satellites but that is temporary, telling us about the next few day's situation but not something that can measure climate change on a massive level or its vulnerabilities. In that vulnerability, there is a lot of influence on females, as there is male dominance, right? Females are limited, and in these limitations whenever there is a disaster, or the effects of climate change are seen, most casualties are of females while taking them out of their houses, and taking them to safe places, this is a bit difficult. The forecast is also not so accurate. When suddenly there is a disaster, females are a lot affected.

**Interview Respondent 2: Transcription - Mr M. Ali Durrani (DM
Environnement NDRMF)**

Given your role as DM Environment and climatologist as well, do you think that gender considerations are being integrated into Pakistan climate-related strategies?

No, not up to the standard. It is touch-based but not satisfactory. In conditions of floods today, our gendered impacts are greater. Women's freedom, facilities, and access to information are impacted due to their household chores and roles.

As a climatologist, what are the potential benefits of integrating gender-responsive approaches in this field?

There will be a lot of benefits, firstly sustainability will be there with gender inclusivity. The community will be more sustainable. Secondly, behaviour changes are important and if women are more aware that will trickle down to the household dynamics. If a mother is aware, her children will be better trained and aware of the impacts as well.

Being part of policy-making, how do you perceive intersectionality; the nexus of Environment and gender in climate change?

A new dimension is being given as it is important but proper knowledge sharing is important because these terms are used openly. As, there is ESG, environmental Social Governance and it has components. Similarly, gender-responsiveness in policymaking has components. But, it must be designed in a way that the common man can understand it. The knowledge and experience in the labour class are low and they must be aware. Integration is complex but it is a complete package.

What are the barriers to mainstreaming gender considerations in climate-related or climate adaptation strategies and why women's participation is not present in these policies?

Earlier, the easier blame was put on the cultural values, especially in KPK, Baluchistan but, now this is not a valid excuse. Secondly, we make policies for the sake of it and do not implement them religiously and practically.

Interview Respondent 3: Transcription - Mr Mujahid Aslam (Team Manager Fund for Management and Project Appraisal at NDRMF)

First of all, you can introduce yourself.

I am Mujahid Aslam, DM Manager of Fund Management and Project Appraisal at the National Disaster Risk Management Fund. I'm looking after this climate change stream at NDRMF. I'm in charge of 2 projects. One is forestry, and that is focusing on agriculture. And, I have a diverse experience in climate finance. I have been part of a climate finance unit, and that was a first-of-its-kind initiative in Pakistan, at least for climate change, where I've served almost 6 years. I have successfully, after many programs and projects Taken, in my career for climate change seeking international from, several funding into including GCF - Green Climate Fund, and Global Environment Facilities that's also called GEF.

Do you believe that gender considerations are currently being integrated into Pakistan's climate-related policies?

My response will not be a traditional response that you get from other people. As I have experience working on ground and the projects. So I have several reservations regarding that. Number 1, all the UN agencies and the Charter conferred upon them, they agreed that whenever they are working in some country, they have to respect the social norms of that specific country. So if a country is working in Pakistan, that country that agency, that your agency strictly needs to adhere to our social norms. So if they are extending out of that social fabric and asking for something undoable and just for that specific reason of one gender element in their project, that gender element is sometimes compromising the whole initiative. For example, there was a project focusing on forestation. The main activities are, inland, forestation, roadside plantation, canal side plantation, orchard plantation. There comes certain experts, and the demand of involving and engaging some female workers, women, and gender balance in the working force over there.

When it comes to gender, the head office position is comfortable for women to work in. That's good. But we cannot force people, the local communities, to let their women come out and inform those projects. So these gender considerations sometimes are overshoot, unrealistic, harsh, and lead to the failure of some types of projects.

Interview Respondent 4: Transcription - Ms Amna Jabbar (Deputy Manager on Gender and Climate at NDRMF)

Okay. So, can you please, ma'am, introduce yourself?

My name is Amna Jabbar, and I've been serving as Deputy Manager of Gender in NDRMF for almost a year now.

Okay. So, my question is, given your extensive, experience in both gender issues and climate-related policies, how would you assess the current integration of gender consideration into Pakistan's Climate-related strategies?

Overall, there are policies. But the main challenge and to some extent, these policies, mention, addressing, the differential needs of men, women, and even non-binary. And, it also, acknowledges that there are different intersectionalities. For example, age, disability, different socioeconomic backgrounds, and people belonging to a different faith or ethnicity, play a role, concerning accessing equal opportunities and exercising their rights. But when it comes to the implementation of the policies, this is where, the implementer or all those institutes, government or non-government are involved in the implementation of those policies, they face challenges.

The main challenges are, devising, well-knit, inclusive implementation plans, allocating resources, pooling technical resources, and human resources, and bringing all the relevant people, on the board, who are not only involved in the implementation of that particular policy but, can help, to support the revision of responses to wherever gaps are. So, you know, one main challenge is political will and political instability. Policies are there, but coordinated governments keep changing. So whenever there is a law and order situation or political upheaval and instability, the main focus goes there. So overall approaches are somewhat short term where political leadership changes and their priority changes, so the attention to these policies, climate change, gender equality, or, many other policies, the due attention that should be given to the implementation of these policies, it's missing. So that is the main challenge we face. The second thing is, again, overall, what I see is a particular culture, and norms, in Pakistan. People coming from a society where patriarchy prevails, where certain mindset prevails, where accountability is lacking, anyone sitting on any position holder does not feel accountable for his responsibilities and the authority they exercise.

Interview Respondent 5: Transcription - M Asad Rafi (Consultant on Climate Policy in The World Bank)

Firstly, if you can start with your introduction, tell me about yourself.

My name is Asad. I currently am a consultant on climate policy, at the World Bank. I've also worked with the civil society coalition for climate change. Previously, I was a research adviser to the minister for climate change, Madam Sherry Rehman. And before that, I've also worked in as a, you know, on international affairs and, national security on foreign policy. My educational background is in International Security and International Relations. So it's, you know, a very diverse background.

So given your experience in both the gender issues and climate-related policies as well, you also said you have worked with Miss Sherry Rehman in the Ministry of Climate Change. So, firstly, I would like to ask, how would you assess the current integration of gender consideration into Pakistan climate-related strategies?

So, you know, the government or in terms of the ministry, they launched the, you know, Climate Change Gender Action Plan. Right. It was launched by the Ministry of Climate Change. So the purpose of that in the plan was basically to make sure that it provides a framework that whenever policies, you know, any policies are being designed, that gender considerations are, you know, part of it. So in practice, that was seen when the National Adaptation Plan, which I was part of when it was released. So there's a section in the National Adaptation Plan about women as well, which highlights the role that women play when it comes to, climate action or climate resilience in Pakistan.

So, the next question is about the potential benefits of integrating gender-responsive approaches.

Yeah. So, I mean, it's there's a lot of research on this already, you know, when we look at the impact of climate change, you know, women and children are 14 times more likely to die, in case of a natural disaster or a climate, disaster. That was quite obvious in the case of Pakistan, during the 2022 floods as well. So any kind of policy, whether it's in terms of, disaster risk management or, building climate resilience, You cannot argue against the fact that there are benefits when it comes to integrating gender-responsive approaches in in the strategies.

Interview Respondent 6: Transcription - Ms Naureen Fatima (Technical Expert on Gender and Climate at NCSW)

Firstly, if you can please introduce yourself

My name is Naureen Fatima, I have done Master's in Environmental Sciences and an M.Phil. in Environmental Economics with a major component of my thesis on the Economic and Environmental Impacts of CPEC Coal Power Plants, which are the main emitters and source of carbon emissions and are ultimately the drivers of climate change. I have worked with several organizations related to climate and have more than seven years of experience in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Okay. So I'll quickly ask a few questions. If some questions are out of your expertise or you do not want to answer them, you can decline to answer. And, so the first question is, if you can draw from your experience, how would you assess the current integration of gender consideration into Pakistani climate strategies?

Well, I think with time, the gender lens has been incorporated into the climate adaptation and mitigation strategy. As we can see in the National Climate Change Policy 2012, the gender component was still there. Recently, the Ministry of Climate Change in collaboration with IUCN and other departments have developed a national climate, adaptation plan for women as well. Gender Climate Action Plan, so it's very, inclusive covering major aspects of women. And still, it's a big initiative, but it's more important you can go into more implementation. So then only then these guidelines, these standards will be applicable and beneficial in producing resilient communities.

What are what do you think are the potential benefits of integrating gender responsiveness into climate adaptation?

Well, we can never, we can, never neglect the component of gender while addressing climate adaptation and mitigation studies because, with time and especially we have, when we talk about SGDs, we cannot ignore the component of gender. And we know that major, the population of Pakistan, of women is around 50%. Then, in recent floods, we have noticed that the major, percentage and the population of women have been affected because of climate change.

Interview Respondent 7: Transcription - Ms Sidra Khalid (Gender and Social Inclusion Expert at IWMI)

So, firstly, if you can, introduce yourself.

Sure. So I'm Sidra Khalid. I'm working as a researcher in gender and social inclusion with, IMWI Pakistan. So IMWI stands for the International Water Management Institute. So my job focuses on, incorporating gender and social inclusion considerations into all of our programming. So I'm involved in multiple projects, related to different aspects of the water sector, climate change, agriculture, projects related to disaster management, etcetera. So I have a So that's, yeah, that's a really basic intro.

So I'll just start with the questions now. The first question is, how do you believe that the current situation is, related to gender consideration in Pakistan climate climate-related policies or the climate change adaptation policies? How do you see the integration of gender considerations?

So in Pakistan, there are kind of 3 main policy documents that kind of the government is looking at right now, we have the National Climate Change Policy, the National Water Policy and this newly adopted National Adaptation Plan if you analyse these policies, the National Water Policy does not mention anything about gender at all. It's a pretty, gender-unaware policy. There's only one clause in it that mentions women and only in terms of domestic water management. But there's no real kind of guideline or anything related to gender or inclusion aspects. The National Climate Change Policy is probably the most kind, how we can classify it as gender-responsive because it includes its separate gender action plan, which is pretty progressive for policies in Pakistan. But the question remains on the kind of implementation.

I've read both of the documents. It's I mean, it's a really good start, I would say, but I would just question how it's being implemented. A lot of the focus, a lot of the indicators, for example, are just focusing on numbers of women, and kind of very simple indicators. And it's not capturing kind of changes in in gender equality or or, kind of challenging power structures, etcetera. So it's I mean, it's a good start, but there's always room for improvement. And then similar to the National Adaptation Plan, kind of gender is mentioned superficially, I would say. But then when you kind of look into the actual implementation of the policy, it's a bit unclear.

Interview Respondent 8: Transcription - Ms Ishrat Jabeen (National Specialist on Gender, Climate, and Heat Stress, in ADB)

So firstly, if you could just, introduce yourself.

Sure. So, my full name is Ishrat Jabeen. I was born in Baluchistan, raised in Punjab, and living here. I started my career back in 2000 with a research study on honour killing in Pakistan. At that time honour killing issue was very, very high actually. When Mr Jamali was our prime minister at that time, so I'm quite old, by the way. So, throughout actually from there on after that study, I joined Oxfam's EUZY Investment in Pakistan. That was a kind of national project focusing specifically on gender-based violence and issues in Pakistan. And from there on, my journey started. And from there on, that was the moment I decided that I should be continuing my kind of learning process by working on a similar issue. So it's like 20 years of journey. But currently what I'm doing is that I'm out of which one is transport project. One is, on mainstreaming energy, actually, a synergy transmission project, and one is a regional initiative, which is focusing on gender climate change and heat stress, which is all about assessing the impact of heat stress on women. So that's a kind of feature. With that, I'm also the GESI lead for the climate finance accelerator program in Pakistan. So these are the few assignments, that I'm doing in a volunteer capacity. I'm providing mentorship to different young advocates of South Asian groups. I'm a US alumnus as well, so I provide support to them as well. And I'm also part of a funding-safeguarded collaborative. It's a global fund for children's initiatives, where they're taking expertise from all the regions actually to strengthen safeguarding and child protection, policies. So that's a kind of a short intro.

Right. Right. Okay. So I'll just pick up from your introduction. So you said that you are also a National Specialist on Gender, Climate, and Heat Stress regarded, in ADB right now. So how do you believe that the issue of heat stress intersects with gender inequality in Pakistan?

I think it's very kind of a chronic issue, I would say, but, you know, this is kind of a very new phenomena, you know, in Pakistan, amongst the makers, academia, you know, this is an issue which is very less explored. Yes. We do have policies, climate policies, climate change policies, action plans, and everything. But how these heat waves impact women, we have not understood, not even identified those issues.