

Disasters to Disastrous: Case of Climate Refugees in South Asia

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Abstract: The intersecting triumvirate of climate change triggering forced migration and leading to national and international instability is posing a real challenge in recent years. These three factors have already begun to overlap across countries and spilling into continents, raising new questions on national border, social security and public policy - all packaged in the envelope of environmental challenges. South Asia is progressively becoming a region most impacted by climate change and is also recording higher temperature, rising sea levels, floods and droughts. The latter are complicating the already existing high population density levels, mass poverty paired with complex environmental and humanitarian challenges being faced by this region. This paper attempts to travel between the disciplines of Environmental Studies and Social Science, putting forth the now increasingly recognized category of Climate Refugees. The paper focuses on the South Asia region and dwells on case studies of areas most affected by climate change in this region. The paper also seeks to explain why it is time for exploring and implementing interdisciplinary solutions to environmental concerns keeping the affected population as the fulcrum.

Keywords: climate change, climate refugees, South Asia.