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Global Trends - Climate Change

For decades, scientists have warned the public about the disastrous impacts of climate change, urging governments and key figures to dedicate resources and efforts to reducing global emissions. Climate change has tremendous implications in every sector of society, impinging on the quality of life for current and future generations. With the rapid acceleration and global trend of climate-related disasters and events, there is compounding evidence that without a significant reduction of green gas emissions and maintaining the global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius, populations will continue to experience extreme weather disruptions, agricultural disruptions, the displacement of communities, infrastructure damages, and negative health outcomes (WHO, 2021).

Climate change is ranked as the most important global trend to me because it actively threatens the livelihoods of people and the environment, harming our ecosystem and heavily influencing disease and health outcomes. The complexities of climate change indicate the harmful chain of events that will persist and worsen. This is exemplified by the Coppola reading, where in the context of natural disasters, 90 percent of deaths from these disasters occur in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) (Coppola, 2015). Furthermore, wealthier countries carry the responsibility of accelerating global warming, placing an unequal share of the burden and consequences on LMICs. Although climate change impacts everybody, it disproportionately affects under-resourced communities, exacerbating health inequities that are present in vulnerable, minority, and Indigenous populations.

Action plans to ameliorate the effects of climate change encompass a multi-armed approach. Through the lens of equity, proactive opportunities to respond to climate change must include social efforts in stricter accountability measures, allocation of resources to reduce carbon emissions, increasing biodiversity, and phasing out harmful practices and systems that are the root causes of climate change (Thompson, 2010). It's difficult to gauge the likelihood of implementation of these steps because behavioral changes must sustain efforts. Unfortunately, the failure of global leadership to commit and execute society-wide policy changes continues. Although there are key ongoing measures in ramping up momenta such as climate change conferences, contracts, technology advances, and research, the window of opportunity to fully mitigate climate change is becoming narrower.

References

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