

The Role on International law in Addressing Climate change in India: An Analytical perspective

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Abstract

India's involvement in international climate law is pivotal in addressing the pressing issue of climate change. As one of the world's largest carbon emitters and a nation acutely susceptible to the ramifications of this phenomenon, India holds a significant stake in the global climate negotiations and the evolution of international climate law. International accords, exemplified by the Paris Agreement, provide a comprehensive framework for nations to collaborate on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change. India is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has vowed to decrease its emission intensity by 33-35% before 2030. International agreements are not the only mechanism to address climate change in India. International law also plays a crucial role by implementing sustainable development policies and safeguarding vulnerable populations. The principles of international environmental law, including the common but differentiated responsibilities principle, hold developed countries accountable for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing financial and technological support to developing countries such as India.

Keyword- Climate Change Law India, International Climate Law Change, Indian Role In Climate Change

Introduction

Climate change has emerged as one of the paramount global predicaments of contemporary times, with India being a country that is highly susceptible to its ramifications. The nation is currently encountering a spectrum of detrimental consequences, which comprise severe weather events, fluctuating precipitation patterns, and a surge in sea-level, thereby accentuating food insecurity and resulting in severe economic turbulence. Keohane & Victor, (2011) stated in their article that combating these challenges necessitates not just domestic endeavors but also international collaboration, with global jurisprudence playing a pivotal part in facilitating such cooperation.

Global jurisprudence furnishes a framework to address climate change at a worldwide level, promoting collaboration and coordination among countries to achieve a common objective.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was instituted in 1992 as the first global accord on climate change, with the intention of averting perilous human intervention with the climate system by stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

According to Cameron (2009) that the endorsement of the Paris Agreement in 2015 has further intensified the need for universal action, with countries pledging to diminish their

greenhouse gas emissions and pursue sustainable development. India has exhibited considerable involvement in global initiatives to combat climate change, acknowledging the importance of reconciling economic advancement with ecological preservation. As a signatory to the Paris Accord, India has pledged to decrease its greenhouse gas emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels. Given India's elevated energy demand and dependence on non-renewable energy sources, accomplishing this target is a formidable undertaking. Nonetheless, the country has made significant strides in attaining it by investing in sustainable energy and energy-efficient practices.

Bodansky (2010) found that an indispensable facet of international legislation's contribution to climate change mitigation efforts in India is to foster sustainable development regulations. The principle of sustainable development, which prioritizes balancing economic, social, and environmental aims, is enshrined in numerous international agreements.

By encouraging sustainable development regulations, international legislation can aid India in addressing climate change, while simultaneously fostering economic growth, social progress, and environmental conservation. International law plays a pivotal role in guaranteeing accountability and bolstering transparency, chiefly via established reporting and review mechanisms of the Paris Agreement. These mechanisms mandate periodic progress reporting on climate change objectives and performance evaluations. Such an arrangement ensures a level of accountability, enhances trust and confidence among nations and ultimately assists in working towards a collective goal. Moreover, international law recognizes the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which necessitates that developed countries take greater responsibility for lowering greenhouse gas emissions, as well as furnishing technical and financial support to developing nations like India. This principle is embedded in the Paris Agreement and encompasses provisions for developed countries to provide the aforementioned support to developing countries to help them meet their climate change objectives.

Literature review

The fundamental principle of customary yet contrasting obligations constitutes a pivotal element of worldwide jurisprudence when tackling climate change, especially for emerging nations akin to India. Mall et al. (2006) found that this principle acknowledges the historical fact that industrialized countries have been accountable for most greenhouse gas emissions, thereby carrying a greater onus to curb these emissions and extend support to emerging nations in their efforts to counteract climate change. Developing nations such as India encounter distinct obstacles in tackling the issue of climate change.

Sathaye, Shukla, and Ravindranath (2006) revealed that these challenges consist of constricted financial resources, limited access to cutting-edge technology, and the need to maintain a balance between economic growth and ecological preservation. To overcome these impediments, the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities has been

instituted. This concept recognizes the hurdles faced by developing countries and aims to surmount them by offering financial and technological aid. Chaturvedi, Joshi, Jayaraman, Bala, and Ravindranath (2012) revealed that through the Paris Agreement, developed nations have committed to providing monetary and technological support to underdeveloped nations in their quest to achieve their environmental objectives.

According to Edenhofer, (2015) this assistance encompasses financing for eco-friendly projects, technology dissemination, and the provision of adequate knowledge and skills to help these nations build the necessary infrastructure and expertise to combat climate change effectively. Baccini et al., (2012) revealed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities also echoes in global climate finance frameworks such as the Green Climate Fund, which solely focuses on helping underdeveloped nations combat climate change. The Green Climate Fund provides financial assistance for a range of projects, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and adaptation measures, with a specific emphasis on empowering the most vulnerable nations and communities.

International law is a critical tool in tackling climate change by promoting accountability and transparency among nations. To achieve this, international law mandates that countries regularly report on their progress towards their environmental targets and undergo periodic assessments of their efforts. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, nations are obligated to provide regular reports concerning their greenhouse gas emissions and progress towards their climate change objectives. These reports are directed to the UNFCCC Secretariat and are accessible to the public, encouraging accountability and transparency among nations. Furthermore, countries are mandated to undertake scheduled evaluations of their initiatives to tackle climate change. These assessments are carried out by proficient teams that gauge a country's advancement in achieving its climate change objectives, as well as its overall efforts to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and foster sustainable development.

These assessments offer nations an opportunity to receive constructive criticism on their efforts and pinpoint areas for improvement. They also encourage collaboration and peer learning among countries by sharing their best practices and experiences in combating climate change. International law establishes the necessary conditions for a more efficacious planetary rejoinder to climate transformation by advocating for accountability and transparency. This enables nations to impose responsibility upon one another and promotes knowledge sharing and best practices to hasten progress towards a sustainable and adaptable future.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement are two momentous international treaties that underscore the pressing need for worldwide action against climate change. These covenants acknowledge the exigent call to action to mitigate the effects of climate transformation and deliver a framework for collaborative engagement among nations. The UNFCCC, which was sanctioned in 1992, is a

legally binding global accord that seeks to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would avert hazardous anthropogenic obstruction of the climate system. This Convention has been approved by 197 nations, thus making it a genuinely international effort to combat climate change.

The Paris Accord, which was agreed upon in 2015, expands on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by introducing more challenging objectives for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging sustainable development. As part of the Paris Accord, countries have pledged to prevent the global temperature from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to strive to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Accord also highlights the principle of shared but differentiated obligations, acknowledging that developed countries have a more substantial responsibility to lower greenhouse gas emissions and provide financial and technological aid to developing countries. Together, the UNFCCC and the Paris Accord lay the groundwork for a global approach to climate change, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and collaboration among nations. These agreements understand that tackling climate change necessitates a joint effort, and no single country can address the issue alone. India is among the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, with its swiftly growing economy and population fuelling an increase in energy usage and industrialization.

McAdam, (2012) found that India is also among the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, including sea-level rise, droughts, and extreme weather events. Therefore, India has recognized the pressing need to tackle climate change and has taken measures to align its domestic laws and policies with international climate change targets. India has achieved notable progress in the realm of renewable energy, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to reducing the nation's carbon footprint. The country has set ambitious targets for renewable energy capacity, with a staggering goal of 450 gigawatts by the year 2030. To facilitate this objective, India has implemented a plethora of policies and incentives to promote investment in renewable energy technologies. Moreover, the government has initiated numerous programs, including the UJALA scheme, which seeks to provide LED bulbs to consumers at subsidized rates, promoting energy efficiency on a national scale.

In addition to renewable energy, India has also shown a resolute dedication to constructing green infrastructure. The country has launched an array of initiatives geared towards sustainable urbanization, including the Smart Cities Mission. The mission seeks to develop 100 cities with sustainable and inclusive infrastructure, furthering India's efforts to tackle climate change. Similarly, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation aims to improve urban infrastructure and service delivery in 500 cities across the country, advancing the goal of sustainable development. Furthermore, India has made significant strides in the agriculture sector, which has long been a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

To mitigate this, the government has implemented policies to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Among these initiatives is the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, which provides insurance coverage to farmers against crop losses resulting from natural disasters. Additionally, the government has launched the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, which promotes organic farming practices and traditional agricultural techniques. By prioritizing environmentally conscious farming practices, India is playing an active role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector. India's efforts in promoting renewable energy, constructing green infrastructure, and implementing sustainable agriculture practices are vital steps in addressing climate change. These actions demonstrate a firm commitment to creating a greener future and reducing the nation's carbon footprint. India's endeavours to synchronize its domestic legislation and policies with worldwide climate change objectives, serve as a testimony of the country's unwavering resolve in addressing the exigent matter of climate change. Nevertheless, India still confronts noteworthy obstacles in diminishing greenhouse gas emissions and fostering sustainable development, comprising the exigency for supplementary investment in renewable energy and eco-friendly infrastructure, in addition to enhancing energy efficiency and sustainable agrarian practices. By continuing to prioritize climate action and fostering collaborative partnerships with other nations, India can assume a pivotal responsibility in the global struggle to address climate change and promote a sustainable future for humanity.

Objectives of the study:

1. To measure the role on international law in addressing climate change in India

Research Methodology:

This study is empirical in nature. In this study 215 respondents were contacted to give their viewpoints on the role on international law in addressing climate change in India. The data analysis was done with the help of the frequency distribution and pie charts were used to present the data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Table 1 Industrialized countries have been accountable for majority of greenhouse gas emissions

Particulars	Agree	Disagree	Can't Say	Total
Respondents	170	30	15	215
% age	79.0	14.0	7.0	100

Table 1 presents that with the statement **industrialized countries have been accountable for majority of greenhouse gas emissions**, it is found that 79.0% of the respondents agree with this statement.

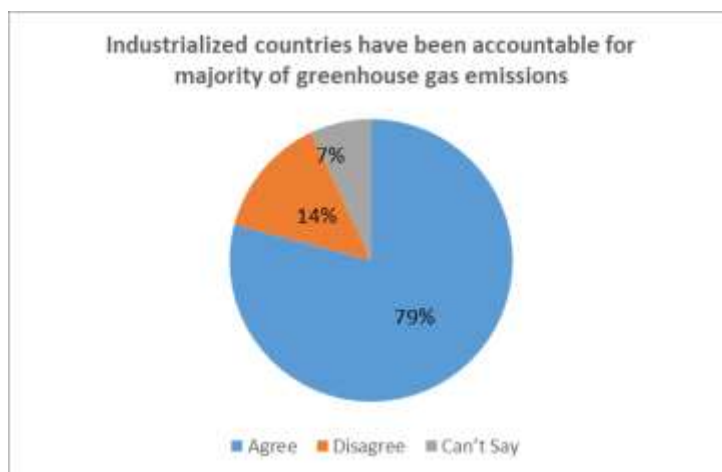


Figure 1 **Industrialized countries have been accountable for majority of greenhouse gas emissions**

Table 2 Emphasis on empowering projects of renewable energy and energy efficiency

Particulars	Agree	Disagree	Can't Say	Total
Respondents	181	24	10	215
% age	84.0	11.0	5.0	100

Table 2 presents that with the statement **emphasis on empowering projects of renewable energy and energy efficiency**, it is found that 84.0% of the respondents agree with this statement.

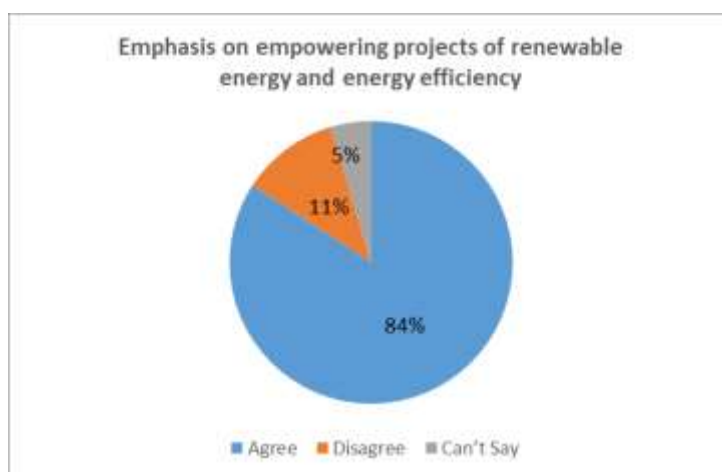


Figure 2 **Emphasis on empowering projects of renewable energy and energy efficiency**

Table 3 Countries mandate to undertake scheduled evaluations of their initiatives to tackle climate change

Particulars	Agree	Disagree	Can't Say	Total
Respondents	187	16	12	215
% age	87.0	7.0	6.0	100

Table 3 presents that with the statement **countries mandate to undertake scheduled evaluations of their initiatives to tackle climate change**, it is found that 87.0% of the respondents agree with this statement.

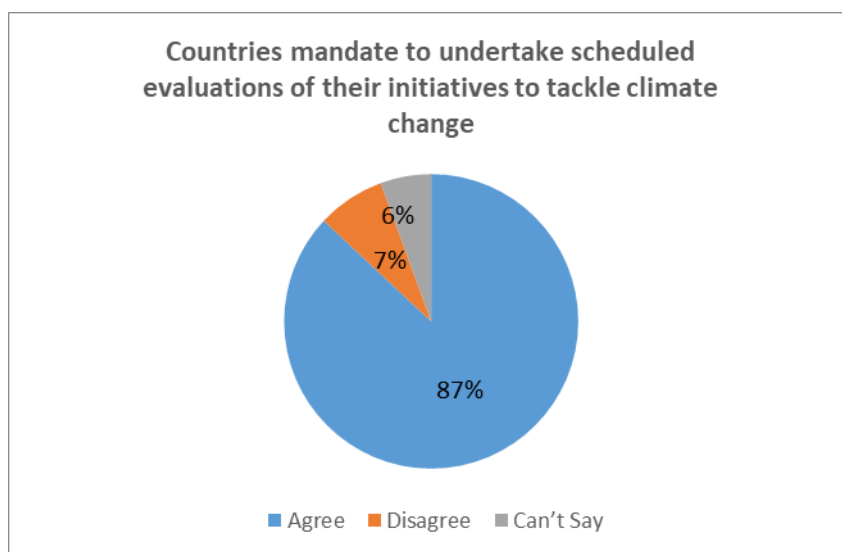


Figure 3 Countries mandate to undertake scheduled evaluations of their initiatives to tackle climate change

Table 4 Government has initiated UJALA scheme to promote energy efficiency

Particulars	Agree	Disagree	Can't Say	Total
Respondents	176	32	7	215
% age	82.0	15.0	3.0	100

Table 4 presents that with the statement **government has initiated UJALA scheme to promote energy efficiency**, it is found that 82.0% of the respondents agree with this statement.

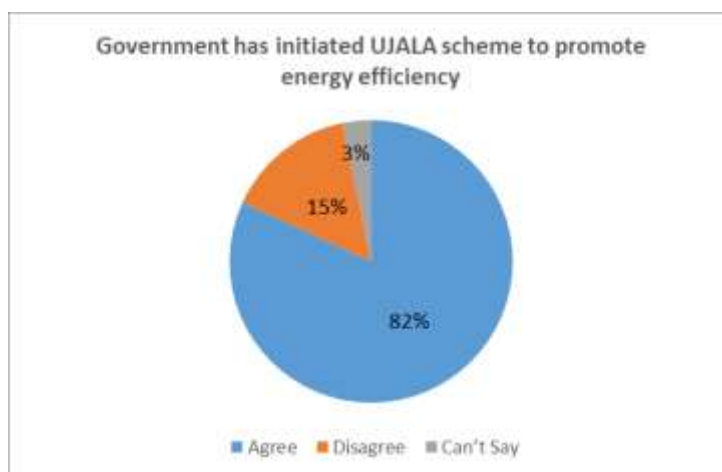


Figure 4 Government has initiated UJALA scheme to promote energy efficiency

Table 5 Government has started Smart Cities Mission to address climate change

Particulars	Agree	Disagree	Can't Say	Total
Respondents	179	22	14	215
% age	83.0	10.0	7.0	100

Table 5 presents that with the statement **government has started Smart Cities Mission to address climate change**, it is found that 83.0% of the respondents agree with this statement. Considering all the responses of the statements, it was found that to a good percentage, the respondents have agreed which means that good quality of work life has a positive influence on employee satisfaction.

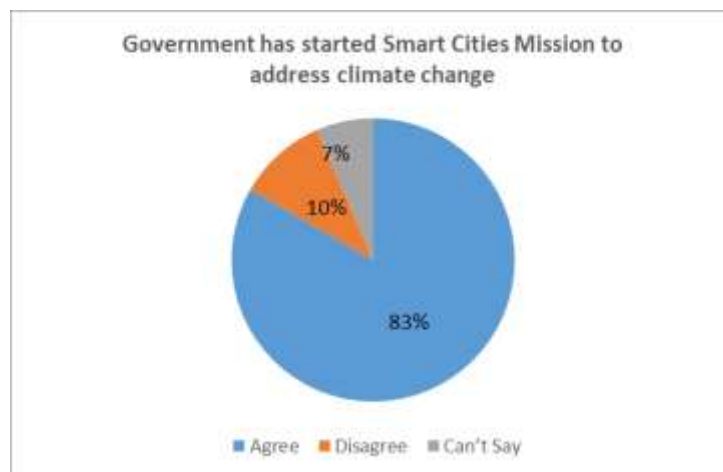


Figure 5 Government has started Smart Cities Mission to address climate change

Conclusion

International jurisprudence performs a critical function in resolving the issue of global warming in India. As a developing country, India grapples with numerous complications attributable to global warming, such as the escalating discharge of greenhouse gases, the surging sea levels, and the menace of severe weather incidents. The Paris Agreement signed in 2015, alongside several international protocols and contracts, has assisted India in taking the necessary strides towards minimizing its carbon imprint, expanding the utilization of eco-friendly energy sources, and reinforcing climate resilience. Nevertheless, there remains a considerable distance to cover, and India must work towards fulfilling its obligations under international jurisprudence to guarantee a sustainable future. Collaborative efforts among nations and the efficacious execution of international judicial frameworks are indispensable in moderating the undesirable impacts of global warming and conserving the planet for the upcoming generations.

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