

## Differences in Perception of Climate Change: A Case Study on Bhotechaur Village in Nepal

07 Nov.

SSH25

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Developing countries are highly vulnerable to global climate change and its consequences. Climatologists and scientists play a key role in determining climatic trends, climate change vulnerability analysis and identifying suitable adaptation and mitigation measures. However, the real sufferers of climate change are the local communities and the farmers around the world who are struggling to adapt to the climate change realities. This study aims to understand, how a person discerns long-term changes in climatic parameters. Since the people's perception play a critical role in adaptation and mitigation activities, it is necessary to assess the factors which contribute to the peoples' perception of climate change. A study was conducted in Bhotechaur village in Melamchi Municipality of Sindhupalchowk district in Nepal using a questionnaire survey, key informant and in-depth interviews for the data collection. The questionnaire survey was facilitated with 26 individuals representing both men and women. According to the results, perceptual differences of climate change were based on the location of houses within the village, level of income and education, gendered roles, culture and caste. There is a high impact on people living away from the village economic center (the bazaar) and small-scale land holders due to dependency on agriculture, animal husbandry and poor living conditions and lack of infrastructure. Additionally, the gender bias of climate change perception was based on their roles and responsibilities. This study identified the importance of incorporating peoples' perception on climate change to decision making, planning of adaptation activities to gain optimum benefits.

**Keywords:** Climate change, social disparities, perception